



Rotary Club of Laguna Beach

Since 1931

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Tory Thomas

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Rick Lang

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Community Service

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Club Photography

Rick Lang

Ward Blackburn

Musical Keyboard

Jerry Immel

Holiday Traditions

from President Tory Thomas

I always look forward to the holiday season, with the many traditions that have evolved over the years, all with their own special meaning or purpose. I love how these traditions tend to bring out the best in the human spirit: love, joy, kindness, thankfulness and selflessness, to name a few.



In this time of celebration, it is important to remember those, like our troops in Iraq, who are not able to spend this time with their families enjoying their own traditions that make each holiday so special to them. Our District has established a holiday tradition of sending our troops thousands of gift boxes every year, in which our club was again an active participant. I want to thank **Bill Parrish** and **Dave Winckler** for organizing and leading this project for our club, as well as the many members who contributed items for the boxes. And, I would like to give a special thank you to **Brendon, Marianne, Andy, Dave W., Rosalind, Noel, Gil** and **Chuck S.** for helping me package the boxes and deliver them to the post office. I am happy to say that our club was able to send 23 gift boxes to our troops this year, full of items like sporting equipment, candy, baby wipes, DVDs, food, letters and playing cards. What a great holiday tradition for our club!

At our first meeting in November, I described a family tradition that my mom started many years ago. On Thanksgiving Day, she would have each member or guest of my family write down on a piece of paper what they were thankful for during that particular year. She would then wrap each note into its own piece of dough and bake it in the oven. During dinner, she would bring out the bowl of freshly baked rolls and asked each person at the table to take one. We would then, one-by-one, break open the roll and read the message inside. After each message was read, we would immediately try to guess which family member or guest wrote the message. I have to admit, I used to think this was kind of a silly tradition. I never understood why we had to bake the message into the bread. The note was always difficult to read because the ink from the message bled all over the bread, making the bread mostly uneatable. I always wondered why we didn't just go around the table and say what you were thankful for, like every other normal family. Well, the years have passed and unfortunately my mom is no longer with us. The Thomas family continues to celebrate Thanksgiving with the tradition of the notes baked in the bread. Yet, now this is a tradition that has much more meaning and purpose. Silly as it may seem, it is a tradition that has now become the foundation of my family's Thanksgiving celebration. What started as my mom's tradition is now our tradition, one that we will cherish forever.

December is full of holiday traditions, all with their own unique meaning or purpose. I hope each of you enjoy these holiday traditions with your family, with your friends or with your Church. Who knows, maybe this will be the year you start a new tradition in your family, one that will become your very own and one that will be cherished by your family for many generations to come. **Happy Holidays, Rotarians, and thank you for a great year!**

Happy Holidays!



Programs

- December 5** **Chilean Group Study Exchange Experience**
Dana Le Fever
- December 12** **Energy, Use and Needs**
Ted Flanigan
- December 19** **Holiday Program - *Bring a Guest!***
Roxanne Ward and the Laguna Beach High School Choir
- December 26** **DARK**
- January 2** **DARK**

Birthdays



December

- Norm Broadhurst - 17**
- Jim Lawler - 11**
- Gil Thibault - 14**



December 5

- Invocation: Maxwell, P
- *Greeter 1: Palmer
- *Greeter 2: Levin
- Tickets: Jacobs
- Cash: Lawler
- Badges: Tschudin

December 12

- Invocation: Lange
- *Greeter 1: Herkelrath
- *Greeter 2: Shevlin
- Tickets: Heller
- Cash: Kellogg
- Badges: Hecht

December 19 HOLIDAYPROGRAM

- Invocation: Judy
- *Greeter 1: Gillebaard
- *Greeter 2: Johnson, N
- Tickets: Finley
- Cash: Estes
- Badges: Drew

December 26 DARK

Happy New Year!

January 2 DARK

January 9

- Invocation: Ward
- *Greeter 1: Roth
- *Greeter 2: White
- Tickets: Redeker
- Cash: Turner
- Badges: Maxwell, D

January 16

- Invocation: Tschudin
- *Greeter 1: Parrish
- *Greeter 2: Thibault
- Tickets: Palmer
- Cash: Stoeckmann
- Badges: Norton

January 23

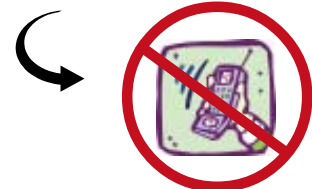
- Invocation: Tankersley
- *Greeter 1: Nootbaar
- *Greeter 2: Shevlin
- Tickets: Montonna
- Cash: Schirm
- Badges: May

January 30

- Invocation: Saville
- *Greeter 1: Polzin
- *Greeter 2: Sanford
- Tickets: Maxwell, P
- Cash: Russell
- Badges: Loomis



*Rick Lang
Photo*



Last month, many of our members gave a “thankful buck”, where they wrote what they were thankful for on a piece of paper, and wrapped it in an individual “piece of dough” (i.e. a dollar from their wallets or purses). I thought it would be appropriate to end 2008 with these words of gratitude from our very own members. Enjoy! -Tory

The 2008 Laguna Beach Rotary Club is thankful.....

For My Family, Friends, Home & Country - God Bless Them All!

To be part of the Laguna Beach Rotary - coming each Friday, being surrounded by some of the most amazing people I have ever met, united for a good cause...

For my daughter's 10th birthday and a decade as a single mother - Surrounded by family and friends and all their support, I have had such a blessed life!

To be working!

To be an American - To be in America

For Good Health, Great Rotary Club

For Hope

For freedom to be what I want to be, do what I want to do, and think what I want to think

For my family, friends, LBRC & International, and my old cats & goats

For all the loving hearts in our club – Brendon C. as one – for his gifts of leadership & expansion for LBRC

For my health being supreme – even as a geriatric

For Laguna Beach as my home

That my cardioversion was a success

For the love & friendship of my family

To be alive

To have a wonderful wife – my Judy

For the Rotary of LB

Rotary is being more fully covered with the OC Register - My gratitude is GREAT

For a healthy family, 98 year old Aunt (soon to be 99) and great Rotarian friends

Family, family, family – Best time is Turkey Day when we are all together

That I can still walk and come to Rotary

Best Wishes in 2009 for All !!!