

The 4-L4 Forum

The Official Publication of Lions District 4-L4, California

Volume 86 Number 1 July 2007

"Roar with Enthusiasm"



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Jon Casteel

District Governor
Jon Casteel

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Greetings to the Lions, Leos and Friends of District 4-L4:

As you know, my motto for this year is "Roar with Enthusiasm", and in my last article I talked a little bit about that. The theme for our International President, Mahendra Amarasuriya is "Challenge to Change". Sometimes change can be difficult, however change is all around us. The seasons change from the freezing winter to the warm spring to the hot summer to the leaves falling in autumn. The cars we drive and the phones we use have changed. Certainly our children change from helpless babies to awkward teenagers to independent (hopefully) adults. **We** change from our strong youthful selves to older, grayer, and wiser selves. Change is part of life.

If the thought of change is just too much for some of us, think about change as development. We develop from the foolishness of youth to the wisdom of old age, yet we are still ourselves. Tiger Woods was not born a great golfer, he had to develop his skill. Hopefully, we have developed as Lions. If not, what skills are ready to be developed and improved? What programs within the club or district can be developed and improved? Think about it.

The other aspect of President Mahendra's "Challenge to Change" is challenge. The idea of challenge involves some risk, some effort, and some guts. If something is easy, it is not a challenge. We as Lions need to have the courage and guts to be the best that we can be. It might mean that we have to look at ourselves a little differently, try some new ideas, and push ourselves a little further than before. Isn't that what Neil Armstrong did? Isn't that what Henry Ford did? Isn't that what Melvin Jones did? Are you up for the "Challenge to Change"?

With enthusiasm in Lionism,

Lion Jon Casteel

District Governor

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VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH WARREN



DG Jon hosted an excellent Cabinet Retreat on July 21 for the outgoing and incoming Cabinet members. The ideas that were generated and discussed showed how communication and the sharing of ideas are so important at all levels – Club, Zone, and Region.

I have attended some fundraisers and installations and was thrilled to hear that some clubs are already arranging the induction of new members. IPDG Jack had already reported at the Retreat that the new UC Irvine Lions Club is planning its Charter Celebration, all signs that 4-L4 is going in the right direction at the beginning of our new Lions year.

By the time this Forum is published, the installation of the new Cabinet will have taken place. Since I could not be there, DG Jon arranged a surprise installation for me at my Club meeting in July. Oh my, was I surprised!! PCC Ed Bordenkircher did the honors and there were representatives from several Foothill Region Clubs in attendance. It was an event I will never forget and I am so pleased that I am officially your Vice District Governor.

I am excited that Club visitations begin for me the day after I get back from Russia, so see you then.

In Lionism

Elizabeth

Vice District Governor



Lions & Friends have raised
\$103,801,740
through Campaign SightFirst II
Goal \$150,000.000



2007 GOVERNOR'S VISITATION SCHEDULE

CABINET SECRETARY'S CORNER



MARTHA HEBERT

Greetings District 4-L4 Lions,

Congratulations to our new District Governor Jon Casteel and First Lady Sheila. Jon was installed in Chicago at the Convention. Our district is going to have an exciting journey this year.

There was special installation for Vice-District Governor Elizabeth Warren as she was going to be in Russia on July 29. Her club had a SURPRISE Installation at their July meeting with PCC Ed Bordenkircher doing the honors, and clubs from the Foothill Region attending. She was surprised. Congratulations Elizabeth.

The Officers of District 4-L4 met at the Boy Scouts of America Building in Santa Ana for it training on June 16. There was training for every position held in the district with very qualified instructors for each position.

Thanks to PDGs Danny Mayer, Barbara Hayward, Lowell Sneathen, Lions Cesar Vargas, Pat Rizco, Sue Bialek, and Ken Sherwood for doing the training.

The training was very well attended and I think everyone went away that day feeling good about what they had learned and were enthusiastic about doing a good job this year.

Congratulations also to Governor Jon's new cabinet who were installed at the El Niguel Country Club in Laguna Niguel on Sunday, July 29, 2007. We had a nice turnout for this special occasion.

I would like to Thanks all the Zone Chairmen for helping with the calling of Clubs regarding the reservations for the first cabinet meeting.

Secretaries thank you for getting the MMR and VAD Reports to me before the deadline. Keep up the good work.

Treasurers you should be receiving bills from International and MD-4 for dues. Please see that these bills are paid promptly. This is important for your President to receive 100% President's Award.

Yours in Lionism,

Martha Hebert
Cabinet Secretary

AUGUST

1	Wed.	6:30 pm	Newport Beach Hawaiian
8	Wed	Noon	Stanton
9	Thurs	7:00 pm	Brea
14	Tue	6:45 pm	Costa Mesa/Newport Harbor
15	Wed	7:15 am	Fullerton Breakfast
16	Thurs	7:00 pm	Huntington Beach Host
21	Tue	7:00 pm	La Habra Host
22	Wed	7:00 pm	San Clemente
23	Thurs	11:30 am	Santa Ana Host
28	Tue	Noon	Buena Park Noon
29	Wed	Noon	Garden Grove Host
30	Thurs	7:00 am	Costa Mesa O.C.

SEPTEMBER

4	Tues	12:15 pm	Ontario Host
5	Wed	Noon	Laguna Niguel
11	Tues	12:15 pm T	ustin Host
12	Wed	Cucamonga Host 60th Anniversary	
13	Thurs	6:45 pm	Ontario-Upland
14	Fri	7:00 am	Pomona Breakfast
17	Mon	7:00 am	Diamond Bar Breakfast
18	Tue	6:30 pm	Chinese-American
19	Wed	7:00 pm	Orange Host
20	Thurs	11:30 am	La Habra Noon
26	Wed	Noon	Irvine Multi-Cultural
27	Thurs	6:30 pm	Chino Valley

OCTOBER

1	Mon	6:30 pm	Harbor Mesa
2	Tue	7:00 pm	Fullerton Host
4	Thurs	6:30 pm	Walnut/Diamond Bar
7	Sun	4:00 pm	O.C. Costa Rican
17	Wed	7:00 pm	Seal Beach Host
18	Thurs	12:10 pm	Pomona Host
24	Wed	6:45 pm	Mission Viejo

NOVEMBER

1	Thurs	6:30 pm	Anaheim
7	Wed	7:00 pm	O.C. Korean American
14	Wed	6:45 pm	Cucamonga District Host
15	Thurs	6:30 pm	Rancho Cucamonga Comm
21	Wed	7:00 pm	O.C. Central
29	Thurs	7:30 am	Upland Host

Unscheduled: Westminster



FOOTHILL REGION REPORT

CHAIRMAN
JACK LIGHTFOOT

A captain of Road Prison 36 was having trouble with a prisoner. Confronting the cantankerous inmate he spoke a line that movie-goers have been repeating since Cool Hand Luke hit the silver screen in 1967: "What we've got here is a failure to communicate." No, folks, the line wasn't "What we have here is a failure to communicate," as is often stated.

Are the Lions doing a good job communicating? With ourselves? With those around us? Think about your own club's activities. Does it have a bulletin that goes out to members? Does it have a written agenda for meetings? Does it have a telephone committee to keep members abreast of events? Is information about zone, region and district meetings passed on to members? Is there an active visitation program in place, so ideas can be exchanged with other clubs? Now is the time to get a jump start on these concepts that are part of a successful year.

How about spreading the Lions message around town? Do you wear your Lions pin regularly? Do you talk about your club's activities with associates and friends? Do you have eyeglass drop-off containers spread around town? Asking merchants to display our containers can be a good conversation starter about joining us. Newspaper coverage, flyers and notices about our projects and fundraisers help spread the word. Membership, publicity and project chairmen should be thinking about these and other ways of getting the Lions name out on the street.

The Auto Club announced that gas prices were up one cent in the latter part of July. You can blame the increase to the gas pump activity created by our three Foothill Region All-Star Zone Chairs making some visitations.

Zone A's Sandi Richmond was at a special event at the Cucamonga Community Club's meeting on the 19th of July. Seems that our incoming Vice District Governor, Elizabeth Warren, wasn't going to be in town for the installation of the incoming district officers. Ontario Host's PCC Ed Bordenkircher was drafted to perform a surprise installation ceremony for Lion Elizabeth. Governor Jon and first lady Lion Sheila were in attendance. There were 17 ½ visiting Lions there (the ½ was a former Cucamonga District Host member visiting from out of state, Dusty Duffman). The visitors were eleven members from the Ontario-Upland Club, three of the Upland Host-ers and three from the Cucamonga District Host Club.

**SAVE THE DATE - YOU ARE
WANTED**



TO ATTEND

**HARBOR MESA LIONS
WILD WEST CASINO
NIGHT**

Friday, October 26, 2007
Information: Call 714-962-0265

On July 9th the Zone A presidents and secretaries met at Lion Ken and Denise Myers' home for a retreat. Ken is president of the Upland Host Club. He and his wife volunteered to host a dinner for the group. Zone Chair Sandi led discussions on upcoming club, region, and district events, the various district contests, and ideas for fundraising and service projects.

All four of the Zone A clubs have begun making visitations. Here's what the Zone A calendar shows:

July 5 and 19 – Upland Host manned a booth at the Upland .Street Fair. They have been successful at attracting several new members through this venue.

August 3 – Upland Host Fish Bake – the whole town shows up for this.

August 4 – Cucamonga District Host Summer Swim Party and BBQ at the home of Lions Andy and Shari Megaw.

August 6 – Foothill Zones A & B Joint Zone Meeting (spaghetti dinner)

September 12 – Cucamonga District Host 60th anniversary

Zone B's Gayle Garbo got up early one Friday to have a Mexican breakfast with the Pomona Breakfast Lions. "They're loud" she said. The Club's band is legendary and its dance routine is one for the ages.

Zone C's Wanda Tanaka and her escort, Lion Jack, together with yours truly and Pomona Host's Lion Steve King dropped in for dinner with the Brea Lions. The club had just finished having the 48th Annual Orange County North-South All-Star Football Game. Talk about a project! This one has it all – community involvement, youth activity, fund raising and promotion of Lionism. A future all-star and his father were there to thank the club for its efforts. Dad is the school's Booster Club president and said he was a prospective member.

Save the date of September 10 for the Foothill Region meeting. "South of the Border" is the theme. We'll be at the Ontario Masonic Lodge, 1025 N. Vine Avenue, Ontario. Dinner starts at 6:30.

Aspire to inspire before you expire!

Next month – "It gets late early there" according to Yogi Berra.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

PDG CHUCK OVERBEY

I am delighted to report that, to the best of my knowledge, we have lost no members since my July article. Therefore, I would like to use my space to tell one of my favorite stories about Attitude. It reflects a lesson we all need to accept.

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation, etc.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those times where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band, he could see it. In his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window described it in every detail.

Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. He was astounded to see that the window faced a brick wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate to describe such wonderful things outside this window.

The nurse responded that the man, who had died, was blind and could not even see the wall. She said to the puzzled patient, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you and make you happier. There is tremendous joy in being able to bring happiness to another".

Cucamonga District Host Lions Club

Announces Our

60th Anniversary

Dinner

September 12, 2007

at 6:30pm

Sycamore Inn.

Rancho Cucamonga

\$37.50 PER PERSON

*Choice of Soup or Salad
Hot Sourdough Bread and Butter
Choice of one of the following:
Top Sirloin with red wine sauce
Herb Roasted Breast of Chicken with white wine sauce
Filet of Salmon with pinot noir sauce
Served with fresh seasonal vegetables and classic
mashed russet potatoes
Dessert
Hot and cold beverage service*

Make checks payable to:
Cucamonga District Host Lions Club

Send checks or give money to
Lion Andy Megaw to reserve your spot.
8553 Bella Vista Drive, Rancho Cucamonga CA 91701
For more information contact Lion Andy at
andymegaw@yahoo.com



HARBOR MESA LIONS CLUB

SPAGHETTI SPLASH



Saturday, August 11, 2007
5 p.m. to ????

at Proctor's Vineyard
9690 Dove Circle
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

(714) 968-9916

Join us for a fun night, Italian Style: Spaghetti, Sausages, Salad, Bread,
Dessert, Music, Raffle, and More!! Mama Mia, dis issa gonna be fun!!

Cost per person: \$12.00
(Your check is your R.S.V.P due by 8/6)

Mail your check payable to Harbor-Mesa Lions Club
Send to Lion Carol Proctor at above address

PROCEEDS GO TO LCIF AND OTHER CHARITIES

REGION & ZONE CHAIRMAN TRAINING JUNE 9, 2007

All the Region and Zone Chairmen met at the Garden Grove Club House for training on June 9, 2007. PDG Danny Mayer was the instructor for the Zone Chairmen and Lion Joanne Waltman was the instructor for the Region Chairmen.

Cabinet Secretary Martha Hebert reported "These were a very good sessions as there are new duties for each of these position to get them more involved with the District. "

Our Region Chairmen are Foothill Region, Jack Lightfoot; Orange Region, Margaret Santandrea; and Saddleback Region, Jack Luellen.



Our Zone Chairmen are Foothill Region Zone A, Sandi Richmond, Zone B, Gayle Garbo and Zone C Wanda Tanaka; Orange Region Zone A, Kathy Felix, Zone B, Margaret Santandrea (until filled), and Zone C, Dave Hubbard (until filled); Saddleback Region Zone A, Steve Christy, Zone B, Charlotte McNamara, and Zone C, Sue Bialek.



Also attending were Governor Elect Jon and Sheila Casteel, Vice-Governor Elect Elizabeth Warren, Cabinet Secretary Martha Hebert, Cabinet Treasurer Marianne Allen and Public Relations Chairman Ken Sherwood.

Thanks PDG Dan Mayer and Lion Joanne Waltman for teaching these sessions.

The Huntington Beach Host Lions Club's

15th Annual OKTOBERFEST

Thur., October 4, 2007
7:00 p.m.

at **Old World Restaurant**
in Huntington Beach
(on Center Street)

\$11.00 per person
Choice of Bratwurst or Chicken Dinner
Includes 1-beer, 1 wine, or 1-soda

Bring your significant other,
or a guest - there'll be good food
and great fun!

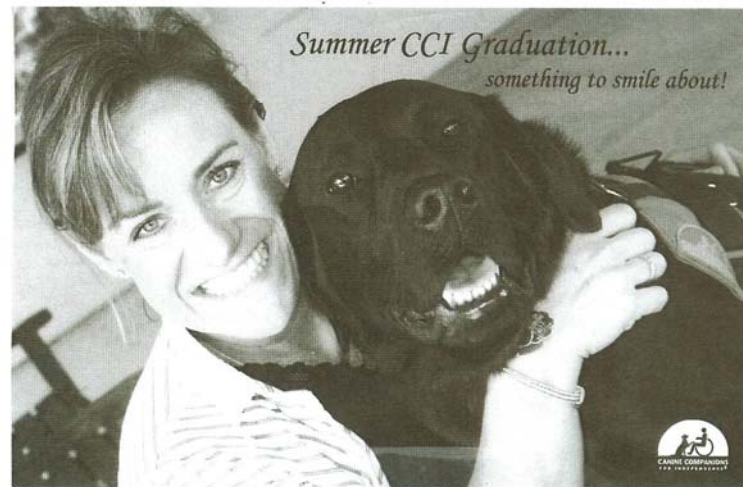
Why Not Make this an
Official Club Visitation?

For More Information Please Call
Lion Barbara Tillman
(949) 706-0622

BEER DRINKING CONTEST

OOMPAH BAND

RAFFLE PRIZES



Please Join us for Graduation
Saturday, August 18, 2007
at 12 Clock Noon

Mission San Luis Rey, Serra Center
4070 Mission Ave. Oceanside, CA

For more information, please visit
www.cci.org or call 760-901-4300.

Working dogs and pups-in-program
are welcome; no pets please.

Directions: From I-5, take Hwy. 76
EAST 4 miles to Rancho del Oro Dr.,
go LEFT, follow signs to CCI parking.

Cover: Service Team Muffy Davis & Leibe. Photo by Aeryl Carmignani.





**31st Annual
USA/Canada Lions
Leadership Forum
September 6-8, 2007
Grand Rapids, Michigan**



Take advantage of this top-of-the-line leadership training. The mission of the Forum is to develop leaders, motivate and educate attendees, provide an open exchange of ideas, and support programs and goals of Lions Clubs International.

For more information: www.usacanadalionsforum.org



HEARING & SPEECH ACTION NEWS

August 1, 2007

Lions Clubs International has just reminded me that the responsibilities of the Health & Children's Services Department are:

- Lion's Services for Children
- Diabetes Awareness
- Hearing & Speech Action & Work with the Deaf
- Sight Conservation & Work with the Blind

Now that our Hearing Aid Bank has merged into the Sight & Hearing Foundation we now have two District Approved Projects under one roof, covering two of the four services listed above. Please keep in mind that your donations to the 4-L4 Sight & Hearing Foundation must specify how much goes to each Project. The total should equal what previously would have been given in two separate checks.

Some reasons for Lions to combat hearing loss that are not commonly considered have been in the news this year. In a New York Times article (July 12, 2007) it was pointed out by AARP that there are now more people with hearing loss between ages 45 and 64 than there are over 65. This is the first wave of the rock-and-roll generation; the most common cause previously for noise-induced hearing loss has been industrial noise.

Investor's Business Daily (May 23, 2007) in an article titled "TAKE ACTION: Turn Up Treatment For Hearing Loss" quoted a Better Hearing Institute survey which found that 2/3 of people with hearing loss are below retirement age and still working. Untreated hearing loss cuts household income nearly \$23,000 annually. These people are more likely to continue working into their 70's and 80's to supplement reduced retirement and investment savings.

Lions can learn more by requesting the free booklet "Your Guide to Better Hearing" from the Better Hearing Institute, www.betterhearing.org or 1-800-327-9355.

Keith Campbell, Chairman
4-L4 Hearing & Speech Action

La Habra Host Lions Club



**Presents the
59th Annual
Corn Festival
And Parade**

**El Centro Lions Park
La Habra, CA**

Food
Games
Rides
& over 70 Vendor Booths

Friday, August 3 - 5 pm to 11 pm
Saturday, August 4 - 11 am to 11 pm
Sunday, August 5 - Noon to 8 pm

For Festival Information call:
Randy McMillan at 562.691.3482



SEAL BEACH LIONS CELEBRATE 63RD ANNUAL FISH FRY

There is nothing more pleasant than experiencing the cool breeze that comes over the Seal Beach pier. Add a successful Fish Fry and you have a perfect weekend!

The Seal Beach Lions celebrated a successful 63rd Annual Fish Fry. As President Dacve Hubbard puts it - "The only way I can describe the Fish Fry is AWESOME!!!!!! The only way I can describe the Lions and friends who worked the Fish Fry is AWESOME!!!!!! When the numbers are in, it will show that this year's Fish Fry was the biggest best!."



Lions Gay Snyder (l) and Renee Schulte entice a visitor to purchase raffle tickets for prizes generously donated by all of the merchants in Seal Beach.



The Seal Beach Leos Club is always there to help.

In addition to the Fish Fry, The SB Lions held their annual truck raffle drawing. They have no problem selling all 500 of the \$100 tickets available. Word has spread fast and far. This year's winner of a 2007 Nissan Xterra was from Plano, Texas!



Guests come from far and wide, or at least from Huntington Beach to experience the fun and food, as did these Huntington Beach Host Lions.



Lion Ray Longoria shows off the great fish offered to guests.

Congratulations to newer member Gay Snyder who sold 50 of the truck raffle tickets! Every club needs such committed new members! Also, kudos to Fish Fry Chairman Bruce Gormley and Truck Raffle Chairman Khryste Langlais for all their hard work.



Just another day in paradise.

**IN CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF
WOMEN IN LIONS
WORDS FROM POET MAYA ANGELOUS**

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ...

enough money within her control to move out and rent a place of her own, even if she never wants to or needs to...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ...

something perfect to wear if the employer, or date of her dreams wants to see her in an hour...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ..

a youth she's content to leave behind....

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ...

a past juicy enough that she's looking forward to retelling it in her old age....

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

a set of screwdrivers, a cordless drill, and a black lace bra...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE .

one friend who always makes her laugh... and one who lets her cry...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

a good piece of furniture not previously owned by anyone else in her family...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ...

eight matching plates, wine glasses with stems, and a recipe for a meal, that will make her guests feel honored...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE ...

a feeling of control over her destiny.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

how to fall in love without losing herself.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

how to quit a job, break up with a lover, and confront a friend without; ruining the friendship..

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

when to try harder... and WHEN TO WALK AWAY...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

that she can't change the length of her calves, the width of her hips, or the nature of her parents..

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

that her childhood may not have been perfect...but its over...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

what she would and wouldn't do for love or more...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

how to live alone... even if she doesn't like it...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW..

whom she can trust, whom she can't, and why she shouldn't take it personally...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

where to go...be it to her best friend's kitchen table...or a charming inn in the woods...when her soul needs soothing...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

what she can and can't accomplish in a day...a month...and a year...

**Laguna Niguel Lions Club
4th Annual Golf Tournament**

El Niguel Country Club

23700 Clubhouse Drive, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Monday, October 22, 2007

\$175 – per Golfer

12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

4-person Scramble

Lunch

Closest to the Pin

Longest Drive

Hole-in-One

Mulligans

Awards Dinner

Live & Silent Auctions



"Lions serving People and the Community"

100% of all proceeds will benefit Lions and community charities.

Golfer 1 _____ Average Score _____

Golfer 2 _____ Average Score _____

Golfer 3 _____ Average Score _____

Golfer 4 _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Tel # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail or fax to: Laguna Niguel Lions Club
P.O. Box 6848
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607
(949) 215-3049 Fax
(949) 215-3051 (For more information)

Golf Attire (No denim, please)



Humor From District Photographer Leonard Gleason

- Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.
- Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.
- I saw a woman wearing a sweat shirt with "Guess" on it. So I said "Implants?" She hit me
- How come we choose from just two people to run for president and over fifty for Miss America ?
- I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place
- Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
- Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
- Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
- Wouldn't you know it..Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.
- And remember: life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

MORE THAN A LION

Dr. Mo Alinaghian, from the Irvine Multi-Cultural Lions Club, made big news in the Orange County Register July 25. This is a reprint of the article written about his work in helping abused Iranian-American women.

Articles like this make you proud to know such a man. He not only has the heart of a Lion but shows the courage of one too.

Iranian-Americans Tackle Domestic-Violence Secret

Men form a group to stop abuse of women

By GWENDOLYN DRISCOLL
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

She was a 24-year-old Iranian woman with thick black eyelashes, milky skin and a terrible story.

Imported to Los Angeles from Iran to marry a man she barely knew, she was isolated, ignored and abused.

She was now a runaway from the man who she said slapped her, stripped her of her money, cell phone and other possessions, and locked her in their house. She was pregnant.

Mohsen Alinaghian and his wife, Shahin, found the young woman, whose name and location are being withheld because she fears retribution, in a battered-women's shelter. They brought her home and sheltered her for nearly two months. Shahin cut the woman's umbilical cord.

They found her an apartment, baby-sat and became "grandparents" to her newborn son.

Mohsen, 64, joined a new group of Iranian-American businessmen and male community leaders dedicated to speaking out about a subject little discussed among the Iranian-American population.

The group is called the Keyholders. The issue is domestic violence. Mohsen thought he had a success story to tell.

Then in June, the young woman picked up the telephone, and the safe world she had been building collapsed. Her mother was on the phone. The man she left had called her family in Iran to pass on a message: I know where you live. I can make your life miserable. I can even kill you.



IN THE SHADOWS: Dr. Mohsen Alinaghian, right, helps abused Persian women. This woman says she's fearful and doesn't want to be identified with her child.

"I was really upset," Mohsen says. "We became really afraid for her and the baby. We gave her all these instructions – 'Don't open the door; don't talk to strangers; when you go shopping, make sure you have the baby with you at all times.'" It was a harsh education in the issue The Keyholders had formed to address.

The fledgling group of more than 70 members is organized by Stopgap, the Costa Mesa-based arts organization that uses theater, among other things, to raise awareness about issues such as domestic violence.

Alinaghian, an Irvine optometrist who volunteers widely for charitable groups and ran for City Council in 2004, was a perfect candidate, according to Stopgap's director Don Laffoon. "He is so committed and so involved with the community."

The group consists only of men because, "Ninety-four percent of domestic violence is done from men to women," Mohsen says. "(Men) are the ones who have to learn to face the fact, to control, and don't be abusive."

Membership in the Keyholders requires a \$1,000 donation and a willingness to talk about domestic violence with family, friends and colleagues.

The second criteria may be the harder sell, Stopgap's Nadia Babayi says. Although Babayi emphasizes that domestic violence occurs in all communities, she says Iranian-Americans "don't talk about it."



COMMUNITY VOICE: Dr. Mohsen Alinaghian and his wife Shahin Nojan-Alinaghian help abused Persian woman. The woman at left says she's fearful and does not want to be identified.

"The Persian community here is really different because (they) are very educated, very sophisticated," Babayi says. "They are so used to wanting to be recognized as a success that many of them fear that by lending their name to (the Keyholders) they are acknowledging that yes, there is domestic violence in the Persian community. That scares some men away."

Mohsen says he has met resistance when he tries to talk about the issue with other Iranian-Americans.

"In Persian culture you really don't want to hear bad news," Alinaghian says. "The attitude is, 'When you don't know it, it doesn't exist.'"

The Alinaghians found the young woman in a women's shelter in June 2006. She had come to the United States in May 2005 to marry a man she said she had met only a few times before. At those meetings arranged by a family member he was charming, she says.

In the United States things changed.

Although he said he would marry her upon her arrival, she never saw a marriage license. Months later, she learned she had never been married at all.

In the meantime, the man took her cell phone and locked her inside the house. When she didn't get pregnant immediately, she suggested he see a doctor.

"He became very angry," she says. "He said, 'Do you mean I'm an old man?' And he started hitting me."

Four months later she fled to a mosque with the clothes on her back and a limited command of English.

"I was thinking: 'What should I do? I don't know anyone. I don't have any money.' I didn't even have 25 cents to make a call," she says.

She ended up in a battered-women's shelter "absolutely depressed," Shahin says. The Alinaghians invited her home. "That baby has become my lifeline now," Mohsen says. "He's so innocent. ... I don't want him to get involved with anything bad."

The experience made Mohsen "more determined that (domestic violence) is a matter that we have to pay attention to it," he says. Mohsen says he has never seen or experienced domestic violence in his family.

His father "turned us on to charity," encouraging Mohsen to serve and give to his community.

That lesson, paired with the discipline instilled at a West Virginia military school he attended from 1961 to 1965, turned the eye doctor into a compulsive organizer. He founded and used to lead the Network of Iranian Professionals of Orange County and has served on the board of various Orange County Lions Clubs and Boys & Girls Clubs. He is also active in The Jewel of Persia, an Iranian-American cultural center planned for development in Irvine.

"I've always been outspoken to the point when it drives people crazy," Mohsen jokes.

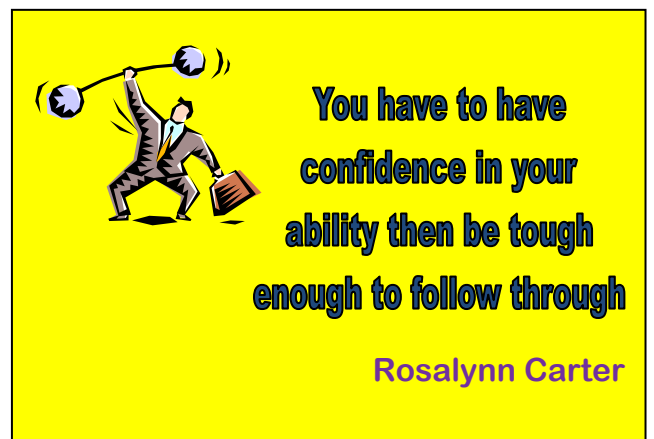
His activism on behalf of an abused woman, however, he kept secret for a full year.

"We wanted to keep it kind of quiet for a while," Mohsen says. "Until we knew she was safe," he says.

Keeping her safe involved taking out a five-year restraining order against the man she left and finding her an Orange County apartment after her child was born in August.

Now that the man she left has said he knows where she is, the Alinaghians say they will move her again on Aug. 1. Mohsen does not use the young woman's name because he says he fears retaliation. But in June, over plates of kabob at Irvine's The Caspian restaurant, he stood before a gathering of current and prospective Keyholders members and described the experience of the past year for the first time.

"With her it came out in the open space, and we could finally talk about it," Mohsen says. "Now we hope people will say: 'Wait a moment. ... (This) is something we need to talk about.'"



2007-2008 DISTRICT CALENDAR

August 3	Upland Host Lions Fish Bake
August 6	Foothill Zone A & B Joint Zone Meeting
August 11	Harbor Mesa Spaghetti Splash
August 18	Canine Companions for Independence Graduation Mission San Louis Rey
August 25	Tustin Host Del Mar Races Bus Trip
Aug 31- Sept 1	Orange Host Lions - Orange International Street Fair
September 6-8	USA Canada Forum Grand Rapids MI
September 7	Fullerton Host Lions - 6th Annual Casino Night & Texas Hold'em Tournament
September 10	Foothill Region Meeting
September 12	Cucamonga District Host Lions Club 60th Anniversary
September 12	Upland Host Lions - Wine Tasting & Hors D'oeuvres For Charities
September 17	Orange Region Meeting
September 24	Saddleback Region Meeting
October 4	Huntington Beach Host Oktober Fest
October 5-7	Tustin Tiller Days
October 6-7	White Cane Days
October 12	Garden Grove Lions- Major Rob Soltes Memorial Golf Tournament
October 13-31	Chino Valley Lions Pumpkin Patch
October 19-21	Buena Park Noon Lions Silverado Days
October 22	Laguna Niguel Golf Tournament
October 26	Harbor Mesa Casino Night
October 26-28	Huntington Beach Laughlin Trip
October 27	Canine Companions for Independence "Journey to Independence " at The Grove of Anaheim
November 3	Foothill Cabinet Meeting – Diamond Bar Golf Course
November 15	Deadline for Peace Posters to Governor
January 19	Orange Cabinet Meeting
January 26	Melvin Jones Dinner
February 2-4	MD4 Convention Fresno
February 16-19	Lions Flag Days
February 23	Teen Recognition Dinner
March 1-2	Hearing Days
March 24	Foothill Region Meeting
March 30	City of Hope Day
March 31	Orange Region Meeting
April 7	Saddleback Region Meeting
April 20	Saddleback Cabinet Meeting – El Niguel Country Club
May 15	District 4-L4 Convention – Red Lion San Diego
June 23-27	LCI Convention Bangkok Thailand