



# The Weekly Roundup

A 501 (c)(4) Organization

DECEMBER 17, 2009

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RANCHO BERNARDO

ESTABLISHED 1964

## The Timeless Tradition of Madrigal Singing Exemplified by the RB High School Madrigals



*By Jim Wise*

While today we have a seemingly endless variety of musical choices – both in style and in accessibility – the beauty of a cappella music, chamber music, and in particular, the Madrigal, has a unique appeal that endures through the centuries.

Madrigals were first written and performed during a time in history when all entertainment was live entertainment. No recording devices, no broadcast capability. Traveling

jugglers, storytellers and magicians provided some relief from the typical day's drudgery, but making one's own music and art were fine recreation for the Renaissance man or woman. The ability to sing, or play some musical instrument, or both, was considered part of a child's essential education. The actual playing or singing, as well as the listening, was considered good entertainment.

"Madrigal" was the name used for popular music during Elizabethan

times. Madrigals began in Italy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, spread across Europe and reached their peak in England during Elizabeth's reign in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the best known madrigals were composed using the sophisticated poetry of Elizabethan England.

Madrigals are often secular songs, but there are a number of sacred madrigal compositions as well. Madrigal subjects are typically fables, tales of love, sorrow and life. Secular madrigal songs often

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# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*By John Goodrich, Scribe Extraordinaire*

**P**resident Barbara called the meeting of the Rancho Bernardo Rotary Club to order; the Club that Supports Polio Plus.

Jim Wise led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gary Saks provided a moving invocation from a poem he wrote 35 years ago and still poignant today.

We were entertained with music by our member maestro Jack Mitchell and his back-up band, The Sound Box, with a rendition of We Need a Little Christmas. Unfortunately the Club did an injustice to the song, probably due to the inability of the members to read faster than a third grader. No call from Angela Lansbury is expected.

President Barbara thanks all the volunteers helping to make the weekly meeting a success.

John Goodrich, Scribe  
Lew Tyler, Opportunity Drawing  
Nobody was greeting today  
Bill Bonner, Paul Donick & Kin Larson, Setup Crew  
Ken Larson, Hat Passer  
Arilla St. Laurent, Official Photographer

There were several visiting Rotarian and Guests present which a surprised, unprepared Bill Bonner attempted to introduce. The always smooth Bill recovered quickly and succeeded in his task. Jack and the Club performed the always popular and easy to remember Welcome Song.

Don Lisio provided the sunshine report and to everyone's thrill there was no announcement, indicating everyone is healthy. Although Bill Bonner, the master of inside information announced Bob Wells, who was assigned to be

greeter, had both his hands operated on and was unable to drive. We all wish Bob a quick recovery. President Barbara welcomed Jim Reading back after his absence due to his operation, looking great and 10 pounds lighter. The Club gave him a thunderous round of "He's is a Jolly Good Fellow". Gayla Williams was especially glad to see Jim back.

Don Lisio announced the success of the Christmas drive by reporting \$970 was raised from Club members and with matching funds this is enough money to help out 3 families this year. Don recognized all members who contributed

this year to the cause.

President Barbara expressed her great appreciation to Arilla & Chuck St. Laurent and Jeanne & John Hawkins for the successful Christmas party last week. President Barbara presented Arilla with some flowers and gift certificate for a dinner out.

It was this time of year for members to vote for the next board of directors. Each member was given a ballot (although Jim Edwards goes on the belief of voting early and often) to record their vote. Results will be announced next meeting.

Suzie Lisio and Ann Calvert announced the New Years Eve party to be held at Suzie and Don's house. Suzie reminded those coming that she can accommodate members who need assistance climbing the 13 steps to the front. Just let her know



**John Goodrich**

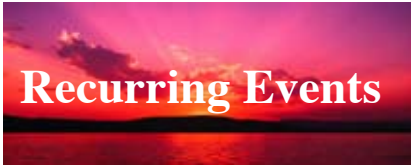
if help is needed. Ann claims there are 17 steps and reported there is an elevator available for those not able to walk up, or walk down after the party. Also Ann is looking for volunteers to help with clean up after the party. Ann will be sending out invites via electronically and for the Luddite members she will hand deliver. Our table thanks Larry Valente for explaining what Luddite means and nobody appreciates Ann using words we don't know.

Shirley Napierala had the distinguish honor of inducting three new members to the Club. They are Gabriela Brown, Janis France & Spencer Right. Gabriela is sponsored and will be mentored by Gayla Williams, Janis is sponsored and will be mentored by Bill Bonner (Bill Bonner was the scribe's mentor and did an outstanding job considering what he had to work with), and Spencer was sponsored by Shirley Napierala and will be mentored by Paul Donick. All the sponsors were presented gifts of wine for their effort and President Barbara reminded all members the job of member recruitment is everyone's responsibility.

The every thrilling, exultant man of the hour John O'Neill was tasked with raising some much needed funding by fining

where needed (and not needed). John made a point to identify a clear finable offense by Jim Sommer in his writing to the newspaper about his disagreement to an article which recently appeared. Without going into detail it was something about the newspaper's choice of highlighting a bozo when they could have published real news. Ken Larson had happy bucks for his 67 year wedding anniversary; Bob Krejci announced his doctor advised him to renew his passport when it expires at the age of 99. As Fine Master, John advised the newly inducted members he is not above being bribed and the most effective method is large quantities of Tequila, and not the cheap stuff.

Paul Donick introduced the program speaker, Captain Paul Steffens from San



**Rotary Club Meetings:** Weekly on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. for early

birds to socialize.  
**Rotary Golf:** Meets 1st Wednesday of each month at the Oaks North Golf Course at 10 a.m. Reservations are a must! Call Dan Malloy for information.

**Rotary Board:** Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the San Diego Na-

tional Bank in the upstairs conference room at 4 p.m.

**Rotary Foundation Board:** Meets the 4th Wednesday of every third month at 4 p.m. at Rancho Financial in the conference room.

**Newsletter Deadline:** Thursday 5 p.m. the week before the speaker speaks.

### THE MADRIGALS Continued from Pg. 1

feature elves, fairies and sprites.  
Most madrigals are sung *a cappella*, that is, without musical accompaniment, although some songs may be accompanied by one or two instruments such as a flute, recorder or violin. Dances often accompanied the singing of madrigals.

Madrigal singing was a popular form of entertainment during the Christmas season in Elizabethan times. St. Valentine's Day and the return of spring prompted madrigals about love and nature. Singing madrigals was an integral part of social life in upper-class England. At a dinner party, for example, the host would distribute printed music after dinner and the guests would sight-read the latest madrigals.  
The Rancho Bernardo High School Madrigals is comprised of 27 auditioned 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

The Madrigals consistently receive superior ratings at choral festivals throughout the country.

Last year, the Madrigals, received Gold Rating at the Anaheim Heritage Music Festival This coming April, the Madrigals have been invited to compete in a National Choral festival held in Seattle Washington.

Their director Lisa Friedrichs is in her fifteenth year as their conductor. She has received numerous awards from her school ranging from outstanding teacher to the Palomar Crystal Apple Award for outstanding teacher in San Diego County. Currently, Ms. Friedrichs is completing her Masters in Choral Conducting from California State University Los Angeles under Dr. William Belan and Donald Brinegar. Ms. Friedrichs is also the Director of Music at La Jolla United Methodist Church.

Let's give a warm RB Rotary Club "Welcome" to the RBHS Madrigals

### Meeting Highlights Continued from Pg. 3

Diego Armed Services YMCA.

Meeting ended with Lew Tyler setting up the "Opportunity Drawing" and today there were two awards. Arilla was the winner of a donation from Bob Krejci which was a mini tool kit. This will come in handy for Arilla as she rebuilds her house after the Christmas party. President Barbara was the winner of the other prize but came away with only the \$10 consolation prize.

President Barbara reminded the new inductees to remain at the door to allow all members to meet and greet them. Additionally she asked all members planning on bringing a guest next week to the special holiday meeting with the RB High School Madrigals to call Jim or Gayla to advise number of guests.

Meeting adjourned.

## VOLUNTEERS

Greeter	Pledge	Invocation	Raffle
11/12 Dan Malloy	Shirley Napierala	Gary Saks	Arilla St. Laurent
11/19 Benita Page	Jason Salazar	Suzie Lisio	Jim Sommer Kathleen Smith
12/17 Ann Calvert	Paul Casterline	Troy Daum	Lou A. Dickerson Sandie Dewane

Use this link to obtain information from our website:  
<http://www.rbrotary.org/Lists/Volunteers/CurrentList.aspx>