

The Livermore Rotary Club Year 2006-07

Bruce W. Shore, reporter

Introduction to Rotary

The Rotary movement (RI)

From the official website of Rotary International,

"Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is Service Above Self.

Although Rotary clubs develop autonomous service programs, all Rotarians worldwide are united in a campaign for the global eradication of polio. In the 1980s, Rotarians raised US\$240 million to immunize the children of the world; by 2005, Rotary's centenary year and the target date for the certification of a polio-free world, the PolioPlus program will have contributed US\$500 million to this cause. In addition, Rotary has provided an army of volunteers to promote and assist at national immunization days in polio-endemic countries around the world."

A brief history of Rotary (RI)

From the official website of Rotary International:

"The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its

principal motto: Service Above Self. Rotary also later embraced a code of ethics, called The 4-Way Test, that has been translated into hundreds of languages.

During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding. In 1945, 49 Rotary members served in 29 delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and promoting the United Nations in Rotary publications. Rotary International's relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dates back to a 1943 London Rotary conference that promoted international cultural and educational exchanges. Attended by ministers of education and observers from around the world, and chaired by a past president of RI, the conference was an impetus to the establishment of UNESCO in 1946."

Local Rotary Clubs

The area Clubs

Traditionally Rotary clubs throughout the world meet each week for a meal followed by a discussion of club events and a program. Within the Tri-valley area it is possible to attend meetings for breakfast, lunch and supper.

The **Rotary Club of Livermore, California** (the "noon club", with nearly 150 members) is the oldest of two Rotary Clubs that meet in Livermore. Founded in 1947 It meets for lunch each Wednesday in the Doubletree Club Hotel in Springtown, with the program starting at 12:10. The club president during 2006-07 was Weldon Moreland; for next year it is Jacquie Williams-Courtright.

The club membership draws from diverse professions, backgrounds, interests and ages. It includes civic and educational leaders, representatives from businesses, churches, trades and services, as well as retirees. Women make up a significant portion of the club, holding important leadership positions -- including the presidency this year. Members not only hear speakers presenting timely topics but they work throughout the year on projects assisting schools, community needs and various charities. They foster international ties not only through donations managed by foreign Rotary Clubs but also through promotion of exchange visits, some for extended periods.

A younger and smaller club, the **Rotary Club of Livermore Valley, California** (the "morning club", with over 70 members), founded in 1985, meets each Tuesday for 7:00am breakfast in Beebs Restaurant at the Livermore airport.

Other tri-valley clubs have also been sponsored by the LRC, which remains the largest club in the area

The **Dublin Club** meets Tuesdays, 12:15 pm in the Radisson Hotel.

The **Tri-Valley Club** meets Tuesdays, 6:30 pm in the Girasole Restaurant, Pleasanton.

The **Pleasanton Club** meets Thursdays, 12:15 pm in the Pleasanton Hotel.

The **Pleasanton North Club** meets Fridays, 12:10 pm in the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel.

The Livermore Rotary Club (*Weldon Moreland*)

The Livermore Rotary Club has many standing committees whose structure provides continuity of programs, both local and international, but the real work of Rotary is done by individual Rotarians. They recognize needs and enthusiastically organize the responses, whether for the refurbishing of a local home or the raising of money for a specific target. As a former naval officer chosen to preside for a year, I can appreciate the way these activities get done, with minimal “top down” direction. The following paragraphs describe some of these activities. The names of the responsible Rotarians appear in parentheses by their project or activity.

Related Organizations

The Interact Club (*Barbara Hickman and Jacquie Williams-Courtright*)

Livermore Rotary Club sponsors the Interact Club at Livermore High School, a group of approximately 40 members last year, led by co-presidents Melissa Meloy and Ayano Kohlgruber.

Our Interact Club had another very successful year. Our club participated in a number of worthy campus & community based activities.

Here’s a glimpse of our Interact Year.

We began the year by assisting the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore with their annual fall fundraiser, this year called Autumn in the Vineyard. We helped with table set up, parking, food serving and clean up.

The senior dinner hosted by our Rotary Club provided another opportunity for service. We worked as greeters welcoming the seniors, as food servers and helped with clean up.

Our next big event was our annual canned food drive called Trick or Treat for cans. Our club members designed and produced flyers that explained the concept, selected neighborhoods that we would visit on Halloween evening, delivered the flyers a week in advance of Halloween, dressed up in our costumes and rang door bells for food donations. In addition to the generous bags of canned food homeowners treated us with candy for our good deed. This is a very fun and worthy project. We collected over a 1000 cans of food that were donated to the Church of Christ for distribution to needy families.

Each early December our Interact Members assist the Livermore 4-H and Girl Scouts that host an annual Christmas Party for underprivileged children at Livermore High School. Our club members primarily helped with craft projects for the kids.

We adopt a needy family each December. This year we bought \$250.00 of requested items for a local family to enable them to have an extra special Christmas. We have a committee that shops and then the whole club is involved with wrapping as we drink punch and eat Christmas cookies. Our reward is hearing about the smiling faces when the gifts are delivered and knowing we made a difference.

To enable us to support our activities our Rotary Club hosts a service auction just before Valentine's Day. In January we divide up into groups and come up with some really fun and enticing gifts that the Rotarians are sure to bid on. This year we earned over \$2000 due to the club's generosity and the great skill of our volunteer Rotary Auctioneer Bob Kinney. We are so grateful to the Rotarians for supporting us in this special and fun way.

Our Rotary Club has a spouses' group called Inner Wheel. Interact was asked to help with their annual dinner. We were delighted to lend a hand.

Talk about a great time, the Crab Feed is the best. This is our Rotary Club's biggest fundraiser in early March. To help us with our causes Rotary suggested that tip buckets go on each table with the proceeds split between our Interact and Granada High School's Club. The tips are prorated by how many students participate. Our serving skills were rewarded with almost \$700.00 generously given by the Crab Feed attendees. Thank you Rotarians and guests!

Our club sponsors an Easter Egg Hunt the Saturday before the big day. The week before, our members busily fill plastic eggs with candy and special treats. We get to our park early to hide the eggs. One of our members dons our Bunny suit to greet the kids on their way to a fun hunt. Since the kids make quick work of the egg hunting we continue the celebration with fun activities that completes a morning of fun.

At years end, our fundraising success allowed us to not only pay for our events but support international, national, regional, local and even our own school needs. We distributed all but seed money for the next year. Due to the generosity of our Rotary Club we were able to fund the following causes that our members selected and voted on:

\$500 to the Rotary International Wheel Chair Foundation

\$500 to the American Cancer Society

\$500 to the SPCA

\$500 to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore for the Medical Health Unit

\$500 to the Art Department to replenish photography supplies

Our Rotary club sponsored 3 of us to attend Camp RYLA. RYLA or Rotary Youth Leadership Award gives Interactors a week long life changing leadership experience.

See photos.

The Inner Wheel (*Jill Groth*)

Inner Wheel is an international service organization now operating in 94 countries. Founded in England in 1924, membership is open to any immediate family members of Rotarians.

Inner Wheel USA has chapters grouped within Rotary Districts. These chapters meet locally and also at IW District meetings. The IW USA Foundation has as its goal the establishment of a national myoelectric limb bank that links accredited regional medical centers specializing in replacement of upper limbs and hands for children. This agency would refurbish and recycle artificial limbs and hand components to children unable to afford updated technology for outgrown prostheses. So far, the Children's Myoelectric Limb Bank has three major children's health care facilities involved in the project, including Lucille Packard Children's Health Service at Stanford, Palo Alto, CA. Local IW groups participate in an annual District fundraiser for the Foundation, with the theme "Give a Child a Hand".

Inner Wheel of Livermore, the local club, was founded in 1996 by Mary Lou Lowell and other women interested in being more involved in activities related to Rotary. Our goals are to foster friendship and social activities among Rotarian family members, to be of service to local Rotary Club efforts, to enjoy meeting IW members in our District as well as in other parts of the world, and to participate in charitable giving to local needs and to the IW USA Foundation Limb Bank.

A team of officers and committee members make plans for the year's activities. Outings to museums, exhibits, or shows, restaurant meals, gatherings in member's homes, or special projects are examples of activities that go along with monthly club meetings. Our Inner Wheel members like making their presence known by assisting at some Rotary Club events. IW news is periodically included in The Spur newsletter.

International Connections

Ongoing Programs

Group Study Exchange (*Rob Anglin*)

The Livermore Rotary Club periodically participates in hosting visiting Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams from Rotary Districts all-over the world. These teams are comprised of a Rotarian team leader and 3-5 non-Rotarian team members who are traditionally in the formative parts of their careers, and typically represent a wide range of professions. The goal and intent of GSE programs is to further the Rotary Foundation objective of "World Peace through Understanding" by having Rotary Districts exchange GSE teams with each other. GSE teams are hosted in the homes of Rotarians, and they are taken on behind-the-scenes tours of businesses, governmental agencies and other settings, to get a "first-hand" sense of how people live and work in other countries. In April of 2006, the Livermore Rotary Club hosted a GSE team from Japan, and in February of 2008 they will host a team from Taiwan.

Youth Exchange Program (*Doug Bell, Joe Furtado*)

Improved international understanding, and the education of youth, are two major goals of Rotary International. These objectives fit together in the Youth Exchange Program of RI. This long-standing program supports a year of high-school study, either of students coming to Livermore or of local young people seeking a chance to study abroad for a year. Recently students have come to us from Brazil and Russia. Rotarians serve as hosts for up to a year at a time, providing a family environment for the visitor.

The youth exchange program basically operates like an adoption. For the duration of the visit, a school year, the student becomes part of the family in all aspects -- they share in family activities and help with chores, like the rest of the family. Usually lifetime relationships are created. The program likes to have 2-3 families available to host. Sometimes the student asks to stay with the first family and they only stay with that family. Other times the stay is split between two or three families - this allows them to see how different people live here.

The students attend either Livermore High School and/or Granada. Rotarians handle the matriculation process but, as in any family, the host family is responsible for transportation to school and back - either car or bus. The student gets a "small" stipend from the club to help with expenses, but the host families usually pick up the expense of food etc. The students also have access to money in an account that is set up locally to which their parents can wire money.

See photos

International Charities

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International (*Phil Dean*)

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. The Rotary Club of Livermore is a strong supporter of the Foundation. Its members donated almost \$40,000 to the Foundation in 2006/2007. Fully 100 percent of every dollar donated supports the international efforts of Rotary.

Eradicating polio, a top Rotary priority, requires the immunization of every child in the world. As a result of the efforts of Rotary International and its partners, two billion children have been immunized against polio since 1987.

The Rotary Foundation's Humanitarian Programs support a wide range of international service activities. Organized by Rotary clubs at the local level, humanitarian grants support projects that provide health care and supplies, clean water, food, job training and education -- particularly in the developing world.

Other Rotary Foundation programs include: Carl P. Miller Discovery Grants, which provide funds for travel and related expenses incurred by Rotarians in exploring and planning new international service projects, Grants for Rotary Volunteers which cover travel costs and expenses for Rotarians, Foundation alumni, and Rotaractors who volunteer their services and professional expertise in another country; and Rotary Peace Programs which partially subsidize international conferences that focus on conflict resolution and ways to enhance the search for peace. Grants are also available to support international projects in non-Rotary countries and for disaster relief efforts.

The Rotary Foundation Educational Programs promote international understanding and peace through scholarships and cultural exchanges.

Wheelchair Foundation (*Bob Cowan, Paul Thompson, Ron White, Angelika Vos-Quinn*)

A group of Rotarians organized a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania for late August 2007. Soliciting sponsors within our community, they were able to raise more than \$17K for The Wheelchairs Foundation. Combined with support from other Rotary districts and Rotary International the local contribution will quadruple, and provide enough money to supply wheelchairs to more than 200 physically disabled folks worldwide...and give them the gift of hope, mobility, and freedom.

Support for intensive and neo-natal care unit in Hungary (*David Mertes*)

Our local Rotary Club led an international group of four other Rotary Clubs -- Pecs RC (Hungary), Budapest-City RC (Hungary), Roeselare RC (Belgium), and Oklahoma City RC -- to provide neo-natal care facilities to a children's hospital in Hungary. The total project utilized \$60,000 provided by the clubs including a matching grant from Rotary International.

Support for nursing-mother project in Russia (*Don Wentz*)

This past year the Livermore Rotary Club provided financial support for a child-wellnes project that was being done by the Rotary Club of Snezhinsk, Russia, a sister city of Livermore.

Snezhinsk has a population of about 50,000 persons and is located about 90 Km from Yekaterinburg. It is a closed city that houses the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Technical Physics (VNIITF), a nuclear research facility very equivalent to LLNL.

The project that the Livermore Rotary help support was an education and awareness program for new and expecting mothers regarding the benefits of breast feeding. This project is sponsored by the Child Wellness Center that was established a few years ago, again with Rotarian support. The Rotary club, along with the Livermore-Snezhinsk Sister City organization, donated \$1400 to help publish pamphlets and wall boards for the Wellness Center.

See photos

Sister Club in Brazil (*Rob Anglin*)

The Sister Club relationship between our Club and the Recife club in Brazil is the link that provided one of this year's International Foundation Matching Grant projects.

Last year a team from our club (Joe Furtado, Rob Anglin, Doug Bell, Doug's wife Ellen, and former Brazilian Youth Exchange student Deborah Caldeira) traveled to Recife to develop our Sister Club relationship, and explore potential projects our two Clubs might collaborate-on (one is becoming an International Project for our Club this year). After our visit to Recife, we travelled to Salvador da Bahia, to meet Rotarians in Deborah's home town of Lauro de Freitas. A "bonus" from this part of our trip, is that we met Roan Monteiro, President of the Lauro de Freitas Rotaract Club, who will come to Livermore for 3-months, this fall, under the new Rotary Generatons Program .

See photos

Support for a burned children center in Chile (*Keith Cariveau*)

Seven million children in Latin America suffer burn accidents each year. The COANIQUEM Burned Children Foundation (BCF) provides free treatment and therapy for children in many countries of South and Central America. Since its founding in Santiago, Chile, in 1979, it has treated over 70,000 children and now serves over 9,000 annually. The foundation was established in the USA in 1998 and enjoys an ongoing, warm relationship with Rotary Clubs here as well as in Chile. The Rotary connection has resulted in Humanitarian Grants as well as volunteer fundraising activities and visits. Our fundraising event for the Bay Area is the annual “Fiesta of the Americas”, which will be held Friday, October 5, 2007, at the Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville. The evening will include Latin American dining and music, cultural performances, dancing, a silent auction, and a charity drawing for a trip to Chile. For more information contact:

PDG Carolyn Schuetz, Director/Treasurer COANIQUEM BCF, phone 510-769-9661, CSandLB@cs.com or www.burnedchildren.org

See photos

Local Charities

Community Projects

Purchased a Mobile Medical Unit for Livermore (*Mike Thompson*)

This fall the Livermore community will have a new medical resource, a mobile unit that will provide medical care for those who could not otherwise afford it and provide disaster preparedness for the community. The Mobile Medical Unit is a 39-foot custom-made vehicle, purchased by the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore and donated to the Valley Care Health System of Livermore for operation. Using it, the hospital will offer medical screening and care at schools, homeless shelters, and senior centers. It will also be available as a mobile clinic for major disasters such as that caused by Hurricane Katrina.

See photos

Dictionaries for Young Scholars (*Carol Howell*)

Every third grade student in the Livermore School District (eleven including the charter school) receives a personal gift copy of a MacMillan Dictionary for home and school use. The dictionary contains 35,000 words and includes a history of many words as well as inviting sections on the US states and presidents, nations of the world, maps, geometric shapes, solar system, and a thesaurus. On the inside cover of the dictionary each child has a personalized name plaque.

We are in the fourth year of the Dictionary for Young Scholars project. The dictionary project is funded by: the Rotarians of Livermore, The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, and the Hindu Community and Cultural Center. Teams of local volunteers from these groups visit each third grade classrooms in each school for personal presentations to the children.

In the 2006-2007 school year, over 95 Rotarians and several members from the Hindu Community and Cultural Center participated in the project. Our long-term goal is to continue to give this book to all third grade students every year, until eventually all Livermore children will have this gift of words for learning and expression. Many of our children speak more than one language. This dictionary will help them master English, which is becoming an international language.

Refurbished a house for a needy couple (*Manuel Perry*)

Livermore Rotary Club was asked by the City of Livermore to help in restoring a home that was owned by an elderly couple and their son. The project was begun in December of last year. Many different businesses and groups were involved in the project.

Rotary undertook the task of re-landscaping the front and back of the house. About 40 Rotarians were involved using shovels, rakes, tractors, trenchers and wheelbarrows. Equipment was donated from Barton Construction and Norlin Landscaping, companies owned by Rotarians. Plants were donated from our Alden Lane Nursery. The project took approximately a week to complete. The before and after photos show the tremendous changes in the home's appearance.

see photos

Support for our Troops and Veterans (*Marilyn Carter*)

Rotarians have been very supportive of our troops and returning veterans, donating their time and effort to several projects. These include **the East Bay Stand-Down, a multi-faceted intervention for homeless veterans; establishing Iraqi school libraries with the gift of over 9,000 books - this earned a letter of appreciation from the Iraqi Minister of Education!; and honoring our troops as a special part of our Rotary Rodeo Parade each year. This year, two severely wounded warriors, new residents of Livermore, were named "Honorary Grand Marshals" and rode, with their families, in the Parade. Rotarians have been active in founding the Livermore Veterans Foundation (formerly Sentinels for Freedom), aimed at supporting both active duty military and retired veterans. This organization provides care packages and mail; school supplies for children in countries where our troops are deployed; Operation Welcome Home for our Livermore sons and daughters returning from service, where the Mayor presents a proclamation thanking them for their service - a simple, yet profound acknowledgement; aid for Wounded Warriors, our outreach to soldiers who come home wounded and have needs that may not be met, where we provide assistance with employment, housing, transportation, and mentoring.**

Computers for schools (*Nile Runge*)

There was a shortage of computers in the schools in the resort town of Bariloche, Argentina. But in Livermore folks were replacing their still young computers with the newest and fastest. Nile Runge saw a way to recycle the computers assigned to the garage, refurbish them with Spanish as the default language, and get them into the hands of students and teachers in Argentina. Just let businesses and ordinary folks donate their extra computers, then upgrade their software, and ship them off to Argentina. The action plan netted about 125 computers, 75 of which were upgradable. Alas, it was a great idea, but Argentine customs didn't like it. Not to be admitted into their Argentina.

When Livermore schools was asked if they would like to have the computers they asked “What are those computers”? The specs were presented, principals consulted, and the word was an emphatic “Yes, we want them and can use them!” All 75 computers were delivered to the Livermore Schools District and will be used primarily for English learners. Livermore Rotary has made another significant contribution to our community.

Career mentoring at Livermore High School (*Bruce Shore*)

High school students often find themselves in their final year with unclear notions of what opportunities lie ahead. At Livermore High School a vocational guidance center helps with advice for future careers, but many of the students still feel lost. This year Rotarians and Rotarian wives have been meeting small groups of seniors during the school lunch period, to offer comments on career choices -- generally sharing the wisdom that comes from years of dealing with job application and work skills.

Camp Arroyo support (*Kathryn Hohl*)

Livermore Rotary members once again showed their support for the community by volunteering for the 16th annual “Day in the Park” event held in August 2006 as a fundraiser for programs helping children with life-threatening diseases and disabilities who come to camp each year. The event was held at Camp Arroyo in Livermore, the same location that holds camps for the children with illnesses during the summer. Livermore Rotarian, Kathryn Hohl, solicited 70 volunteers to help out with the event, 31% or 22 Livermore Rotarians made up those volunteers, which accounts for 15% of the Livermore Rotary membership. Service above self is the motto for Rotary and this event was a tribute to the motto they aspire to achieve.

Camp Arroyo is a summer activity camp for children suffering from various chronic or life-threatening diseases and illnesses, run by the Taylor Family Foundation of Livermore in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District and the East Bay YMCA. It offers activities ranging from horsback riding and hiking to team sports and drama. The major fundraising event for Camp Arroyo is the annual Day in the Park.

Christmas meals and gifts for needy families (**Peter Poulsen, Ken Garcia**)

As in the past, our club provided a special Christmas for four families, nominated by the Marylin Avenue Scholol and the City of Livermore. By “passing the hat” at our December meetings we were able to purchase gifts from the recipients “Christmas wish list”. The families also were given Christmas dinners from Safeway.

Recognitions and Scholarships

Outstanding Educators

Livermore Rotary Club honored three Outstanding Educators each month over the past year, including administrators, principals, and teachers. Outstanding administrators and principals were selected and presented to the club by Superintendent Brenda Miller. Outstanding teachers were selected and presented to the club by their school,s principal, with every school in the LVJUSD being represented at least once over the eight months. Honorees each received an engraved plaque to commemorate the tribute. (from Barbara Hickman)

Outstanding Students (*Barbara Hickman*)

This past year Livermore Rotary Club honored 13 students at Livermore High, 6 at Vineyard High, and 5 at Del Valle High School. The students were invited to bring their parents to our

luncheon, where they received an engraved plaque honoring their achievements plus gift certificates totally \$40.

Students from Livermore High, chosen by Principal David Chamberlain, were Charlene Emerson, Ravel Holland, Melissa Gutierrez, Aaron Kiefer, Danielle Cowall, David Rambo, Kendra Perry, Kristina Bargerer, Cynthia To, Danny Schwarze, Kelly Wilgus, Paige Godrich, and Wesley Hanson.

From Vineyard High, chosen by Principal Nancy Steele, we honored Brendan Hanan, Crystal Hoffman, Baljinnyam Dashdor, Morgan Breedveld, and Laura Magana.

From Del Valle High School, Principal Fred Quarterman selected Jeff Weatherton, Tasha Miller, Luis Nieves, and Cheyenne Sweeney.

Music Scholarship Fund (*Steve Neef*)

For more than a decade the Music Scholarship Fund, initiated by Rotarian Michael Ferucci (owner of Fine Fretted Friends in Livermore) and promoted by Rotarians, has supported music lessons, band camp attendance and instrument upgrades

The Music Scholarship Fund aims to help student pursue a career in music, but also to assist for students who might use music in some other career. We gave a scholarship to one woman who wanted to teach mentally handicapped kids and music can be a big part of that. We give money to sixth graders so that they can go to band camp, eighth graders so that they can buy instruments, and 10th graders for private lessons. High school seniors can get \$1000 towards college. To apply, the student must have a recommendation from their music teacher and must have been in music classes for at least two years. Many of our scholarship winners get to perform at Rotary functions so that we can all enjoy their talent.

Vocational scholarships (*Tom Bramell*)

The Ed Rundstrom Scholarship is awarded to deserving vocational applicants who go through a written essay and interview with a Rotarian panel to justify their scholarship request. Four awards for \$1000 each were given to students this past year.

Annual Events

Back-to-school BBQ at Marylin Avenue School (*John Gordon*)

At the beginning of each school year, The Livermore Rotary Club sponsors a Back to School Night Barbecue for all of the parents and students at the Marylin Avenue Elementary school. This event encourages a large number of the parents to come to the school, see the facilities and meet the teachers and staff instrumental in their children's education. Between 30 - 40 Rotarians purchase the food, set up the grill, cook, wrap & serve more than 900 hot dogs with chips, sodas & cookies.

See photos

Annual Livermore Rodeo Parade (*Ron Scott*)

After six months of planning efforts by the parade committee and with a huge turn-out of Rotary volunteers, the Rodeo Parade was held on Saturday June 9, 2007. This was the 30th year the Livermore Rodeo Parade has been sponsored and run by the Livermore Rotary Club (1977-

2007). The parade was originally started in 1918 with the Livermore Rodeo and has occurred simultaneously with the Rodeo for the last 89 years. There was a large turn-out of spectators for the parade, with many families on hand to watch the 80 different entries perform. This year, we made a special effort to have a significant number of equestrian entries in the parade, a successful attempt to return the parade to its Rodeo heritage. We are looking forward to next years parade, Saturday June 14, 2008. See you there!

See photos

International Student Weekend (*Sblend Sblendorio*)

Since the early 60s, Livermore Rotarians have hosted foreign-born masters and PhD candidates from UC Berkeley's International House for an annual weekend of cross-cultural learning and fun. The Rotarians open their homes and businesses to the international students to experience Livermore hospitality. In return, the students share their life stories that led to attending graduate school in Berkeley. The students meet the municipal government and learn its workings. They visit LNL's Visitors Center and the historic Concannon winery. Rotarians explore parts of Livermore with their guests by hiking in local regional parks and lakes, viewing performances of local performing troupes or taking plane rides with local pilots. The Livermore Rotary Club could not host the international students without the support of the City of Livermore, LNL and Concannon Vineyard. (*From Sblend Sblendorio*)

We again sponsored the International Student Weekend for the students at International House at U.C. Berkeley. Twenty five students from around the world spent the weekend with Rotarian families in Livermore. Between potluck dinners and picnic lunches the students visited City Hall, Lawrence Livermore Labs, and were given flights over the city provided by local pilots. (*from Bob Cowan*)

See photos

Senior Dinner Dance (**Lori Garci**)

Each year our Rotary Club provides the seniors of Livermore a special evening of dinner and dancing to music of a live dance band, remembering Senior Prom and other youthful occasions. Interact Club members acted as servers and helped bring out the Halloween theme.

See photos

Career Day (*Tom Brammel*)

Livermore Rotary members offer Las Positas College students an opportunity to explore careers by spending half a day job shadowing a professional. Students meet in the morning for breakfast, spend a half day with the professional and then meet the club members for lunch.

Rotary Speech Contest (**Chuck Hartwig**)

Each year the Rotary clubs of our district offer local high school students to opportunity to demonstrate their ability to compose and deliver a short speech on an assigned patriotic topic. The students compete first within the club and then within the district.

Youth in Government Day (*Tom Brammel*)

Selected high school students spend a half day with a City Department head or director. Examples, City manager, police chief, fire chief and others. The students experience playing

their role for the morning. They meet for breakfast and then return at noon to meet club members.

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore Grants (John Linn)

In 1987 the two Rotary Clubs in Livermore jointly established the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, aiming to benefit the community with particular focus on youth, education and community needs. In addition to funding the Lifeline Mobile - Valley Care Medical Van, during the last year the Foundation funded the following projects and activities, with grants typically ranging between \$2K and \$20K:

Assistance League of Amador Valley (Diana McIntyre, Grants Chairman) –Operation School Bell

This project will support a literacy and self-esteem project that addresses the educational and clothing needs of tri-valley children.

Las Positas College Foundation (Ted Kaye, CEO, Las Positas Foundation)– for Aquatic Center lift for handicapped

This project, underwriting the cost of a lift for individuals to enter and exit the facility's pools, will help ensure disabled persons access to the pools.

City of Livermore (Frances Reisner, Human Services Tech.) – for Community Children's Health Access Program

This project will allow students who are underinsured or uninsured to receive check-ups with local doctors, optometrists and dentists, as well as important follow-up visits

Open Heart Kitchen of Livermore (Carol Beddome, Executive Director)– for Livermore Hot Meals Program

This project will sponsor approximately 6,700 hot meals which will feed 555 children a hot meal each month for 1 year.

Valley Care Health System (Ken Mercer, Vice President)– for Fitness Celebration

This grant helped sponsor the Annual Fitness Celebration, an event which raises funds for the Healthy Kids PE programs in elementary schools in the Tri-Valley that helps to increase awareness of and participation in activities that promote a healthier lifestyle.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (Carol Howell, Project Director)– for Dictionaries for Young Scholars

This annual project provides dictionaries designed for ages 8-12 for about 1,100 Livermore public school 3rd grade students, many of whom do not have English as their first language, and their approximately 60 teachers, for each of the next two years.

Granada High School Industrial Technology Department (Robert Wurtzer, Teacher)– for Electronics Laboratory Upgrade

This grant supported an upgrade of the electronics lab at Granada High School. In addition, it provided the teacher with many of the tools necessary to allow students to use test equipment that is representative of what is currently in use in the industry.

Livermore Adult Community Education (Veronica Navarro, CBET Coordinator)– for English Tutoring/Migrant Education Preschool Program

This grant purchased one of four portable classrooms slated to be removed from Marylin Avenue School. The retention of these portables allowed the programs and services of Enlinsh language tutoring and Migrant preschool education to remain at the location where they are most needed.

San Francisco Opera Guild (PJ Handeland, Managing Director)- Opera in the schools

This Grant covered the costs of providing 4 performances of this year's "Opera a la Carte" music education programs, *The Barber of Seville*, in 4 Livermore schools during the fall of 2006. Also, it provided specially reserved priority tickets for 120 Livermore students, and 20 adult chaperones to attend San Francisco Opera's full dress rehearsal of *The Barber of Seville* in the War Memorial Opera House on October 28, 2006.

Livermore Community Dental Care (Dr. Tom Marcel, Orthodontist)- for care of underprivileged children

LCDC is in the process of annually screening and educating K-5 Livermore children with pro bono dental care to those who cannot obtain it for a variety of reasons. This grant will primarily be used to cover the cost of a dental anesthesiologist at a hour of their cost of \$800 so appropriate care can be given by (usually) the pediatric dental specialist.

MiniGrants (Jim Hannon)

Each quarter the Livermore Rotary Club awards MiniGrants for up to \$500 for projects that benefit Livermore and the TriValley. Other Rotary clubs have similar programs, and LVEF matches most of the awards that go to educational institutions.

Anyone can submit a proposal, but all proposals must have a sponsor from the Club. A committee reviews the proposals and selects those that best provide service to others in a cost effective manner. Awards that go to projects at schools are coordinated with awards from the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. In the 2006-2007 timeframe, the Livermore Rotary awarded \$12000 in MiniGrants. A list of the awards follows.

Agape' Villages, Inc.

Agape' Villages, Inc. places dependent children, including those with special needs, in more normal family settings. It then works to strengthen the new relationships and seeks foster care, emancipation, or other solutions if the initial relationships do not work out. It provides support groups, training, in-house support, and financial support. The MiniGrant provided **Welcome Baskets** for children entering their care. The contents include clothes, toys, books, toiletries, quilts, and other items..

Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council (ACDDC)

ACDDC is the official planning body for Alameda County. It has 300+ volunteers who advocate for education for people with developmental disabilities. Tri-Valley organizations and residents are and will be participating in all levels of the program from planning to

recipients. The MiniGrant supported **training instructors to empower women** with developmental disabilities to recognize sexual abuse and develop protective skills.

DECA Program of Livermore High School

DECA is a local, non-profit, co-curricular program for developing Livermore students' marketing and entrepreneurial skills. Its goals are to develop leadership, civic consciousness, and social intelligence and to explore career opportunities. The MiniGrant allowed members to **Attend a District Career Development Conference**

East Avenue Middle School

Provided socio-economically disadvantaged students with **bus tickets** that would allow them to come to school even when family finances run low at the end of the month.

Hoofprints on the Heart Adaptive Riding Center

This non-profit program offers individualized horseback riding programs to encourage the physical, academic, and social growth of individuals with various levels and types of physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities. The MiniGrant helped purchase helmets, saddle blankets, and stirrups for individualized **horseback riding programs** to encourage the physical, academic, and social growth of individuals with various levels and types of physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities.

Jackson Avenue School

Purchased an **autoharp** (an easily learned musical instrument) that will aid the music program at the school both in class and for the school choir.

Purchased scarves, streamers, and other **movement props** as part of a balanced and disciplined approach to physical education.

Purchased an **incubator** used to hatch chickens as part of a science lesson on life cycles. The teacher states that the program has been very effective for her students for over 30 years. The entire school community is invited to visit the hatchery.

Purchased a **Macintosh computer** for the Title 1 reading program. The Program provides academic support to about 175 students each year. Present equipment needs to be replaced, but Title 1 equipment funds are not available

Purchased **privacy shields** that will allow 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students to work at their desks, in the literacy center, or in-group situations where distractions would divert their attention from their learning tasks.

Purchased two sets of **Reader Theater Plays** used to develop students' sight recognition, reading fluency, and communication skills at various reading levels.

Junction Ave. Middle School

Purchased portable classroom **microphones**, battery chargers, and extra batteries to ensure that teachers and students (during presentations) could make themselves heard with clarity and intonation.

Purchased three sets of **dissecting tools** to assist students in their anatomy studies. Current equipment consists of one-half of a set.

Provided **bus tickets** and physical education uniforms for students.

Livermore Area Park and Recreation District

Provided **scholarships** for youths ages 6-15 participating in environmental education and sports camps and in swimming lessons. About 100 requests for aid were expected.

Livermore High School

Purchased two **recording stations** for recording live voice. It also needed five Midi stations as a start toward making all of the 30 workstations Midi capable.

Purchased a classroom library of interesting books suitable for special education students to use during **Sustained Silent Reading**. (This element is now required in every English class.)

Purchased two new **batting cage nets** needed for the baseball teams using the school's facilities. The teams include three LHS teams and various youth teams.

Purchased a **digital projector** to view film and multimedia presentations as part of the standards-based theatre arts curriculum. The projector was also used for LHS activities and presentations in the Performing Arts facility.

Helped purchase **goals and nets**, balls, practice jerseys, bags, and goalie equipment serving the 51 boys and 30 girls on teams.

Livermore Public Library

Continue a successful, teen- oriented "**Books to Movies**" summer reading program for teens. It needed prizes (60 copies of "*The Princess Bride*") for reading two books and refreshments for the program finale for 50 to 75 teens.

Livermore Valley Opera

Livermore Valley Opera provides opera productions in the Tri-Valley area, giving pre-professionals opportunities to perform, participate in the orchestra and chorus, and learn stagecraft. The MiniGrant helped provide **costumes** for its production of La Boheme.

Marylin Ave. School and Jackson Ave School

Refurbished three high quality alto **xylophones** that were missing bars, but were otherwise in good condition. In addition they purchases mallets and containers to replace those that were lost when the music programs were terminated. The instruments are shared between the schools.

Marylin Avenue School

Sponsored two **assemblies** with a local story teller who uses drama, humor, and books to entertain the children and reinforce their excitement about literature and reading

Portola Elementary School

Purchased **Conflict Resolution Units** for a conflict mediation program. The program trains students to use effective, peaceful ways to resolve conflicts and develop understanding, respect, and cooperation in a multicultural environment.

Purchased **emergency blankets** for inclusion in a disaster response resource designed to provide on-site care for students and staff for up to five days.

Established a **play center** that includes a play kitchen and a puppet center. Activities in the center will increase the imagination and English communication of ESL students while preserving their native language.

Renegades Volleyball Club

The non-profit Renegades Volleyball Club for 12-18 year old Tri-Valley boys provides the opportunity to develop advanced volleyball skills that will make the high school teams more competitive. The MiniGrant contributed to a **Scholarship** fund for boys unable to meet the seasonal cost of participation.

Rincon Branch Library Homework Hangout

The Rincon Homework Hangout provides a place for neighborhood youth to do homework, work in study groups, use library materials, and access computers. The funds went for **computer-related supplies** that provide tools assisting students in school assignments: a color printer, ink cartridges, a graphing calculator, flash drives, and basic school supplies.

Operation S.A.M. (Support All Military)

Operation S.A.M. supports our troops by sending them letters and comfort packages. "Contribute Content Management" **software** will support the group's website, maintain links with volunteer and troops, and help with fundraising.

Shakespeare's Associates

Shakespeare's Associates presents Shakespeare's **plays** in vineyard settings. Our funds allowed them to conduct four 5-10 day educational programs for Livermore youth.

Tri Valley Youth Court

The Youth Court for first time offenders, now beginning in Livermore, is an adjunct to the traditional justice system. Its goal is to help youth be more responsible, cooperate with their peers and the community, and experience restitution. Funds will be used for **DVDs** for a start-up outreach program. 12 DVDs from the Santa Barbara Teen Court will be used to recruit adults and youth participants. 2 DVDs have already been purchased.

Twin Valley Learning Center (TVLC)

TVLC provides individualized **tutoring** and related services to all children. Reduced rates are offered to those unable to pay in full. Last year it provided 588 sessions of subsidized tutoring to 37 students. Our MiniGrant provided 20 hours of tutoring for children at Sojourner House (a homeless shelter) and Shiloh (a domestic violence shelter).

Fundraising (*Ken McCartney*)

“Festa delle Bocce”, (*Mike Thompson*)

A "Festa delle Bocce", with wonderful barbecue, wine tasting and a Bocce Ball tournament (Twelve teams of 4) raised over \$6,000 for the Livermore Rotarian Foundation.

Concerts for Music Scholarships (*Steve Neef*)

The Music Scholarships are primarily funded through concerts and private donations. The concert performers are typically players of acoustic guitar, with some accompaniment on banjo or keyboard. This year one of the concerts was given by Muriel Anderson, who received a Rotary Scholarship when she was in school. Muriel was once the World Fingerpicking Champion on an acoustic guitar. She can make a guitar sound like an entire blue grass band, rock and roll, Japanese music or about anything else

Amongst the better known performers was Lawrence Juber. He was a friend of the Beatles and played for Paul McCartney and Wings. He currently works full time for Disney writing music for movies and the music to play in the restaurants in Disneyland / Disneyworld. He says that it can take him six months to write a two hour long song following some Disney theme, which never repeats itself or gets boring.

Most of our performers are more local and no one would have heard of them.

Car parking at the PGA golf tournament (*Don Wentz*)

This was the second year that we parked cars for the Wine Country PGA Championship at the Wentz golf course. This past year we had a total of approximately 80 volunteers working in two shifts a day for four days. This effort raised \$7000 for the Livermore Rotary. The weather was delightful, we had no snakes in the parking lot, and a good time was had by all the volunteers which made for a very successful fund raising event. (from Don Wentz)

See photos

Car parking at the 4th of July fireworks (*Tim Barry*)

25 Rotarians split two 3-hour shifts to manage the parking operation for the annual 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks Show at Robertson Park in Livermore on July 4, 2007. Headed by Rotarian Tim Barry, who also heads up the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (co-sponsor of the event with the City of Livermore), the team brought cars into the 130-acre site from two entrances, collected parking fees and parked them into two three dirt parking areas between the hours of 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.. It was hot dusty work, but our Rotarians came through with flying colors! They parked over 1,300 cars and raised about \$2,600 for club projects. The event was attended by over 8,000 people!

Livermore Wine Train (*Ralph Sherman*)

Once again nostalgia buffs and wine lovers enjoyed a two hour ride from Sunol through the scenic Niles Canyon and back, aboard rolling stock of the Niles Canyon Railroad, following a portion of the original transcontinental railroad. Some 400 passengers enjoyed the journey, interrupted briefly by a masked band of “ruffians” recreating a scene from old “westerns”.

Crab Feed (*Sam Steele*)

Each March for more than half a century The Livermore Rotary club has held a Crab feed as its primary fundraiser. For many years the event was held in the cafeteria building at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds, with committee members dressed as waiters while another team cooked the crab and prepared the meal. Raffle tickets were sold and a contest was held for the best decorated table in keeping with each yearly theme.

During the early 1990's the party outgrew the space at the fairgrounds -- a crisis that became evident when the Fire Marshal (a club member) could not fit in because of the crowd of crab lovers.

After trying several venues, the event moved to the Robert Livermore Community Center on the 50th anniversary of the Crab feed. At this event, inaugurating the new meeting room, The Livermore Rotary Club donated a life-size statue of Robert Livermore, carved from wood by local artist Don Homan. Although Rotarians still tend the pots the servers come from the Interact Club. A raffle remains popular, as does the bar, as a source of revenue.

The Crab feed was originally intended as a party where Rotarians could get together and eat Crab and have a good time; income from the event was used to defray the costs of operating the club -- paying for guest speakers and new member initiations and other petty cash costs of operating the organization. With time the fundraising aspect became more significant. Income from this event now supports many local charitable activities. The annual crab feed is held the first Friday in March and is now attended by 400+ people who share the dream of Rotary.

See photos

"Autumn in the Vineyards" at Tesla Vintners (Steve Powell??)

A second popular fundraiser, again assisted by members of the Interact Club, was held on the premises of Tesla Vintners, owned and operated by "the singing winemaker" Steve Powell.

Club Operations

General

Each meeting opens, after a Pledge of Allegiance, with a Rotarian presenting a Thought for the Day (Barbara Hickman)

The meeting is duly reported in a weekly bulletin *The Spur* (John Gordon), by volunteer aspiring reporters from the membership. Some reporters bring a great deal of imagination to their task, though as yet no Pulitzer Prize has been awarded.

New members are given a Red Badge bearing their name and profession. Upon completion of several tasks aimed at acquainting them with club operations they are given a Blue Badge. The progression from red badge to blue is really an internal club function in which new members get to experience all aspects of club activities, such as greeting, attending local & regional events, participating in our weekly meetings, attending a board meeting etc. (Brian Mayall)

Lunchtime Programs (*Jay Davis*)

Traditionally Rotary meetings include not only reports on various club-related activities, such as fundraisers, charitable projects or social events, but also speakers. One goal in selecting speakers is to have a mix of topics that represent the community and that inspire or educate members. With the labs, the number of resource (air and water, etc.) and demographic and social issues that face our region, there is no lack of good speakers and subjects. We try to mix major national scientific or security issues that we should be aware of with local social ones that we as a club have leverage on. I think we are successful. The excitement level is always high. The mix between international, national and local is intentional and good.

The talks cover a broad range of topics: (Bruce Shore)

Scientists discuss contemporary views of the universe or technology that affects our lives;

Engineers and architects describe new approaches to old problems, emphasizing environment-friendly technology;

Local civic administrators describe changes to our city;

History buffs discuss lesser known aspects of our communal heritage;

Political pundits describe issues presented to voters

Representatives of police or the judiciary inform us of contemporary problems;

We hear about new developments in local education;

We hear of projects to help our return veterans or to improve living conditions in impoverished lands;

Visitors from other lands describe the work of Rotary in their communities;

We hear of efforts to improve basic living conditions in impoverished lands;

Club members often share their personal experiences , either from travels or from their past;

On some occasions a choral or instrumental group will provide musical entertainment;

At other times the meeting is filled by remarks of students and educators receiving recognition for their achievements.

The Spur (*John Gordon*)

Each week a Rotarian volunteer excercises journalistic talent to prepare a detailed description of the weekly meeting, describing the activities and the participants in a newsletter titled *The Spur*, and published by local printer and former club President John Gordon. This is available

online each week, illustrated with photos of the noon activities and notes of forthcoming events. It provides a great way for absent Rotarians to keep in touch with friends at home.

Our Website (*Kathy Coyle*)

Go to our website for more information about our club, its history and its activities.
www.livermore-rotary.org/

Fun Activities

Mystery Dinner Trip (*Mary Anne Rozsa*)

Rotary couples enjoy an annual purely social "Mystery Trip" . It is usually held in the Spring before members start going on vacations, and we try not to coincide with any of the other club activities though this sometimes proves to be rather difficult. This year it was a Mystery Dinner at the Pleasanton Hotel with all of us trying to solve the "Who Dunit" (one Rotary table was succesful). Fun was had by all with a very clever cast of actors for the Mystery, exceptionally good food, and of course, great company. Past Mystery Trips have included the San Francisco Culinary Academy, the Sunol Playhouse production, the Napa Wine Train Trip, etc. If the event is nearby, we will carpool, otherwise a bus will be provided so no one gets lost. The cost is all inclusive, and we try to keep it under \$100.00 a couple for an evening of entertainment.

Mystery Golf Trip (*Mike Thompson*)

Each year the golfers in the Livermore Rotary Club enjoy two nights and three days of golf, staged at a "mystery location" announced only on the day of departure, and serving to hone golfing skills while renewing social ties. This year the play took place at Diablo Grande and Stevinson Ranch.

Presidential Christmas party

It has become a tradition for the president to invite Rotarians and spouses into the presidential residence to enjoy an evening of seasonal cheer, with a buffet of tasty foods and beverages along with musical entertainment.

See photos

Presidential Demotion party

Rotary Club presidents serve for one year. At the end of this term the Past Presidents organize an evening of skits celebrating, with humour, the foibles of the outgoing president. This is a fun event offering spouses an opportunity to socialize and enjoy an outdoor barbecue.

A Day at the A's (baseball game, Oakland) (??)

Rotary Night with the Sharks (hockey game, San Jose) (??)

Club Officers (for 2006-07)

Officers serve for one year, from July through July. During the 2006-7 year they were

President: Weldon Moreland

See photo

President-elect: Jacquie Williams-Courtright

Treasurer: Ken McCartney

Secretary: Milly Seibel

Directors

Club Services: Bill Groth

International: Bob Cowan

Youth Services: Steve Powell

Major Events: Joe Furtado

Community Service: Cathie Brown

Vocational: Tom Bramell