



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

March 26, 2009 at 12:15 p.m.Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Chuck LePere**; Greeter **Bob Clarke**; and **Eric Pohl** on the desk

Program

Mountain Democrat Columnist **Bob Billingsley** will speak on the Cherokee Indian method of meditation

Last Week



Demonstrating once again that every Rotarian brings unique experiences to the club, **Shiva Frentzen** told her story of living in Iran before and after the 1979 revolution. Born in Iran in the early 1960s, Shiva was from a solid upper middle class family that generally lived well under the regime of Shah. Her mother was a teacher and her father worked for the government. They were able to make trips to Europe to buy their cars and drive back, experiencing many European cultures along the way. From these experiences, Shiva was able to contrast her way of life with those in European cultures.

Iran under the Shah saw considerable western influence, particularly in the large cities in the northern part of the country. Most of the population, particularly in the south,

clung to the traditional fundamental Islamic way of life. While still a male dominated society, women had much greater freedom under the Shah's rule than did women in most Islamic countries. They were allowed to dress without severe restrictions and to pursue studies and careers of choice. Marriages, however, continued to be arranged by the girls' parents. Men can have up to four wives; a woman can have just one husband. With Shiva's exposure to European cultures, she concluded as a young girl that even under the Shah's regime, she did not have the same freedoms as girls in the west. After the revolution in 1979, women's freedoms were dramatically restricted even further.

At age 15, Shiva began college and noted frequent student demonstrations from both communist and Islamic movements. The Shah's security force, SAVAK, brutally applied repressive means to silence the protestors, but ultimately the Shah was overthrown in February 1979. In December 1979, the country approved a theocratic constitution, whereby Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini became Supreme Leader of the country. Women were required to cover up in public. Colleges were closed for three years to allow the new administration time to revise curriculum consistent with Shi'a Muslim teachings.

At age 19, Shiva's parents interviewed a number of potential suitors and allowed Shiva to choose which one to marry. In this way, she married a man that she had never actually met. When colleges were re-opened, she returned to finish her degree. Going to school while pregnant presented a challenge that was compounded by the requirement to wear traditional dress and to cover her head even in oppressive heat. Shiva's parents moved to the United States in 1985. Most of her extended family had already emigrated from Iran. Shiva decided that she did not want to raise her son in Revolutionary Iran and pressed her husband to emigrate as well. Women were not allowed to get a

passport without the husband's approval and Shiva described a week of crying before he gave in and signed her passport application.

Shiva described a country that was coming apart after the revolution. Iran dismantled relations with many western countries and she described the taking of U.S. hostages as a "crazy act." Before the revolution, most consumer goods were plentiful. Basic food, such as milk and bread, required coupons and long waits in line. The value of Iranian currency is considerably diminished. Iran went to war against Iraq and Shiva told of the brainwashing of young men who were sent by the thousands to their deaths. Shiva describes the experience of watching her country come apart as "horrible." Even thirty years after the revolution, conditions in the country have not considerably improved. Under these conditions, it is understandable that Shiva has no plans to return to the country of her birth.

Presidents Corner



Rotary DISTRICT 5190 CONVENTION:

President **Iain Marshall** reminded all that the District Convention is coming up fast. To be held at the Peppertree Hotel and Convention Center in Reno on May 14 to 17, the program promises inspirational speakers and lots of good information about Rotary programs. Interact students and Group Study Exchange teams in attendance always bring good energy. This year's program promises to be a good time to all. Mark your calendars.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 4, 2009:

Anne Eckert has a sign up sheet for any Rotarian wishing to attend the District Assembly at the Grand Sierra in Reno. All members are welcome and all

incoming board members are urged to attend.

ROTARY AT WORK DAY ON APRIL 25, 2009:

Don't forget that nearly all members will be needed to make Christmas in April a success. We'll be manning the Salvation Army pots on April 25 and everyone should commit to a two hour stint. Please see **Tom Keating** to sign up for the shift that you want. Don't forget an unforgettable pot luck dinner to follow at **Bill Gallant's**.

WINE AT TOWN CENTER:

Brian Silverthorn reports that sponsors are still needed to make **Wine at town center** a success. If you haven't already done so, check out the videos in the March 5, **Gear Up** and get creative to find more sponsors.

AREA SPEECH CONTESTS:

The annual Area Speech Contest is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at the 50 Grand Steakhouse in Pollock Pines. Dinner will have a choice of Chicken or Salmon for \$25 or Prime Rib for \$28. No host cocktails will start at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00. This event will serve as the meeting for that week and there will be no meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2009. Be sure to be there.

To get to the 50 Grand Steakhouse in Pollock Pines, take Highway 50 to the Sly Park Exit (#60). Go under the freeway and turn left on Pony Express Trail and it is on the right side about 2 blocks

REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 2, 2009:

In an effort to encourage maximum attendance at the Area Speech contest on March 31, the regular Thursday meeting for that week had been tentatively canceled. It turns out that dedicated Rotarians hate to miss any meeting and the membership expressed a wish to attend the Speech Contest the Tuesday AND have a regular meeting on the Thursday of that week. Put both on your calendar and expect a program that Thursday that will answer at long last, "Why did President Iain come to America?"
down.

Noted Rotarians



FINES AND HAPPY BUCKS:

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

President **Iain Marshall** is an old romantic who loves to commemorate wedding anniversaries with roses. Never do they come without a cost. **Sabrina Ho** accepted her rose in exchange for \$12 and **Eric Pohl** valued his with a thirty-four dollar contribution. Congratulations to Sabrina and **Alex Ho** and to Eric and **Linda Pohl**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Without being asked, **Norm Headley** volunteered that a birthday came and went for him already this month. Looking fit, Norm bragged that he weighed in at 190 pounds for the first time in twenty years. Proving that fit

young man can also be generous, Norm donated Eighty Happy Bucks. A belated Happy Birthday to you Norm.

Attempting to extort bucks from **Gary Gall** for his March birthday, President Iain was reminded that Gary already lightened his wallet for the cause. Not to be discouraged, Iain managed to get Five Happy Bucks from Gary for having a not so good round of golf on an otherwise beautiful day.

Both **Max Callaghan** and **Chris Moore** missed the opening bell, costing each Ten Dollars.

Edie Liebergot signed up to give words of wisdom last week and was prevented by illness from enlightening the membership. Forget that she has signed up to enlighten all next month. It will still cost her \$12.

Birthdays in March

Gary Gall

Norm Headley

Eric Pohl

Joe Ryan

-----Spouses-----

Marilyn Bowen

Beverly Check

JoAnn LePere

Anniversaries in March

Sabrina & Alex Ho

Eric & Linda Pohl

Upcoming Calendar

March 26, 2009 - Mountain Democrat Columnist **Bob Billingsley** will speak on the Cherokee Indian method of meditation

March 31, 2009 - Tuesday evening meeting at Pollock Pines to judge area Speech competition

April 2, 2009 - President **Iain Marshall** will tell his story of how he emigrated from England to the fair shores of America.

April 9, 2009 - **Larry George** will give an update on Israel/Palestine conflict

April 16, 2009 - **Dee Russo** will discuss **Project Amigo** and her December visit with her daughters to Mexico

April 23, 2009 - ``Sewards Folly`` travelogue with **Art ``North to Alaska`` Cort**

April 30, 2009 - GSE Team presentation

May 7, 2009 - Folsom Lake College development, including Performing Arts Center

May 14, 2009 - Vocational Service experiences by **Norm Headley** and **Tom Keating**

May 21, 2009 - **George Eckert** - California Mortgage Association: Legislative Update

May 28, 2009 - Trip to California Military Museum for meeting and tour

June 4, 2009 - **Star Walker** from EDC Office on Aging about available programs

Upcoming Words of Wisdom

March 26, 2009 – Words of Wisdom **Chuck LePere**; Greeter **Bob Clarke**; and **Eric Pohl** on the front desk

April 9, 2009 – Words of Wisdom **Edie Liebergot**; Greeter **Ben Young**; and **Sabrina Ho** on the front desk

April 16, 2009 – Words of Wisdom **Ron Losel**; Greeter **Jim Buckley**; and **Ulla Petersen** on the front desk

April 23, 2009 – Words of Wisdom **Vickie Christensen-McLain** ; Greeter **Sig Hansen**; and **David Tavernetti** on the front desk

April 30, 2009 – Words of Wisdom **Bob Clarke**; Greeter **Norm Headley**; and **Tom Keating** on the front desk

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 31, 2009 - Tuesday evening meeting at Pollock Pines to judge area Speech competition

April 7, 2009 - Monthly Rotary Club of Cameron Park Board meeting at Kobe`s restaurant in Burke`s Junction. All members welcome.

April 25, 2009 - Rotary at Work Day

April 25, 2009 - "Walk for Children" to raise money for the Children of St. Jude`s at Ponderosa High School

May 14 to 17, 2009 - Rotary District 5190 Conference at the Pepermill Hotel and Conference Center in Reno

June 13, 2009 - **Wine at Town Center**

Mike Neal has put together another of his photo series of highlights of our 2008 Christmas Dinner & Auction. The link is at the bottom of this web page. Recent pictures of the Philippine Boat project are now posted in the link below entitled, ``Agusan Marsh Project in the Philippines.``

Gear Up is written by **Jim Buckley** and **Art Cort**. Photography and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.