



# The Blastoff

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center  
P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058  
Meeting Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club  
14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City  
Phone: 281.488.7888 \* Chartered 1964  
Volume 43 Number 18 November 27, 2006

## PROGRAMS:

Today ----

- Stan Galanski - Rotary Water Project in Bolivia
- Dec. 4th - Carol Stevens re: Boys & Girls Harbor in La Porte
- Dec. 11th - Charlie Jenkins, Dir. Planning & Development, Port of Houston Authority
- Dec. 18th - Dick Meyer re: Youth Exchange
- Jan. 8th - John Wilson re: School Safety
- Jan. 15th -- Scott Rozell of Texans for Lawsuit Reform
- Jan. 29th - Robert Smith, III, VP Federal Reserve Bank

### *Red Badge Social*

**Tuesday, November 28th, 6:00 p.m. @ Dos Mas Restaurant on Bay Area Blvd., near Hwy 3.**

**Y'all come!!!**



## Agenda

Luncheon Begins .....	11:45
Call to Order .....	12:00
Song .....	Debby McBride
Invocation ..	Carlos Villagomez
Pledge .....	
4-Way Test .....	
Introductions .....	
Announcements .....	12:10
Program .....	12:30
Adjourn .....	1:00



*Above, Ted Cummings poses with the new Ford F150 Ethanol equipped pickup. This thing runs on corn squeezin's! Right, redbadger, Becky Reitz, introduces visiting Rotarians & guests. Which one is the more beautiful and powerful?*



*The Rotary Clubs of  
Seabrook • Space Center • Harrisburg*

Invite you to our Annual Christmas Party

Friday, December 15, 2006

Lakewood Yacht Club

2425 NASA Parkway  Seabrook, TX 77586

*Reception/Social: 6 – 7 pm*

*Dinner: 7 – 8 pm*

*Dancing: 8 – 10:30 pm*

*Dress: black tie optional*



*Menu:*

- Caesar Salad
- Breast of Chicken Oscar
- Roast Baby Red Potatoes
- Fresh Vegetable Medley
- Crème Brulee with raspberries

*Cash Bar:*

- House and premium liquor, wines and beer.
- Wines by the bottle will also be available

*Dancing to the fabulous music of*

 **THE KURLAND STREET BAND** 

*Club Contacts:*

Dee Wright  
2515-B NASA Parkway, Ste 5  
Seabrook, TX 77586  
(281) 326-0500

Bill Taylor  
15943 Meadowside Dr.  
Houston, TX 77062  
(281) 422-2733

Gayle Jircik  
1709 Orlando  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
(281) 992-9983

*Reservations will be by check only - \$50 per person and must be received by Wednesday, December 6.*

*Limited Seating – Please send reservations with check to:*

**Seabrook Rotary Club - Christmas Party**  
2515-B NASA Parkway, Suite 5  
Seabrook, TX 77586

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_







# Gov. Suzi's Calendar

[www.rotary5890.org/DistEvents/PostEvents.htm](http://www.rotary5890.org/DistEvents/PostEvents.htm)

**Suzi Howe, District Governor 2006-2007.** E-mail: [suzihowe@earthlink.net](mailto:suzihowe@earthlink.net)  
281.334.7345 (Work & Work Fax); 713.553.5890 (Rotary Mobile);  
281.482.2653 (Home & Rotary Fax); 713.408.0145 (Work Mobile).

## Suzi Says.....

### **"Every Rotarian, Every Year"**

Support the **Rotary Foundation** as a sustaining member by donating \$100 each year.

Please join me in my vision to support a Montessori program in the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush*—a state of the art literacy center that will be part of a major expansion for the Community Family Center and make a huge difference for East End families. This multi-club project will equip a **Montessori classroom** and also establish a **ROTARY PARK** in the *St Luke's playground* that adjoins the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush* and the *John D. McGovern Gymnasium*. I have already pledged \$25,000 from District funds and am asking interested Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians to also contribute funds. Donations of \$1,000 and higher from Rotary Clubs and individual donors will be recognized on a plaque in the **ROTARY PARK**. Pledge your support NOW!

### **April 26-29 – District Conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Fiesta Mixicana Hotel.**

All Rotarians Invited. Reserve NOW for fun, fellowship, and a wealth of Rotary information. Registration form, airline information available at [www.rotary5890.org](http://www.rotary5890.org).



**Rotary Theme  
2006-2007**



*Left, Suzi applauds the good works of Rotary Foundation. Right, David Coney explains those good works and encourages every member to participate.*



**PolioPlus**



**Rotary International**

## *The Rotarian*

**Have you read the November issue?**



- ✓ Tommy Lasorda gets a major league honor - page 10.
- ✓ Do you need calcium supplements? - page 13
- ✓ Did you know that November is Rotary Foundation month? see the article beginning on page 29 for the A to Z of the Foundation.
- ✓ Frank Huezo, recipient of the Service Above Self Award & member of the Kingwood Rotary Club. See page 43. Our club members, Laura Hale, Dick Kidder, Jerome Bourgeois, Vissett Sun, Suzi Howe and others have made several trips with him to Chinandega, Nicaragua.
- ✓ Polio outbreak in Nambia is quashed by quick action - page 57
- ✓ Dong Kurn Lee, member of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang, Seoul, Korea will be RI President 2008-2009 - page 59
- ✓ **Remember, when you are finished reading, turn your issue into the check-in desk for use by the Red Badge Committee.**

# Members' Voice



This page is devoted to the opinions, suggestions, gripes, inquiries, concerns, advisories, etc. of the members of SCRC. This is your voice. Email submissions to the Editor at [Billys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Billys@sbcglobal.net)

*Carlos V. said, "I ask God for all things that I might enjoy life. " God responded, "No. I gave you life that you may enjoy all things."*

## Briskets

**If you ordered a Shrimporee brisket, you may pick it up at the club meeting on December 11th.**

### My Father & The Car

Michael Gartner has been editor of newspapers large and small and president of NBC News. In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. He wrote this story about his father. My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet. "In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it." At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: "Oh, bull----!" she said. "He hit a horse." "Well," my father said, "there was that, too." So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars -- the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the Van Laninghams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford -- but we had none. My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together. My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. "No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one." It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first. But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car. Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother. So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying once. For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps -- though they

seldom left the city limits -- and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work. Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage. (Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.) He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow." After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. (In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored.") If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out -- and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?" "I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre. "No left turns," he said. "What?" I asked. "No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic. As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn." "What?" I said again. "No left turns," he said. "Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights." "You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support. "No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works." But then she added: "Except when your father loses count." I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing. "Loses count?" I asked. "Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You just make seven rights, and you're okay again." I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked. "No," he said. "If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week." My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90. She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102. They both died in the bungalow they had moved

[see page 9 for the end of the story]

## *Events Calendar*

- Christmas Party ..... Dec. 15th
- Club Board of Directors..1st Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees  
.....2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Pancake Breakfast.....Feb 3rd '07
- Boots & Black Tie Event .....Feb or Mar '07
- National Space Award Banquet.....Apr 20,'07
- District 5890 Conference in Puerta  
Villarta, Mexico ..... April 26-29, 2007
- RI Convention, Salt Lake City .....June 2007

*Last Monday's speaker,  
Ford Motor Co. rep.  
Brian Williams, gives  
thanks for Ford's bright  
future in alternative fuel  
vehicles. Check out the  
F150 Ethanol equipped  
pickup on page 1.*



## Say Happy Birthday to ----

Mary Alys Cherry.....Nov 20  
Vince Lipovsky.....Nov 28  
Dave Sincox.....Nov 29



*We would like to recognize you for your  
special day. Email the Editor with the  
date.*

***Happy  
Thanksgiving to  
all.***

## **MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES:**

### Tuesday @ noon

**Pearland  
Golfcrest Country Club  
2501 Country Club Drive**

**LaPorte @ 12:10 p.m.  
St John Episcopal Church  
Broadway @ Ave. G**

### Wednesday @ noon

**Pasadena South  
Baywood Country Club  
5500 Genoa Red Bluff**

### Friendswood @ noon

**Village on the Park  
Retirement Center  
400 E. Parkwood**

### Thursday @ &:7:00 a.m.

**Seabrook  
Lakewood Yacht Club  
2425 NASA Parkway**

### Thursday @ noon

**League City  
Estaban's Fiesta Shack  
131 League Street**

### Friday @ noon

**Pasadena  
First United Methodist Church  
1062 Farimont Pkwy**

### Make up @ an E-club

[http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/eclub\\_list.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/eclub_list.pdf)

**Mr. Rotary, Floyd Boze,  
57 years of perfect attendance.**

**The Rotary Motto:  
*Service Above Self***

**OFFICERS**

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**President Elect: Dick Gregg, III**  
**Secretary: Mike Hernandez**  
**Treasurer: Gary Johnson**  
**Sgt @ Arms: Rafael Lugo**

**DIRECTORS**

<b>Club Administration:</b>	<b>Mark Humphrey</b>
<b>Public Relations:</b>	<b>Scott Rainey</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Bill Taylor</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Mike Cornett</b>
<b>Community Svc A</b>	<b>Tony Bloomfield</b>
<b>Community Svc B</b>	<b>Pam Culpepper</b>
<b>International Svc A</b>	<b>Jerrold Dewease</b>
<b>International Svc B</b>	<b>Dick Kidder</b>
<b>Vocational Service</b>	<b>Art Wood</b>

**OTHERS**

<b>Bill Lowes</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Murray Epstein</b>
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<b>Billy Smith</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Bob Mitchell</b>
<b>Song Leader</b>	<b>Debby McBride</b>
<b>Pianist</b>	<b>Job Open</b>
<b>Laura Hale</b>	<b>Red Badgers</b>

**DISTRICT GOVERNORS**

<b>Suzie Howe</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>
<b>Billy Weseman</b>	<b>1993-1994</b>
<b>Floyd Boze</b>	<b>1981-1982</b>

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 5890 RAFFLE**

**Win a trip to South Africa!**

**The trip includes:**

- ◆ **round trip airfare from Houston.**
- ◆ **accommodations furnished by the Rotary Club of South Africa.**
- ◆ **3-day pass to Kruger National Park.**
- ◆ **Total value \$7,500.**
- ◆ **Drawing on April 28, 2007 (you need not be present to win).**
- ◆ **Tickets are \$10 each or \$100 for a book of 10.**
- ◆ **Your purchase of a book of tickets will make you a Paul Harris Sustaining Member.**

**Rotary on the Web**  
**[www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**

**Meal Tickets for 10 meals are available at the check-in table.**  
**The price is \$150.**

*The Blastoff Staff*

**Editor: Billy Smith**  
**Photographer: Bob Mitchell**  
**Deadline for submission of material for publication:**  
**5:00 p.m. Wednesday**  
**Distribution via email on Friday**

**DISCARDED EYEGLASSES (RX OR NOT) & CASES & HOTEL TOILETRIES ARE NEEDED. BRING THEM TO A MEETING & DEPOSIT THEM IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED BY VIC MARIA.**



## **Paul Harris Fellows** **Wear your medallion each meeting in November.**

### **Keep Our Club Alive & Healthy Infuse New Blood & Offer To Others The Opportunity to Serve**

Do you know a friend or colleague who has all the qualities of a good Rotarian? If you do, then consider proposing them for membership. Every Rotarian has the privilege and obligation of seeking qualified Rotary Club members. In this way, all Rotarians can help the club achieve a full representation of the business and professional life of this community. A full roster of dedicated member enhances fellowship and helps our club carry out our worthwhile service projects. Think about the expertise you can add to the club's profile. Every new Rotarian brings a range of personal and professional resources that can greatly strengthen this club's ability to serve throughout the greater Clear Lake - Bay Area and the world. General Qualifications: Rotarians are adults of good character and good business or professional reputation, who hold or have an executive position with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession.

### **The Object of Rotary:**

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster —

- ★ The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- ★ High ethical standards in business and professions;
- ★ The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations;
- ★ and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- ★ The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;
- ★ The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

**STOP WAR!! MAKE EVERYONE  
JOIN ROTARY.**

**November is Rotary  
Foundation Month.  
Are you a Paul Harris  
Fellow yet; a sustaining  
member; a benefactor; a  
major donor?**

### **The Mission of the Rotary Foundation:**

The Mission of The Rotary Foundation is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfillment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary's Mission, and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national, and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. Specifically, the R I Board and the Trustees are committed to achieving the goals of eradicating polio through the completion of the PolioPlus program; to emphasizing and strengthening educational and cultural programs, which enhance goodwill and understanding; to making grants which fulfill humanitarian needs in all areas of the world; and to expanding programs intended to strengthen peaceful relations among people.

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- \* John & Suzanne Urbanek
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into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom -- the house had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.) He continued to walk daily -- he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising -- and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died. One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news. A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, "You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred." At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, "You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer." "You're probably right," I said. "Why would you say that?" He countered, somewhat irritated. "Because you're 102 years old," I said. "Yes," he said, "you're right." He stayed in bed all the next day. That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night. He appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: "I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet." An hour or so later, he spoke his last words: "I want you to know," he said, clearly and lucidly, "that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have." A short time later, he died. I miss him a lot, and I think about him a

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**Michael Brown, President**

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**Attorneys at Law**

lot. I've wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long. I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life. Or because he quit taking left turns.  
**The End.**

# The Citizen

**Mary Alys Cherry**

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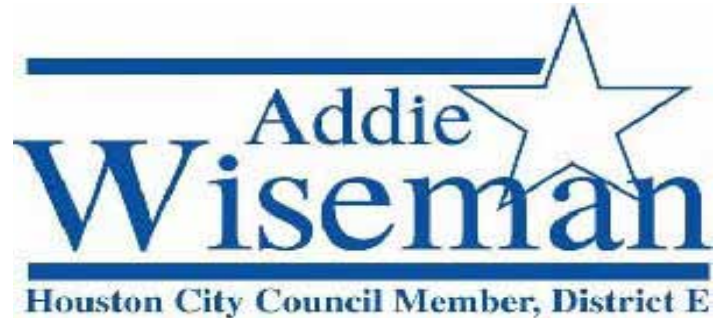
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