



# Monarch Beach

## SUNRISE ROTARY

ON THE CALIFORNIA RIVIERA

*Happy Holidays!*



## Seniors Feast at MBSR's Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

by Sharon Baltzell

“Like a well oiled machine”... This was the comment we heard several times while preparing and serving the Thanksgiving Seniors' Luncheon on Saturday, November 22, 2008. In fact, things ran so well, there was not one panic moment among the crew the entire morning! Chefs **Russell Kerr** and **George Rendon** along with their kitchen assistants, **Terry Rifkin** and her sister **Diane**, **Chris Hawn**, **Linda Hess**, **Mark Fox**, and **Sharon Baltzell** all arrived by 9:00 am. All of our turkey home chefs were prompt in delivery of the cooked birds, so preparation could proceed smoothly. Once again, **Mark Fox** our turkey “carver extraordinaire”, along with assistance from Terry and Diane, masterfully carved 9 turkeys. Many thanks to our potato peeling crew... Terry, Diane, Linda, and Nan... sixty pounds of potatoes peeled in no time at all. The “boys,” George, Russell, and Mark all pitched in and voila, the dressing was ready to go. Mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans and carrots, salad, roll, and pie completed the menu.

Many thanks go out to **Mary Jeffries** and her assistant **Penny DiCaro** on the table decorations. In fact, this year they were so beautiful, rather than raffling them off to the seniors as we have done in the past we decided to keep them for the years to come, which is great news for whoever signs up for table decorations next year!

It was just a few years ago, MBSR served this dinner to approximately 78 seniors, the number of people that can comfortably fit in the small room off the kitchen. Word of mouth has traveled, and we are now famous! **Vanna Murphy**, Director of the Senior Center told me she had to cut off the sign up at 125 people this year. Rotary had five of our own guests bringing the total to 130 sit down dinners, served in the largest room at the community center. This year our servers helped to keep things moving right on schedule... many thanks to **Linda Hess**, **Don Gonneville**, **Penny DiCaro**, **Darrell** and family, **Lisa Bartlett**, **Lauren Hemighaus**, **Matt Fortier** and his daughter and her friend — all of you were wonderful and most efficient! In speaking with the seniors, we all heard how delicious the food was, how impressed they were with not only the food, but also the outstanding service and decorations.

This year we also delivered meals to 17 shut-ins with a big thank you to **John Hayden**, **Nan**, and **Rod** for being our drivers. John tells some very touching stories about how these shut-ins so appreciate what we are

*continued on page 4*



*All Hands On!*



*Member, and now Dana Point Mayor, Lisa and Lauren (Sharon's daughter) serve with smiles*



*Pres. Linda Hess serves our seniors*



*Happy Crew (that it is over and a SUCCESS!!)*

## President's Message

by Linda Knox Hess

The family has taken on an increasing significance to Rotary—and Rotary International has acknowledged this by declaring December as *Family Month*. Family Month nudges Rotary Clubs to plan special activities involving family members, and to consider ways to make families central to Club life all year long. The month-long observance also encourages reflection on the importance to Rotary's future of its extended family partners in service (like Rotaractors and Interactors) as well as Rotarians' own family members.

I became acquainted with Rotary in 1993 when my husband, Peter, joined this club. After years of enjoying and participating in club activities, I could not imagine my life without Rotary when Peter passed away five years ago—and I joined MBSR because of the wonderful members, my Rotary family.

This month is a time to focus on our families, to involve them in our Rotary service, and to challenge ourselves to do even more for those in need. It was heartwarming to see family members join us in service at our recent Thanksgiving Luncheon for the seniors. I felt blessed to share our November 26 Rotary meeting and Thanksgiving with my mother-in-law and father-in-law. Please consider inviting your loved ones to help shop for our holiday giving to the military and less fortunate families. Our head Santa's helper, **Penny DiCaro**, just received a \$50 contribution from her daughter. Enjoy the holiday spirit and bring

*continued on page 4*



## Rotary Foundation Dinner

by Russell Kerr

November was Foundation Month. An estimated 300 fellow Rotarians from our District 5320 gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Norwalk on Saturday evening, 11/15/08 to celebrate Paul Harris Fellows who have made significant contributions in support of the Rotary Foundation. Our club was represented by **LaVal Brewer, Nan Eide, Rod Eide, Don Gonnevill, Linda Hess, Russell Kerr & James Littlejohn**. Earlier this year, Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club became a 100% Paul Harris Fellows Club with 13 members becoming new Paul Harris Fellows. Our club was honored with the banner presentation recognizing this 100% achievement. All new Paul Harris Fellows present were also recognized including Russell Kerr & James Littlejohn.



Live, Silent & Chinese auctions help raise a few more dollars for the Foundation. The highlight of the evening was the moving presentation by PDG Carolyn Jones from Alaska who took us on her several journeys to Russia & service to thousands of needy children there.

We all can be proud of the tremendous service that our Rotary Foundation provides – thanks to you.

## Membership Matters

by Rod Eide

MBSR certainly is a "Great Rotary Club" as defined by the ten characteristics below. When guests are exposed to our great Club they are sure to be interested in joining—BRING THOSE GUESTS!

### TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT ROTARY CLUB:

- The Club's service projects are selected with the interests and preferences of its members in mind.
- Each member's service "hot buttons" are found and he/she is urged to join related committees.
- The Club's committee chairs conduct their meetings in an enjoyable as well as productive manner.
- The Club has a new member mentor program that assures that all new members are quickly and comfortably integrated into the Club.
- The Club's members are friendly to their guests and take the time to tell them about Rotary and the Club's service projects.
- The club has an ongoing program to inform its members regarding

*continued on page 4*

## January, 2009

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 4	Lilith Sanchez	Anniversary (Joemar, 1985)
January 11	Carol O'Connell	Anniversary (Tony, 1998)
January 13	Lisa Wilson	Birthday
January 22	Nan Eide	Anniversary (Rod, 1966)
January 22	Rod Eide	Anniversary (Nan, 1966)



# Support Across the Miles

by Terry Rifkin

With the holidays fast approaching and all of us making plans to be with our loved ones, hundreds of men and women from Camp Pendleton are preparing to spend Christmas far from home in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will be missing the opportunity to gather with their families and friends. Though we cannot change these circumstances, Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary embraced the holidays for our Fighting Fifth Marines and showed their love and support in a huge outpouring of words and comfort.

On November 26th, Rotarians assembled 48 care packages that will assuredly bring a smile to the faces of the soldiers and sailors of Regimental Combat Team 5. Not only were goodies collected from our Club, but we partnered with The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group who has been collecting snack and personal care items for our troops throughout the city. President of the Support Group, **Pete Hammer**, was present to help coordinate our efforts. Adorable cards were made by the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, Don Juan Avila School, and John Malcom Elementary School. These cards will certainly be cherished as they expressed their support and thanked the Marines for their service and reminded them that they were not forgotten even though they were far from home.

Each Rotarian that walked in the door for our Club meeting gravitated over our staging area to help out. Even District Governor Roger McGonegal and PDG Grant Engle, who were in the house for a Foundation presentation, got so excited watching the military project in motion that they stepped in to help pack and seal the boxes along with our Club members. That's the true spirit of volunteerism. Everybody wanted to get into the action.

Supporting our military has become a Club favorite. This special occasion allowed us to go outside our Club borders to partner with other city organizations and schools. It was a "feel good" project that allowed us all to share our blessings with those who are sacrificing for our freedoms so far away. Our holiday cheer will assuredly let our troops know that they are in our hearts and minds.



Above: What a group effort!! Right: Cards from kids to Marines.



District Gov. Roger McGonegal (far right) and PDG Grant Engle (2nd from left) jump right in to help stuff boxes.

# Ramblings

by Neil Burns

Rotary's fellowship was on display when District Governor **Roger McGonegal** and PDG **Grant Engle** visited and pitched in to help Terry's team package goody boxes for the 5th Marines. Very cool. **Don Gonville** pinch hit as song leader, which was undoubtedly opera to the ears of the visiting Italian Rotarian, **Maestro Stefano Cyndi**, looking dapper in tights and heels to receive a Paul Harris Award, learned that **Zohreh** is a charter member of the 4H club and will never again kick the H out (of her name that is).

**Phil and Sharline Hess** visited for Thanksgiving, and Phil gave a moving history of his family's contributions to the military in WWII as a way of thanking the club for its support of the 5th Marines. Thanks again, Terry, for involving us in this project.

**Kelley White and Lisa Wilson** have formed a new comedic tag team, singing creative verses to Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, but they went way too far in accusing the Finemaster of "kissing up." They will pay. And pay. And pay.

Proud parent month at MBSR saw **Alan beaming** as his daughter stars in SOCSA's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*; **Penny's** daughter jumped at the chance to help her mom's Holiday Family Giving project; and **Paul & Jaleh, Neil & Martha** each celebrated a grandchild's first birthday. Congrats to all!



## Save these dates!

Sat, Dec 13: Holiday Party (Sharon Baltzell's Home)

Mon, Dec 15: Board Meeting, 6pm

Wed, Dec 17: White Elephant Gift Exchange

Wed, Dec 24: DARK (Christmas Eve)

Wed, Dec 31: DARK (New Year's Eve)

Mon, Jan 19: Board Meeting, 6pm





# The 4-way test of things we think, say or do...

Is it the truth? • Is it fair to all concerned? • Will it build goodwill and friendships? • Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## JANUARY ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH!



Margarita Martin "pinning" new inductee Kathy Flores

Rotary policies, procedures and the great Rotary service being done around the world.

- The Club has an active program of social events designed to interest all of the members and their families.
- The Club's weekly meetings are both entertaining and interesting.
- The Club's members mix well and avoid clique-ish behavior.
- The Club's members get great pleasure and satisfaction from their membership in the Club.



Nan (standing in for Mitch & Lisa) "pinning" new inductee Bruce Brenon.

### Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Officers & Directors 08/09

President.....	Linda Knox Hess
Vice President .....	Open
Secretary .....	Martha Hoffmann
Treasurer .....	Rod Eide
President Elect .....	Russell Kerr
Imm. Past President.....	Gary Spencer
Community Service .....	Diana Crandall & Don Gonneville
International Service .....	Mitch Jackson & Mike Soliman
Vocational Service.....	Nan Eide
Membership .....	Gary Spencer
Foundation Support .....	Nan Eide
Club Service .....	Russell Kerr
Club Bulletin .....	Cyndi Elders
Attendance.....	John Rose
Sergeant at Arms.....	Paul Lehrich
Fellowship & Social.....	Lisa Wilson
Information/Orientation .....	Rod Eide
Programs.....	Alan Wickstrom
Fine Master.....	Neil Burns
Song Leader .....	John Hayden
Chair, Photography.....	Terry Rifkin
Chair, Publicity.....	Cyndi Elders
Club Website.....	Alan Wickstrom
Golf Tournament .....	Rod Eide, Mitch Jackson & Russell Kerr
RI President .....	D. K. Lee
District Governor.....	Roger McGonegal
Asst. Dist. Governor .....	Cliff Nelson

### Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Make-Up Locations

#### TUESDAY

- 7:10am, Mission Viejo Casta del Sol Golf Club House
- 7:15am, San Clemente Sunrise Talega Country Club Heritage Grill
- 7:30am, Newport Sunrise Five Crowns, PCH
- 12 noon, Laguna Niguel Savannah Chop House
- 7:00pm, Coto De Caza/RSM Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club

#### WEDNESDAY

- 7:00am, Coto De Caza/RSM Del Sol RSM Bell Tower
- 6:15pm, Newport-Balboa Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
- 6:15pm, San Juan Capistrano Sarducci's Capistrano Depot

#### THURSDAY

- 12 noon, Newport-Irvine University Club @ UCI
- 12 noon, San Clemente Iron in the Fire Restaurant

#### FRIDAY

- 12 noon, Laguna Beach Hotel Laguna

See website for more details

### President's Message, *continued from page 2*

your spouse, significant other, or friend to our Holiday Potluck Party on December 13. MBSR members can also help Boys & Girls Club youngsters 'shop' or wrap gifts for their families at the SJC site December 20 (7-11:30 am) but please contact Denise Lamb at (949) 240-7898 x19 if you would like to volunteer.

Let us celebrate and strengthen the family during this special month and throughout the year!

### Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon, *continued from page 1*

doing, making it a very rewarding experience.

To put pictures to the words, thank you Alan Wickstrom for being our "official" photographer as well as chief bottle washer. And if I missed anyone, I apologize. Just know all appreciated your help. This was another successful MBSR event and a great way to start the Holiday Season!