



The RotoNews

Of The Rotary Club of Bakersfield East

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The great Pasta Feast Kick-off.... The room, decorated with red-checked tablecloths and bright sunflowers, reminded us that Friday's meeting was Pasta Feast Kickoff! We were greeted by Dick Giles and Ben Batey, and Past President Wayne Kress called the meeting to order. (Dan Giordano later informed us that President Bob Parker was in detox and could not be with us on this day.) PP Wayne just knew we thought he was Prez Bob "who had taken a good-looking pill". His thought for the day was "Being cheerful keeps you healthy. I've never been unhappy in a ballpark." Steve Karcher gave the invocation, and the trio of George Palmer and Tammy Nuanez (singing for two) led us in "My Country 'Tis of Thee" accompanied by John McWhorter on the piano.

Introductions, Etc.... Jan Hensley introduced visiting Rotarians Janette Ramsey and Signee Hoffman. Sandi Blaylock introduced one of the "best two things that has ever happened to her", son Walker, and Quon Louey introduced his adorable children, Brandon and Brittany. Club guests were Mary Sue Franklin and Jim Darling. Jack Spencer informed us that Supper Club on Wednesday, April 10th will be at Olive Garden. Vernon Varner told us that this evening's hockey game fundraiser benefiting the Joe Alexander Fund is sold out! Dan Giordano reminded us those of us going on the Hanford trip to arrive at the Amtrak Station at 3:00 sharp and bring a picture ID. His main goal for the trip is to have no one get thrown in jail and asked that we all be discrete in sneaking any libation onto the train. Ralph Bartel lamented the fact that a couple of weeks ago, he volunteered PP Jim Clark to chair the Past Presidents' Booth at Pasta Feast. (He received payback in Dr. Jim's dental chair.) Ralph asked that all past presidents contact him with information for the packets that his committee is assembling for the booth.

Karen Skrable announced the winners of the NCAA Basketball Pool with \$500 each going to Tammy Nuanez and Steve Pressley. Steve told us that he will donate his winnings back to BERC through a Paul Harris Fellowship. President Elect Kelly Giblin informed us that we are leading in registration for the April 20th District Assembly with fifteen participants. It will be at Cal State Bakersfield and is open to all members of BERC at no cost to the individual. See Kelly ASAP if you are interested in attending. Birthdays this month are being celebrated by Patty Plank, Johnson Jung, Jo Meyer, Maria Berntson, Claudia Keith, Don Kuhns, Phyllis Bivins and Dana Karcher. Ben and Gail Batey are celebrating their anniversary, as were Mike Henstra and Karen Northcutt who celebrated in Cabo San Lucas. We sang a lackluster rendition of "Happy Birthday".

The program..... We also have many other sponsors that Scott thanked. Maria Berntson announced that most restaurants from previous years are donating sauce again this year. Jack Spencer told us that in addition to members selling tickets, they will be available at four locations, Kern Travel and three locations of Glinn & Giordano. Greg Braun in charge of money and Tom Burch in charge of signs both informed us that things are under control. Jan Hensley told us that childrens' events include a jump palace, fire truck and pony rides. Michelle Primm and Susan Leedy have beverages under control, and Gary Hoetker is amassing greeters for the day. Lyn Scales told us the goal for the 50/50 Drawing is \$4,000 with tickets selling for \$5 each or five for \$20. Raffle prizes include Jay Leno tickets, Dodger tickets for six including parking, golf for four, tickets to various Cal-State sporting events, wine from the Red Neck guys, savings bonds, and the grand prize of two airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States. Mack told us that without the pasta, our event would be a "Marinara Feast", so Bill Lewis will provide the pasta. That came as a surprise to Jane Lewis, Bill's wife, who apparently now joined at the hip with Stan Lewis, also known as Noodle Vendor. (Huh?) Jane informed us that she needs volunteers for the ticket booths. The Princesses of Pretty, Debbie Clark and Kristen Logan are in charge of decorations, and Toni Snyder, assisted by Ralph Bartel, has arranged for commercials on every television and radio station in Bakersfield, an achievement valued at \$35,000! Larry Moxley will again be our Master of Ceremonies. Our entertainment will be live this year with Stockdale Christian Band, Garcis Steel Drum Band and Highland High School Jazz Band providing music, and they will also be selling tickets for the event. Half of the proceeds from their sales will be donated back to their respective schools. Our evening will end with Crush playing Rock & Roll! Our new Pasta Feast mascot was painted on a pasta bowl that was lamely auctioned by Mack, and Sandi Blaylock offered the winning bid of \$250. Kelley Brown the led our annual Pasta Feast cheer (sans pompoms) and PP Wayne adjourned the meeting. Presenting our program were the Pasta

CLUB ASSIGNMENTS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 12th

Greeters: Melinda McKean, Jack Spencer,
Bob Frapwell

Invocation: Annette Koop

Flag Salute: Roger Randall

Visiting Rotarians: George Palmer

Brothers, Mack and Roni, otherwise known as Dan Giordano and Ron Biglin. Roni gave the history of Pasta Feast (actually a history of BERC beginning in 1952 with the formation of our club under the guidance of Dick Griffin from the Bakersfield Downtown Club). Raising funds has always been a problem, but with the club admitting women (Penny Geddes was the first in 1989) the club determined that fundraising would include things at which women excel, such as cooking, cleaning and giving birth. Thus, BERC gave birth to Pasta Feast! In 1995, \$15,000 was raised and has increased each year with \$42,000 being raised last year. Scott Begin announced that so far this year, \$26,300 has been raised through sponsorships. Our Diamond Sponsor representing \$5,000 to \$10,000 is Glinn & Giordano. Our Platinum Sponsors representing \$2,000 to \$4,999 are Plank Foundation, Noroian Family, Union Bank and San Joaquin Bank. Our Gold Sponsors representing \$1,000 to \$1,999 are Kern Refuse Disposal, Barber Cadillac and A-C Electric.

Fri. Apr. 12	Kevin McCarthy - Community College System
Wed. Apr. 17	Supper Club - Tam O'Shanter
Fri. Apr. 19	Dr. Donovan Robb & John Stark - Cal. State Family Business Institute, also GSE team from Mexico
Sat. Apr. 20	District Assembly - Cal State Bakersfield
Tue. Apr. 23	BERC Board Meeting 6pm - Kelly Giblin's Office
Wed. Apr. 24	Supper Club - Woolgrowers
Fri. Apr. 26	Dr. Michael Ault - Middle East Crisis, also Secretaries Day
Sat. Apr. 27	District Assembly - Santa Barbara
Fri. May 3	Jim Malouf - Coronor's Report, also Officer of the Year Award
Fri. May 3	North Rotary Fundraiser - Dinner at the Derby (Seven Oaks)
Sat. May 4	Pasta Feast at Stramler Park
Fri. May 10	Judge Bill Stone
Fri. May 17	Roy Ashburn - Kern County Business
Fri. May 24	Directors Reports
Tue. May 28	BERC Board Meeting 6pm - Kelly Giblin's Office
Fri. May 31	Fire Chief Steve Gage - Gound Zero
Fri. Jun. 7	Sharon Powell - Employers Training Resource
Sat. Jun. 8	District Awards Celebration - (Gov. Demotion) Paso Robles
Fri. Jun. 14	TBA
Jun. 23-26	Rotary International Conference - Barcelona, Spain
Fri. Jun. 21	Sandy Blaylock - What is your personality telling others?
Fri. Jun. 28	Demotion (Who really knows?)

And.....Now..... The Great Train Journey to Hanford.....



Everyone arrived at Amtrak's new station early and eager.



There isn't enough room for **Jane Lewis** on the converted fire truck...so **Bill Lewis** just pushed her off and told her to walk.



Everyone walked several blocks to The Bastille for refreshments before going on to the restaurant.

The Bastille was the Kings County Jail from 1898 to 1964. It was designed to be the best fortified jail in all of California. Plans called for 4 granite cells separated from a main cell room containing 8 steel cages. It contained 75 beds and was known to house up to 223 prisoners at a time, both male and female. There are two apparition's to still being seen, the ghost of Judge Meadows who hides under a table in the kitchen and Mary who has been seen since 1980 drifting up the staircase through the old jail area. She was rumored to have hanged herself upstairs. The owner, standing in the doorway, remarked to those at the bar that "they could have the place." I guess business has not been that good. BERC didn't eat in their jail cells, but moved on down the road, thank you.



Sheri Vining, **Robert Vining**, suck up to 2003-04 Prez to be **Maria Berntson** while **Maria's** daughter Susan Reynolds looks on. Jess Faz is looking for wife **Donna Faz** while the **Lewis's** patch up their differences.

The Chinese Restaurant was long on decoration and short on Chinese food. There was 1970's linoleum on the ceiling. It did nothing to keep the noise level down. The laughter shook the light fixtures on the ceiling ghost of Judge Meadows who hides under a table in the kitchen and Mary who has been seen since 1980 drifting up the staircase through the old jail area. She was rumored to have hanged herself upstairs. The owner, standing in the doorway, remarked to those at the bar that "they could have the place." I guess business has not been that good. BERC didn't eat in their jail cells, but moved on down the road, thank you.



Kelley Brown decided to take a snooze before re boarding the train home...she really didn't want her picture taken- can you tell?



The dignified end of the table was kept in check by **Dan Giordano**, our guide throughout Hanford.