



UNDER THE GOLDEN OAK

Monthly Newsletter of Rotary Club of Morgan Hill

PRESIDENT LOU MIRVISS | CLUB 491 - DISTRICT 5170 | SERVICE ABOVE SELF | MARCH 2007



Charitable Giving: How We Give Out Our Club's Money

Beginning in this month's newsletter, we'll include a "snapshot" of what wonderful things happen with the grants awarded by our club. Even you may be surprised to learn how many local people are touched by the Club's good works. You should be proud! And, hopefully, you'll be rededicated to raising the funds to truly make a difference for our neighbors

By Janet Kern

Sometimes it only takes one last boost from a buddy to reach a goal or change a life. At the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, it's called the Charitable Giving Program.

Club presidents allocate about 20% of the money raised by members each year to reach out to local charitable organizations. The target organizations are often those who need just a few more dollars to be able to cross the finish line, and make a difference to deserving folks right here at home.

This fiscal year about 15 organizations will receive grants ranging from \$300 to \$2,000. It is money that, when added to the pool of funds already raised by the requesting organization, allows the program or project to succeed.

For our Club, we focus on programs that benefit this community's youth, seniors and underprivileged citizens. They are projects that enhance the education of and quality of life for all residents of Morgan Hill.

"We've funded such things as Sober Grad Nights at the local high schools, monthly music events for seniors, and buying educational materials for poverty-level immigrant children," said Charitable Giving Chair Rosy Bergin.

"Our money really does have a big impact."

In the past few years, the Club has developed new guidelines for the grant process:

- *The requesting organization must be*

charitable and local.

- *The money requested must go toward providing education or other community benefits focusing primarily on youth and seniors.*
- *The Rotary money should not be the only source of funds for the program or project.*
- *The organization must agree to provide Rotary recognition for its financial assistance.*
- *The organization must apply using a form available on the Club's website. That form must be submitted no later than September 1 of each year.*

Next, the Charitable Giving Committee analyzes all of the applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Club's Board of Directors. The amount of funds available for Charitable Giving Grants is established by the Club President each year as part of the annual budget process.

Members of the 2006-07 Charitable Giving Committee are Past President Kevin McGinty, President-Elect Ken Hulick, Treasurer Del Foster and one member-at-large, which this year is Marilyn Librers. Notifications of awards are sent out after Board approval – and we all celebrate.

See: "Rotary Club Grant Helps Local Pre-Schoolers" on page 3



Lou Mirviss
President
Club 491



District 5170

From Lou to You

March is Literacy Month

The traditional definition of "literacy" is considered to be the ability to read and write, or the ability to use language—to read, write, listen, and speak. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO has drafted the following definition: "Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning to enable an individual to achieve his or her goals, to develop his or her knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in the wider society."

The standards for what constitutes "literacy" vary, depending on social, cultural and political context. For example, a basic literacy standard in many societies is the ability to read the newspaper. Increasingly, many societies require literacy with computers and other digital technologies.

Many policy analysts consider literacy rates a crucial measure of a region's human capital. This claim is made on the grounds that literate people can be trained less expensively than illiterate people, generally have a higher socio-economic status and enjoy better health and employment prospects. Policy makers also argue that literacy increases job opportunities and access to higher education.

Did you know that the Morgan Hill Interactors from Live Oak and Sobrato High Schools have a reading and tutoring class weekly at the Baccardo Learning Center on Monterey Road in San Martin? The Interactors have a rotation schedule for weekly programs during the school year. Generally, 2-3 Interact students read and tutor 12-18 students. This program began several years ago and will continue as long as needed.

>> Literacy Fast Facts:

- Worldwide, about 800 million people over age 15 lack basic reading and writing skills. More than 64 percent of them are women.
- About 113 million children do not attend school.

Statistics from UNESCO

Who I am Makes a Difference • Who You are Makes a Difference
Together, We will Make a Big Difference!



■ Humanity in Motion

Rotary Club Grant Helps Local Pre-Schoolers

By Janet Kern

Smiles and laughter need no translation.

Walk into the non-descript, one-story building near the corner of Dunne and Church Streets and you are transported to a bustling, colorful world of Spanish-speaking mothers and children learning, learning, learning.

The Learning & Loving Center is the brain-child of Sister Pat Davis, a nun with a heart as big as the giant red Valentine piñata dangling enticingly from the ceiling. Thirteen years ago this March, the Center opened to serve the "invisible population of Morgan Hill," as Sister Pat describes the non-English speaking, below-poverty level immigrants who live and work in our community.

"These women can't go to school at night because their culture won't allow them to be away from the family then," explains Sister Pat. "And, they can't go to school during the day because there is no child care. So they come here, where the children are cared for in an environment where they both play and learn while the mothers learn English, and learn about healthy cooking, health care and computers."

Janet Leach, Development Director at the non-profit, non-denominational center (and spouse of Rotarian Brad Leach), smiles at the hubbub of activity. "We've got people here from 15 different countries, 95% of them Spanish-speaking," reports Janet. "Many can't even read or write in their native language. They are so isolated until they come here, make friends and learn from and with each other."

The Internet, which offers a wealth of information even in the users native language, is completely unknown before introductions are made at the Center. The women and their children have never heard of a "mouse", let alone touched one. "We are

helping them bridge the digital divide that frankly is becoming a chasm so wide that these people would otherwise have no chance of success in this country " explains Janet.

And so with the help of donations, grants, contributions and collaborations with area universities and hospitals, the Center provides the "Head Start" kinds of programs that are not available in Morgan Hill to put the children on an equal footing with their classmates when they start public school Kindergarten.

A Charitable Giving Grant from the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill went to buy work-books and learning/creative arts supplies for some 75 children this year.

And the Center provides the mothers a knowledge base and support system to understand basic things like report cards and notes from teachers as well as how to attend to the health needs of their children.

"We are so grateful to the Rotary for this much-needed financial assistance," said Sister Pat. "I know Rotary helps

people all around the world and we often feel like a third world country right here in Morgan Hill. Thank you all so much."



New on the Website

Recent articles on the club can be found in the "In the Media" section of our website at www.morganhillrotary.org:

"Learning and Loving Center Receives Grant from Rotary" Morgan Hill Times; January 30, 2007

"Teachers Aid Coalition Appreciates Donations" Morgan Hill Times; January 23, 2007

"Johnson Lumber Morgan Hill Business of the Year" Morgan Hill Times; January 9, 2007

"Chamber of Commerce Honors Volunteers" Rotarian Ramona Etchebarne honored. Morgan Hill Times; January 5, 2007



Abe Butte Wins Local Rotary Speech Contest

Live Oak High School junior Abe Butte has won the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill's 2007 Youth Speech Contest. His five-minute speech on the theme "Lead the Way" was delivered in competition before the club on Feb. 28.

Abe is the son of Maria Elena Butte of Morgan Hill. His advisor at Live Oak is Donna Cowan. Abe won the \$150 prize and earned the opportunity to advance to the Rotary's Area Speech Contest on March 14, where he will compete against the winners of competitions sponsored by Rotary clubs in Gilroy, San Juan Bautista and Hollister. That winner will advance to a regional competition with a \$1,500 prize to be held at our District 5170 Conference in Monterey.



Abe is currently South Coast Regional Vice President of the National FFA Organization, an agricultural education program. He wants to attend a four-year university and is thinking about going into law.

Second place honors in the competition went to Acacia Brown-Korbel, a senior and Interactor at Live Oak High School, and third place to Justin Haim, a junior at Sobrato High School.

One requirement of the students' speeches is that they incorporate Rotary's 4-Way Test that serves Rotarians as a guide to every day living. The Test asks, of the things that are said and done:

1. *Is it the truth?*
2. *Is it fair to all concerned?*
3. *Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*
4. *Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

The purpose of the Youth Speech Contest is to help young people know the importance of speaking effectively before a group; to expand public knowledge – especially among young people – of what Rotary is and does throughout the world; and to allow high school students the opportunity to compete for prize money that is hoped will be used to further their education.

Rotarians Recognized

Rotarians and Fellow Earn Top Chamber Honors

Top honors from the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce have been bestowed on Rotarian Ramona Etchebarne as Volunteer of the Year, Rotarian Mike Johnson as Business of the Year and Paul Harris Fellow recipient Gene Guglielmo as Man of the Year.

The three were honored on stage at the Chamber's "Salute Morgan Hill" community service awards at a Feb. 3 dinner at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center.

Ramona Etchebarne, who was Chamber Woman of the Year in 1999, was recognized for her hard work and dedication in the eyes of her peers and the chamber itself. Ramona, and her co-recipient Ida Williams, were noted to have distinguished themselves as "volunteers on call" who always lend a hand.



The accolade for **Mike Johnson**, whose Johnson Lumber Company was also Small Business of the Year in 1994, reflected what the chamber saw as Johnson Lumber's high degree of community involvement.



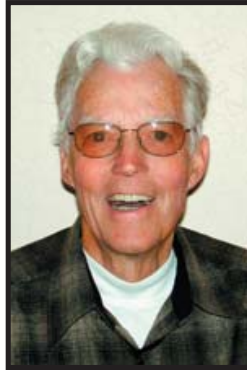
Man of the Year **Gene Guglielmo** has long been a friend to the Club and awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. Guglielmo frequently support our Club's fundraising and community service programs with generous donations of wine from his family's Guglielmo Winery in Morgan Hill.





Because We Care

It was with great sadness that the Club learned that **Bill Macaskill** passed away March 1. Bill fell on an icy walkway in mid-January, which resulted in a broken hip and pneumonia. He is survived by his wife, Lois, in Gilroy. Funeral arrangements are pending. Bill was a member of our Club since 1988, achieved 15 years of perfect attendance and was a Paul Harris Fellow Plus X. He was a World War II Marine veteran who participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima.



Both **President Lou Mirviss** and her husband **Marv** have returned to good health and are back with us.

Former member **Ira Marshall** is continuing to recover after his liver transplant. The liver is doing well, but he has some respiratory problems. His wife, Wanda reports that it may be a long recovery process, but he is in good spirits and is working.

Larry Carr, husband of **Carol**, is recovering well from a punctured lung after his all-terrain vehicle rolled 210 feet down a hill. Larry was ejected early, and felt even luckier when he discovered his helmet cracked in half.

Our sympathy to **Janet and Brad Leach** on the recent loss of Janet's aunt. The Leaches continue to provide a home for our Rotary Youth Exchange student from France, Manon.

Congratulations to **Danny Newquist** on passing his CFP exam and becoming a Certified Financial Planner!

To submit an item to "We Care," just forward it to We Care Chair Roger Malech.

March Birthdays

- 4 Craig van Kuelen
- 8 Jane Morrison
- 19 Steve Schwab
- 21 Robin Wise
- 31 Bill Ruge



March Club Anniversaries

Venerable Elders:

- 1963 Doug Downer
- 1983 John Quick
- 1987 Jim Jeisel

Veteran:

- 2000 Lisa DeSilva

Youngsters:

- 2003 Kris Nolan
- 2004 Laura Lundy
- 2004 Mike Cox
- 2006 Steven Stratton
- 2006 Joe Wilson



Larry Carr's ATV getting hauled up the hill it rolled down.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 6

Potluck Reception for our RYE Student from France & her visiting parents

6 p.m., home of host parents Brad & Janet Leach. This even will honor our RYE student from France, Manon, and her parents Laurence & Paul-Luc Paulello, visiting from France. This is a potluck, so you are welcome to bring either a main dish, salad, side dish, rolls or dessert. In addition, it is BYOB. Please take the time to get to know Manon before she departs in May

Saturday, March 10

Operation Dinner Out II Global Fusion Club Fellowship Event

New mission if you choose to accept it. A series of potlucks in the homes of club members. Contact Tracy Newquist for more details. tnewquist@rnpadvisory.com

Saturday, April 14

Morgan Hill Health and Wellness Fair

10 a.m.-3 p.m., Centennial Recreation Center. Club will participate in exhibition of health and wellness resources and information.

Friday, April 20 - Sunday, April 22

District 5170 Conference

Big annual event, this year at Portala Plaza Hotel, Monterey. Don't miss out on the Fun and Hospitality!



Saturday, April 28

Harvey Barrett Senior Dinner

All hands on deck for this major club philanthropy project at the Morgan Hill Buddhist Temple.

June 17-20

Rotary International Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

It's in the U.S. – out West no less – and all Rotarians are invited!

Saddle up and head to the mountains of Salt Lake City for the 98th annual RI Convention, slated for June 17-20. There, you'll find family, friends and fellow Rotarians from around the world at Rotary's largest annual get-together. This year's convention is fun, informative, and affordable, with new features such as the World Peace Symposium.

Check it out at www.rotary.org/events.



Wednesday, June 27

Debunking of President Lou

Satire & dinner on the garden terrace of Dana & Elaine Ditmore's home.



Regular Meetings and Programs

12:15, Golden Oak Restaurant

Wednesday, March 7

Outstanding Student Achievement Awards

Speaker: Motivational message from Rhett Hall, former player for the NFL San Francisco 49ers and alumnus of Live Oak H.S. (and Dana Ditmore's son-in-law). Students from Live Oak, Sobrato, Central high schools and Carden Academy will each be presented with a certificate and \$100 U.S. Savings Bond for being chosen the outstanding student in their school.

Wednesday, March 14

Rotary Area 6 Speech Contest

At our regular meeting, Club winners from San Juan Bautista, Gilroy, Gilroy Sunrise, Hollister & Morgan Hill compete at our regular luncheon. Winner will compete at the regional competition.
Co-Chairs: Ben Stein & Jim Jeisel.

Wednesday, March 21

The Farallon Islands

Speaker: Eric Hilding, Club Member

The Farallon Islands are a group of islands and rocks that lie 28 miles west of Golden Gate Bridge. Eric will share a video of his latest visit to these islands, with all their beauty and mystery.



Photo with permission of Sandra Cannon, SfBayImages.com

Wednesday, March 28



PDG, Ron Sekkell

Rotary Support for Rwanda

Speaker: Ron Sekkell, 2004-05 District Governor and member of Rotary Club of Scotts Valley. Ron will share what Rotary International and our local clubs are doing to help and support the people of Rwanda. He will show videos of his most recent visit.

If you have a suggestion for a club program, please contact Program Chair Carl Schindler.



■ Club Event Updates

Committee Notes: Senior Dinner, Golf & Fashion Show

■ Update: Harvey Barrett Senior Dinner

Date: Mid-day, Sat., April 28 (It's really a luncheon)

Location: Morgan Hill Buddhist Temple

Chair: Rosy Bergin

Reminder: This is considered a Club "must." All members must volunteer for some aspect before or during. Task sign-up sheets will circulate in March.; email Rosy with special requests.

What's new:

- Starting time for the dinner will likely shift to a few hours later.
- Entertainment will focus on background music, such as the Sobrato H.S. Jazz Band, which has been booked.
- There will again be an attempt to reach more seniors in need. Tickets are available from Debbie Cupp.
- Menu entree will be chicken and salmon, moving away from steaks, which are more difficult for many elders to digest.

■ Update: 14th Annual Rotary Club of Morgan Hill Golf Classic

Date: Likely mid-September

Location: TBD

Chair: Carl Reinhardt

What's new:

- Concentration is on finding a new date and a closer golf course for the tournament. The event will still likely be in the fall, but the traditional first Friday in October now conflicts with three other area

tournaments.

- "We have decided to make a stronger effort to fill the tournament with players first," said Carl Reinhardt. "The process will start as soon as we have a site and date."

■ Update: Rotary Club of Morgan Hill Fashion Show

Date: Fall

Location: Willow Heights Mansion

Chair: Sandy de la Cuesta (Honorary member)

What's new:

- With Club approval, Fashion Show committee recommends separating the fashion show from the golf tournament, in terms of date and location. This will allow the women of the Club to fully support the golf tournament as well.
- The new date will be determined after the golf tournament chooses theirs, but will likely be in the fall.
- "Our plan is to take this to the next level and produce an entertaining day for the community and profitable event for the Club," said Sandy de la Cuesta, who has been chosen to lead the effort for the third consecutive year.
- "The format of the Fashion show will change somewhat with music and possibly no commentary.
- "We will enlist the local clothing stores for our fashion and have decided to have a large variety. We talked about sponsorships and fundraising the day of the event and have produced many great ideas!" said Sandy.
- The committee is forming subcommittees and recruiting chairs for Marketing, Sponsorships, Program/Fashions, Site Logistics; Event Fundraising and Finance.



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■ Membership

New Member Profile: MHUSD Superintendent Alan Nishino

By Steve Tate

Alan Nishino is one of those native Californians who, because of his father's assignments in the armed services, was actually born in Minnesota. Alan and his wife Akiko have a son Garrett who works for Porsche (and no, he doesn't have samples to hand out!), and a daughter Krystina in law school back east.

Alan did graduate work at Long Beach, then earned his PhD at USC. As Superintendent of the Morgan Hill Unified School District, Alan hopes to establish an environment where the needs and the expectations of all students is always met.

Alan is an avid gardener and proud of his Japanese garden with a coy pond. He also has a car collection and takes pride in having a vintage '64 Chevy Malibu and a '71 Datsun 240Z.

When asked to tell one thing that the Rotarians probably would not know about him, he fessed up to being a Dodger fan! Oh well, nobody's perfect - but in spite of this minor fault, we think Alan is a great addition to our club and enjoy having him with us very much!



Alan Nishino

■ District 5170

April's District Conference Moves to Monterey

By Steve Tate

Rotary District 5170 Conferences are always fun, providing great opportunities for fellowship within our own club as well as with other clubs in our geographic area.

The programs are educational and usually quite motivating as well. I've attended almost all of the District Conferences since I joined Rotary, and while they have all been worthwhile, the two I attended in Monterey were just a cut above any of the others. It's just a great environment for Rotary!

Well, guess where this year's Conference is going to be? Boy, are you sharp! Yes, it is returning to Monterey this year on April 20-22. We'll be starting to get some publicity about the Conference soon to let you know the details, but I recommend you do some planning now. You might start by blocking out those dates on your calendar. The host hotel is the Portola Plaza on Fisherman's Wharf, and a block of discounted rooms for the conference will soon be available. Also, there are many very nice hotels in the vicinity.

Let's again have a great Morgan Hill showing at this year's Conference. Also, let's make a strong effort to retain the "Cupertino Cup" by hosting another fabulous hospitality suite!



Rotary Sponsors Band for 2nd Senior Ball

By Steve Tate

The Second Senior Ball is coming on April 7, and Rotary is going to keep the seniors dancing.

Last year, Morgan Hill's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) teamed up with the Gilroy YAC to put on the first "Senior Ball," a dinner-dance for senior citizens that was held at our MH Community and Cultural Center. It was just a terrific evening; the kids worked very hard to give the seniors a great evening. They decorated the facility in the afternoon, and then had Bingo before dinner. Many youth volunteers helped serve the dinner. After dinner, the South Bay Swing Band (including our very own David Bischoff) played for the dancing. The kids picked and crowned and "king" and "queen" of the ball from both Gilroy and Morgan Hill, and they had a photographer there to take free pictures for all the attendees.

Nearly all the seniors stayed until the end of the evening, and they received a free gift at the end. The look on their faces as they left really told the whole story. They were all broadly smiling and had many positive and complimentary things to say about the youth's efforts. The YAC kids had similar smiles, knowing they had done a great job and proud of it. It was a fantastic demonstration of a very positive intergenerational gathering.

The second annual event is coming to the Community Center on April 7. Because it worked so well last year, there will be very few changes made this year; it will be the same basic format. The biggest change is that Gilroy will not be participating this time; it will only be for Morgan Hill. As we did last year, Rotary is a sponsor of the event, this time with funds to pay for the band.

Without Gilroy's participation, the YAC is seeking additional sponsors for this year's event. If you or anyone you know has any interest in sponsoring the event (over and above the Club's sponsorship), or if you would like to help on the evening of the event, please contact Steve Tate.

■ International Service

Welcome Party for Martin's Parents

NIGHT IN ARGENTINA, but still in Morgan Hill. About 35 Club members gathered Feb. 10 to greet our former RYE exchange student from Argentina, Martin, and his parents, Oscar & Lilita Rodriguez. Oscar is now District Governor of Patagonia and was in the U.S. for Rotary leadership training. Elena and Peter Anderson hosted the party that featured Argentine wine, food and music.

