

## Volume 38, No. 37

Today

April 7, 2009

**Program:** *Kathy Simpson*, Rotarian and the 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. of the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council

**Program chair:**

- *Anndrea Blackshear* (2008-2009)
- *Donna Gallagher* (April 2009)

Next week

April 14, 2009

**Program:** *Michelle Phillips*, Director of the Green Valley Community Foundation

Last week

March 31, 2009

**Visiting Rotarians:**

- *Don Walchholz* (Minocqua, WI)
- *Joe Butcher* (Cimarron, KA)
- *George Higginson* (Holland, MI)
- *Ernie Gilliatt* (Guelph Trillium Ont, CAN)
- *Larry Kempton* (Valle Verde)

**Sojourners:**

- 8 previously introduced Sojourners

**Makeups:**

- *Anndrea Blackshear* (eClub)
- *Joyce Finkelstein* (PETS)
- *Father Mike Shay* (Rio Rico)

**Guests:**

- *Charles Field* (Dick Roberts)
- *Laura Acosta* (Arleen Boyuls)
- *Rev. Larry DeLong*
- *Nan Walden* (Dick Walden)
- *Denise Long* (John)

**Student of the Month**

- Sahuarita High School student *John Long* has been our student guest during March. As a finale, John noted that volunteerism has been a vital plank in his life. He works at Wal\*Mart and plans on attending Pima Community College where he will enroll in the Police Academy.

## Announcements

**Anniversary**

- *Mark and Barbara Dugan*

**The Golden Pencil Award** - For Rotarianesque service, President *Jerry Ochs* presented *Becky Roberts* and *David Smith* the award today. After the G.V. Rotary board determined it prudent to cancel the Radio Auction for 2009, these two volunteered to assist in the drive the Food Bank promoted last week.



**More on the Food Bank, et al** - Food Bank Director *Mary Jane Goodrick* reported sizeable increases in donations from 2008. The two events included that mentioned above and the collaborative effort (G.V. Food Bank, G.V. Assistance Services, KGVY and G.V. Rotary) held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Valley Presbyterian Church.

**G.V. Rotary shirts** - *Dick Roberts* noted shirts would be ordered during this week (April 7<sup>th</sup> +.) The cost will be around \$40. So! This is the last chance to place an order.

**Club Social** - Dr. *Bill Miller* reported some 30+ were in attendance for this March 27<sup>th</sup> event. Bios of mystery Sojourners were placed on the tables. The results of the contest indicated we know our Sojourners well.

**MedianGreen** - *Mitch Salyers* reminded volunteers that a safety training session "is coming up." The club's commitment is for an improvement project on Esperanza.

**District Assembly April 11** - A reminder!!!!

- Convenient - to be held at the Community Church on Esperanza and LaCanada
- Fees paid by the club
- All are urged to attend - especially current and new board members
- **Let Secretary Mike Pease know today**

## The Program

March 31, 2009

A story of local history and a successful business venture were combined within *Dick Walden's* presentation to Rotary.

Plus, who better to tell the story first hand? Our speaker grew up on the company's (later FICO) Continental Farms when the only formal communities in the area were Tubac and Tumacacori. Walden grew up participating in all aspects of agricultural operations (cotton, lettuce, vegetables, cattle, sheep and now pecans.) He witnessed the origination of Green Valley and its growth and, since 1983, has served as FICO's president.

There were interruptions. During the 60's, he earned a degree in economics from Pomona College and one from Stanford Graduate School of Business. Later in the 60's he served as a U.S. Army Aviator with duties in Viet Nam. There, he received the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Medal with 3-Oak Leaf Clusters.

The lands west of the highway systems (presumably Old Nogales Highway and I-19) were rangelands where his father Keith Walden ranged cattle. Backtracking to the 1914's, when the government needed sources to grow guayule for rubber production during WWI, investors in the Continental Farms included Joe Kennedy, Bernard Baruch and other significant personalities. Holland's Queen Wilhelmina was the primary owner in a collaborative that began cotton production in the early 1920's.

Keith Walden took over the cotton raising operations in 1937 and in 1946 founded the Farmers Investment Co (FICO.) In the late 50's, Walden Sr. converted the cotton operation to the raising, harvesting and marketing of pecans. Walden knew that soil and water conditions prevailed that would be conducive to pecan farming. Furthermore, he was interested in getting involved with an agricultural product that would allow machine-harvesting techniques.

There are two entities:

- FICO - Owner of pecan farms and orchards
- Green Valley Pecan Co - pecan shelling and marketing operation

Continued on back panel

Continued from front panel

Today FICO has Arizona facilities in Eloy, Picacho, Maricopa, San Simon and Sahuarita. **Dick Walden** also noted they have operations in Georgia and Florida. FICO is the largest grower and processor of pecans with farming operations covering 7,000 acres at this time.

Walden referred to the "pecan culture" which speaks to the operation:

- Trees began greening 10 days ago
- 25% of crop will be pruned each winter season
- Pruning stimulates more youthful vegetation and provides a better quality nut
- Harvesting takes place around Thanksgiving - trees are shaken with a mechanized device, then raked and sent on to the processing plant on Sahuarita Road east of Old Nogales Hwy.
- During processing, debris is removed, the pecans are sorted and then transported to cold storage facilities in Sahuarita and Las Cruces, NM.
- The shelling and hot water processing operations can occur throughout the year, thereby avoiding peaks and valleys in the work scheduling for their employees

So! What is next? Showing family pictures, Walden explained wife Nan and daughter Deb are heavily involved in FICO operations today. Coming up is another Walden generation.

A big thank you to **David Appleton** for arranging this interesting program and to the Waldens for their stewardship in Green Valley/ Sahuarita, as a significant community employer and for their personal support and involvement here.

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## The raffle

March 31, 2009

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### \$100 credit to a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) award

- **David Appleton**

### April 7, 2009 drawing for the PHF awards

- **Bill Copeland, David Sirota, Dick Roberts** and **Arleen Boyuls**

### Winner of the wine

- **David Link**

**Noble Rose**, Editor  
**Bill McGibbon**, Photographer

## Rotary Club of Green Valley

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### 2008-09 Board of Directors

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#### President:

- **Jerry Ochs**

#### President Elect:

- **Mitch Salyers**

#### Vice President:

- **Joyce Finkelstein**

#### Secretary:

- **Michael Pease** [GVRotary@yahoo.com](mailto:GVRotary@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer:

- **Jim Mack**

#### Immediate Past President:

- **Mark Dugan**

#### Directors:

- Administration: **Ray Colony**
- Membership: **Becky Roberts**
- Public Relations: **Noble Rose**
- Rotary Foundation: **Father Michael Shay**
- Service Projects: **Donna Gallagher**

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### General Information

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#### District 5500

- **Tom Tilton**, District Governor (Tucson Sunrise Club)

#### District 5500 - locally involved

- **Father Michael Shay**, Ass't District Governor
- **Arleen Boyuls**, District Membership Chair
- **Dick Roberts**, District Celebration Chair

#### Club website

- <http://www.rotaryclubofgreenvalley.org>

#### 2008- 09 Green Valley Rotary Foundation Trustees:

**David Appleton, Andy Heideman, Becky Roberts, Dr. Tom Bunting** and **Jerry Ochs**

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### Makeup locations

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#### To make up on-line

- <http://www.rotaryclubone.org>

#### **Monday @ 12:10 PM** - Tucson Old Pueblo Club

- McMahon's Steak House - Swan @ Ft. Lowell

#### **Tuesday @ 5:30 PM** - Sahuarita Rotary Club

- Ashley Home Store's Community Room

#### **Wednesday @ 6:45 AM** - Rio Rico Rotary Club

- Esplendor Resort at Rio Rico - I-19 Exit 17 West

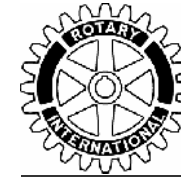
#### **Thursday @ 6:45 AM** - Valle Verde Rotary Club

- GV Community Church - Esperanza at LaCan~ada

#### **Friday @ 8:00 AM** - Tubac Rotary Club

- Tubac Country Club - 65 Avenida De Otero

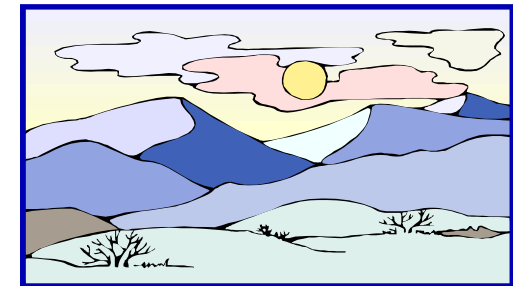
# The Desert Wheel



**Dong Kurn Lee (D.K.)**

R.I. President

Rotary Club of Yangdong, South Korea



The Rotary Club of Green Valley meets  
On Tuesdays @ 11:45 AM at the  
St. Francis-in-the Valley Episcopal Church  
600 S. LaCañada Drive

P.O. Box 701 - Green Valley, AZ 85622