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Ramblings

GARDEN GROVE KIWANIS RAMBLINGS, PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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Jerry Margolin is still on vacation, so Gerry Newkirk is taking care of the bulletin again this week.

Mother's Day Salute a Big Success. . .

The Mother's Day Dinner was well attended and a good time and excellent dinner was enjoyed by the attendees. **Alta Beaudoin** was the special guest of **President John** and his wife, Jenn. She was looking great. It is always a pleasure to see Alta at the Club (or anywhere else!).

Dr. Laura Schwalm, Superintendent of the Garden Grove Unified School District and member and past president of the morning Garden Grove Kiwanis Club was our guest speaker. The GGUSD was named a National Finalist for Broad Prize for Urban Education for Third Consecutive Year. This again guarantees at least \$125,000 for student scholarships. The Garden Grove Unified School District was established July, 1965. The district encompasses 28 square miles of territory, serving most of Garden Grove and portions of six surrounding cities - Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton, and Westminster. The 2003-04 budget is \$421.4 million, making the district the largest enterprise in Garden Grove. The district is the second largest among 28 public school districts in Orange County, ranks 12th in size among 1,054 school districts in California, and is the 87th largest school district of 14,800 in the U.S. The district employs more than 5,000 staff members and operates 70 schools: 47 elementary, 10 intermediate, 7 high schools, 2 continuation schools, 2 adult education centers, and 2 special education schools.

Craig Howard Inducted

Craig Howard was officially inducted into the Garden Grove Kiwanis Club tonight. Craig grew up in Westminster and Garden Grove and attended GGUSD Intermediate, Junior and High Schools. He lives in Garden Grove with his wife Monnie and daughters Lauren and Jenna. His daughters are cheerleaders at Pacifica High School (who the Club has helped sponsor their cheerleading competitions). He works in the Aerospace Industry and is currently working for Ratheon. He is looking forward to being a member of the Club and helping on the Club to serve the community. Welcome Craig!!!

Announcements

Don't forget to sign up for the Kiwanis Corn Booth at the Strawberry Festival. Corn Booth Chairman **Jon Elliott** still has openings in the schedule and notices that there are club members who still haven't signed up. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and the money we earn goes directly towards support of the park. Every Club member should be signed up for at least one shift (if not more.....).

Congratulations to our own **Tom Elliott**, who was selected for the 2004/2005 O.C. Grand Jury. The final selection was held on 5/12/04. There are 19 Grand Jurors and 3 alternates. Way to go Tom! Linda Rodgers, friend of many in the club, was also selected. Following a seven-day training program, the members and three alternates will officially take the oath of office and begin their one-year term on July 1, 2004.

Next week our speaker will be **Tom Wilson**, Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

President's Corner has expanded again this week

Parenting involves a series of choices. The most satisfying thing about it is that you really cannot go wrong if you choose to spend more time, effort or money on the children. They say inside every fat person is a skinny person trying to get out. Well, inside me is a 450 lb. circus freak yearning to breathe free. The only way I can keep my weight down is by running diligently four to five times a week. Well, that's not the only way, but the other ways include dieting, and that's out of the question. I like to run early in the mornings so I do not have to breathe exhaust fumes and do not miss any time with my daughters. That has worked well until recently when Claire's sleep habits inexplicably changed. She had been stirring once about 2:30 am, needing to be held and walked around for twenty minutes to fall back asleep. She woke up again around seven needing to be fed and changed. I get the early morning duty because I am gone by seven. But lately she has been sleeping right through our 2 am appointment and waking hungry and cranky at 5 am. While I enjoy not interrupting my sleep, five is prime running time, and for some reason, walking around the house is not nearly calming enough to get her back to sleep now. So the other day, after changing and feeding her, I could not get her back to sleep, so I tried lying down with her on my chest. I planned to get her to sleep, then roll her off and go running. She knocked out instantly--her warm cheek on my bare shoulder, fingers and feet flexing slowly on my stomach and thighs, and her nose emitting a soft honking sound with every exhale. I could feel her weight pressing down on my torso. Suddenly, the prospect of leaving her in the bed with Jenn while I took the dog out for a pre-dawn sweat session did not seem so appealing. Jenn said that she had not been napping that way since she was three months old, and really missed it. She is getting close to walking now, closer to a toddler than a baby, and we are feeling pangs of melancholy. So having her sleep on my chest is an especially fulfilling reminder of her early days. It's okay. I can run more next year. *Have a great week.—John*

Thought for the week

“The secret to a good life is to have more beginnings than endings!”