

# Rotary Club of South Pasadena

12 Mar 2019

DISTRICT 5300 CLUB 805



## MEETING LEADERS

**Flag** - ChiefBill

**Invocation:** edDan

**Song** - "Working on the Railroad" - ChiefBill & W<sup>2</sup>.

**Greeter** - ChiefDan

**Guests:** Rick Politte (YMCA); Robert West (POCU)

## UPCOMING

13 Apr - Corazon

16 Apr - **TASTE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ChasWig began by encouraging new ideas about meeting times, etc., for the purpose of attracting new members. MTM passed out **TASTE** tickets, exhorting all to participate. So far we have 16 restaurants. ChiefDan claims 50 people have signed up for Corazon, including RC San Marino members. edDan, new chair of Community Service Grants, announced activity. KulturDirektor Steve brought in a complete box of new Golden State books, and encouraged all to experience an actor's depiction of Ray Bradbury at the Library this Thursday.

**HAPPY BUCKS:** ChasWig, W<sup>2</sup>, and Peter each happily contributed \$20 for the cause. Randy matched that, and apologized for his absence for the next several weeks due to a speech therapy program. ChiefBill happily anticipates good weather for the March 23 birthday shindig. Have you RSVP'd? Sara is delighted that Mei will speak today. KulturDirektor Steve tossed in several \$2 bills, ecstatic about various rain showers.

**MEI**, George's wife, related an astounding account of her childhood in northern China in the midst of the Red Guards terror. Mei originally comes from the port city of Dalian in northern China, not far from Korea. Her family is Korean. Her childhood years were marked by a severe lack of clothing, shoes, food, education, and shelter. In 1967 the Red Guards forced the family to move to a village near North Korea; her father was imprisoned for nonconformity. Her grandmother had been active in a Christian church, which the Red Guards burned down. Between the ages of 6 and 13, Mei had no shoes. Clothing and a form of foot ware were fashioned from rags. Communist-uniform blue shirts and pants were required, but not available. Provisional bricks were fashioned from rice hulks, which provided very inadequate shelter. It was very cold. No school was available, and food was often unavailable. In 1972 her mother lost a hand in a mower, making work very difficult - remember, father was away somewhere in prison. In 1973-76 young Mei began to write letters to the authorities, hoping to free her father, and return to the city. Some functionary was impressed with Mei's writing ability and courage, and arranged for the family to return to Dalian. Father was released in 1978 - after over 3,000 days in prison, and after payment of a ¥3,500 bribe. Mei forced the mayor of Dalian to hear her, a move which eventually led to the family opening the first Korean restaurant in Dalian.

***Part II will be scheduled soon.***