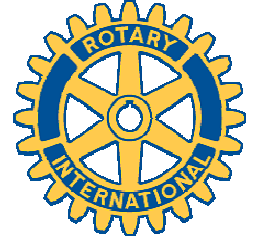


Rotary Club of Galveston - Texas



PILOT



Rotary Newsletter December 17, 2008

President **Bets Anderson** called the meeting to order, **Ian White** gave the invocation, **Bill McMullen** led the Pledge and singing of "America the Beautiful" and Melody Smith introduced the visitors and guests.

Guests

Jerry Suhler guest of **Ruth Suhler [Finkelstein]**

Peggy Baldwin guest of **Bets Anderson**

Cheryl Vaiani guest of **Sonny Vaiani**

Vickie Herrera guest of **Chuck Herrera**

Joan Fattig guest of **Harold Fattig**

There were no Visiting Rotarians.



Today's Program

Brett Kirkpatrick reported on "Meals on Wheels"

"From the Edgewater Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee that I chair I bring you fond felicitations as we fan the flames of friendship with Family Day and feed our famished fellows with freely flowing fountains of funds from our festivities celebrating Meals on Wheels.

What a treat to begin our celebrations today with the music and artistry of Bonnie Karger on keyboard and Charlie Delgado on saxophone. We thank you for joining us and for sharing your musical gifts with us.

Today we celebrate Family Day at Rotary and welcome our extended family. Without you and your support, we would be unable to do the things we do to serve our community both here and abroad. Behind every successful Rotarian, there's someone who helps directly, encourages or at least puts up

with our programs, projects and fellowship. On this Family Day, we thank you for all you do for Rotary and we acknowledge you with this humble but appreciative applause.

Today we also honor and continue a 17-year tradition begun by then President Harold Fattig to designate one club meeting to be our Breadbasket Luncheon benefiting the Edgewater Meals on Wheels program. For most Galvestonians, the Edgewater Meals on Wheels program and the Rev. Ray Pinard are inextricably intertwined. And I believe this is the first year in the past 17 that Ray has not been here to share with you his personal joy and love for this program that until it was lked, served weekday meals to 100 people each day. Ray sends his regrets that he can't be here today owing to some enforced downtime due to minor surgery. But I can assure you his downtime didn't stop him, and only slowed him a wee bit, from issuing marching orders in the form of humble requests that couldn't be denied to a host of people to provide today's program.



The Edgewater Meals on Wheels program was established in 1974 in cooperation with the Junior League of Galveston. It provides hot, nutritious meals to the homebound and elderly citizens of Galveston regardless of their race, religion or ability to pay. Meals are delivered by volunteers like Buddy Benson, Bill Glenn, Jr., Juan Pena and Dan Freeman to name a few - and recipients pay what they can afford. The program

also provides recipients with at least one - sometimes the only - daily contact with a friendly face and watchful eye.

Before Ike, Edgewater staff prepared more than 100 meals each weekday in the kitchen at Edgewater's Turner Geriatric Center. After Ike, we had no kitchen, very few kitchen staff and no clue where to find our recipients or volunteers. Like many Galveston businesses after the storm, Edgewater was forced to lay off staff, including the Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Sharon Concha, who kept the program running smoothly on a daily basis. Fortunately for our clients, Sharon volunteered to keep right on working and began tracking down recipients and volunteers and assessing needs. Ray was able to negotiate a deal with The Kitchen to provide meals each weekday, and Sharon found 51 of our former clients who needed help and enough volunteers to begin delivering meals again on December 1st. We're determined to continue delivering and expanding our client list as long as there is need.

As I'm sure you know, the Edgewater Meals on Wheels program is funded by recipients and donations. No governmental funds are used or sought to support the program. We have two major fundraisers each year, and this year's Thanksgiving Golf Tournament was majorly lked - which is why today's breadbasket luncheon is so important. Each year the Rotary Club board sets a luncheon goal, and this year's goal is \$7,000. Last year, we surpassed our goal of \$6,500, and I know we can meet and probably exceed this year's goal. There are baskets on your tables with pledge cards, and you may drop checks and/or cash into the baskets as well. Ray has a way of revving us up to give each year by surrounding and comforting us with "Amens" and "Halleluiahs" and a torrent of pastoral patter that inspires us to share. Any attempt on my part to emulate that would undoubtedly provoke lightning bolts of a sort not seen since the tablets. So let me invite you to dig deeply and to simply say that Galveston is indeed fortunate to have people like Ray Pinard and Sharon Concha and Buddy Benson and Bill Glenn, Jr. and Juan Pena and Dan Freeman who work every day, along with you and with your help, to make Galveston a better place.



And now it's my very great privilege to introduce Pat Bumpus, Ruth Finkelstein, Bonnie Karger and Charlie Delgado who will provide the musical portion of our program."

President Bets announced the non-profit groups affiliated with the Galveston Rotary that the Board chose to award portions of the over \$20,000 that was given to our rotary after ike from others around the world.



Recipient
 Seaman's Center
 Strand Street Theater
 Rosenberg Library
 Ronald McDonald House
 Resource & Crisis Center
 Salvation Army
 Jesse Tree
 Opera House
 Gleanings from the Harvest
 Galveston Symphony
 Galveston Historical Foundation
 Family Services
 Children's Center
 Ball High Fine Arts

Accepting the check
 Bill McCullen
 Ruth Finkelstein
 John Augelli

 Fred Raschke
 Ted Hanley

 Ulli Budelmann
 Tom Schwenk
 Bill Buffum

Other pics from the lunch:



The meeting was adjourned after the group recited the 4 way test