



Rotary Shares. A Good Investment of Your Time and Money



El Toro Room
at
Morgan Hill
Community &
Cultural Center

17000 Monterey Road,
Morgan Hill



Chef Diana

Introducing Chef Diana and the Club's New Meeting Place

By Sherry Hemingway

Habit may point your car toward the Golden Oak restaurant on Wednesdays, but starting in January, Club members will have to make a U-turn.

Rotary Club of Morgan Hill is moving its weekly luncheon meetings downtown to the Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center, where a new chef awaits.

Diana Guertin, a culinary graduate and owner of Catered by Diana, will be preparing the buffet for the members as they newly convene in the Center's El Toro Room.

Diana has built a strong reputation in the South County area as a local chef, restaurateur and resident of 14 years. After owning Mushrooms Bar & Grill near Downtown Morgan Hill for 11 years, Diana shifted her interests and passion into catering. Chef Diana has managed to grow the company into a major catering business in the South Valley. Learn more about Catered by Diana on her website at www.cateredbydiana.com.

"Rotary has asked for a straightforward, standard buffet of salad, fruit, bread, starch and a hot entrée," said Diana. "My intention is to keep it varied and fresh and delicious." The menu will vary time to time including American, Italian and Mexican.

The new venue also brings us a new liaison, Debbie Lee-Lazzarino of the MH Community & Cultural Center.

We bid a fond farewell to the Golden Oak, which has served and housed our Club very well since the restaurant opened nearly 25 years ago.

Welcome to your new home, Rotarians!



Annual Rotary and El Toro Youth Center Christmas Party held Dec. 20

By Greg Sellers

After giving so much to El Toro Youth Center, 11-year-old Valeria Rojas got a gift of her own at the annual Rotary Gift Exchange.

"Valeria gives so much," said Center director Lori Escobar about the straight "A" P.A. Walsh student. Rojas used her artistic talents to design a wine label as part of the fund-raising drive that helped El Toro transition to a new partnership with Catholic Charities, and she contributes on a daily basis as a student at the center.

Rotarian and Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate drew Valeria's name, and it was hard to tell who was more excited, the giver or the receiver. Tate, who led the fund-raising effort for El Toro earlier in the year, said he was delighted to get to know Valeria better. He considers the event one of his favorite parts of the holiday season.

In all, 70 students participated in this year's annual gift exchange. Rotarians donated a gift to a designated student, and in exchange parents and volunteers from the Center served a wonderful meal, including tamales and other traditional Mexican holiday dishes.

The evening started with the kids singing some Christmas carols and holiday songs for the audience of Rotarians and parents. Then everyone ate the fantastic food. After the fantastic meal, Santa arrived as he traditionally does - on his Harley, and all the young people got their picture taken sitting in the Harley saddle with Santa. As soon as Santa left to return to the North Pole to prepare for the big day on Tuesday, Lori started calling the kids' names one-by-one to receive their gifts, and many huge smiles appeared as the gifts were opened!

El Toro Youth Center serves over 300 young people from their facilities on Crest Avenue in Morgan Hill, providing tutoring, counseling, recreation and other services to very low income students and their families. This is the 17th year that Rotarians have partnered with El Toro in the holiday gift exchange.



Santa and his elves



Kids singing Christmas carols



Elves passing out gifts



Club's Holiday Party Held at the Coyote Creek Golf Club

By Greg Sellers



Santa didn't stop by this year's Holiday Dinner, but there were surprise guests bearing gifts.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dan Ehrler and Board President Laura Brunton stopped in at the event to announce that Mary Cox, wife of Rotarian Mike Cox, had been named Morgan Hill Woman of the Year. And before the cheering could die down, they announced that Mike Cox had been named Man of the Year.



The surprise announcements were one of many delights at the annual Holiday event, held this year at Coyote Creek Golf Club. A full house enjoyed cocktails and a dinner featuring individually prepared pasta. Following dinner, guests participated in a heated table versus table scavenger hunt competition.

After the competition guests danced the rest of the night away, enjoying the company of other Rotarians and the opportunity to spend an evening with their spouses and guests in a wonderful setting.

Club Approves Four Community Grants



Four community organizations have received cash grants from our club to support their projects:

- **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)** – A gift of \$1,500 was granted to provide a swing band for the YAC's annual Senior Citizen Ball. The spring event to held in the Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center and attracts a loyal following.
- **Morgan Hill Downtown Association** – A gift of \$500 was granted to help the organization's efforts to replenish holiday decorations in the downtown area by December, 2008.
- **Friends of the Morgan Hill Library** – The Club donated \$350 toward the organization of the second annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day fundraiser.
- **Cub Scout Pack 780** – The Club granted a gift of \$650 for the scouts to purchase and decorate Christmas trees for local low-income families.





The grants were reviewed and recommended by the Charitable Giving Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in December.

Club Supports Second Annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day at Morgan Hill Library

The Friends of the Morgan Hill Library present:



[Event Website and registration](#)

[Friends of the Morgan Hill Library](#)

By Carole O'Hare, *Friends of the Library* -

Fans of crossword puzzles and Sudoku are invited to participate in Silicon Valley Puzzle Day on Sunday Feb. 3. The Friends of the Library is hosting the event at the Morgan Hill Library to celebrate puzzle fun and to raise awareness of the new library that opened last summer at 660 West Main Avenue. The day includes crossword and Sudoku tournaments, as well as puzzle-related activities for all ages. Doors open for tournament registration at 11 am, and competition begins at noon

"Silicon Valley Puzzle Day was so much fun last year that we're doing it again," said Lisa Pampuch, co-chair of the event. "Anyone who enjoys puzzles, who wants to keep their brain sharp, and who appreciates the library will love Silicon Valley Puzzle Day."

This is the West Coast's only competition combining crossword and Sudoku tournaments. Winners in youth (8-15 years) and adult (16 and older) categories will be awarded prizes donated by American Institute of Mathematics and Fry's Electronics.

New York Times Puzzle Master Will Shortz is providing unpublished crossword puzzles for the adult tournament.

Puzzle Day is free for those who want to watch the competition, learn new puzzle skills in workshops, visit the marketplace or enjoy other puzzles and games. Registration for each puzzle tournament is only \$5. Funding from Rotary Club of Morgan Hill has helped keep the cost to participate low.

For more information, visit www.svpuzzle.org.



Rotary Foundation says "Thanks!"

By Your Foundation Fairy, Laura Lundy



A huge "Thank You" to all the Rotarians who generously donated this year to the Rotary Foundation. We collected \$18,495 in donations with some pledges still to come in. At least 53 members were Double Sustainers (giving over \$200) and 6 were Paul Harris Society Donors (giving over \$1000 this year). We will have a special "Day of Recognition" in March for Rotary Foundation honoring Paul Harris Fellows and Double Sustainers where pins and medallions will be given out.

Even though November was Rotary Foundation month and we have met our monetary donation goal, we will continue our fundraising efforts in 2008 with a "matching points over pledge" campaign, a reception for Paul Harris Fellows and a recognition event for a Paul Harris Honoree from our community. We will continue to encourage donations to help this very worthy cause that connects us with the needs of under-developed countries (potable water, polio immunization, and medical equipment, to name a few) and with fellow Rotarians around the World.

With much appreciation and best wishes for 2008!



The President's Corner



A busy month it was, with the move to the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center (CCC), all the Christmas parties, and our personal activities related to the holidays.

The move and arrangements for having our weekly meetings at the El Toro Room of the CCC were completed on Dec. 18 with meetings with staff at the CCC and with Diana Guertin, our caterer. The storage, sign and keys are all set, and while there may be some details to work out, we are ready for our next meeting on Jan. 2 at the CCC.

You will see descriptions elsewhere in this Newsletter of the Rotary Christmas Party at Coyote Creek, of the El Toro Youth Center Christmas Party, and of Santa's gala at the Golden Oak. It has been a busy time. We should feel privileged to be able to share this holiday time with the young people at El Toro Youth Center. While it is a truism that they are the future, it also is a thrill to be involved with them, to see the hope and excitement in their eyes, and to see the pride of their parents.

Susan and I wish all of you and your families a safe, prosperous and meaningful Holiday time. We will see you in January.

President Ken

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Keep up to date on Club news
programs and happenings at

www.morganhillrotary.org



	<p>Anniversaries</p> <p>1985 Roger Malech 1995 Arlene Greenberg 1992 Chuck Musich 2003 David Lister 2003 Dennis Kennedy 2003 David Bischoff 2003 Terri Nelson 2003 Carol Carr 2005 Stu Carson 2007 Theresa Kiernan</p>
	<p>Happy Birthday!</p> <p>Jan 3 - Steve Tate Jan 6 - Kevin McGinty Jan 10 - Gary Sargenti Jan 11 - Mike Cox Jan 17 - Gary Winzeler Jan 20 - Bernie Barke Jan 23 - David Bischoff Jan 24 - Roger Knopf</p>
	<p>Upcoming Events ~ Get your calendar out!</p> <p>Feb. 13 - MH Rotary Speech Contest. Brad Ledwith Chair May. 10 – Annual Senior Dinner at Morgan Hill Buddhist Temple Jun. 15 - 18 – RI Convention, Los Angeles Jun. 25 – Debunking of President Ken Sept. 12 - 15 – Annual Rotary Golf Classic, San Juan Oaks Golf Club</p>



**January Club Programs – 12:15, Wednesdays, MH
Community & Cultural Center**

Jan. 2 – Club Assembly (No Children or Guests)

Mid-Year Review

Jan. 9 – New Member Spotlights

Lowell Sando and Greg Sellers

Jan. 16 – Outstanding Student Achievement

Barrett, Burnett, El Toro and Jackson schools

Jan. 23 – Breathe California, Speaker is Jerry Denny

As the local lung health leader, Breathe California of the Bay Area fights lung disease in all its forms and works with its communities to promote lung health. They believe the most significant impact on people's lives takes place through local interaction. Their key roll has been to establish tobacco-free communities, achieve healthy air quality and fight lung diseases such as asthma and tuberculosis.

Jan. 30 – Randy Toch 2008 Summer Vacation

Member Randy Toch shares his family's trip across the country.



Rotary District 5170

District Information



Rotary District 5170

Newsletters





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