

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Volume 4, Issue 7

Club 1470 — District 5260

August 18, 2004

Meeting Highlights



President Carlos, left, looks on as Deborah Peters, center, gets ready to sign the book for the "Rotary Library" at Cherie Spamer's school.

Our program, introduced by Fred Rabban, featured Deborah Peters, an eloquent and persuasive example of the results of the training her company delivers.

Ms. Peters is a certified Trainer of Trainers in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP), and has a wide range of experience in bringing the benefits of NLP to business and professional people.

Peters gave an overview of how her methods train people to become effective leaders and managers through understanding how our minds influence our actions and results. Using examples, she illustrated how our hidden barriers in the mind prevent or slow our progress towards our goals.

Peters is the Legislative Chair and Past President of the Los Angeles Chapter of California Association of Mortgage Brokers.

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Archie Kidwell and Irv Ryder honored those VN Rotarians with birthdays in July and August.

Announcements

- **Vickie Castillo** reminded members of the RI International Centennial Convention to be held in Chicago, Illinois next June. Reservations for housing need to be made now — and she started a list of **100 good reasons** to attend. Also, **August 22**, Sunday evening: families and friends are invited to "Concerts in the Park" at Warner Center, featuring the "Ink Spots." Bring your own picnic. Come early so we can get a good spot. Children and friends are welcome!
- **Atwater-Silverlake** president, Maryann McCann, asked for support of their annual Dinner and Wine Fundraiser, August 25, 6:30 p.m., at the Tam O' Shanter Inn. Reservations: 323-664-4024.
- Flip Smith and Ruben Corona pitched the YMCA **"Swingin' Jitterbug Jubilee"** on September 8th starting at 6 p.m. Swing Dancing, Food and Fun... Talk to Flip for more information.
- **Summer Soiree** - Ed Anderson gave a plug for the SFV NW Rotary centennial celebration — "We're Starting Early" — August 28, 5:30 p.m. until ?, live music, dancing, great food and more! RSVP to Barbara Pampalone at 818-882-2395.

Student Recognition



Today's honorees are from TIERRA DEL SOL. From left, Jane Stockert, coach; Jason Canton, honoree; Pres. Carlos Rivera; Jason Tobin, honoree; Rebecca Morrill, Director, CIS; Courtney Upchurch, coach; mostly hidden behind, Joe Chu, Director of Youth Service for Van Nuys Rotary.

Visitors

Visiting Rotarians: Maryann McCann, President of Atwater-Silverlake club; Dr. Emily Golamco, PP of club in Philippines, invited by Ruben Corona; Danny Golamco, PDG District 3780.

Guest: Mary Montego, guest of Gonzalo Tejada.

Coming Next Week...?

Pictures from the Vision Clinic, August 6-8, 2004 held in Rosarita Beach.

"I have my choice: who can wish for more? Free will enables us to do everything well, while imposition makes a light burden heavy." – Samuel Richardson

The Spotlight's On...

JOHN ALEXANDER



John Alexander's passion for photography is a thread that runs through much of his life story. Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, he graduated from high school and enrolled in Lincoln University in Missouri before the Army pulled him into active duty. His first assignment was a course at the Signal Corp Photographic Center in the old Paramount Studios in Astoria, Long Island.

The Army also sent John to the Air Force in Selfridge, Michigan, where he first joined the 553rd fighter group and later the 477th bombardment group. But photography kept calling him, and after his discharge from the U.S.

Army Air Force 2 ½ years later, he started taking pictures on a freelance basis for local newspapers. "I would shoot photographs during the day," he recalls, "and then turn my kitchen into a photo lab at night."

With the backing of a friend, John built a studio and photo laboratory in Columbus, Ohio and went into photography "full blast" -- Alexander House of Portraits opened in 1951 and John's career was fully launched. "I did everything from freelancing for newspapers to portraits," he says. "But I specialized in photographing weddings and babies."

John had always wanted to go west to California and had found the perfect job as an apprentice photographer at Warner Bros. His wife's illness on the trip to Los Angeles, however, delayed their arrival and the Warner Bros. job was filled by someone else. Determined to stay in California, John sold Fuller brushes to make ends meet until he started working with a small independent movie company in Los Angeles. "We didn't make any money, but we sure had fun," he says.

By 1955, John realized that photographers were "a dime a dozen" in Los Angeles and joined Douglas Aircraft to work on the C130 transport plane. Five years later, he moved on to RCA, worked during the day and began studying real estate at night. After RCA lost the contract for the Atlas Ground Support System, he left RCA and opened Alexander Realty Co. in Pacoima and retired 26 years later in 1987 after a successful real estate career.

Rotary came into the picture in 1968 when John joined the North East San Fernando Valley Rotary Club as a charter member. He later served as the club's president and then District Governor in 1975-76. John and his wife, Juanita, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, are benefactors of the RI Foundation and charter members of The Rotary Foundation Bequest Society.

"I think the good Lord put us on this earth not just to live, but to help others live," he says. "If you see something that needs to be done, you try to do it."

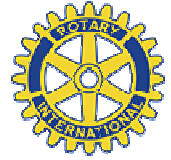
Not one to rest on past laurels – and he has received many, John has continued to play an important role in Rotary every year since 1975. "I think the good Lord put us on this earth not just to live, but to help others live," he says. "If you see something that needs to be done, you try to do it."

Throughout his Rotary years, John has documented his travels and Rotary events and meetings in black-and-white and color. Photography has been a very interesting vocation, John believes, because it allowed him access to travel and an entrance into many places he might not have been able to see otherwise. He still takes his cameras everywhere and still prefers black-and-white photography to color because of its flexibility in the darkroom.

A 100-piece exhibit of John's pictures – mostly nature scenes, he says – is currently displayed on walls throughout the Hillview Mental Health Center in Pacoima. A member of the center's board of directors, John's honored, he says, with the exhibit. "I was very pleased that they would hang all those pictures there."

Contributed by Andrea Reinken

"Service Above Self"



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- August 25 Our speaker will be Barbara Schwartz on "Visual Perception Problems." Chairperson — Jim Tenner.
- Sept. 1 Marta Mack will give us MTA's view on the East-West Busway and other valley transportation issues. Program chair — Joe DiFatta.
- Sept. 8 TBA
- Sept. 15 TBA
- Sept. 22 Former member, Gordon Mace, will give us his insider's view of what's happening in Commercial Real Estate. Chairperson — Archie Kidwell.

BIRTHDAYS

- August 23 Alma Corona
Sept. 6 Gary Cunial
Sept. 6 Ken Worthen
Sept. 17 Barbara Baerg
Sept. 19 Barry Leonard

HOT DATES

- August 22 "Concert in the Park" Warner Center. Bring your own picnic. Children and friends welcome.
- October 22 Dinner/Theater: "Late Night Catechism 2 — The Sequel" El Portal Theater, North Hollywood.
- Sept. 11 District Leadership Meeting, 8 a.m., Sam's Café.
- Sept. 24-26 Sierra (Bishop) Safari.

**Rotary International Annual Convention
June 18-22, 2005 Chicago, Illinois — 100th year !**

We're on the web! vannuysrotary.org

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