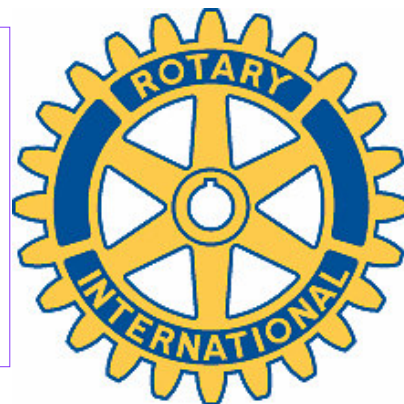


THE ROTARYGRAM



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 34

MARCH 3, 2004

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

(please note the change of schedule
and tell a friend)



March 10

Beach Rogers, retired weatherman from KFWB, will be speaking about the Los Angeles Zoo where he now works as a docent.

The Zoo is committed to providing an interesting and educational experi-

ence for visitors, as well as excellent living conditions for the more than 1,200 animals in their care. The Zoo continues to participate in conservation programs to preserve native habitats and ensure that animals can continue to live in the wild.

All over the Zoo there is a spirit of optimism about the future as they look ahead to being one of the best zoos in the nation, and a zoo that the people of Los Angeles can be proud of.

March 17

Jeff Bennett with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be our Speaker of the Day.

He will be addressing many of the things that the FBI has to deal with in the 21st century such as Cyber terrorism.

The interconnectedness of the Internet with national



infrastructure systems has created a whole new landscape to commit crimes, and a whole new set of tools to commit them -- a fact that terrorists and criminals are just beginning to understand.

That's why the FBI -- with its state, local, federal, international, and private sector partners -- is working to get out in front of plots and schemes that are still in their formation stages. Awful things, too -- such as using Internet tools to launch cyber attacks on infrastructure systems in tandem with physical attacks... potentially paralyzing a city, a region, even the nation.

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

President Jim kicked off today's meeting at 12:35pm sharp and had Secretary Cheri Spamer and Major George Beauchamp pledge and pray not necessarily in that order and then Barbara Baerg (president nominee) led us in singing the most appropriate "God Bless America".

Visiting Rotarians included PDG John Alexander and Terry White, a CPA from the Westwood Village club. Both got off lightly by not having to be serenaded by "Hello Fellows".

Announcements included the District 5260 Conference coming up on April 29th at the Bahia Resort in San Diego. President Jim said that he has a few tickets left for the drawing that will be held with the winner getting a Mercury Sable.

Also mentioned was our Track Meet which will be held on the 24th of April at Birmingham High School. Bring your family and friends for this great event.

There is a good possibility of the club doing an eye clinic in Mexico in mid-May and Barbara Baerg announced that she is planning a progressive dinner for the club in the near future.

Don Fetherolf announced that the Mid Valley Com-

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

munity Police Council will be having a special get together at the Ed Davis Training Center on April 16th.

The club will be holding a "Fireside chat" for new members and their significant others at the home of the Satuloffs on March 17th. All are welcome.

Jim also reminded us of the "almost for free" bus trip to the Swoba gaming casino. See "The Prez" for details.

The District Assembly will be held on April 17th at Pierce College. This is the District's training session for club members who are about to assume positions of responsibility in their respective clubs in the coming rotary year. All incoming board members are urged to attend.

A reminder was made to make reservations early for next year's International Convention to be held in Chicago, Il. This will be the 100th anniversary of Rotary and it is only appropriate that the convention should be held in the town where it all started. 35,000 Rotarians from around the world are ex-

pected to attend.

PDG Joe DiFatta suggested that we "share Rotary" by sitting at a different table than we usually do.

President Elect Carlos Rivera and PDG Joe DiFatta are putting together a day at the ballpark for about fifty underprivileged youngsters on June 30th. The game will be the Dodgers vs. the Giants at 7pm and tickets for the blue section are \$12 each.

They are looking for club members and friends who would like to attend also. If you can't make it, please consider donating the price of tickets for the kids. We will also treat them to a soda and "dodger dog".

The YMCA is providing buses for the kids from the "Y" and Cohasset Elementary School and club members and their families and guests will be car pooling.

The club has done this in the past and everyone who attended always said it was the best trip to the stadium ever.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



PDG Joe DiFatta with our newest member Fred Rabban and his wife Zhila.

born real estate broker Fred Rabban.

Fred and his wife Zhila were both born in Tehran, Iran and they were married in 1980. They have three children, Michael, Mathew and Michelle, and live in Tarzana.

He works with All Pacific funding Corp. in Tarzana and enjoys community work, vacations and fun.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in the field of civil engineering.

He has been working with Meals on Wheels for some time and has made a commitment to work with Van Nuys Rotary in our community and has chosen UCLA as his school in the club rivalry.

The induction ceremony was conducted by PDG Joe DiFatta and his new Rotary pin was pinned on him by his wife.

Sit with Fred at the next meeting and find out what a great addition he is to our club.

The newest member of Van Nuys Rotary is Iranian

OUR SPEAKER OF THE DAY

Our Speaker today was Scott Doudrich with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory managed for NASA by the California Institute of Technology.

JPL is located in Pasadena and their mission is to undertake the robotic exploration of the solar system for NASA.

Scott is an engineer with the current Mars exploration mission in which two powerful new Mars rovers are placed on the red planet. With far greater mobility than the 1997 Mars Pathfinder rover, these robotic explorers will travel as much as 40 meters (44 yards) across the surface in a day. Each rover carries a sophisticated set of instruments to search for evidence of liquid water that may have been present in the planet's past. The rovers are identical to each other, but will land at different regions of Mars.

The landing for each resembled that of the Pathfinder mission. A parachute deployed to slow the spacecraft, rockets fired to slow it further just before impact, and airbags inflated to cushion the landing. Upon reaching the surface, the spacecraft bounced about a dozen times. When it stopped, the airbags deflated and retracted and the petals opened up, bringing the lander to an upright position and revealing the rover.

The landed portion of the mission features a design dramatically different from Mars Pathfinder. Where Pathfinder had scientific instruments on both the lander and the small Sojourner rover, these larger rovers will carry all their instruments with them. Immediately after landing, each rover began reconnaissance of the landing site by taking a 360-degree visible color and infrared image panorama. They then left their petal structures behind and drove off and began exploration.

Using images and spectra taken daily from the rovers, scientists are commanding the vehicle to go to rock and soil targets of interest and evaluate their composition and their texture at microscopic scales. Initial targets are close to the landing sites, but later targets could be far afield. These rovers are able to travel almost as far in one Martian day as the Sojourner rover did over its entire lifetime.

Rocks and soils are being analyzed with a set of five instruments on each rover, and a special de-

vice called the rock abrasion tool will be used to expose fresh rock surfaces for study. Each rover has a mass of nearly 180 kilograms (about 400 pounds). The prime mission for each rover will last three months on the surface.

Scott wore two watches and when asked about this he replied that one is earth time and the other is Mars time. A martian day is 29 hours and 39 minutes long. He showed us a simulated video of the trip the rovers took and explained that he was the tech leader on the cruise phase of the rocket's journey.



The accuracy of the trajectory was such that the mission scored a "hole in one" by putting the payload in the crater that they were aiming for using calculations made before the payload ever left earth!

It takes approximately 13 minutes and 40 seconds to send radio waves from earth to mars (traveling at the speed of light) so they had no room for error.

Through drilling of rocks in it's path, It seems that the Rover has made a very strong case for water having been on Mars at one time. The importance of this is that by finding evidence of water, scientists can imagine that at one time the planet was capable of supporting life.

This was certainly one of the most interesting and exciting talks to come to Van Nuys Rotary and our thanks to our Program Chair Diane Eaton and PDG Joe DiFatta for making it all possible. Additionally, our thanks to Mr. Scott Doudrich and JPL for being such good neighbors to take time out of their busy day to come and visit.

DAYTIME NUMBERS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

George Beauchamp	818-778-1177	Mike Quiroga	818-780-8820
Barbara Baerg	818-789-7117	Fred Rabban	818-345-3278
Ken Benson	818-715-1815	Don Reinken	818-363-8355
Joe Chu	818-894-9301	Bob Rice	661-252-4518
Jamie Cordaro	818-787-2737	Carlos Rivera	626-443-2310
Ruben Corona	818-989-3800	Lauren Ross	818-972-1532
Gary Cunial	818-654-0396	Irv Ryder	818-349-0959
Paul Davis	818-888-0880	Pete Satuloff	818-710-0622
Joe DiFatta	818-700-1939	Flip Smith	818-786-8686
Diane Eaton	818-760-0897	Cherie Spamer	818-787-2113
Don Fetherolf	818-986-1460	Don Stout	818-998-7054
Nancy Hoffman-Vanyek	818-989-0300	Jim Sullivan	818-904-3545
Archie Kidwell	818-326-2235	Larry Sunderlin	818-340-0080
Barry Leonard	818-891-6711	Gonzalo Tejada	818-762-0144
Guy Mangia	818-785-0750	Jim Tenner	818-760-0154
John McDannel	626-791-3221	Ed Viramontes	818-716-7437
Frank Micale	818-783-7352	Larry Winnick	818-888-4318
Leo O'Biecunas	818-9881217	Ken Worthen	818-883-4627

IMPORTANT DATES

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 4	Julie Beauchamp				
	Antonio Vivaldi				
Mar 10	John McDannel				
	Bix Beiderbecke				
Mar 13	Ed Viramontes				
	Neil Sedaka				

MARCH

WORLD ROTARACT

March 4	Don and Cheryl Stout's anniversary				
March 5-7	P.E.T.S				
March 13	Joe and Marsha DiFatta's anniversary				

March 14	District Leadership Meeting, Lancaster		ference Bahia Resort, San Diego
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	May 22-26	2004 Rotary International Convention, Osaka, Japan
March 19-23	Palmdale Rotary Cruise to Ensenada		
March 20	First Day of Spring		
March 26	Don and Andrea Reinken's anniversary		

JUNE-LEADERSHIP

June 18-22	2005 Rotary International Convention
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ROTARYGRAM STAFF

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APRIL

ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH

Apr 17	District Assembly
Apr 29-May 2	District Con-