

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

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March 9, 2005

Meeting Highlights



Andrea Reinken

Today we had two craft talks, one from a member and the other from a frequent visitor and contributor to the Rotarygram.

Introduced by Chairman of the Day, Paul Davis, Andrea Reinken has worked for the Los Angeles Times for 24 years as a writer and in public relations. For the past seven years Andrea has been the western zone manager for Times in Education (TIE). This award-winning program puts newspapers in the classroom and provides teachers with newspaper-based curriculum guides (lesson plans) to help students learn language arts, math, social studies and current events.

TIE provides newspapers without cost to the teachers or the schools because the papers are subsidized by corporate sponsors and individuals who donate their "vacation" papers to the program. The Times covers all other costs for curriculum guides, delivery and administration. During a year, this program puts more than 3 million papers into the classroom, contributing to literacy and encouraging youngsters to get interested in the news and reading.

Andrea and Don Reinken have been an 'item' for 17 years and married for 11 years. They have a home in Northridge and share a blended family including 3 grown children.

Charles Bloomquist is an administrator in charge of Sam's Café and legislative advocate for New Horizons where he has worked for 10 years. New Horizons has a broad range of services for adult clients to help them develop to their maximum level and integrate into the community. For example, Sam's Café serves 50,000 meals a year and employs 60 of their 'clients' in food preparation, serving and cashiering.

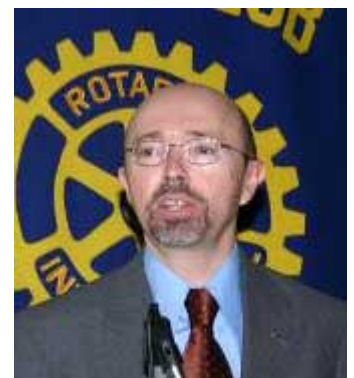
New Horizons has a sheltered workshop where clients learn skills and are productive members of teams providing services for customers in the area. They also operate 12 group homes each housing 6 clients.

With state funding being severely curtailed and costs always rising, New Horizons has increased their own fund raising activities. Coming on May 13th is their Gala and in the fall, another golf tournament.

Charles was born in Santa Monica, raised in Venice and attended Santa Monica City College, Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Sacramento. He lives in Reseda with his wife and 4 children.



Charles Bloomquist



*Paul Davis
Chairman of the Day*

Visitors



GUESTS:

- Shannon from New Century Mortgage was the guest of Harley Malloy.
- Bob Cohen, a "real estate entrepreneur," was the guest of Leo O'Biecnas.

Announcements

- Barbara Baerg announced that our Fireside Chat to inform newer members about Rotary will be on Friday evening, March 18, at the Satuloff's home.
- Career Day at Fulton Preparatory School — April 6; share your business and life with students — lunch at 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.
- April 16th — District Assembly at Pierce College Performing Arts Center — 8 a.m.
- The next board meeting has been moved to Wednesday, March 16, at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.
- Our painting project for Tierra del Sol will be April 30 or May 7 — see Jim Sullivan.
- Our computer literacy program is progressing; UPS will be underwriting the cost for DSL at the YMCA.
- RYLA camp was held last weekend — further details next week.
- **WISH LIST** for Cohasset Street Elementary School:

Prizes/gifts for student achievement

Prizes/gifts for parents who contribute and participate with school

Money for field trips and buses for field trips

Paper, pads and pencils for students

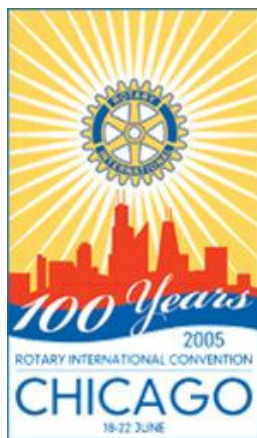
Xerox paper and toner

Library and classroom books

Can you help with any of these wish list items? See Harley Malloy.

**"If you're never scared or embarrassed or hurt,
it means you never take any chances."**

– Julia Sorel



The Spotlight's on...

KEN WORTHEN



As a child, Ken Worthen decided he didn't want anything to do with art. His father, an architect in St. Paul, Minn., and his mother, a sculptress and interior designer, had a terrible time during the Depression, Ken recalls, because few people had money for building and design.

Ken was 12 when the family moved to Los Angeles during a harsh winter in St. Paul. "Coal was exorbitantly expensive in Minnesota during the winter," he says, "and it was easier to starve in L.A." He attended Valley high schools and graduated from UCLA with a degree in accounting. He then spent 5 ½ years as a Marine serving in the Pacific Theater before his release from active duty as a captain in China.

Back in L.A., Ken enrolled in graduate courses at USC and rekindled his love for tournament tennis. It was a tennis coach, in fact, who introduced him to another passion – acting. He began doing a lot of summer stock and met his first wife, Mary Frances, a prominent radio actress who attended UCLA. "We performed well together," Ken recalls, "and did numerous two-person performances of "Hasty Heart" and J. M. Barrie's "What Every Woman Knows." He also took a job at The Gas Company in the Valley to pay the bills.

Eventually, trying to mix acting, working at The Gas Company and taking classes at USC became too difficult. By then, he and Mary Frances had three children to raise and felt they had to make a choice. When Ken had the opportunity to read for the part of the sheriff in "High Noon," he decided that if I got the part, we would continue to act," he recalls. "If not, we would focus on raising and educating our kids and go back to acting when I retired."

During his 40 years at The Gas Company, Ken had the opportunity to create an area develop-

ment program to help communities wanting economic growth. "We went to other states to woo businesses to come to our service territory," he says. "In the beginning, we had problems legislatively and competitively, and I was trying to create a responsive and accepting environment for The Gas Company." For his efforts, Ken was named the Top Economic Developer in Southern California in the late 1970s.

Ken moved into public affairs when a shortage of natural gas caused the company to disband the development program. "It wasn't acting," he recalls, "but it gave me a chance to be expressive and to work in many areas on behalf of The Gas Company." Ken's involvement in and dedication to the Valley community earned him considerable respect and the prestigious Fernando Award in 1992.

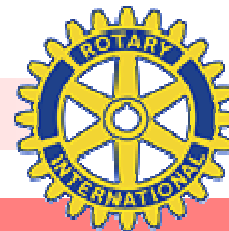
Ken joined the Van Nuys Rotary Club in 1981 at the invitation of Bob Gibson, Joe DiFatta and John Fuller. The club's president in 1989-90, Ken is delighted to see new members joining the club today. "Our new members are showing a lot of enthusiasm for the object of Rotary and for projects," he says. "It's encouraging to see that kind of enthusiasm."

"Our new members are showing a lot of enthusiasm for the object of Rotary..."

Now retired, Ken is still committed to the Valley community. In addition to Rotary, he has responsibilities in at least six other organizations, including board chairman for El Proyecto del Barrio and founder and director of New Directions for Youth.

Ken and his second wife, Helen, love traveling. Both are members of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation and make an annual trip back east to help with memorial celebrations. He's very proud of the role Helen plays in conducting bereavement sessions for wives and mothers of fallen firefighters and notes that she has written a manual to instruct firefighters on how to support surviving families.

As for acting, he really doesn't have time now. "Sometimes I wish I had taken that route, because I miss it," he says, adding "I was an actor who could hide behind a part and do very well."



"Service Above Self"

Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- March 16 **Angel's Flight** — Dave Kolstad tells the stories of how plane owners donate their time and planes to provide transportation for people in medical need.
- March 23 **Lt. Col. Willy Buehl, Jr., USMC**, our liaison for our recent 'care package' program for troops in Iraq...with a current Iraq update.
- March 30 **Captain Jim Miller, LAPD**, will tell us about his experiences while visiting India.
- April 6 **Career Day** — get details from Leo O'Biecnas or Ken Benson.
- April 13 **RI Foundation** — report from PDG Ken Banks — "Why and Where."

BIRTHDAYS

- March 12 Ed Viramontes
- April 9 Lauren Ross
- April 19 Sharma Sherbank
- April 26 Melva Schlick
- April 27 Jim Sullivan
- April 28 Pete Satuloff

HOT DATES

- March 18 **Fireside Chat** — at the Satuloff's.
- April 23 **25th Annual Van Nuys Invitational Track Meet** at Birmingham High School. Victory Blvd. at Woodley.
- May 11 **President's Day** — mark your calendar to hear Dennis McCarthy, *Daily News* reporter.
- May 19-23 **District Conference**, Doral Resort Hotel in Palm Springs.
- June 9-12 **SF Valley Fair**, Rotary beer booth, see Flip Smith.
- June 18-22 **RI Centennial Convention**, Chicago, IL, Celebrating 100 years of Rotary!

We're on the web! VanNuysRotary.org

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