

Espresso!

The Morning Grind

January 2, 2008, Issue 26



Club President: Suzie Downing

Dist. 5110 DG: Tim Bewley

RI President: Wilfrid J. Wilkinson

Programs & Greeters

Jan 2: "The Last Mile"

Greeter: Steve Howard

Jan 9: Lee Tinker, Director, Finding Hope, Providing Second Choices.

Greeter: Dick Schroff.

**Jan 16: No morning meeting.
11:30am. All Service Clubs
luncheon at Boys & Girls Club**

Jan 23: Program: "The Last Mile"

Greeter TBA

Dental Supplies Reach Destination in Honduras

(Forwarded by Suzie Downing)

We are moving the two pallets this afternoon from my friends yard to our auditorium. We had to pay for customs and custom services about \$500.00, which is nothing compare with the value of the items and all the love and effort you put into it. Thanks a lot everything will come to serve somebody somewhere. We will be sharing some of the equipment with the Gran Comisión Church clinic in Choluteca., so both need are fill to serve better those in need.

Please present my thanks to the Rotary club and everyone involved around you to make this happen. Dago

Editor's note: Steve Howard has been our club's coordinator on this WCS project.

President's Message – New Year Greeting

Happy New Year! January 1 is the time to make promises to ourselves to start exercising, eat healthfully, learn a new language, be nicer to friends and family, volunteer more, etc. I tried to think of a resolution that I would like to see for our club, but quite frankly, I love the way our year is going. We have new members and great participation!



That being said, I have had several members apologize because they have missed so many meetings. I believe it is important to remember that we each have duties and responsibilities that come before Rotary, that Rotary doesn't take the place of work and family responsibilities. If it does, eventually it will become a burden, which can lead to non-participation, and maybe resignation. We don't want that! Rotary should be fun and inspiring!

Remember if you need a makeup and don't have time to physically attend a meeting you can always go online at www.rotary5450.org/edu and do it. It is quick and easy, and interesting too. Try it out...even if you don't NEED a makeup.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year!
Suzie

Merry Christmas From Mexico

From: Hal and Francie Kibby Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 7:33 AM *(edited for space)*

We continue to learn something every day; weather is cooperating very nicely; sun every day. In fact, people in our village and elsewhere have their front doors wide open most of the day, evening and into the night. They place their fake Christmas trees near their front doors so that when you walk by you get a peek of twinkling lights and a manger scene either under the tree or placed on the front porch. Sometimes the manger scenes include a devil, chickens, turkeys, pigs, giraffes; but not the child in the manger. He will be placed in the manger on Christmas Eve.

Last night we attended a Christmas party in Colima which was hosted by a Rotarian there. It was totally outside – like a block party
Two piñatas for children to break were bounced around on a rope hanging from a second story window. And, the candy flowed. There was an entertainer with a keyboard and "Jingle Bells" was played. They do not have it translated into Spanish, and just sing the words "Jingle Bells" for all of the words. Fireworks are also a tradition going along with the holidays. Fireworks have been a big part of our village for the last week. There is a tradition of the Virgin of Guadalupe. People are waiting for her to show herself. They are setting off fireworks to get her attention. In our cold, damp weather in Oregon with most of us being inside, I guess we miss the sounds going on around us outside and the direct person-to-person link. We're hunkering down in our houses with a good, warm cup of hot wine, cider or coffee. There is a warm drink here called ponce that is made up of fruit and finely chopped up walnuts. It would be good
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Contact Information

President: Suzie Downing
patorsuzie@peak.org
 929-3124

President-Elect: Andy Caron
andycaron@prurep.com
 753-3131

Past President: Paul Rumpca
prumpca@consumerspower.oeg
 929-3124

Secretary: Joni Quarstrom
jquarstrom@fs.fed.us
 753-2625

Treasurer:
 Bonnie Humphrey-Anderson
bhumphrey@osufederal.com
 714-4260

Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Wirth
wirth@saddlebutte.com
 928-8556

Service Projects: Steve Howard
steve@mvipa.org
 760-3010

Espresso Editor: Karen Brockett
kbrockett@exchangenet.net
 757-1136

Submission Deadline:
 Noon- Monday

Oregon drink in the cold months. (And pretty good for those of our friends in Finland!) Something else that we have had twice as a main dish is pozole. When I look it up in the dictionary this morning, the definition is "a spicy stew made with pork and hominy."

Yesterday the village had a gathering put on by the equivalent of the Dept. of Human Resources. Again, there was Christmas music – a Mexican instrumental version of Winter Wonderland and White Christmas. Don't think that the Mexicans know anything about the words; they like the music – and we do, too. Last night before going to the Christmas party in Colima, we heard Indian drums and a flute. Most of the folks living in our village are of Indian descent, and they have their own traditions as well as those with the Catholic Church. We will have to check this out tonight.

While Christmas decorations are all around us (We even saw Santa Claus sitting on the hood of a car being drive through the streets.) and many festivities, it still doesn't seem quite like Christmas. But it is totally enjoyable and very interesting. Tomorrow we are going to be meeting folks from a cruise ship. It is a Rotarian from Reedsport, his granddaughter and some others who will have a whirlwind day in Cofradia de Suchitlan (our village) and around here. The granddaughter has sponsored one of the young students here and they will meet for the first time. The sponsorship keeps the students in school as school uniforms and the purchase of school books are required for the student to be able to go to school. It is only \$95/year to sponsor a child. (Just how many lattes and cappuccinos is that?) Communications can go back and forth between the sponsor and child, and so with dictionaries in hand, Hal and I have translated some of these letters and delivered them to the students here as well as sending notes to the US sponsors – translated from Spanish (from the student) into English (to the sponsor). For those of you who know kids who are studying Spanish at home, this is a perfect opportunity to set up a "pen-pal" type friendship.

Love to everyone and greetings for a wonderful Christmas and new year – wherever you may be!! A special thanks to those of you who have made donations to Project Amigo and helping us supply the migrant camps and have stepped forward to sponsor some of the children in these rural areas. Tomorrow when the people from Reedsport come we are taking them to one of the migrant camps to help deliver more food that we were able to purchase because of your donations. We are delivering beans, lentils, sugar, and rice. Thank you for making this a wonderful – if very different – Christmas for us. Giving is the true meaning of Christmas – and we are continually thankful for everything that we have. We are so lucky.

Francie and Hal

Benton County Cemeteries

Judy Juntunen, (right in photo below with Suzie and Jan) talked about the history of the cemeteries of Benton County, of which there are over, 30. She devoted the majority of her program to Oakridge Cemetery. This is the site where some of our members have been weeding and removing debris from around grave sites. The Oakridge Cemetery was incorporated in the 1890's but was in use earlier. The cemetery may have been sold by the Presbyterians along with the property where the church was located, however, records can be found to show the sale of the cemetery itself.



Morning Tidbits

Nathalia (left) smiles in response to a comment from visiting Rotarian Ron Bonham seated on the right.



Upcoming

Rotary Clubs Unite

Jan 16: All Service Club Luncheon
 Boys' & Girls' Club

January Birthdays

Roger Kroening, Jan 11
 Lon Jensen Jan 31

Places To Do Make-Ups

Tuesday: Philomath Rotary Club @ United Methodist Church, 11:45am.
 After Five Rotary Club @ Iovino's Restaurant, 5:15pm

Thursday: Corvallis Rotary Club @ Corvallis Country Club, 11:45am

Friday: Rotary Club of Greater Corvallis @ Corvallis Country Club, 12:00 noon

On the Web: www.rotary5450.org/edu