

SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB BLASTOFF

The Space Center Rotary Club
meets on Mondays, 11:45 a.m.
at the Nassau Bay Hilton

Rotary International District 5890



Rotary International President: Clifford Dochterman
District 5890 Governor: Bob Ellis
Club President: Terry Hesson

"Real Happiness is Helping Others"

November 16, 1992

PROGRAMS

Vann Jones, Chairman

Responsibility for November: Jerry Hammack

Responsibility for December: Mike Hernandez

- NOV 16 **Ken Wedemeyer**, Macy's. "Dressing for Business: Fashions for Business Wear on a Budget." (men and women). Today is SPOUSE'S DAY. If you didn't tell your's, you might be in for it. (Stop by a gift shop on the way home.)
- NOV 23 **Thanksgiving Fellowship**
- NOV 30 **Patty Welborn**, BFI Waste Systems. Recycling.
- DEC 7 To be announced
- DEC 14 To be announced
- DEC 21 **Christmas Fellowship**

A WONDERFUL STORY

Norma Rivera has been receiving serious reconstructive surgery at the expert hands of Dr. Abdel Fustok of Space Center Rotary's World Health Foundation. Norma has visited us many times with progressive improvement showing.

Now comes an important break for her as a result of interclub activities. She will receive a scholarship enabling her to train to become a secretary and thereby become self-supporting.

(More about this on p. 5)

OTHER COMING EVENTS

- NOV 19 Next Space Center Rotary Golf Outing. Tee off at noon at South Shore Harbor Country Club. Jerry Smith in charge. "Ladies and new Rotarians, you are more than welcome." (NO GOLF OUTING IN DECEMBER)
- NOV 20 Weekend cruise to the Bahamas on the Nordic Empress this weekend
- DEC 5 Bridgeport Afterschool Players fund raiser -- viewing of the Christmas Boat Parade from the home of Danielle and Roland Dupuis on Clear Lake. Buffet supper and beverage included for \$15 donation. Reservations limited, first come-first served.
- DEC 11 Joint Christmas Party with Space Center, Seabrook and Harrisburg clubs at Louie's On The Lake. About 6:30-7:00. Full buffet dinner. 16 pc Kurland Street Band (big band era sound). Party dress but not formal, (unless you wish).
Call Bill Taylor at 488-2733.





MEETING NOTES

NOV. 2: Our speaker was Roger Akers, a private consultant, who discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act. He furnished a fact sheet covering the restrictions that now apply to employment, transportation, public accommodations, state and local governments and telecommunications. He encouraged us to be aware of the situations that exist in our everyday lives whereby we could make changes to assist those with disabilities. Accessibility is the key thing to look for.

He also discussed the need to change attitudes toward those with disabilities. A disabled person is a person first. The law can't make attitude changes happen. But people can!

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NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Buchanan, Gen. Manager of the Hilton Hotel, sponsored by Vic Maria.

Robert Blanchard, Dentist, sponsored by Bob Mitchell.

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PHOTOS: (opposite)

TOP: Roger Akers

MIDDLE: Floyd and Walt, two happy past district governors.

BOTTOM: Delia Stephens gets the PH Fellow medallion. Al Ligrani did the ceremonial honors.

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OPTIMISM

An optimist is someone who tells you to cheer up when things are going his way.

(So cheer up!)



MENTORING PROGRAM

DR. HUEY BARNETT, BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS, EXEC. DIR. SAYS:

It's been said, "If you want to see the future of our community and our country, look at our young people."

Does this thought generate optimism or skepticism?

Most agree that our youth today face more hardships and challenges than any generation of youth before them.

Our children are 25% of our population, but 100% of our future. Somebody has to respond. Everybody has to get involved. Our youth, our community, and our country are at stake.

Statistics show that 89% of the giving and 100% of the volunteering in the United States are done by individuals. Will you be an individual who cares enough to become involved?

JOHNNY R. WHITE, ROTARIAN, INSURANCE MAN AND MENTOR SAYS:

Choosing to become a mentor was not a difficult choice for me. When you look around and see all the misery in the world, it's very easy to want to do your part, however small, to eliminate or reduce some of it. Thus the reason I decided to become a mentor.

The particular young man that I was given as a student was not a "hard core" case. He had not been in trouble, he simply did not have a father (deceased) and his mother had to work to support the family. I tried to find things, of course, that we both liked to do (going to movies, going to eat and fishing). The fishing was especially a hit for my student since he had only a little fishing experience before; however, he loved it. (Yes, I also enjoyed fishing with him.) I enjoyed a great deal of self-satisfaction by being with this young man and encouraging him to be the best he can be. As we reach out to help others, we help ourselves and achieve a tremendous amount of self-gratification in doing so.

I encourage everyone to try the mentor program and I am confident that a great deal of crime and sociological problems could be reduced if more people could participate in this program.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED?

Recently "the word" has not been getting to your editor as to the many personal doings of members of our club-- things that would make us know each other better, feel closer and have more fun. The Blastoff can't tell others about exciting events in your life if we don't hear about it. So, how about a little pact. Jot down things that you think are worth telling your fellow Rotarians about-- and slip 'em to me! No being bashful! Or you can pose a question or have your say about what's going on. (I hope I didn't open a Pandora's box!). But you will be helping to make a better club--- and you will have my thanks.

Tom Wier, Editor, 334-2539 or FAX 334-2530 (6 rings).

MORE MENTORING

The Youth Committee has developed a community service project that is a creative use of "mentoring" in a broader definition. The beneficiaries are Bridgeport Communities in Schools children in grades 6 through 8.

Clear Creek Country Theater and Bridgeport have organized the Bridgeport Afterschool Players who will be performing a play at the theater in early January '93. 17 children are learning the ins and outs of small theater production from the onset of picking a play, designing scenery, costumes, lighting, sound effects, acting, directing, producing, staging, stage managing, etc. They meet every Tuesday at the theater (805 Harris in Kemah) and are aided in the learning process by no less than 6 members of Clear Creek Country Theater. The adults provide transportation and are in the process of obtaining a school bus for the exclusive use of all the Bridgeport groups. We can thank Danielle Dupuis and the members of the Youth Committee for this creative project in our community.

(P.S. Dani- Now we know that it takes 17 kids to keep 6 adults off the streets and occupied after school.)

+++++ To help support the Bridgeport Afterschool Players, Danielle and Roland Dupuis are hosting a Christmas Boat Parade Viewing Party at their home on Clear Lake. See more on page 1.

SPACE CENTER ROTARYS

MENTORING PROGRAM

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RON BLILIE SAYS: (via hotline FAX from North Dakota)

The Space Center Rotary Club has been in the process of developing a mentoring program over the last several years. The purpose of the program is to provide strong role models for school age boys and girls in the Clear Lake area. The mentoring committee, in cooperation with Bridgeport Communities in Schools, qualifies and trains Space Center Rotarians to be mentors, then matches Rotarians to youth based on common interests.

Mentoring is an opportunity for Rotarians to provide one-on-one adult companionship to interested boys and girls during important formative years. The mentoring program enables Rotarians to have a positive impact on the youth of our area by spending as little as an hour every other week. Several of our members are already qualified as mentors and are actively working with youth in our community. If you want to directly affect the future of our country, volunteer to be a mentor. Contact Ron Blilie for further information.

ROTARIAN DR. RONALD K. McCLEOD, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, CCISD SAYS:

Tutoring provides a "safety net" to those students who fall behind in their classroom instruction. Generally, this is done by reteaching in a one-on-one situation. Tutoring, the opportunity to get additional help from an adult or another student, is a very effective way to keep students from falling through the cracks.

In addition to tutoring, many of today's students seek adult attention. Adults beyond the school can provide this attention. Most dropouts, when asked why they left school reply, "Nobody cared." There are a lot of students who don't have a support system of a family or home. Their needs can be met by "coaching" or "mentoring." Coaching is intended to help a child by working individually with them on a particular problem. Mentoring is when an adult meets on a regular basis with a student and shares time and activities. All three, tutoring, coaching, and mentoring are needed within the Clear Creek Independent School District, and volunteers are readily accepted at all schools. We don't want our students to show less motivation and have a greater acceptance of failure. We want them to feel good about themselves and recognize that they can be productive members of our society.

Several organizations and many individuals are helping. Rotarians, through the Bridgeport Communities in Schools program, become someone "special" to that "special" student.

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PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Vince Lipovsky announced more members who had completed another year of perfect attendance to add to those years they already had:

Bill Tuite, Mac Balfe, John Gay, Ed Geissler, John Watson

Billy Ray Smith, Bob Wren, Tedd Olkowski, John Rizzo

Vic Maria, Al Ligrani, Jerry Hammack, Woodie Williams

Jay Welch, Frank Morgan, Ed Geissler

And (drawing up the rear?), Floyd Boze (with 44 years!)

Thank you for making our club a better one by your attendance!

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If you plan a makeup at the Houston club, please note that it now meets at the Sheraton Astrodome.

MEETING NOTES

NOV. 9 Our always-welcome Past District Governor Walt Lackey spoke to us on his favorite topic: the Rotary International Foundation. (He first confessed that it now took him longer to rest up than to get tired.) All Paul Harris Fellows had been asked to wear their medallion and there was a very good showing! (We have 71).

The five main elements of Rotary finances:

1. There are two main types of contributions, restricted and general.

2. The funding cycle is for three years.

3. General contributions are utilized under the SHARE system (60% is designated for the district and 40% is designated for the World Fund).

4. Polio Plus funds are administered separately. (84% of all children in the world have been inoculated. In the US we have completed a year with zero polio cases.)

5. The Endowment for World Peace and Understanding has a special role in Rotary's future.

Walt's final challenge was for everyone in our club to be a Benefactor (which you can become without any cash outlay, just add a codicil to your will to include a donation to RI. Announce your intention, RI will prepare the rest.)

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OUR NEWEST

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW:

DELIA STEPHENS

Congratulations!

+++++ Next issue (Nov. 30) we plan lots more good information from the Rotary Foundation Committee.

Donald L. Kyle, a native of Arkansas (Lord have mercy, folks. We've got an inside track!), is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Ph. D. in Business Administration. He has taught accounting at the Universities of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Georgia before coming to the University of Houston Clear Lake in 1974 as charter faculty. As a Professor of Accounting he serves the University, the accounting profession, and the community through teaching, service and publications.

Don joined Rotary in 1987 and has served Space Center Rotary by service on the Rotoract Committee in founding the UHCL Rotoract Club, serving on the Entertainment Committee, the Handicapped Committee, and the Shrimporee Parking Committee.

Married to Beverly Ann Fowler in 1961, Don and Beverly have two grown children pursuing accounting careers in the Houston area. Beverly is a member and former officer of the Women of Space Center Rotary and serves as an inspiration to the entire community.



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Faithful to a promise, here is a poem that your editor wrote in the fall of 1966 as a poem seeking renewal following the death of Marjorie, the wife of my "youth", the mother of my children. Now Margery, the wife of my "maturity", joins me in hoping that you will find a meaningful message in it, especially those of you who have lost a spouse.

THE YULE LOG

**Burn, yule log, burn!
 Make the chimney feel your blast!
 Crackle with concern
 For all the living past
 That goes into your searing flame,
 And bid farewell to growth.
 What's past we can't reclaim
 Though now we vow this oath:
 That we will make amends
 For old neglects, forgotten ties,
 For hurts to lasting friends
 We did not realize.**

**The season sounds its trumpet-call,
 And reminiscence stands up tall;
 Still the yule log burning bright,
 Though we prod it half the night,
 Engenders not a single ember
 As warm as friends that we remember.**

Tom Wier
 Fall 1966

A WONDERFUL STORY

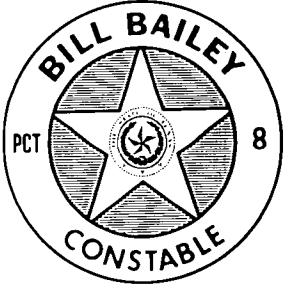




(cont'd from p. 1)

This vocational scholarship was awarded as part of the joint action of the Gulfway Hobby club and its sister club, the Mixcoac Rotary Club in Mexico City. By good fortune, Anne Weseman heard about the Mixcoac club's vocational scholarship program and was able to make a strong proposal to the president of the Mixcoac Club about Norma and her need. Good things happened from there. Rotary can do wonderful things if you keep your eyes open!

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A CALL FOR USED WHEELCHAIRS

Don Kyle and our Handicapped committee are seeking used wheelchairs (one you have or one you could buy cheap at a garage sale and donate). These will be refurbished by a professional through the Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital and given to the United Way, who will give them to the needy with a permanent requirement, or lend them to those with a short term need. It's a SC Rotary/CL Rehab/United Way cooperative project so Mike Waters and Steve Waldner are also involved, if you have questions.

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SPACE CENTER ROTARY

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