



# Monarch Beach

SUNRISE ROTARY

ON THE CALIFORNIA RIVIERA



## Italian Opera comes to Dana Point

by *Lilith Sanchez*

The kick-off Gala and unveiling of the 2010 Italian Opera Festival in Orange County on May 30th at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort was an astounding success!

Among the hundreds of guests attending the exclusive event were officers and members of Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary and officers from the Rotary Clubs of Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente. Bret Gerdes, Rotary District Governor-Elect was also in attendance.

Event honoree **Maestro Stefano Vignati** is a member of the Rotary Club of Viterbo, Italy. His trip to South Orange County in November 2008 to visit with friend and MBSR member **Lilith Sanchez** was highlighted by his paying homage to MBSR at the Ritz-Carlton. There, he exchanged flags from his Italian Rotary Club with our MBSR Club. It was at that fateful November Rotary breakfast meeting that Maestro Vignati announced his search for a venue in the U.S. for the 2010 Italian Opera Festival. Attending the meeting that day was MBSR member and Dana Point Mayor, **Lisa Bartlett**, who agreed to hear the Maestro's proposal. A tour of Dana Point was facilitated by MBSR members **Alan Wickstrom**, Mayor Lisa Bartlett, and Dana Point City Manager **Doug Chotkevys**. They took Maestro Vignati, Tuscia Opera General Manager **Claudio Ferri**, and **Barbara Manconi** to the beautiful Lantern Bay Park overlooking the ocean. It was "love at first sight." The rest is history, as the Opera will now be in Dana Point for three weeks beginning August 27, 2010.

The 2010 Opera Festival will showcase all that Italy is known for: fashion, wine, cuisine, art and culture. An important educational component is the IOF's *Sunrise Emerging Artist Program*, the quality of which was seen through soprano **Jacquelynne Fontaine**'s performance of "O mio babbino caro" (from Gianni Schicchi) and "Ave Maria" (from Otello) at the St. Regis gala.

Rotary involved in cultural pursuits! ■



*The Lawn at The St. Regis - preparing for the festivities*



*Maestro Stefano Vignati conducting the Capistrano Valley Symphony Orchestra; Soprano Jacquelynne Fontaine performs*



*MBSR Member and Dana Point Mayor Lisa Bartlett Recognizes Nicola Faganello, Consul General of Italy*

## President's Message

by Linda Knox Hess

Since June is Fellowship Month, as my last President's Message I would like to share why I joined Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary and my thoughts regarding this outstanding club.

My late husband, **Peter Hess**, joined Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club in 1993. For ten years as a 'Rotary Ann,' I learned about Rotary, participated in club functions and service projects, and enjoyed our friendships with members. I grew to love Rotary.

Peter served as President-Elect 2002-2003 until he passed away unexpectedly May 28, 2003. During his 18 days of hospitalization, you (our Club members) sent flowers, visited, and called — offering support and encouragement. When Peter died, you (caring Club members) helped me plan his memorial service, brought meals, and welcomed our daughter and me into your homes for fellowship. When you invited me to join the club a few weeks after his death, I answered YES without hesitation. It did not matter that I would struggle getting out the door every Wednesday to attend those VERY EARLY morning meetings. I simply could not imagine my life without this Rotary club and fellowship with its wonderful members.

Through Rotary, I found that helping others helped me deal with my grief and to heal. After serving as Club Bulletin Editor, Secretary, and Vice President, you elected me to serve 2008-2009 as President-Elect—and I looked forward to honoring my late

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## Columbia Project Update

by Margarita Martin



*Air conditioning unit inside the computer lab*



*Our Rotary grant enabled the school to install this new air conditioning unit*

I received new photographs from the **Rotary Neiva Colombia** club updating us on our progress for the computer lab and maintenance lab project in Colombia. The room has been completely finished.

The classroom has new glass for the windows, ceiling lights and custom made tables for the computers. With our Rotary grant, the school was able to install a new air conditioning unit that will permit the functioning of the computers at a cool temperature as the average temperature is over 90° all year. They are in the process of installing the internet infrastructure and electrical system for the classroom. Because of the generosity of some of our friends, the 66 computers were ready to be shipped at a special rate on June 3, 2009. It took three months to obtain a special import license permit. During the last three years we have collected and bought computers, screens, keyboard etc. We are looking forward to successfully finalizing the project. I will continue to update you on the progress of this "life-changing" project. Many thanks to all who have participated!

## Community College Scholarship Program

by Bonnie Myers

Once again, three wonderful local high school graduating seniors have been awarded two-year scholarships under our club's Community College Scholarship Program. Presentations were made by member **Zohreh Bebehani** at each school's Awards Night, May 27 and June 3.

Eight applicants were interviewed in early May by a panel of Rotarians, including members Zohreh Bebehani, **Mark Fox**, **Mary Jeffries**, **Julie Lungo** and **Bonnie Myers**.

Unlike many traditional scholarships, ours does not require an individual to maintain a record of exceptional academic excellence.

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## July, 2009

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

July 3 James Littlejohn Birthday

July 13 Mark Fox Birthday

July 15 Mike Killebrew Anniversary (Shauna, 1988)

July 19 Margarita Martin Birthday



July 23 Mike Soliman Anniversary (Layla, 1984)

July 25 Bruce Brenon Birthday

July 30 Bonnie Myers Anniversary (Paul, 1966)

## President's Message, *continued from page 2*

husband's memory as Club President 2009-2010.

When our Club's incoming President resigned due to an employment conflict late May 2008, the Board asked me to serve as President 2008-2009. I agreed with only one month to prepare and take office July 1. Thankfully, some members had already committed to serve as Directors & Committee Chairs; however, I had to act quickly to fill six positions that were still open.

Our country's economic crisis challenged our membership and fundraising efforts this year. In spite of this, I am thrilled to say we have 53 members since inducting nine new members (including two returnees) this 2008-2009 year — and we raised almost \$57,000! The life of our Club continues to emanate from the dedication and passion of its members to the ideals of Rotary and its humanitarian mission.

The great reward found in our charitable activities is the wonderful feeling of being of service, aiding those in need, and having a great time doing it. The joy of giving feeds and nourishes the zest for life and fun we have together at MBSR. We realize that even a small contribution to the lives of those in need will be felt and have its effect in the world in ways impossible to predict.

Our club is like a beacon in our community, lighting the way for cooperation and tolerance, shared effort and understanding, and commitment to the highest ideals of ethics and loving treatment of our fellow men and women. It has been a privilege for me to serve as your Club President this year. Thank you all for your support and the opportunity to *Make Dreams Real*. ■

## Community College Scholarship Program, *continued from page 2*

Factors that are taken into account can include his or her need to work to supplement family income, responsibility for the care of younger siblings, or having to overcome various traumas, such as death of a family member, physical disability, or family fragmentation. In the final analysis, recipients are chosen on the basis of both financial need and strength of character.

*Below is a brief introduction to our three 2009-2010 scholarship awardees:*

**Christopher Lopez** (Dana Hills High School) hopes to go into teaching. A gregarious and outgoing young man, he has been actively involved in service projects in high school, logging more than 150 hours of community service. He states that the example set by many of his own instructors at Dana Hills have influenced his career choice.

**Soulmaz Zarea** (Dana Hills High School) aspires to become a psychiatrist. Born in Shiraz, Iran, her parents decided to emigrate to the United States to provide fuller, richer opportunities for their female children.

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## Ramblings

*by Neil Burns*

Congratulations to **Darrell & Debbie Cavanaugh** on their latest grandchild. You're still looking too young to be building a grandbrood!

MBSR's "Stayin' Alive" was a rousing success financially, thanks to all, but no one deserves more cheers than lead fund raiser, **Terry Rifkin**. Way too much fun to recount all, but some sights can't be denied. **Bruce Brenon & Russ Kerr** in pants that HAD to be painted on (no way they climbed in one leg at a time!), and **Patty Vogan** in her Olivia Newton-John Grease get-up just had to be seen to be believed. But the show stopper had to be **Alan Wickstrom's** Purple PimpDaddy get-up. The Club must buy him a 1970 Purple Cadillac convertible for the next showing!

**LaVal** boogied like there was no tomorrow at "Stayin' Alive" and led the club in singing happy birthday to Darrell & himself. Good work LaVal!

Final congratulations of the month go to **Lilith's** hard work on behalf of the Dana Point opera community. We're all looking forward to the exciting results of all your efforts. And we all owe a debt of gratitude to your husband for rescuing **Zohreh** after she was "dumped" by her escort! Who was that again, Russell?

Next month we roast Pres **Linda**. Just for Hoohahs (?), please send me all your juiciest Linda moments. We'll explore them all in great detail. See you then! ■

## Save these dates!

- Thu 6/4:** Student of the Month Banquet, DPYC  
**Mon 6/8:** Board Meeting – Funds Distribution, Eide's Home  
**Thu 6/11:** Marrow Registry Drive, Dana Point Park & Recreation Center, 12pm-8pm  
**6/20-24:** RI International Convention – Birmingham, UK

- Wed 7/8:** MBSR Transition Breakfast (6:30 a.m.)  
**Mon 7/20:** Board Meeting (Boys & Girls Club)  
**Mon 7/27:** Special Board Gathering with D.G. Bret Gerdes (6 p.m. – Eide's home)  
**Wed 7/29:** D.G. Bret Gerdes – Speaker at MBSR Meeting



# The 4-way test of things we think, say or do...

Is it the truth? • Is it fair to all concerned? • Will it build goodwill and friendships? • Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



*Kathy Flores receives her Blue Badge from Pres. Linda.*



*Pres. Linda got a surprise when she adjourned a recent MBSR meeting... the bell that usually sits on the podium had been replaced by a wine glass. Just goes to prove, give her a gavel and she'll swing it!*



*Pres. Linda presents Bruce Brenon with his Blue Badge.*

## Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Officers & Directors 08/09

President.....	Linda Knox Hess
Vice President .....	Open
Secretary .....	Martha Hoffmann
Treasurer .....	Rod Eide
President Elect .....	Russell Kerr
Imm. Past President.....	Gary Spencer
Community Service .....	Diana Crandall & Don Gonneville
International Service .....	Mitch Jackson & Mike Soliman
Vocational Service.....	Nan Eide
Membership.....	Gary Spencer
Foundation Support .....	Nan Eide
Club Service .....	Russell Kerr
Club Bulletin .....	Cyndi Elders
Attendance.....	John Rose
Sergeant at Arms.....	Paul Lehrich
Fellowship & Social.....	Lisa Wilson
Information/Orientation .....	Rod Eide
Programs.....	Alan Wickstrom
Fine Master.....	Neil Burns
Song Leader .....	John Hayden
Chair, Photography.....	Terry Rifkin
Chair, Publicity.....	Cyndi Elders
Club Website.....	Alan Wickstrom
Golf Tournament .....	Rod Eide, Mitch Jackson & Russell Kerr
RI President .....	D. K. Lee
District Governor.....	Roger McGonegal
Asst. Dist. Governor .....	Cliff Nelson

## Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Make-Up Locations

### TUESDAY

- 7:10am, Mission Viejo Casta del Sol Golf Club House
- 7:15am, San Clemente Sunrise Talega Country Club Heritage Grill
- 7:30am, Newport Sunrise Five Crowns, PCH
- 12 noon, Laguna Niguel Savannah Chop House
- 7:00pm, Coto De Caza/RSM Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club

### WEDNESDAY

- 7:00am, Coto De Caza/RSM Del Sol RSM Bell Tower
- 6:15pm, Newport-Balboa Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
- 6:15pm, San Juan Capistrano Sarducci's Capistrano Depot

### THURSDAY

- 12 noon, Newport-Irvine University Club @ UCI
- 12 noon, San Clemente Iron in the Fire Restaurant

### FRIDAY

- 12 noon, Laguna Beach Hotel Laguna

See website for more details

## Community College Scholarship Program, *continued from page 3*

Soulmaz had also been active in volunteer work, having donated over 80 hours of service at South Coast Medical Center.

Lao Noushadian (Aliso Niguel High School) intends to become a dentist. Lao has no brothers or sisters, and lost his father when he was three months old. He emigrated with his mother from Iran in August, 2008, and in spite of his rudimentary English skills, he completed his senior year with a class ranking of 73!

Please join me in welcoming these young people to our program! ■