



The Sou'wester

VOLUME XL, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 29, 2008

Southwest Gets a GRIP on Youth Violence

The 8th meeting of the Rotary year was called to order by **President John Ennis**. **Chuck Smith** led us in the pledge and **Mary Kay Hartman** gave an invocation called "Life Is" written by Mother Theresa.

Denise Jones, our greeter for the day, announced there were no visiting Rotarians. Guest Rick Mitchell, Assistant Operations Manager at Gottschalk's was introduced by Mary Crumley. Denise introduced her husband David Jones and our speaker for the day, Simona Keat. Past President **Roger Smith** was also enthusiastically greeted.

Our Sunshine report was unfortunately not very sunny. **Kelly Pollette** is recovering from Achille's surgery. **Gwynna Morris** has had cancer surgery and **Marty LeMasters** is facing possible surgery. We are keeping these members in our thoughts and prayers.

President John delivered a "Rotary Minute" that took less than a minute. He stressed the importance of saying yes to requests received from other Rotarians.



A check for \$3,953 was presented to **Nyle Henderson** for Project Share Life. The funds were raised from last year's Tour of Trinidad and random contributions made by our members over the last Rotary year.

Cindy Sutcliffe took a two week trip to Oregon to scope out the tour route for the soon-to-be-held Cycle Oregon event she and husband Tim will be riding. She brought back a gift bag filled with Oregon goodies for the International Auction.



Mark Dias traveled to his uncle's 80th birthday in Castro Valley and then to Reno to celebrate his grandson's 3rd birthday. Since he didn't return with auction items he was fined for the

vacation

Ken Singleton passed around photos of **pink flamingos** placed on his lawn. Fearing a fine he said he had been unemployed for four weeks but was actually on vacation to India and Thailand. He took his children to see the school he attended in India and visited family in Bangkok. Time was spent at a seaside resort where massages were received every morning! Ken and Ravi celebrated their 32nd anniversary. He revealed that their happy marriage had been arranged and that women give the anniversary gifts by Indian custom. Ken tapped out, saying that he wants to make sure it is on the record this year! He also generously brought back many items for the International Auction



Jay Sooter was questioned about his new vehicle. He says he has been driving it for 10 months now. It is a Pious and not a Prius because getting 55 MPG makes you better than everybody else. His model has leather, a sound system and GPS. All this cost him \$55. Jay mentioned he recently met the Garberville club's Brazilian exchange student who is a bright student and a great soccer player.

John Gullam celebrated his 12th anniversary in July. It took him and wife Denise about six weeks to get a babysitter, but they finally had dinner at Larrupin. He proposed to his wife at the Empress Hotel in Victoria.

This week's drawing winner **Sam Kennedy** won \$50 toward his next PHF. Dick Giraud didn't draw the six of diamonds, so the \$195 kitty rolls over to next week.

John thanked **Kathy Miller** for her great work in lining up programs for the club.

Denise Jones introduced **Simona Keat** from the Gang

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Risk Intervention Program (GRIP), our speaker for the day. Simona came to the Humboldt County Office of Education from the Riverside Probation Office with a wealth of experience in gang intervention. She now works at Fortuna and Eureka High Schools. She had received many awards for her work including those from the League of Women Voters, the Attorney General and the local Peacemaker Award.



Henderson asked if an Elks youth program he is part of could work with the school. Simona enthusiastically said yes. Our county has the highest teen suicide rate in the state. We also learned that marijuana has an eight times higher THC levels now than in the 60's. This magnifies bipolar and mental problems. Another issue is the globalization of gangs through the Internet. Thanks to Simona for this eye opening and compelling program.

Her job is to educate law enforcement, especially those officers who have lived locally all of their lives and not seen gang activity before. She brings expert trainers to town to assist. Simona also coordinates projects, activities and programs using the \$100,000 annual GRIP budget. One of those programs is Challenge Day which teaches acceptance of diversity. Lives have been changed for the better through this student and adult exercise. Bringing colors to school and bullying have been stopped through the program. A conflict mediation program uses student ambassadors who stress the importance of getting an education as a means of breaking the cycle of violence and drugs. Nyle

John closed the meeting with a story written by an anonymous author, where a guy walks up to three men working and asks "What are you doing"? The first answers "stone cutting", the second answers "putting in time until a better job comes along" and the third says "building a cathedral".

Marie Liscom wrote this week's bulletin. Photos were provided by Liz Ennis..

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UPCOMING:

*Oct 18 Foundation
Dinner North-River
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*See the calendar for
the whole year at
www.swrotary.org*

Sunshine Reports

Don't be shy about sharing news about yourself or other members.

Contact: Jay Sooter 444-8001 (work) or 923-2695 (home)