

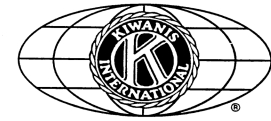
The Kiwanis Chronicles

News of the Club and the Community it Serves

March 25, 2009

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**"A Record of Tomorrow's
Good Fortunes"**



**Serving the Children of the
World**

**La Mirada Kiwanis Club,
La Mirada, CA**

The Carden School

Our speaker of the morning, Carol Tracy, was introduced by PAT RUIZ. Carol is the Director of the Carden School in Whittier. The Carden School is a private elementary grade school and nursery school which was founded in 1964 by Miss Mae Carden. It is now established in seventeen states, including Hawaii.

Carol told us of some of the activities of the school. Each school is independent but the teachers have to be certified by the Carden School Foundation. She commented that a previous director was a member of Kiwanis in Whittier. The founder of the Carden Method went to school in the east and while doing so became convinced that she could come up with a better method than that being taught to students at that time.

Her first official school was opened in Manhattan. While the traditional subjects are taught she figured out methods of improving the comprehension by the students, especially in the understanding of languages. The directors come to the area to "teach" the teachers and use the Carden School in Whittier as one of their locations.

She noted that over the years a number of Public Schools used their teaching methods, starting in New Jersey. Miss Carden came to California and she was asked to start the method in some public schools in Northern California. This lasted for a number of years but because of the turnover of administrations most of the Public Schools have dropped the method.

In the teaching of pre-school students, they are in small groups and the teacher sits with them. The teaching includes vocabulary and the proper way of communicating with adults. The school is independent and does not belong to any particular church or organization. They do teach the writings from the Bible so that students may become knowledgeable of the different ways of writing. Values are taught, including courtesy, so that they can communicate with others in a proper way. Teachers are encouraged to smile and be friendly as the students have to look at that face all day long.

One of their teaching methods includes the teaching of the letters in the lower case first. The upper case teaching comes second. Normally this is reversed in the typical school. The student is encouraged to trace over the letter in question as it is taught so that the letter takes on its own personality.

Once the child is in Kindergarten they are taught in groups of about twenty students. They are still sitting at tables in small groups with the teachers at their levels making eye contact as they are taught. As the grades advance different subjects are taught by different teachers, but still in small groups. They follow the state requirements that must be taught in the math, science and history subjects.

The students wear uniforms with the style changing in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Graduates who have gone on to have children of their own bring them back to endorse the methods being used. Their teachers concentrate on the basics with others brought in to teach the peripherals. They have an annual fundraiser but most income comes from tuition which is about \$600 a month for Kindergarten and up and \$400 a month for Pre-school.

School runs from September through June with a course being taught in the summer for those students coming from other schools who need to be exposed to their teaching methods. The Preschool has government rules that must be followed.

Carol noted that she began teaching in public schools and her children attended public schools. She moved them to private schools when she saw they could be better taught in that environment. Teachers do not have to develop their own curriculum as it is pretty well laid out for them. Teachers come in to teach subjects such as music and computer lab.

They just recently celebrated their 40th anniversary in Whittier and it was rewarding to see the alumni come back. We thank Carol for this look at their method of teaching.

They are located at 11537 Grovedale Drive in Whittier. Their phone is 562 694 1879.

March 18 Dollars and Nonsense

The morning was started with the Pledge being led by SHERRY BRAKEBILL. PAT RUIZ led us in "God Bless America." PAT ROJAS gave the Invocation. When it was time for the bucks to be herded GERALD PEEBLER did the honors. Dr. JERRY ROODZANT gave a couple of bucks left by the early departing GENE GLEASON. (Gene had a date with a group, one of whom had a hole in one on a 200+ yard hole,) He threw in some of his own.

PAT ROJAS gave for his dreadlocks (or was it Goldilocks) still being in evidence. He added one for the state of the economy. (Although it probably shouldn't be limited to a state.) TONY ARMAS gave his "Happy" buck. RICH TRUJILLO gave for his La Mirada's Girls Softball Team being 2-0. He commented on the lassitude being shown and blamed it on the time change. (Probably a better explanation was that everyone stayed up to see a preview of Jay Leno's replacement.)

SHERRY BRAKEBILL gave for missing the Board meeting. She was involved in a golf tournament that ran late. She has the billing statements sent out, mostly by e-mail. There was also something about a five day trip to Guadalajara, Mexico. (Probably sponsored by AIG.) She added one for our newest member. Pastor JACK MIRANDA gave for USC winning and being in the NCAA Tournament. He added another for USA bumping off Puerto Rico in baseball. PAT RUIZ gave a couple of happy ones as she anticipates the upcoming concert on April 4.

JIM MCGIRR passed on a couple of RUFFO ESPINOSA bucks as Ruffo had an early appointment with the doctor. He added a Mighty Duck dollar. MARK ROYSTON, put on the spot to tell a joke lamented that he is a very serious person and couldn't see how anyone would take his somber comments so lightly. He gave for STEVE FORSTER being "Down Under" in New Zealand, for REED TAYLOR being "down under" the covers with a cold and the possibility that the missing LOU PILTZ is also "down under" with the same cold. With that he sat down, fearing that someone would put him "down under", especially the one collecting the dollars.

GERALD PEEBLER gave an anniversary dollar noting that the years added up to sixty eight. Gerald added one for a trip to the Bank of the West with a dual purpose in mind, that of making a deposit and that of leaving some Duck Race flyers. BILL DAWSON had already beat him to that flyway so his adoption papers were rejected. He added one for a trip to Las Vegas this Friday for a family reunion. (We thought the "Family" no longer ran Las Vegas.) DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for her niece Auburn coaching softball at Villa Park High School and winning a recent tournament. (We can see a challenge coming up from the other softball interested part in the Club.)

Our visitors of the morning included, beside our speaker, Donna Munier from the Bank of Whittier. The 50/50 Drawing was won by RUFFO ESPINOSA in absentia and telepathy directed us to donate it to the Meals-On-Wheels.

Welcome to the World Elise Grace,

Daughter of JESSE and Lori URIQUIDI
born Tuesday March 10, 2009 .

La Mirada Symphony Pops Concert Saturday April 4, 2009

Evening Pops at 8:00 PM
Matinee Pops at 2:00 PM

Featuring

STEVE JONES as Master of Ceremonies
Soprano Cheri Stark
Base Baritone Paul Robinson

Program

The 'light side' of Leroy Anderson,
The Typewriter
The gusto of Brahms'
Hungarian Dance # 5
They 'can't do without' John Williams'
Star Wars
That Disney 'Magic'

Songs from

*West Side Story, Porgy and Bess,
Fiddler on the Roof and Gershwin
in Concert*
Cheri Stark and Paul Robinson

Last Week's Who Am I?

I played water polo in the Blue and Gold.

I drove a catering truck while in between jobs.

I had a few sales jobs selling electrical conduit and truck and off the road tires.

Who am I?

SHERRY BRAKEBILL

Who Am I?

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 31 years.

I have three children.

I am a structural Engineer.

Who am I?

(Don't forget the evening members.)