

R TA - M NICA

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At our head table today was **Rev. Joseph Metoyer, Jr., Nancy Freedman, Paul Leoni, Dee Menzies, Tom Loo, Roy Almeida**, and guest Brett Bjornson, of the Pacific Palisades Rotary Club, and guest speaker, Paul Moyer.

In memorium. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Clyde and Rosemary Smith and their family for the loss of their young granddaughter, Malana Rose Hurks.

Today was "Bring a Guest Day," so the room was packed with visiting Rotarians and guests of Rotarians. It's always a pleasure to have Rick Mendoza, past District Governor, at our meetings, and Sumaya Conners, visiting from the North Columbia County Rotary Club in New York (District 7210) received one of our banners.

Representing the **Pacific Palisades Rotary Club**, Brett Bjornson detailed many of the worthy causes -- ranging from providing relief to victims of Katrina to supporting elementary school libraries (as a librarian, this meeting recorder can appreciate that) -- that his club has supported. Palisades Rotary members Dan Beckwith, Ed Bryan, Stockton Gaines, John Gundershaug, Jim Hahn, Wallace Massey, Bob May, Dick Meyer, Randy Rhodes, and Tony Yeh stood up to be welcomed.

Guests of Rotarians included "first lady" Marilyn Leoni, Mark Olson, Alan Llorens, Karon Larmore, Kathy Whiting, Bryan Briem, Dr. Tina MacDonald, June Bohn, Annette Colfax, John Hall, April Frank, Caroline Bugge, Susan Stewart, Sharen Dyer, Jose Cerezo, Diane Geller, Charle Yen, Mary Lois Roney, Bill Mortensen, Michael O'Malley, Dina Hidalgo, Glenda Collins, Jamie Menzies, Char Lawrence, and Nancy Brown.

John Miller and **Pat Bofird** led us in song, an ode to the street reporter, in honor of our guest speaker.

Prez Paul thanked where-are-you-now **Lionel Ruhman** for standing in while he was away garnering a Service Above Self "Academy Award" at District 5280 Conference. Paul also extended hearty thanks to **Spyros** for serving his famous baklava to more than 250 visitors to the hospitality suite at the district conference. "Honorable" mention also goes to **Monika White** and **Iao Katagiri** for assembling outstanding awards manual. Monika then announced the club's other District 5280 awards:

Club Service	Membership	Silver	Thanks to Bob, Iao, Steve & Oded!
	Image & Communication	Bronze	
	Club Programs	Gold	

Community Service	Cancer Relay	Gold	Thanks to Anna and Tish!
Vocational Service	Literacy	Bronze	Thanks Kris!
	Craft Talks	Bronze	
Youth Service	Youth Programs	Bronze	Thanks to Tish & Greg!
	Youth Activities	Bronze	
Rotary Foundation	Rotary Participation	Bronze	Thanks Marv!
	Rotary Program	Silver	
	Overall	Silver	
International Service	Friendship Exchange	Silver	Thanks Marv!

Other announcements: Thanks to **Nat Trives**, our club is closer to formalizing a joint sponsorship with a Rotary Club in Sri Lanka of a school in the village of Usgoda. Following the devastating tsunami of December 2004, this school is now attended by many orphans. Watch for further developments in our club's continuing effort to lend a helping hand to tsunami victims.

Another worthy Santa Monica organization was awarded Rotary funds: Harmon Sieff presented \$2,000 to Dr. Tina MacDonald of **The Center for the Partially Sighted**. The Center will use the grant for sight measuring equipment.

And only one fine. **Hal Quigley** was fined \$250 for that trip to Mexico. Last time he tells anyone in Rotary he's going on a pleasure trip!



Today's guest speaker was veteran broadcast journalist, Paul Moyer, who presented "Defining Moments: A Personal Look at over 40 Years of Daily News." Paul co-anchors the 5 and 11 p.m. weekday editions of KNBC's Channel 4 news. Moyer joined KNBC in 1972 and returned to the Channel 4 news team in 1992 after 13 years with KABC.

Paul spent his first seven years in Santa Monica where he attended Carlthorp School as a kindergartener. So it was appropriate for Dee Menzies, the School's Head, to introduce Paul as one of their former successful students.

Paul came to TV through radio -- and veteran broadcaster himself Ray Briem nodded approvingly when Paul mentioned the radio announcer who first inspired him. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelors in economics, he attended

the Don Martin School of Radio and TV in Los Angeles. Moyer spent almost a decade working at stations in Sacramento, Sioux City, Peoria, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and New York City before returning to Los Angeles and joining KNBC. His reminiscences of those early years included how his first co-anchor (in Sioux City) was the sponsor Hamm's Beer bear. In 1972, when he joined KNBC, he had the opportunity to work with Pat Sajak, Bryant Gumbel, and the "perfect" Tom Brokaw.

Now at the top of Southern California's news hierarchy, Moyer has received many awards for his journalism, including a L.A.-area Emmy Award for his report on the bombing at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He told the story behind that story of how he was less than 100 feet from where the bomb went off. In order to provide "breaking news" coverage he almost got arrested for not leaving the post-incident secured area, and he didn't have time to change out of his shorts before going live on air.

A friend to many Rotarians in the audience, a big thank you to Paul Moyer for informing and entertaining us about our media scene. And continue to stay tuned to this icon of local news anchors.

History of Mother's Day -- Howard Johnson, c. 1915

Ancient Greece, honoring Rhea, the mother of the ancient Greek gods

17th century England celebrated "Mothering Sunday". A custom of baking a special cake, a mothering cake.

1872 United States, Julia Ward Howe, the author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic saw the need for a day of peace after the horrors of the Civil War.

1907 United States, Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother's passing which was on the 2nd Sunday of May. By 1908, Mother's Day was celebrated in Philadelphia

1910 West Virginia became the first state to recognize Mother's Day

1914 President Wilson proclaimed the 2nd Sunday of May as Mother's Day

Remembering some of MOM'S favorite advice:

Make sure to change your underwear; you never know when you'll have an accident

Don't make that face or it'll stay that way

Be careful or else you'll put your eye out

What if everyone jumped off the bridge? Would you do it, too?

Don't put that in your mouth; you don't know where it's been

If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all

"M" is for the million things she gave me

"O" means only that she's growing old

"T" is for the tears she shed for me

"H" is for her heart of purest gold

"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining
"R" means right, and right she'll always be

The rebirth of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

By Bettina Kozlowski - Rotary International News

Many in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, will remember Mardi Gras 2006 as a symbol of resilience over natural catastrophe and governmental failure. Mardi Gras showed that New Orleans will stand on her feet again, and Hurricane Katrina could not stop the city from celebrating its world famous carnival.

Like Mardi Gras, the Rotary Club of New Orleans, has reason to celebrate its rebirth. "We were knocked down but not knocked out," said club president Charles Young.

The storm

Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005, and suddenly the club, which had met for 25 years in the Fairmont Hotel on Canal Street, was in limbo. The club's phone number was disconnected, and its members scattered across the country.

Young and his family, as did countless others, took what they could fit in their cars and headed out of town as the hurricane approached. Together with his wife, his daughter's family and their many pets, including a parakeet, Young evacuated to Lafayette, a town approximately 130 miles from New Orleans. After the levees broke, he realized that he would not be coming home anytime soon. Young remembered that he kept in his glove compartment of his car a tattered RI directory. He used it to contact the Rotary Club of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Wearing the only pair of long pants he had packed, Young attended the Lafayette club's weekly meeting in the first week of September. After listening to his account of escape from tragedy, Lafayette Rotarians asked Young how they could help. "I told them, 'One of my daughters is staying in a New Orleans hotel room with her husband, her son, one dog, two cats, and three gerbils,'" Young said. Minutes later, Young held the keys to a local member's pool house in his hand, without a deadline to leave.

Soon after, Barbara Collins, executive secretary of the New Orleans club, via cell phone tracked him down in his Lafayette rental home. She reported anxiously awaited news about fellow Rotarians. Young then started to look for ways to contact his fellow club members. Finally, after gaining access to a computer, Young used the club's Web site directory to e-mail and call the other club members. "I will never evacuate without a laptop, a broadband card, and access to e-mail again," the 63-year-old says without a hint of irony.

The Youngs' flight from hurricanes, however, was not over. Hurricane Rita forced the family to flee one more time, this time to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They finally returned to New Orleans at the end of September to find that their house, which was in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans, had been sitting in flood waters for three weeks. They knew they had lost their home of 31 years. It was a fate they shared with thousands of other New Orleanians.

Not in it alone

Members of the New Orleans club found strength through each other. A core group, organized by former club president Richard McCarthy III, met at a downtown restaurant on November 2nd for the first time since Katrina struck. "It was a great experience to see familiar faces," Young said. "Rotary provided a wonderful safe haven."

The New Orleans Rotarians had been through a lot. Henry Lowentritt, a club member, lost his audiovisual equipment business and had to let his 12 employees go. Lowentritt remembers that very little business was discussed at that Rotary club meeting. "It was a time of happy reunion and fellowship but also news of others who had not fared so well. [There was] so much uncertainty, but every event indicating a return to normalcy was a measure of New Orleans' survival and recovery."

Young was determined to keep the club alive, even though he knew there would be huge challenges. "We had to start from scratch," he said.

Club members waived dues for October, November, and December and set the first Wednesday in December as a target date for the first official post-Katrina club meeting.

After only a three-month hiatus, caused by what a club newsletter calls a "not-so-nice lady named Katrina," the Rotary Club of New Orleans resumed its scheduled weekly meetings on December 7, ²⁰⁰⁵, at 12:12 p.m. — the club's traditional start time as a nod to its history. In 1910, the club was the 12th club to be chartered.

The club is carrying on, but, for now, with fewer members. Some of the nearly 200 pre-Katrina members may never return to the city. But nearly 50 loyal Rotarian regulars gathered at their new headquarters at the Loews Hotel in downtown New Orleans that Wednesday in December.

Rotarians give back

Rotarians worldwide cheered on the club's rebirth. Financial aid arrived from Rotarians as far as England and France. One Canadian Rotary club, said Lowentritt, collected nearly 12,000 books, which its members hand-delivered to New Orleans' Rotarians for distribution in schools.

Money is still flowing in from clubs across the country, and Rotarians in New Orleans are busy distributing it to those in need. But the fight to keep the club going and financially sound when its members are struggling to rebuild their businesses, homes, and family lives continues. Yet, despite the hard times, Rotarians are helping their community get back on its feet.

They're cleaning up and restoring Warren Easton High School on 3019 Canal Street, in the Mid-City district, which housed and Interact club before Katrina shut it down. School officials have assured Rotarians they'll re-open Warren Easton High in the fall if the club completes its restoration.

"We had to go through a lot of housekeeping at first," Young said, "but we try to stay true to our colors. We're doing things only Rotary can do."

Individually, Rotarians are also reaching out to less fortunate New Orleanians. Club president-elect Susan Simon invited two displaced hurricane victims to live with her. Both in their 40s, the two women don't have family in the city and are still waiting to have their homes rewired for electricity.

"It's been fun," Simon says of her extended household. "It's like having your girlfriends around all the time."

Another club member, Lowentritt, helped local jazz musicians receive financial aid from French and U.S. Rotarians.

As far as club membership is concerned, Young is also optimistic. He says membership is now at 65 percent of pre-Katrina days, and it's growing. "We've recruited three new members in the past two weeks," Young said. "We're gaining momentum."

Collins added that weekly meetings are sold out until April, thanks in part to the impressive array of high-powered speakers who already appeared or scheduled to speak.

If Mardi Gras 2006 serves as a time to evaluate efforts to rebuild the Gulf Coast, the New Orleans Rotarians can proudly say they are part of it.

Into the future

As Charlie Young waved to the crowds from atop a float during one of the last Mardi Gras parades, he thought: "We have finally turned a corner."

For Young, Lowentritt, and Simon, Mardi Gras represents a deeply rooted family and hometown tradition, and they're pleased New Orleans was able to celebrate it.

But the celebrations aren't meant to fool the world that everything is back to normal, said Lowentritt. Life may not ever be what it was before Katrina came to town. At 63 years old, Lowentritt, whose business was ruined, is now looking for a

new career. Young is building a new home, despite recently suffering a heart attack.

Meantime, the topic of discussion for the meeting the morning after Fat Tuesday was levee reform. The Rotary Club of New Orleans is back in business, with more business than ever on its hands.

Calendar of Events . . .

Fri. May 19	Ho Nguyen of the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum
Sat. May 20	District Assembly Meeting , Carson Community Center
Fri. May 26	DARK - HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY
June 11 - 14	RI Convention in Copenhagen see Jim Dyer
Fri. June 23	De-Throw-ning Party Shuttters - Jim Westbrook

Paul's Thought for the Day comes from comedian Yakov Smirnoff: "Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place."

Wait a minute: Be sure to call your mother, or honor a mother you know, on Mother's Day, May 14th!

In the language of Rotary ... Med vänlig rotaryhälsning, Obrigado, Cordiali saluti rotariani. Best Rotary Regards, Cordialement, Atentamente, Mit besten rotarischen Grüßen, Susan Annett and RoseMary Regalbuto