

The Castro Lion ROAR

Volume 12; Issue 9 February 2005

Steven Sams Editor – submissions accepted in word format via email at ss2391@sbc.com



General Membership Meetings:
1st & 3rd Wednesdays



Michael's Octavia Lounge - 415-863-3516
1772 Market Street - San Francisco, CA
6:30 cocktails; Dinner 7pm
Members \$21, Guests \$25
Across the street from Martuni's
PLEASE! Call 415-90-Lions for reservations

CASTRO Lions: benefits from your Community Thrift Store

donations. Our Account # is 67. CTS will make arrangements for pick up of larger items, or you can drop them off during normal store hours.

PLEASE be sure to complete a donation receipt so we may thank you for your generosity, & track the contributions. Deliveries are at the dock in Sycamore Alley Street between Mission & Valencia.

Community Thrift Store
623 Valencia Street
10 am to 6:30 pm Open every day
(415) 861-4910.

Proceeds from your CTS donations benefit our Castro Lions Eye-Glass Fund.
www.commthrift.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Submit items early for best impact.

Send to ss2391@sbc.com

February 22, 2005 – Donna Sachet's "Make your own kind of Music" Cabaret fund raiser – Plush Room UCSF-AHP benefit. Info: cabaret@seanray.net

February 26th 2005 – SF Marina Dance

INFO: Lion Esther Lee (415) 885-7664, \$35.

March 5, 2005 – Y&C Street Sales – **CANCELLED**

March 2, 2005 – General Membership-nominations

March 9, 2005 – Board Meeting

March 16, 2005 – General Membership-elections

April 23 – 2005 Convention

You can always 'package' your sold Y&C tickets/money and drop them at the Club mail box at PO Plus box with Castro Lions Y&C attn: Lion John Klimek on the envelope – if you can't get them to him direct/mail them.

<http://www.lions4c4.org/links.html> District 4C4 home page

Other community Events: <http://www.craigslist.org/>

Castro Lion Club Birthdays:

March born Club members

Lion Walter Bowen	March 11
Lion Denni Harp	March 17
Lion Chuck Roth	March 22

Happy BD's to you all.



Credit the Club for your
Cole Hardware purchases!

We are also a standing beneficiary of your purchases at the Cole Hardware Stores (Cole Street & the other SF locations of Fox Ace Hardware). Our club receives 'purchase' credits for your mentioning us when you make your purchases. The Club's account number at Cole is # *2584. (I'm told the '*' is essential.) <http://colehardware.com/> Twice a year, they send us a gift certificate worth 10% of the accumulated purchases made in our name.



Lions Code of Ethics

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and to demand all fair remuneration of profit for my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self respect because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down others; To be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER the doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position of action towards my fellow man, to resolve such doubts against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means; to hold that true friendship exists not on the account of service performed by one to another but true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the true spirit in which it was given.

ALWAYS bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed; to give them freely of my time, labor and means.

TO AID my fellow man by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy; To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; To build up and not destroy.

We received a letter of thanks & acknowledgement from Rocket Dog Rescue for the \$500 gift we made them.
www.rocketdogrescue.org

Castro Lions Charities, Inc. is both a Federal & State recognized 501 (c) (3) organization. Your contributions to our work in the community (charities account only) are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. EIN# 94-3206719.

The Castro Lions Club Employee Giving Campaign/United Way Number is: #1034139
(At SBC, employees can use ID# 002944)

Lion Clubs International Objectives

To create a spirit of understanding among the people of the world;

To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship;

To take an active interest in the civic, culture, social and moral welfare of the community;

To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding;

To provide a forum for open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members;

To encourage service minded men and women to serve their community without personal financial reward and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

THANKS Michael & Staff for the great service at club meetings!

From the Linda Lions Den & Lion Wayne: Mangled Metaphors- "It's all for one where the sun don't shine." - & - "You can lead a lion to water, but you can't make it read!" [Ed Note – ain't that the truth!]

FOR THE RECORD:

There are 45 members in good standing in the Castro Lions Club. As of 10/30/2004 there are 1,354,301 members internationally in 45,822 clubs & 745 Districts in 193 countries & geographical areas.



707-648-2306 – Warehouse
PIDDRBILLIANN@aol.com

The CASTRO LIONS want your used eye glasses & hearing aides no loose lenses please, frames only are ok if in good condition.

Drop Off spots:

- CalOptix- Lion John Klimek 3838 California #100
- Dr Kathleen Kennedy 552 Castro
- SF-LGBT Center 1800 Market Street
- Site for Sore Eyes:
 - 300 West Portal
 - 140 Battery & 901 Market
- Lions Eye Foundation CPMC
 - 2340 Clay at Webster - 5th floor
 - <http://www.lionsinsight.org/>

2003-4 Castro Lions Beneficiaries

AEF/BCEF

<http://www.aidsemergencyfund.org/>

Hector Caceres Eyeglass Fund

COLAGE <http://www.colage.org/>

Children's Book Project

<http://www.Childrensbookproject.org>

GLSEN: SF-EB Essay

<http://www.glsen-sfeb.org>

Guide Dogs of the Desert

Honorariums

LCIF Melvin Jones

Lion of the Year

Lions Canine Companions (Membership)

Lions Canine Companions (Worker Dog)

Lions Ear of the Lion (Membership)

Lions Eye Foundation (Membership)

Lions-In-Sight (Membership)

<http://www.lionsinsight.org/>

MNHC - Children's Holiday Pty

<http://mnhc.org/>

PAWS <http://www.pawssf.org/>

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic www.rfb.org

Rocket Dog Rescue www.rocketdogrescue.org

SF Lesbian Gay Freedom Band

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center

<http://tarcsf.org/home.html>

Tenderloin T's Dinners

The Center for AIDS Services

<http://thecenteroakland.org/>

Tranquillium Center/New Connections

<http://newconnections.org/>



Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

The CASTRO LION Roar Ad Rates

Ads must be electronically provided, & 'business card' (3.5 in x 2 in) sized. They may be 'color' versions, though in PRINTED copies of the newsletter only B&W will be supported. A 12 month ad-run is \$100. Special Event (2 month) ads are also available for \$25.

The Castro Lion Roar is published monthly. Subscriptions for yourself or friends can also be made at \$10 per year & we'll mail the Castro Lion Roar right to you. (Our non-profit friends & community business partners enjoy a 50% discount to the ad rates. Contact the editor for details.)



Member Profiles

-getting to know each other...

Lion Brad Sprankle Currently serves as one of the clubs members of the Board of Directors, compared to the rest of us, 'is the quiet one' but a dynamo of activity & volunteer commitment. Here in his own words is his story...

"I have been a member of the Castro Lions Club for the past 3 years & was sponsored by Lion Gail Wood. Previously, I had contact with Lions Tom Rodgers & Charles West. They both encouraged me to join but it took Lion Gail Wood to plunge the dagger to the hilt. I had been a member of the SF Flag Corps (I was a flag twirler) & the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. I was the Band's General Manager. This meant I carried the kettle drums - 4 of them! - up five flights of stairs for each concert performance. They give 12 performances a year! I was also a participant in Chris Burn's self-defense classes & vigilant patrol & to this very day, carry pepper spray with me. For many years, I attended Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) where I was Sexton. I was also a member of Quick Tricks - (It's a Bridge Club darlings!) I am a Trustee of the Ducal Court (Grand Duke 28). I am a current member of the Prime Timers (I'm 58) & belong to the 24 Hour Fitness gym. I still have time for my friends (some of whom I have known since High School) & at the same time enjoy meeting new ones. [Cell Phone: 364-3038]. I do not own a TV, VCR, computer or a car - I only mention this because it's usually the first set of questions I get asked! I have lived in SF for 25 years. My favorite bars are Aunt Charley's, The Edge & Marlena's - though I have frequented all of the bars in this city. I reside at the Civic Center Hotel where I pay \$390/month rent & YES! It will take a depth charge to get me to move! At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to respond to some of the rumors concerning my sexual practices - IT'S ALL TRUE....so this is who I am, Lion Brad Sprankle. [Ed Note: I too was in the Flag Corps - but Brad & I missed each other by 'months'. Brad currently works at SFO as a security screener - & from what I gather, 'body jewelry' leads to some exciting times during these 'scans' !]

Lions Randy Ortega & Steve Kech New Castro Lions Club members Randy Ortega & Steve Kech are life partners who recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Lion Randy E. Ortega is a native of the Philippines & has been a resident of the U.S. for more than 20 years, becoming an American citizen several years ago. He was initiated into Lionism by the Honolulu Lions, & transferred to the central valley in Lemoore, CA, & was not active for several years. Then early last year, he was lured by members of the Marina-North Beach Club to join them, but later chose to become affiliated with the Castro Lions organization.

Lion Randy with a BS in Psychology has a long history of public service. He worked as a

professional staff member of the American Red Cross for more than 20 years, serving in various military hospitals both in the U.S. & the Philippines. Shortly after the AIDS crisis began in San Francisco, Lion Randy & several friends founded PAG-ASA (means hope in Tagalog) to provide services to Filipinos who had been stricken. PAG-ASA became part of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS. Lion Randy currently works in the medical field for UCSF at the Mt Zion Campus. Previously he worked with American Express Travel Related Services in the San Francisco Bay Area. Until its building was razed as part of a flood control project, Lion Randy had an antique store business in the Napa Valley. He hopes to re-establish this business in the near future, as well as start a clothing manufacturing, importing business utilizing his design skills. He is currently renovating their home "with a view" in Bernal Heights. He loves to cook & entertain.

Lion Steve Kech is a Wine Country native who has reunited with Lions after a 10 year absence. He was originally part of the Burlingame Lions on the Peninsula, where he worked as editor of the weekly newspaper Boutique & Villager in Hillsborough/Burlingame. Lion Steve earned his AA degree from Napa Junior College & went on to get his BA in Journalism from San Jose State. Following graduation Lion Steve was tapped for duty in the U.S. Army, serving in Berlin, Germany, for two years. He returned to California & worked as editor of the Sierra Sun newspaper in Truckee. He later headed east to New York City where he was employed in the trade publishing industry (Associate Editor, Fast Food magazine) & later tried his hand at broadcasting (CBS News). Lion Steve returned to the Bay Area where he met the love of his life, Lion Randy Ortega. Lion Steve has been Public Relations Officer at City College of San Francisco for the past 11 years. He enjoys keeping up on current events & volunteering to be part of the SEIU 790 union political campaigns. [Editor's Note: Since these two dynamos's joined the club, indeed even before they officially joined, they have been a part of nearly every event we've help from fun to fund-raising! What a catch we made!]

Lions David Gin & Gary Nathan: Lion David was born in San Francisco in 1951 the youngest child of immigrant parents from China. He has two older brothers & a sister who was the first child born to the family before they came to the United States. David attended public schools in San Francisco & he graduated from Galileo High School in 1969. He enlisted the United States Air Force & was stationed in Texas before being sent overseas to Clark Air Base in the Philippines & he served several months at Danang Air Base in Viet Nam until the war

ended in 1973. Lion David then re-enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserves in 1974 & served as a Loadmaster aboard the C141a aircraft. He traveled to many islands in the Pacific including Guam, Wake & Midway to name a few. He also flew on missions to Germany & Iran. He was honorably discharged from the Reserves in 1977 & attended San Francisco State University until he was hired by the San Francisco Police Department in 1980. Lion Officer David Gin served at Southern Station after completing the academy from 1981 to 2001 when he was injured on duty & was re-assigned to the Medical Liaison Unit within the Personnel Division where he is currently assigned. Lion David lost his partner, James (Missy) Missler to AIDS in 1996 & still operates their printing business which they started in 1989. Lion David's current partner, Lion Gary Nathan started & ran the San Francisco Spectrum for seven years & they are active members of the gay community.

Lion Gary Nathan, is an enigma & 'man-about-town' to those old acquaintances of his – many refused to share the juiciest of details on his 'early life in SF' & just what it was he got up to in those days – & Lion Gary himself declined to provide any details whatsoever of a biographical nature. However, your intrepid editor has discovered a few bits & pieces. According to one of the longer standing friendships Lion Gary has, a certain Ms Joannie Juster who is a whirlwind of a civil rights, health care & especially AIDS Activist says Lion Gary has always had a certain flare for Cabaret. Live performances, fund raisers, 'perhaps even a step or two on stage himself' & if truth be told, much of the lower Polk, especially the Plush Room – would have gone out of business without his patronage (hmmm, is that as a sponsor or client?! Ha-ha). Well known for leading the preverbal PUB-CRAWLS of 'that certain year/age' Lion Gary was always a spicy addition to whatever it was they undertook, & as we all know in the Castro Club – his ready smile, acerbic wit & tenacity for the 'gotcha!' make him an asset to any community.

[Editors note: Lions Gary & David have been stalwart volunteers & continual volunteers at our club activities since they joined – of the many many things we can bank on – is their generosity & creativity in helping us meet our goals – funding & fun-wise!]

[Ed. Note: in his own words]

Lion O. John Groeb is almost a Charter member, being one of the first members to join after the Charter was signed. I am proud to say that the late Lion Bill Rowe was my sponsor. After joining the club, I jumped in with both feet & helped the club address how to welcome women as members in the early days. I am happy that I was able to help the club & Lionism in general move forward by helping to draft the constitutional amendment that removed the word "male" from membership requirements. I am very proud to say that I was the Club's first

"Lion of the Year," having been presented the plaque by the late Lion President Jonathan Wright. That same plaque still proudly hangs on my wall.

I also am very proud of my early service to the club by serving as Secretary for two years under the leadership of Lion Gardner Pond. I also served as a Vice President & a Board Member a few times, as well as District 4-C4 Lioness chairperson for several years, when that position existed. My goodness, what a long time ago that was!

I am a long distance member, having left San Francisco in early 1997 to return home to St. Louis, Missouri for family reasons. I am applying the fundraising & community organizing skills I learned as a young Lion by leading the local historic house tours & serving as a board member for the restoration of a local historic water tower & park.

I have not visited San Francisco for several years, but one never knows when I may pop-up out there sometime. As is Lion custom, I do expect that any Castro Lion visiting St. Louis will feel free to visit me.

I can not say how proud I am to be a Castro Lion. My times as an active member were wonderful & filled with much friendship, fun & good community service!

[Ed. Note – as I am off to point out – Lion O. John is also responsible for the Castro Club's AIDS Memorial Quilt design among many, many other things he did behind the scenes for us in the early days! We miss you Lion O. John – we really do!]

Lion PDG Mike Newell

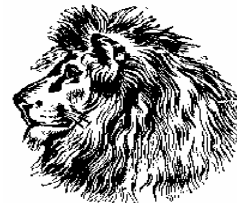
[Ed Note – Lion Mikey did this himself, & is doing it in installments since there's so much to tell...] "...Perchance this will be chapter one of my perspective of the Castro Lions club. The names must be preceded by "Lion" unless preceded by NL for non-Lion. Bob Bacci of the Park Presidio Lions Club approached me about starting a new Lions Club. Told him I thought there was a very good chance that a service club in the upper Market area of SF was viable. Then attended Park Presidio Lions which ended up being our sponsoring club, thence a Cabinet Meeting in Burlingame. I found the rituals most odd until I learned the members were most congenial, helpful, and desirous of helping those in need in their respective communities. My thoughts about their rituals being odd were a tale of my own prejudices. Told them all that I thought such a newbie club would be composed mostly of gay people & if that bothered them or International, I would not expend the effort. They pondered that matter & concluded it didn't bother them at all. Again, a reflection of my own prejudices. So I sent out

invitations to hundreds of folks to attend an organizing meeting for brunch at the Cafe San Marcos on a Saturday. Alas, only Bob Bacci & I showed up (brunch was quite good). Not to be deterred I sent out another couple of hundred invitations for another meeting &, shucks golly, one other person showed up in the person of Gary Moonert. Told him we needed a President & a Secretary & which did he want to be. He said Prez & that's how I became Charter Secretary. I figured we'd doubled our membership. Then the fun began. We needed 20 signed up & paid members to get our charter & after several meetings we had only 13. Then through the Imperial Court, namely Pat McGonigle & Rich Carle, we got the needed numbers. Pat referred the club to a "giggle factor", having a Lions Club that was mostly gay. The Court came through with the needed numbers. More to come with bonding by Richard Twining, Bill Rowe & GEH... Then the story about Gardner Pond showing up with our godfather PID Maurice Perstein - why the heck was Maurice bringing this tall handsome straight guy to our club?

[ED note – YEP – Lion PDG Mikey thought the OOF was straight!] So the club rather stumbled along - we didn't have a clue what we were supposed to do after getting the charter in February 1985 - celebrated in April 1985. But we knew Coming Home Hospice was getting started at 115 Diamond St. so we thought that would be a good community service project. Probably violating a million copyright laws we used the Lions logo & Bob Ross printed a couple thousand promo-pieces about how important the place was, & our first community service started.

The club probably bonded during a bus trip to the Russian River. Gardner, Edward & Hector provided nosh in the form of Cheese Whiz & crackers. The nosh was perfect & with Richard Twining at the wheel, we all had a hoot. Brunch was fine & the wine tour was fine, but more importantly, we all had a great time. The superb touch, though, was GEH's nosh. We all laughed - & ate. Tastefully served, of course by Gardner, Edward & Hector." [Ed Note: Lion Mikey no longer thought OOF was straight! – & for the uninformed – Lion Twining at the wheel meant of a Scenic Highway Tour Bus – he owned the line!]

More to come says Lion PDG Mikey....



HELP sell ads in the Castro Lion Newsletter – it'll help fund the ADMIN Account!

Y&C Street Sales – results:

Lions Dennis Hale, Randy Ortega, Tommy Rudder & Steven Sams led by the indefatigable Lion John Klimek braved the early morning fog 2/5 at the Chevron Station & sold an additional 10+ Y&C books.

We also had several membership inquiries from passers by – some of whom are real potential members – & a visit from a Lion PDG Greg Etchison from Wenatchee Washington – (a place near your editor's home town) who was in town visiting his son!

A bite of History & a bit of nostalgia... Did you know?

The SFPD Mission Station room in which the Board meets monthly is a special dedicated room? It's named for one of our Charter members, Lion Ray Benson who dies of AIDS related causes in 1995. Lion Ray, also a member of the SFPD was given this honor by his fellow officers for the extraordinary courage he showed both in his life & line of duty. Lion Ray is one of many Castro Club members also commemorated in a special Castro Lions Club AIDS Memorial Panel housed in the Names Project Archives. Lion O. John Groebl was the designer of the panel & former member Mary Coomey was the seamstress.

All **NAMES Project** Quilt Panels may be viewed on their web site <http://www.aidsquilt.org/>. Individual panels are identified by an image number. The Castro Lions Club panel is indexed under Castro Lions & as image #04331. Also on that site are additional panels representing Bill Rowe - image #03182 & Gary Moonert - image #00001. Lion Sams is the Club's Quilt master. The panel is updated with fallen fellow club members as the need arises.

Several Years back, before Larkin Street Youth Services was being so well supported by the corporate world, & Lion Stephen Sims was on their board – the Castro Lions helped serve Thanksgiving dinner to the residents/clients of Larkin Street at the Old First Presbyterian Church every year. Through this relationship – we also developed a partnership with the JUMA Ventures folks – those who run the Ben & Jerry's on Castro – & we used to get an entire day of scooping ice cream – & WE GOT THE PROCEEDS – even Wavy Gravy would attend & help solicit passers by to dig deep & buy the double-scoops!

Thank you Lion Jeff Harlowe – we received your United Way/Employee Giving check for the Eye Care fund & the Levi Social Services match check as well! Thanks Lions Sams & Harp too – The SBC Employee giving checks also arrived!

The observant reader will notice some advertisement additions to this month's edition. These ads came from club members & are 'giving back' to the club both by the ad fee & with some, a special arrangement based on people using their services as a result of the ads. Lion Walter Bowen will provide 'use' details in the near future along with an additional ad, but the following explanation from Lion Jen 'Spike' Lee came with her ad payment:

'I just want to reiterate my thoughts...TSE Financial will make a donation of \$300 to a non-profit organization that has a 501c3 status of the borrower's choice if they close their 1st mortgage, or 1st & 2nd mortgage concurrently with us. Since Castro Lions has a 501c3 status & if anyone would like TSE Financial to make a \$300 contribution back to the Lion's club, that's even better. In addition, my own personal goal is to make a donation of \$50 for each transaction if a member of the Castro Lions or any Lion members closes a loan with us, I'll personally donate \$50 to the Castro Lions. This is a way for me to help the Castro Lions raise funds & my way of saying "Thank you" – Lion Spike'

Editor's NOTE regarding submissions:

Please do your own spell checking in advance of sending copy when possible. Copy can be sent either as attachments or simple text in an email. Each month, the Castro Lion Roar will be published on or about the 20th day of the month which means copy must be submitted by the 17th of the month to ensure its inclusion in the next edition. Of particular interest are CALENDAR items – Obviously – these need to be well in advance of the event to be of value. We will print RESULT stories after events too if you care to write/share them.

LIONS International Cookbooks For a mere \$15

See Lion 2VP Brain Carbo – these are the best 'recipies from the 50's you'll ever find! Proceeds go to our Admin Account. Which needs it!



A Farewell to Lion PDG Mikey & Ross

Lions Gary Nathan & David Gin will be holding a special Going-Away Party in honor of our own Lion PDG Mike Newell some time in the VERY Near future – look for invitations & info soon. They are hosting this at their home – & there is NO CHARGE – though they are hoping good hearts will make donations to the club's ADMIN account as we have some rather large expenses coming up & need the BREAD!

John R. Klimek
Optician
A.B.O. Certified

CalOptix

Eye Wear
For
Everyone

3638 California
Suite 100
San Francisco, Ca 94118
(415) 751-0201



JENNY LEE – *Mortgage consultant*

2332 Taraval Street, Suite A,
San Francisco. CA 94116

With our charity program, TSE Financial will make a donation of \$300 to a non-profit organization with a 501c3 status of your choice if you close a 1st mortgage or 1st and 2nd mortgages concurrently with us. Some restrictions do apply. Call Jen for more info at (415) 806-3367.

NEWS from 'Outside' the club

Lion Worldwide Induction Day
April 16, 2005



Lions Day with the UN Friday, March 11, 2005. If you are reading this as an e-version, simply click on the image above or visit:
http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_int_1_dun2.shtml



If you are reading this as an e-version, simply click on the image above for additional info or visit:
http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/news_convention.shtml

The Vallejo Host Lions were recognized in the Lion International magazine for 2/2005 – for their work in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life – their 4th year of doing so.

9th annual Castro Lions Mr. /Ms Heart Throb

First off – Thanks to Lion Tommy Rudder for coordinating another spectacular event – & to the SF Weekly for printing up a nice blurb announcing the event, CRAIGSLIST for posting it & Channel 29 AccessSF for running the PSA & to the SF Bay Times for listing the event in their calendar.

Special thanks to our good friends at the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post 448 for assisting with food funds & participation in the event! & ESPECIALLY Post Commander Mario Benfield who schlepped all over creation with Lion Dennis Hale on the Friday before hand to obtain all the food etc.. Mario was ably assisted by members Dale Pellegrino, Robert Potter, George Gomez, Bill Watson, John Caldera & Tony Benincasa.



We sold some 275+ on the beverages/meal, all the Y&C tickets (nearly) that we had left – that's some 40 books! & had a 50-50 raffle that totaled about \$238 – & the winner donated it back to us (to buy more 'hearts' with which to vote. Lion Tom Rodgers MC'd, Lions John Klimeck & Steve Kech ran the door tirelessly, Lions Frank Bence, Brad Sprankle & Steven Sams sold Y&C like mad, Lions Dennis Hale & Randy Ortega 'shook the rafters' for those 50-50 tickets while Lions Tommy Rudder, Brit Zane & Walter Bowman kept the crowd stirred up to a frenzy pushing everything!

Last year's title holder Carlos Medal was also present & lent his support to creating a very fun event. Totals raised (TA-DAH - \$1703, plus 27 full Y&C books). Thanks Lion Tommy for donating the 2nd Patch

'PATCHED" as Mr. Heart Throb 2005 was John Caldera – one of our AL volunteers and as Ms Heart Throb, Judy sorry missed the last name) from the alameda county Leather community. The race for Ms Heart Throb was intense – and we want to especially acknowledge Candy Coated, a sweet friend of Lion Walter Bowman's, who was inching into the lead until the 50-50 drawing winner – poured her half of those proceeds back into heart-votes for Judy. **Congratulations to John and Judy and a VERY SPECIAL Honorable mention to Candy Coated** – because of your enthusiasm and great spirit – the charities fund of the Castro Lions was made much more capable! Each of you can join us for dinner at a General membership meeting – I'll buy!

Guest Column: As possible, & as room allows, The Castro Lion Roar will publish Guest Columns from local non-profits. Some of these are current or former beneficiaries, all are friends of the Castro & worth your consideration. This month I am pleased to share some information with you from "NEW Connections" an alliance of East Bay organizations including AIDS Community Network, Tranquillium Center & New Connections itself.



School Counseling: New Connections has provided school-based counseling & prevention services for over 20 years, including secondary prevention & intervention services for youth. Our program employs research-based "best practices" from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). Our counselors provide education, training & counseling to at-risk students at a variety of alternative education sites. We have counselors at the Boys Ranch, at many of the continuation schools & at Crossroads High School, a school for pregnant & parenting teens. Focus is placed on providing education about alternatives to violence, substance abuse & unwanted pregnancy. Students learned decision-making & other life skills that support healthy living & reduce Juvenile Justice & Children & Family Services (CFS) involvement.

Juvenile Drug Court Our Juvenile Drug Court treatment program in West Contra Costa County is collaboration with the Juvenile Courts, Probation, the District Attorney & the Public Defender's offices, & County Mental Health Services. Our program provides services to youth who are already in the juvenile justice system to provide alternatives to incarceration. Youth in the program have an identified mental health issue as well as a substance abuse problem. Many come from homes affected by poverty & parental mental health or substance abuse problems. Many are, or have been, involved in the foster care system. We employ a "strengths based" model of treatment to build upon the natural abilities & qualities of the youth to foster a sense of individual empowerment & sense of responsibility to self, family & community.

Diversion Counseling The youth diversion program operates as collaboration between New Connections & the Probation Dept., with a program design based on the work of clinical research focusing on juvenile delinquency. Probation officers refer identified high-risk

youth offenders to us, & we provide comprehensive mental health & substance abuse assessment, intervention & crisis counseling for youth & their families, & Referrals of addicted or abusing youth to our intensive substance abuse treatment services. This program was honored by the Contra Costa County Children & Families Policy Forum as the "best practice" in the category of "Children Healthy & Preparing for Productive Adulthood". Our adult diversion services include our PC 1000 & Proposition 36 treatment services. The PC 1000 program is a first time offender program. The Proposition 36 program provides varying levels of care ranging from intervention services to intensive outpatient based on client need.

Calworks Services Our Calworks Liaisons provide comprehensive assessment, short-term counseling, linkages to mental health & substance abuse services for clients who are in the Welfare-to-Work system of care. Program focus is to help identify & treat barriers to employability for persons on Welfare seeking employment. Our counselors collaborate with mental health providers, domestic violence & substance abuse treatment to improve access to these needed services, to reduce the impact of these issues on one's ability to secure employment & achieve financial independence.

Treatment Services We've provided nationally recognized substance abuse treatment services for adolescents & adults since 1990. They're based on the Matrix Model of Addiction & Treatment, constructed from research-based "best practice" components, with support from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. We provide comprehensive substance abuse assessments for youth, adults & their families. Depending on their needs, we place clients in an appropriate treatment program at New Connections, or refer them to residential services or other community services, if necessary. We specialize in working with parents who have been referred from Children & Family Services in order to keep or regain custody of their children. New Connections has a specialized perinatal treatment program for women & their children. We have a childcare center designed by an architect who donated his services so that we could create this wonderful setting for the children to inhabit while their mothers are receiving treatment for alcohol or drugs. The program offers a parenting component to help improve parenting skills & increase mother/child bonding. We collaborate with a local agency which provides domestic violence education & counseling & we have a counselor on site who works with the mothers & the children in the childcare center. New Connections treatment programs include up to four months of individual, family & group counseling. Continuing care is provided for an additional year, if needed. All of our treatment programs include frequent drug testing, with a focus on relapse prevention & developing sobriety through learning from relapse events. We

also provide clients & their families with education on issues related alcohol & other drugs, other substance abuse risk factors (such as HIV) & training on how to use the 12-step programs effectively. We collect fees from some of our clients based on their ability to pay, but we focus on serving the most vulnerable community members. Most are low income & uninsured.

HIV/AIDS Program According to the most recent HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Report, (May 2004) by Contra Costa County's Department of Health Services, an estimated 3,500 Contra Costa Residents are currently infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The County estimates that a total of at least 4,900 Contra Costa residents have been infected with HIV since the epidemic began & 2,000 of them have been reported to have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). New Connections is the largest provider of HIV/AIDS services in Contra Costa County. We provide Psychosocial Case Management & Recovery Coordination services in all three regions of the county. We offer drop-in day center, meals & transportation services to clients in West Contra Costa County. We are one of the few providers offering bilingual services throughout the system of care. We focus on improving the health & stability of clients receiving care & to provide education to help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Working in coordinated teams we tailor services to the unique needs of each individual client. Utilizing a comprehensive approach, multiply diagnosed clients have access to a full range of services, including benefits counseling, housing referrals, counseling support groups, clinical assessments, treatment & referral & linkages to a wide range of medical, social & financial services.

Case Managers conduct initial intakes, assessing the medical, psychosocial & financial needs of clients, & develop care plans to coordinate the provision of services. The Recovery Coordinator provides a comprehensive substance abuse assessment & develops a complimentary treatment plan that integrates the goals set by the Case Manager, for those clients in need of recovery services. The program is provided as a client-centered service which develops, implements & monitors a plan of action to link an individual in a timely, coordinated manner to medically appropriate levels of health, support & treatment services.

New Connections applies research-based models of services - delivered by community-based & culturally-competent clinicians & other staff members with emphasis on client outcomes. In all programs, the agency served

over 14,000 youth, adults & families during fiscal year 2003-04.

New Connections has received several local & national honors, including the following: Honor Roll Award from the Contra Costa County Policy Forum; Agency That Makes a Difference Award from the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors; Program of Excellence Award the Association of California School Administrators; Superior Achievement Award from the California Department of Alcohol & Drug Programs.

New Connections was also named as one of the top 20 programs in the United States by the National Association of State Alcohol & Drug Abuse Directors & the National Prevention Network.

Alan R. Stein, MPH, MS, MFT
Executive Director, 925-363-5000, ext. 144
New Connections

astein@newconnections.org

Editor's Note: As of January 18, 2005, at the culmination of a one year process New Connections & Tranquillium Center became a legally merged nonprofit entity. All HIV/AIDS services, which include psychosocial case management, treatment & day center services, are now located at a single site in Richmond. Staff has been incrementally merged over the last several months mitigating any client disruption in services. New Connections believes merging of these two programs creates a best practice model to best serve those with HIV/AIDS & would like to work with the Lions Club to expand capacity to serve clients in Richmond & other regions of Contra Costa County.

Dining Out for Life – EAST BAY Benefit for the Center

Go to www.diningoutforlife.com & navigate to 'East Bay' or go direct to:
<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/home.php?city=29>

25% of the bill at a huge number of restaurants across the east bay will go to benefit the Center for AIDS Services in Oakland (which serves clients in Alameda & Contra Costa) when you dine out on April 28th – the list is updated as more join the throngs – This is the major fund raiser for the Center & made more than \$60,000 last year – help them hit \$100k this time. Call Simona Fino at 510-282-0623 or via email at:

simona@TheCenterOakland.org or visit
<http://thecenteroakland.org>



UPDATE on Lion 3VP Lion Linda Lopez Wood's condition:

While Lion Linda Lopez Wood had a small heart attack last week (week of 2/7) & was hospitalized for a few days, she is UP, OUT of the Hospital, & doing 'great' according to her partner, our esteemed Lion President Gail Wood - & IN FACT went down to the convention on Thursday!

Unfortunately, the plane arrival/return from San Diego would not facilitate their presence at the Mr. /Ms Heart Throb event - but - they sent their best - & wanted everyone to know they appreciate the club's concern & well wishes.

BITS & Pieces:

A \$500 budget was approved for Mr/Ms Heart Throb event, Lions Dennis Hale & Steven Sams will manage food/event with the leadership of Lion Tommy Rudder. We also received a \$200 contribution from the Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (SF) of the American Legion & they'll help with Leather Auction in July! YEAH!

Lion Walter Bowen has assumed responsibility for the club's Easter Seals Stamp Collection Project – all cancelled stamps, especially foreign country stamps & 'aero-mail' types are desired. LEAVE STAMPS on envelopes with Cancellation marks for best value.

We received a check for \$188.13 from Community Thrift for the last quarter's proceeds. Our good friend Cory is re-investigating the filing system for the donation slips & assures us the process will improve.

A special board consideration for the awarding of a Community Service Tribute Melvin Jones Award will be considered. Details will be published when determined.

The 2/2 General Membership meeting was a feisty night. Marina Lions came visiting to reclaim their historic club bell stolen by the Castro Club Members Lions Dennis Hale, Gail wood, Linda Lopez-Wood & Carroll Fears during our last visitation. The bell is nearly an antique! A real looker! 1938 – WOW! It was graciously rescued by the Marina club's Secretary, Lion Agnes Lowe & new cub Mindy – we thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Guest Speaker was Simona Fino from the Center for AIDS Services in the East Bay (See related story). Nominating Committee was announced for the 2005/6 elections: Board members Lion Brit Zane, Carroll Fears & Tommy Rudder will do the honors of creating the slate/managing the process. See them ASAP if interested in a position – SLATE to be announced 3/2/05 General Membership Meeting & **WE SHALL VOTE ON THE NOMINATIONS AT THE MARCH 16th General MEMEBRSHIP MEETING – WE**

NEED EVERYONE TO ATTEND THAT ONE FOR SURE – so you can vote for next year's slate.

Lion Tamer stand in Lion Gary Nathan introduced the 'newest member' insignias at the meeting – ATTENTION new cubs – you'll want to get a newer member than you soon – though the 'baby bib' is cute – & all, the sooner you have a new cub of your own – the faster you get out of wearing it!

UPDATE on Treasury:

It's been ages since we've shared the big picture with the club at large – but – here's a high level look at the bank account as it stands on 2/1/2005:

Endowment from de Steiguer estate: \$112,866

Community Service Fund: \$36,650

Eye Care Fund: \$6790

Annual Charity Account : \$17,500

Administration Fund: \$6782

MD4 – News and more on Lion Linda:

Lion Linda had a "relapse" Saturday night at the MD4 Convention. Not to worry, her heart just took a jolt as it was announced that she was a recipient of the Lions International President's Award/Medal, given by International President, Clem Kusiak - yeah, the BIG CHEESE! All of us who were there were honored to share the moment with our special Lion. Lion Michael Chan & others will be sharing photos. Oh, & by the way, PDG Dana Biggs won the election to be MD4 endorsed candidate for International Director.

Lion Ken Ibarra - 4C4 Cabinet Treasurer



**CASTRO Lions Club
Community Business Partners:**

The following local businesses are community partners in the service work of the Castro Lions Club. Because of their support – we are able to meet our annual charity fund-raising goals. We encourage you to patronize them & tell them you appreciate their support of the CASTRO LIONS.

Cole Hardware; Community Thrift Store; Marlina's; The Edge; SF Eagle Tavern <http://www.sfeagle.com> ; Daddy's www.daddysbar.com ; TRAX www.TRAX.com ; Lone Star; Moby Dick www.mobydicksf.com ; Castro & Market Chevron; AL Alexander Hamilton Post 448 <http://www.post448.org/welcome.html> ; The Halcyon Hotel www.halcyonsf.com : NOTE: The Halcyon hotel for Lions expecting guests for 7 nights or longer is available at \$350.00 a week +tax. 3 blocks from Union square, easy public transportation. Rooms include private bathtub, kitchenette: refrigerator, micro wave, coffee pot & toaster.

Castro Lions
2004/2005 Officers & Board

President	Lion Gail Wood
1st VP	Lion Tommy Rudder
2nd VP	Lion Brian Carbo
3rd VP	Lion Linda Lopez-Wood
Secretary	Lion Carroll Fears
Treasurer	Lion David Gin
Membership Chair	Lion Dennis Hale
Tail Twister	Lion Brit Zane
Lion Tamer	Lion David Gin & Lion Gary Nathan
IPP	Lion Denni Harp

Board at Large 2 Year

Lion Mike Newell, PDG
Lion Carl Tebell

Board at Large, 1 Year remaining

Lion Moira Wilmes
Lion Brad Sprankle

The Castro Lions belong to District 4C4; Region 1, Zone 1: which includes New Century, China Town, Nikkei & SF Parkgate.

We also had the opportunity to recruit folks for the SF Eagle Mr. /Ms Heart Throb event. For those who do not frequent TRAX - bartender Brad is a HUNK-and-a-HALF! - & a potential Mr. Heart throb contender - one I must say who will certainly get my 'votes' if he makes it to the event. (He usually works Sundays, but the boss might let him off to attend!) A GRAND, GREAT WELL DONE to Lion Brit for yet another successful community appearance by the club & more coins to our charity coffers!

President's Column – Lion Gail Wood



Fellow Lions & friends

My apologies fellow members for this not being a more complete column this month – but with the confusion and emotions of the last couple weeks what with Lion Linda's health situation, the convention and of course TAX season, I have been unable to put my thoughts together in the most appropriate ways to thank each of you for the extraordinary efforts you've made over the last month. The Y&C street sales, the Heart Throb event, TRAX event, and all the other things that you get done which never seem to be praised – you should know – ARE APPRECIATED and noticed!

Keep in mind – as we enter March, its time for nominations and elections to the Board for 2005/6 term (see calendar on page 1) so get those thinking caps on and come prepared for decision making on March 2 (nominations) and March 16 (elections).

A special note of praise for my partner Lion Linda this month – not just because she's spunky and pushed through her heart attack and attended the convention in San Diego – but in special recognition of her having received the Lions International President's Award for Service – just awesome! Congratulations Lion Linda – all of us in the club are very proud of this acknowledgement.

Yours in Lionism, - Lion President Gail



TRAX Event Success!

WOW - what a day! We didn't break the bank so to speak financially, but a grand time was had by all, & we made MANY new contacts. Representatives from the InterPride organization in Iceland were in attendance as was Joey Cain of the SF Pride Committee - we have several possibilities in the works with these folks...

Uta's show was great fun - & she donated her \$23 in tips to the club.

We got some half dozen potential club 'visitors' and/or new members & have cemented a grand relationship with Gordon Boe, the owner of TRAX & co-owner of Daddy's. In fact - Gordon is arranging with Lion Brit for us to have several Daddy's Bar events in the coming months. Events - like at TRAX where all we do is 'work the door' & run a 50-50 raffle. (Gordon's Partner in Daddy's Bar – Doug – is also partners in Moby Dick with life partner Joe of our own Lion Scot Riffe – & they're willing to do an event for us as well!)

After expenses for the posters (\$45) & including the tips both Uta & 'your smiling door staff' received - & the wonderful 50-50 raffle winner Rick Nelson's gracious 'donation back to the club' we made \$175 on the event.

Major thanks to Lion Walter Bowen & Lion Jen 'Spike' Lee who brought lots of bodies with them, & to Lions Brad Sprankle, Dennis Hale, Steve Kech, Randy Ortega, Brit Zane & Steven Sams - for 'working' the event.

**Here's an Idea – whose time is
WAAAAAY overdue!!!**

It has occurred to Lion Gary Nathan & me over the last three hundred thousand events, fund raisers & other activities we've done as a club (seemingly) since July - that there is a deep & abiding need for a NEW MEMBER, prospective member (hell old member for that matter) 'handbook' of stuff. For the members - say things like - a copy of the charter, the by laws, the processes like HOW TO OBTAIN A HELEN KELLER etc....for the prospective member/donor - a sort of HISTORY of our experience section & maybe - even a list of the things we've done for the last 20 years - like the Community Thrift & LGBT Historical Society, & starting Open Hand, helping 18th Street Services & Operation Concern become New Leaf, Coming Home Hospice, the original ZEN Center/Maitri Hospice etc etc etc (sure I have some of the details wrong).

WELL - Lion Gary & I have decided to do just such a thing - I'll do the copy - he'll get it printed/bound etc - maybe even set up & an expandable book.

SO TO THAT END - I need EVERY ONE of you to start feeding me bits & pieces NOW so we can get at it while both Gary & I are Psyched to do it. SEND IT ON in what ever format you care to....cheers - Lion Steven Sams

Any Member May Join & Assist any committee.
District 4C4 - Officers 2004/2005:

District Governor

Ray Rosenthal
361 Trysail Court
Foster City, Ca. 94404
Hm. 650-547-1043
Cell: 650-465-7158

Vice District Governor

Eugene Chan
1550 Bay Street #345
San Francisco, Ca. 94123
Hm: 650-345-7773
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eugene-chan@wevtv.net

Region One Chair

Bill Stipinovich
71 Yacht Lane
Daly City, Ca. 94014
Hm: 650-755-5365
willstipjr@aol.com

Zone One Chair

Jayne Leon
61 Walter U. Lum Place
San Francisco, Ca. 94108
Hm: 415-362-6298
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Castro Lions Club Committees:

Finance & Budget - Lion David Gin
Visitations (2nd VP) -Lion Dennis Hale
Fundraising & Events - Lion Tommy Rudder
Constitution & Bylaws - (3rd VP) – Lion Linda Lopez-Wood
Voice Mail – Lion David Gin
Public Relations – Lions Gail Wood, Brad Sprankle, Steven Sams & Patrick Gould
Newsletter (3rd VP) – Lion Steven Sams
Speakers – Lion Linda Lopez-Wood
Membership – Lions Brit Zane & Patrick Gould
Y&CA Raffle Tickets – Lion John Klimek
Lions in Sight – Lion Linda Lopez-Wood
Exams & Eyeglasses – Lion Carl Tebell
Eyeglass Collections – Lions David Gin, Gary Nathan & Mary Sager
Holiday Party & Annual Dinner – Lions Carroll Fears, Gay Nathan & Linda Lopez-Wood
Board Meeting Coordinator Lions David Gin & Dennis Hale
Charities (2nd VP) – Lion Brian Carbo
Convention (2nd VP) – Lions David Gin, Carroll Fears, Gary Nathan, Dennis Hale, Brit Zane, Carl Tebell, & Linda Lopez-Wood.



The CASTRO Lion Roar - Castro Lions Club 584 Castro PMB 200 SF, Ca 94114
Membership Information Hotline: 415-90-LIONS



The ORIGINS of LIONISM:

Lionism began in 1917 when a group of independent businessmen responded to an idea presented to them by a young Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones. The idea is one of service as a group to our fellow human beings without regard to politics, religion, sex, race or any way the personal interests of the members. A conference of 25 independent clubs was called on June 7, 1917, and from this the organization of Lions was born. The International Association of Lions Clubs has grown to be the largest service club organization in the world, represented by over 43,000 clubs with a membership exceeding 1,429,000 in over 185 countries.

THOSE COLORS:

To Lions, purple stands for loyalty to country, friends, ones self and the integrity of mind and heart. It is the traditional color of strength, courage and tireless dedication to a cause. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity, in mind, heart and money toward our fellow men and women.

Who We Are:

We are volunteer members of a club that is chartered under an international organization, where we enjoy fellowship and dedicate part of our free time to helping those in need all over the world, while making our individual community, a better place to live. Our membership is open to any person willing to step up to the SERVICE motto of the organization.

Think of joining us:

While Castro Lions is one of the youngest Lions Club in San Francisco, we are a busy club! Formed in 1985, we have become the world's first officially sanctioned gay/lesbian Lions Club (and have since played a role in chartering other gay clubs in Denver and Toronto). Lions International has always encouraged clubs to reflect their unique neighborhoods. Membership is open to Gay and Non-Gay individuals.

YES – you CAN Afford It!

A member's basic financial commitment is a \$75 entrance fee and \$125 annual dues (payable semi-annually). The degree of involvement by each member and the degree of financial contribution are personal decisions. Club Meetings are held twice monthly (with dinner optional). There is usually a guest speaker about topics of interest to our community as well as a few reports of business and planning projects. Lions Clubs elect their officers annually and work through club committees. Our club is proud that it reflects all socio-economic levels within the gay, lesbian and non-gay community. Pins, vests and other items you may desire to acquire as part of club membership are available at anytime, and are reasonably priced, not required and payment schedules can be arranged.

**Castro Lions Club
584 Castro PMB 200
SF, Ca 94114
415-90-LIONS**

WE SERVE!

Mission Statement: “To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation. “
The Castro Lions is a Federal and State recognized 501 (c) (3) organization. Your contributions to our work in the community are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. [EIN# 94-3206719.](#)