

The Kiwanis Chronicles

News of the Club and the Community it Serves

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**Preserving Yesterday,
Reporting Today**

Kiwanis
La Mirada

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

Life in Thailand

Tony Amas, Jr. came home for a vacation but was pressed into service as our morning speaker. Tony has been in Thailand for a number of years first as manager of an international hotel and now as agent for businesses dealing with companies in Thailand. He noted the difference of being with a large company where you have a strong support system and a small one where you are on your own.

He talked of transportation in Thailand and the sky train that goes the length of the City of Bangkok. The rush hour can make the trip home at night a pure traffic jam that can consume up to four hours.

The country has its ups and downs politically. Right now there are demonstrations in the middle of the City of Bangkok. This can be disturbing as that area contains a very large shopping mall that serves all of southeast Asia. It ended up being closed for three months. The good news was that the problem was concentrated in that one small area. He noted that the Prime Minister lives just down the street from him.

Tony suggests Thailand as an area to visit with April being the ideal month. There are direct flights to Bangkok. The center of the country has its mega-cities with beach and mountain areas available for the tourists. The food is great though he suggests that you ask for milder seasoning if you are not from a background that is accustomed to a more spicy cuisine.

A lot of people speak English. He noted that he understands just enough Thai to get by. Many of the tourists are from Europe and Japan. There is a lot of manufacturing in Thailand as companies take advantage of its abilities at a moderate cost.

The education system is good and is comprised of both a public and a private system. There are a lot of ex-patriots living there from other countries. The cost of living is much less than here but when he gave prices of house and apartments it seemed comparable.

The country is open to people of all faiths though it is primarily Buddhist. All faiths are represented.

The security system is good. There was a military coup about four years ago but in general the Military works with the government. The American Embassy there is strong as well as the American Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. MIKE WINTER commented that he had a 12 hour layover there on his last trip to India. He noted that it is considered the "Venice of Asia." There are a lot of motorcycles and a strong silk trade.

Hospital facilities were mentioned with a comment that an world traveled American doctor said that if he needed an operation and had the time to schedule it, he would have it one in Thailand as their facilities and expertise were tops in the world. Tony agreed with this, noting that many come there for surgery and take a vacation at the same time. They have large hospitals and quick service. There are special hotels that cater to the recuperating patient.

The taxes are not too bad but the American law that makes you pay in both countries makes the burden heavier.

We appreciate Tony taking time to visit us and telling us details on a country with which we are not completely familiar. Thanks, Tony.

Grins and Grimaces-Dec. 29

RICH TRUJILLO collected during an abbreviated Happy/Sad round this morning. PASTOR JACK MIRANDA and TOM THORNTON agreed that this is a GREAT CLUB. ART LESLIE displayed his usual happy demeanor and wished everyone Happy Holidays. DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for our guests (the Armas family!). Dr. MIKE WINTER gave thanks in absentia to night members ADRIENNE MEDRANO and SKIP RICARTE who got up at 6:00 a.m. this morning to meet and chaperone Key Clubbers at Savanna High School to work on the parade floats. (Yeah, Knights!) He also announced that - yes - in 2 weeks he was heading back to India to minister once again to their poor and needy. He gave many thanks to those who contributed for his mission which is now fully funded. (Bless you, Mike!)

PAT RUIZ announced that her trip to Missouri to spend Christmas with son Paul and family was fabulous. All her children and a couple of spouses joined for the event! DR. ED NORMAN wished all a Happy New Year. TONY ARMAS - as always - could not contain his pride in the members of his family who joined him for breakfast today. EMMANUEL HERNANDEZ and RONNIE KNIGHT wished all Happy Holidays and a great New Year.

To nobody's surprise, GERALD PEEBLER gave for the RAIN! and joined LOU PILTZ and DR. JERRY ROODZANT in offering bucks for a good Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

A Christmas Greeting from Mandy in Iraq

HELLO AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE AT LA MIRADA KIWANIS CLUB! I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR SENDING OUT THAT CARE PACKAGE! IT MEANS SOO MUCH TO ME AND EVERYONE OUT HERE. IT CAME AT THE PERFECT TIME TOO! IT CAME ON CHRISTMAS EVE HERE YESTERDAY AND I JUST CAME BACK FROM A MISSION. I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE RECEIVED THAT! IT MADE MY DAY.

I SHARED ALL THE SNACKS WITH MY ROOM AND HALF OF THE BOX IS ALREADY GONE, LOL. ANYWAYS AGAIN THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR TAKING THE TIME OUT TO SEND THAT.

AND THAT NOTE THAT LOU PILTZ AND REED TAYLOR HAD ME LAUGHING! THANK YOU GUYS! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

Rose Parade 2011 and The Kiwanis Float From an Armchair attendee



ADRIENNE MEDRANO decorating parts of her assigned float, "One Nation," with cinnamon sticks for the Rose Parade 2011. SKIP RICARDI and Adrienne made the trip with the Key Club from Whittier Christian High School as they went to Pasadena to decorate floats.



