

# The Kiwanis Chronicles

**News of the Club and the Community it Serves**

March 24, 2010

Volume 9-10, Issue 25

**Preserving Yesterday,  
Reporting Today**

**Kiwanis**  
La Mirada

**Serving the Children of  
the World**  
**La Mirada Kiwanis Club,**  
**La Mirada, CA**

## La Mirada History

With La Mirada getting ready to celebrate its 50th anniversary as a City, who better than Dave Peters to give us some history of the area now known as La Mirada. Dave is an Oklahoman who came to teach at Biola University when he was 24. He has taught history there for some 44+ years and while fulfilling this task he was also a City Councilman, and Mayor. His interest in La Mirada history began early when he would take his students to visit Bob Camp, a local historian. With each visit Dave would learn something new.

Using his Power Point program Dave told of the early beginnings when the area was a part of a 200,000 acre land grant known as the Stern's lease which had its beginnings around 1846. It was a part of a vast sheep grazing area. In showing one of the pictures, Dave asked us to note a jackass among the sheep. He told that the jackass acted as a sheep dog and protected the grazing sheep herds from the many wild animals.

He showed a picture of the Pio Pico mansion located nearby that was the residence of the last Mexican governor. In 1890 Andrew McNally bought 2000+ acres with the idea of breaking it up into twenty acre "Gentleman" farms. Andrew McNally had the rights to produce all the railroad tickets and time tables for all trains travelling west of the Mississippi. He also bought out Rand Map and became owner of the Rand-McNally Map Company.

As it has affected other places and endeavors at other times a recession hit, destroying the plans for the Gentleman Farms. McNally turned to planting olive trees and La Mirada became the largest olive grove in the world. He built a railroad depot for the loading and unloading of trains. There was a two room school set up for local students. Dave showed a picture of the George home which is the oldest in La Mirada. Oil was discovered in nearby Santa Fe Springs. A place for a cemetery covering four and one half acres was bought by GERALD PEEBLER's mother. This is the oldest business in La Mirada.

The cemetery was a part of the sales plan to sell the farm sites. One of the persons brought in was Robert McGill to act as an accountant. His meticulous records have helped confirm earlier history of the area. The olive business generated around \$50,000 annually. A large garden was set up to supply food to the owner and it is now what is known as the Garden Hill area. When a son-in-law Neff died he left \$500,000 for the upkeep of the mansions and area.

In 1955 Biola University bought 150 acres to accommodate the move of their college from downtown Los Angeles. Around the same time the rest was sold to a developer to build a planned city. Dave noted that there was not much written about La Mirada so your sense of its history starts when you arrive.

The City was incorporated in 1960 after some spirited battles. Anna Martin was the first City Clerk. The City has maintained its earliest vow, to have no property tax. They have never spent more than they took in. LOU PILTZ was one of the early community members and was on the City Council, acting as Mayor a number of times.

Dave talked of the many advantages of being in La Mirada with its good schools and low crime rate. He mentioned the La Mirada Symphony and City owned La Mirada Theatre. The City Beautification Awards help to improve the looks of the City. There have been a couple of books written about La Mirada including one by Bob Camp.

Dave completed his Power Point presentation and those in assembly were looking for more.

We appreciate Dave taking the time to put together this comprehensive history of our great City.

## Grins and Grimaces-March 17

GENE GLEASON got us started with the Pledge and LOU PILTZ gave the Invocation. PAT RUIZ led us in "God Bless America." When the dollars were collected STEVE FORSTER was called on to green up the environment. PETER CHOW gave for St. Patrick's Day and for the quake that awoke us a bit early that was centered in nearby Pico Rivera. RUFFO ESPINOSA gave out some good bucks without specifics for the specie. GERALD PEEBLER gave some Anniversary bucks as it just happened to be his 69th. He brought Harriette along to help him celebrate. He gave one from TONY ARMAS who wanted to let us know that he is busy taking care of Mary Carmen..

REED TAYLOR wanted to let us know that his wife Betty now has a laptop computer at home. The e-mails will soon be flowing (as soon as his granddaughter gets it set up.) LOU PILTZ gave for his wife, Harriette being here. And for the great club. LA DONNA MUNIER gave for the Irish and the patio furniture. (See Dr. Jerry's Quote of the Day which had us turning green around the gills.) SHERRY BRAKEBILL reported that her operation went well. She added one for Harriette being here.

Pastor JACK MIRANDA gave for the state of the community report coming up with Supervisor Don Knabe scheduled to be there. He added for the Peebler's anniversary. RICH TRUJILLO gave for not wearing green. (Are you trying to tell us that St. Patrick was the first environmentalist?) DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for a great interclub. GENE GLEASON gave for the wearing of the green. (That means it must have something to do with golf.) He added for the great show at the Theatre where the Young Dubliners were front and center. CHRIS STAPLES gave for being at the convalescent hospital last Thursday and the great Kiwanis Bingo. He added one for the Peeblers.

PAT RUIZ told of the upcoming show at the Theatre which is free and will fete the City on its 50th birthday. She added one for an upcoming trip to London (to see the Queen, no doubt.) JIM MCGIRR gave for the Club and always for the Ducks. MARK ROYSTON paid to tell how and where Pastor Jack had to put a model airplane together. (At his church, of course because there was some "Assembly" required. On the other hand the members were lucky as Royston toyed with telling a story about Father Junipero Serra.)

EMMANUEL HERNANDEZ gave for the patio furniture and for a son returning from Europe. ART LESLIE gave for bad jokes (as he looked pointedly at one of the members. STEVE FORSTER gave for "all that he is" (Whatever that is), for St. Patrick's Day and for his great bowling at the Staples Tournament. Dr. JERRY ROODZANT lamented being beaten by a woman bowler at the same tournament.

## Duck Race

Debbie Reports:

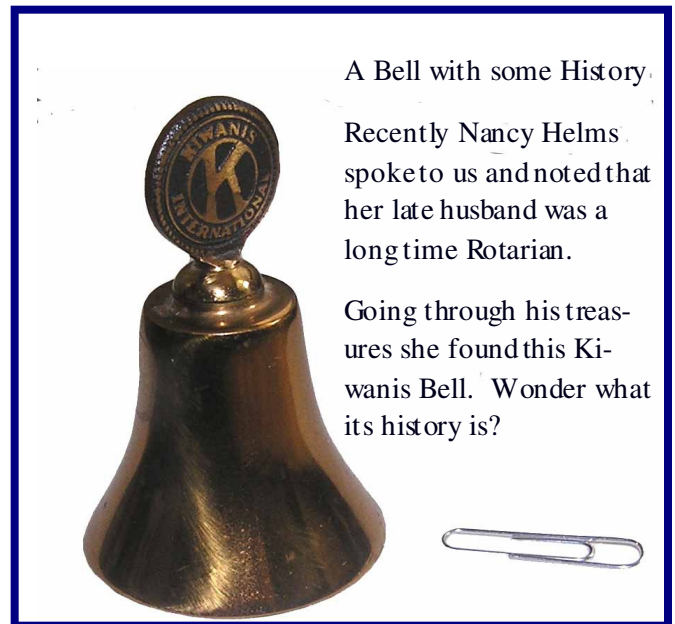
Well, sales are slowly picking up. Need everyone to step up and make a HUGE push for duck sales.

One new selling group this week --

Southern California University Health Services Ducks sold have increased to 2,290 -- an increase of 29.7% -- we still need to sale ducks -- goal is 8,000 -- last year we sold 4,500+.

## 4-La Mirada Kids Carnival

The 4-La Mirada Kids Carnival will be held the weekend of April 23. We have once been invited to work at various locations. It has been a financial success for those groups working at the various locations. This year we will be serving at different locations from the past.



A Bell with some History.

Recently Nancy Helms spoke to us and noted that her late husband was a longtime Rotarian.

Going through his treasures she found this Kiwanis Bell. Wonder what its history is?

## Thought for the Day

Dr. Jerry's Thought for the Day turned out to be a riddle.

"What has twelve legs, stays outside and is Irish?"  
Why, "Paddy O'Furniture," of course

## Upcoming Programs

March 31 — Shirley Oebel - American Red Cross, will give an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) demonstration - What it is, why you need to know about it, and the importance of being certified in its use.

## 2009-2010 Officers, Board

### Directors

TED CEAUSU  
 PETER CHOW  
 RUFFO ESPINOSA  
 ART LESLIE  
 RICH POWERS  
 PAT RUIZ  
 DAVE TAYLOR  
**Committee Chairs**  
 Kiwanis Education &  
 Bulletin  
 MARK ROYSTON  
 Greater Years  
 House & Reception.  
 SHERRY BRAKEBILL  
 Interclub's  
 TED CEAUSU  
 Major Emphasis  
 PETER CHOW

Program  
 DR. JERRY ROODZANT  
 Publicity  
 LOU PILTZ  
 Ways & Means  
 REED TAYLOR  
 Youth Services  
 RICH TRUJILLO  
 Sunshine  
 RUFFO ESPINOSA  
 Scholarship  
 LOU PILTZ  
 Spiritual Aims  
 Dr. MIKE WINTER  
 Sponsored Youth  
 JOHN TOVAR  
 Fire Truck Chief  
 REED TAYLOR  
 Archives Chairman  
 REED TAYLOR

President  
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 Treasurer  
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 AMY SCHEIBEL  
 Immed. Past Pres.  
 DEBBIE SCHEIBEL  
 Lt. Gov. Div. 30  
 GEORGE HALLAK  
 Lt. Governor Elect  
 DEBBIE SCHEIBEL  
 Key Club President  
 Patricia Yoo

## The Objects of Kiwanis International

To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life  
 To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.  
 To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.  
 To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.  
 To provide through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.  
 To co-operate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which makes possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

The La Mirada Kiwanis Club is the home club of the following Past Lt. Governors : Dr. ED NORMAN, CARY MAYER and HARLAN COMEE and at one time was the home club of: HAL BENVENISTE, IRWIN KAISER, FRANK MCCOY, and GEORGE HARRISON, all Past Lt. Governors of. Div. 30. It is the home club of Lt. Gov. Elect DEBBIE SCHEIBEL

# Kiwanis La Mirada

### Legend:

Board Meeting 

Today's Date 

Evening Meeting 

## March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Announcements

April 1-Evening Meeting  
 April 3 Duck Race  
 April 8-Bingo at Imperial  
 April 15-Bingo at Mirada Hills  
 April 22-25 4-La Mirada Kids Carnival

**Birthdays:** March 2- AMY SCHEIBEL, March 14-GENE GLEASON, March 14-RICH POWERS, March 16-PETER CHOW, March 20-STEVE FORSTER

**Anniversary:** March 1-RICH POWERS, March 14-Dr. MIKE WINTER, March 22-GERALD PEEBLER, March 23-ALAN MORRISON,

**50/50 Drawing** was won by Dr. JERRY ROODZANT and donated to Good Sam Pantry

**Visitors:** Matt Wenthers, Biola University

### Calendar-Regular Meetings

Every Wednesday Morning

7:15 AM Gateway Holiday Inn

Monthly Evening Meeting-First Thursday

Volunteer Center Suite 4 (11900 La Mirada Blvd.)

7:00 PM