



# 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?

## APRIL ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH!



*Sophie Winckel and Jeremy Chang start off 2009 being recognized as outstanding Dana Hills High School Students for January in our Student-of-the-month program*



*Kelley White receives her Blue Badge from President Linda*

**Time to Boogie! Auction items needed!!**  
**Sell your Opportunity Tickets!!!**  
**It will be a slammin' good time for all!**



### 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

### MBSR Partners with the Dana Point 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment Support Group

Rotarians will be participating in a car wash fundraiser at South Shores Church on Saturday, March 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds from this event will go to help our Marines that are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and also assist their families on base at Camp Pendleton.

This is a total Community event with Military, Fire, and Police vehicles. Come join the fun. Volunteers are needed! If you can't help, just bring your family and enjoy complimentary coffee, pastries, hotdogs & burgers while your car is being cleaned by our hard working Marines. ■



# Monarch Beach



## Students Shine in Speech and Singing Contests

by John Hayden

Sometimes, we can get the feeling that there is nothing new left to be experienced in life—that we've been there, done that, and that what is left to us is the endless repetition of routine. And then, along comes a young person experiencing the first flush of his or her talent, in a debut as a public speaker, or singing a venerable old aria at 8 o'clock in the morning with the fresh passion of first discovery; and our world is renewed and transformed again. It is an awesome and invigorating experience to witness the expression of the burgeoning gifts of adolescence, the flowering of creativity, the honing of the skills of communication, the embodiment of youthful earnestness and dedication.

Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary was privileged in the month of February to host thirteen talented high school students who participated in our annual district Speech and Singing contests, and who treated us to a marvelous demonstration of their gifts. On February 4, two students each from Tesoro and Aliso Niguel High Schools participated in our Speech Contest. This year's theme was that of Rotary International—*Make Dreams Real*. **Alaina Bauer** (10<sup>th</sup> grade) from Aliso Niguel, was a speaker for the second year, and showed excellent growth in her skills. **Breelin Gibola**, a senior who won third place, told us the touching story of how her mother is her inspiration for making her dreams real. **Vicki Nee**, a very intelligent senior from Tesoro who won second place, took the initiative to contact me and ask permission to enter the contest for her second year. And **Jackie Hudspeth**, a junior from Tesoro who won first place, impressed us with her warm, genial manner and the ease of her articulate expression. Jackie will be competing in the next round of the contest on March 10 (already past by the publication date of this letter), and the winner of that will speak in the district finals to be held at the Center at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood on May 2. In a year when we have seen anew the tremendous power that can attend skillful public speaking, these young people showed us that they are off to an excellent start in lives that will undoubtedly include important leadership responsibilities.

On February 25, nine students from Dana Hills' South Orange County School of the Arts dazzled us with the most impressive array of singing talent we can remember in our annual District 5320 Singing Contest. It is startling to witness such a concentration of singing talent gathered in one place. These students brought us feelings of joy, romance,

## SUNRISE ROTARY

ON THE CALIFORNIA RIVIERA



*Ray Woods plays for the singers*



*(L-R) President Linda, Vicki Nee, Jackie Hudspeth, Breelin Gibola, Alaina Bauer, MBSR Speech Contest Chair John Hayden*



*Debra Martin, Speech Teacher Aliso Niguel High School*



*Winners Julie Wickstrom, Rachel Rothman, and Taylor Wahl*

## President's Message

by Linda Knox Hess

Since Rotary International's theme for March is Literacy, MBSR Program Chair **Alan Wickstrom** asked **Karen Ruhl** of READ/Orange County to speak to our club March 4.

Can you imagine not being able to complete a job application, fill out a medical history form at the doctor's office, write checks, or read a prescription bottle?

Did you know that every day someone is sitting down with another adult in an Orange County library—and teaching that person to read? According to READ/Orange County, “adults who need improved literacy skills themselves cannot provide the tools and skills their children need to help them succeed in school. Children whose parents are functionally illiterate are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate.”

As Rotarians and leaders in the work force, we want to make a difference in the world by passing our skills on to others. We can help break the cycle of illiteracy by teaching an adult to read. Our choice to volunteer as a tutor will change the lives of the people we teach. As we know, there is no greater gift than education. There is no more fundamental element of education than literacy.

Visit [www.readoc.org](http://www.readoc.org) for more information. “The moment in our lives when we give to others, are the greatest moments of our lives.” ■



## Member Highlight, by Neil Burns

**Russ and Pam Kerr** have two married daughters, **Rachel and Vanessa**, and though Russ enjoys many hobbies from exercising, to camping, hiking, mountain biking, traveling and meeting people throughout the world, his primary preoccupation is family and three beautiful grandchildren.

Russ runs an Edward Jones office in Monarch Beach, and finds helping friends solve financial problems and achieve their goals incredibly rewarding. He holds a fascinating resume, having spent 25 years with *World Vision* bringing humanitarian relief to underdeveloped nations in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Not to be outdone, Pam is the director of the Aegis Retirement Home in Laguna Niguel.

Being new to Monarch Beach, Russ needed friends, and brought his wry humor to the enthusiastic and enjoyable people he found at MBSR. Currently President-Elect and Club Service Director, he looks forward to serving as President next year. He hopes to reach out to potential new members who should know and enjoy MBSR.

A Charter Member of the Makati East Rotary in Manila, Russ has visited clubs throughout the world, and is proud of Rotary's reputation and accomplishments, and he particularly enjoys meeting and working with business peers giving back to the community. He hopes we can exploit every opportunity to create and maintain peace throughout the world! ■



## Speech & Singing Contests, continued from page 1

humor, sadness, exaltation—all in the space of forty minutes of music. Our own **Alan Wickstrom's** daughter **Julie** showed her precocious and formidable talent for comic musical theater and was granted second place that morning. **Taylor Wahl** demonstrated her versatility with the popular theater piece about the girl who has rented Flat 14G, and has an opera singer for a neighbor. She hopes to enter UCLA, USC or NYU at major in the arts after graduation. And singing a beautiful aria from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, **Rachel Rothman** won first place, showing us again the tremendous progress she has made over the three years we have been privileged to hear her sing. **Ray Woods**, their music director, did a wonderful job accompanying them, and more importantly, shepherding them through these important formative years of their lives as singers. Other participants in the contest were: **Katie Perkins**, **Michelle Guidas**, **Ramzi Jneid**, **Shea Gomez**, **Dana Dibano**, and **Erika Peterson**. All nine of these singers have elected to try their luck at the district-wide competition to be held at UCI on the weekend of March 21-22. ■

## April, 2009

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 3	Anita Houston	Birthday
April 17	Paul Lehrich	Birthday
April 23	Al Soley	Birthday
April 27	Terry Rifkin	Birthday
April 28	Sharon Baltzell	Anniversary (Dean, 2007)
April 28	Matt Fortier	Anniversary (Mary Ann, 1984)

## Community Service, by Diana Crandall

*Habitat for Humanity* volunteer opportunities are available: from a couple of hours a month locally to a year abroad. When volunteering, please identify yourself as a member of MBSR. Better yet, contact me at [crandall@puoc.com](mailto:crandall@puoc.com). I will be keeping track of our efforts so that our club gets recognition for our contributions.

## Rotary Social – Fun Times!

by Martha Hoffmann

Thursday evening, February 5<sup>th</sup>, a group of 22 Rotarians and guests spent the evening enjoying a lively dinner at Beachfire Grill in San Clemente followed by the stage play *Sylvia* by A. R. Guerny at the Cabrillo Playhouse. **Nan Eide** brought the idea to the club and a number of us “lapped it up”! *Sylvia* is a dog/person, part labrador, part poodle, in this very poignant play about a couple moving to the next stage of their lives with very different ideas on what that next stage should entail. The playbill describes Act I and II as “marriage, compromise, change and acceptance” and “love, understanding and saying goodbye.”

All of us related to those topics and enjoyed the delightful portrayal of *Sylvia* (or *Saliva* from Kate’s point of view) by **Erin Wendorf**. Pets play a huge role in our daily lives but introducing a new member of the family requires an understanding of the balance ultimately disrupted. We all had a great evening and hopefully we’ll find another equally enjoying production to give us an excuse to get together again! ■



## Ramblings

by Neil Burns

**Julie Lungo’s** head must still be in the clouds watching her son **Chris**, a senior at Dana Hills High, stand atop the Newport Beach Marriott, 162 feet above the 2nd green at the Newport Beach Country Club, and hit a golf ball to within 8 feet 2 inches of the pin, beating four professionals (including **Fuzzy Zoeller**, **Gary McCord**, **Andy Bean**, and **Mark Johnson**) and helping to bring 25 Toshiba laptop computers home to Dana Hills. Way to go Chris!

Other athletic offspring include **Kathy Flores’** daughter who hit two home runs in one game, while her other daughter became a Blue Monkey. A quick Google search reveals absolutely nothing of that achievement, but we’re sure proud, Kathy! **Mitch** and daughter **A.J.** danced the night away at a Father-Daughter dance and we hear Mitch is not the twinkle toes he portrays himself to be. I’m just sayin’.

Speaking of dancing and singing, if you missed *LaVal & the Pips* (or was that the Vandella’s, **Lisa? Cyndi?**), you missed very little. But TG for LaVal’s rhythm. MBSR was turning “Burn, Baby, Burn” into a rousing rendition of “Groan, Baby, Creak” until he stepped up the pace. Were you watching, twinkle toes?

Congrats to **John & Nancy Baumann** and **Don & Nancy Gonville** on their respective anniversaries, and congrats to James for his poker prowess, and congrats to all of MBSR, celebrating our 21st year. Cheers! ■

## Thank You from Peaceful Warrior Academy

Russell Kerr, Club Service Director, recently received a note of grateful appreciation and photos from the Peaceful Warrior Taekwondo Academy San Clemente:

*“I would like to take a moment to thank you for all of your efforts to make the Peaceful Warrior program such a great success. Thank you also for your participation in the first ever Black Belt presentation for our program—an event that would not have been possible without the support of people like you!”*



*With sincere thanks and gratitude,  
Master Earl Welliver”*

**Sat, 3/14:** St. Patrick’s Day Seniors’ Luncheon  
**Sun, 3/15:** *Festival of Whales* Grunion Run  
**Mon, 3/16:** Board Meeting, 6pm  
**Sun, 3/22:** “World Water Day”  
**Mon, 3/23:** GSE Team Welcome Party  
**3/23 - 3/27:** Bavaria GSE Team (MBSR Hosting)  
**Fri, 3/27:** District Conference Hospitality Night



**3/27 - 3/29:** District Conference, Hyatt Regency Newport  
**Sat, 3/28:** 5<sup>th</sup> Marines Car Wash  
**Sat, 4/4:** District Assembly, Chapman University, 8am-noon  
**Sat, 4/25:** “Rotarians at Work” Day  
**Sun, 4/26:** DP Grand Prix of Racing (Cycling)  
**4/24 - 4/27:** RYLA  
**Sat, 5/9:** MBSR “Stayin’ Alive” Fundraiser

## Save these dates!