



LODI ROTARY

# STRIPPINGS

NOVEMBER 17, 2005



SERVICE Above Self

ROTARY YEAR  
2005-2006

## WOMAN'S CENTER OF SAN JOAQUIN

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Today: Ms. Gomez from the Women's Center of San Joaquin will be here to tell us of the steps that are being taken to protect women and their children from people who have made it clear they wish to hurt them. The Women's Center has a "safe house" for women and children that stand a chance to be hurt by irate spouses and fathers. If you ask me, that isn't exactly a case of preaching to the choir because folks in this room have a clean bill of health as regards spousal abuse. I know, I know, the people who beat their wives and children do not frequent the average Rotary Club but the Women's Center High Mugwumps will assure you there is no way you can logically make that generalization, but I did and I'm glad because it's the truth.

As this here is being wrote, there is a chance there will be a last minute program change. You will not be required to leave the building and your lives will not being endangered.

Last week we were treated to the surprise of the year. The Salvation Army's new center here in Lodi has the most incredible kitchen in this fair city, thanks to the largesse of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Add to that the fact the Army of the Lord has acquired one of the most gifted chefs you could ever imagine and you have a scenario that couldn't help but appeal to the most hardened denizen of the street and turn him or her into one who would sincerely change his or her lifestyle that would incrementally involve getting a job, finding that perfect significant other, move to the suburbs, have 2.4 children and plan for a life ideally halcyon forever and a day.

Of course, that is the hope and prayer of the Army in general and their goal is to take lives of utter hopelessness, and with a 42 day stint of chicken cordon bleu and an occasional dinner of medallions of beef, turn them into God-fearing, financially successful civic leaders. Easy.

Next week: Thanksgiving. A celebration ostensibly in honor of the fact the original settlers who landed on Plymouth Rock actually managed to live off the land in spite of the fact most of them had been essentially citified in the Olde Country. Their eventual ability to become friends and associates of the Indigenous peoples in the area, together with the fact such peoples actually were able to provide native turkeys, yams and maize for the feast of

conciliation brought about the celebration we presently observe. And, in the process made the Pilgrims utterly thankful and since they had obsessively seen to the fact they needed to resume the creation of laws and observance of such, they decided that day would be observed henceforth as Thanksgiving Day and accidentally condemned hundreds of millions of turkeys to death from that day forward.

This means we won't have a meeting here, and if the chef at the Salvation Army is only half as good as I think, we should dress in our worst on show up over there for what promises the dinner of the year in Lodi...it'll make some of the other restaurant meals look like the work of total amateurs.

By the way, compared to the previous Salvation Army headquarters, the new digs look like a Taj Mahal.

Ok, folks, here is compendium of some of the ideas that have been sent to the editor of your bulletin.

One of our number, who wishes to be anonymous, by the way, suggested we get on the ball and have more social events that include our significant others and/or our children.

Another suggestion is we get a little old fashioned and have an occasional evening potluck dinner with music and dancing.

We have been asked to mention the possibility of getting an "In Your Face" project going and completed that would make the city take notice. We have been a shrinking violet for far too long.

One of our music lover members suggested we talk Bob Hartzell into taking a position at the piano every meeting for the next five years and pep up this joint. A talent like his should be exploited as often as possible.

By the way, the meeting this week will be at Jackson Hall.

In spite of the fact I can't be to the meeting this week, I think some consideration should be given to the old rule in Rotary that the members make it to all the meetings. Years ago, attendance to the meetings was a requirement, in fact that was one of the reasons I joined the Lions Club at the time (and, ironically enough, had 17 years of perfect attendance). What made Rotary as successful as it has been for 100 years is the Howen Principle...I don't come here for the food.

So make up your mind...be a Rotarian, live the ideal.

