



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF DUARTE
AND
THE CITY OF DUARTE
HOST A FORUM COMMEMORATING
THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK
SUPREME COURT CASE OF 1987
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007
4 PM—5:30 PM**

In 1977, the tiny Rotary Club of Duarte, created a firestorm when it admitted three women as members of the traditionally all-male international organization. When Rotary International revoked the club's charter for refusing to dismiss the women members, Duarte Rotary filed a lawsuit charging gender discrimination. A nine-year court battle ended in victory for the Duarte Rotary in the United States Supreme Court on May 4, 1987. The decision opened the doors to women in Rotary and every other service club in the nation and earned the name "The Mouse That Roared."

PANELISTS



Carol Agate
As the attorney with the ACLU, she was the attorney of record in the Supreme Court case.



Photo Courtesy of the Sonoma Index Tribune

Sanford K. Smith
He represented the Duarte Rotary pro bono throughout the 9-year case.



Dr. Sylvia Whitlock
The first woman president of Rotary in the world elected by the Duarte Rotary Club in 1987.



Christine M. Montan
District Governor for Rotary District 5300, Rotary International.



Mary Lou Elliot
The first of three women admitted to the Duarte Rotary in 1977, an action that led to the revocation of the club's charter and the lawsuit

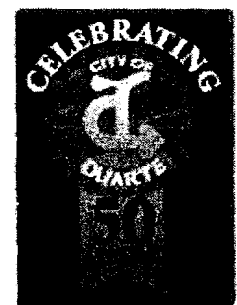


Ken Caresio
1987 Duarte City Manager and a member of the Rotary.



Mary Ann Lutz, Moderator
Rotary Assistant Governor, District 5300

**Duarte Community Center
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, California 91010
INFO: (626) 357-7931, ext. 220
www.accessduarte.com**



PASADENA STAR-NEWS

Saturday, May 5, 2007 www.pasadenastarnews.com

Key players recall landmark Rotary case

BY EMANUEL PARKER
STAFF WRITER



WALT MANCINI / STAFF

KEY LEADERS: From left, Ken Caresio, Mary Lou Elliott, Shelan Joseph, Luke McJimpson, Sanford Smith, Carol Agate, Christine Montan and Dr. Sylvia Whitlock gather Friday for a forum marking the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling opening the doors of service clubs to women.

DUARTE — A woman whose admission to the Duarte Rotary Club sparked a U.S. Supreme Court case that opened service clubs nationwide to women said she was actually only admitted because her application used just her initials.

"We were not women's libbers," Mary Lou Elliott said. "We just went about our business" after being admitted.

Luke McJimpson said Duarte Rotary club members discussed admitting women for a year before unanimously voting to do so.

The club was down to eight members.

In a film clip, the late Richard Key, a past Duarte Rotary president, said two-thirds of the professional people in Duarte were women.

Please turn to **ROTARY** / Page 11

ROTARY 20 years after ruling

Continued from page 1

Those who played a key role in the landmark 1987 U.S. Supreme Court ruling held a forum Friday marking the 20th anniversary of the decision at the Duarte Community Center.

"We were not rebels," said Ken Caresio, Duarte city manager and a Rotary member. "We just did what we thought was the right thing to do."

After Duarte Rotary admitted the women in 1977, Rotary International revoked its charter

in 1978, initiating a nine-year court battle between Duarte Rotary and Rotary International.

"They [Rotary International] tried everything possible," said Carol Agate, an ACLU attorney who represented Duarte Rotary.

"They tried to move the case to federal court. They tried every motion in the book. We had a strong case, but we had a [L.A. County Superior Court] judge who early on indicated he was not going to decide in our favor," she said.

Sanford K. Smith, an attorney who lived in Arcadia at the time, also represented Duarte Rotary.

"We tried to make the case as narrow as possible," Smith said,

"so that it would only apply to Duarte. But Rotary International would not accept that. They chose to fight us tooth and nail on everything."

Elliott later moved to Oregon, where she applied to join a local Rotary Club.

"The club secretary told me, 'I looked through all of our categories, but there was not one for you,'" she said. "That was the end of my Rotary membership. I joined a different service club with women members."

Immediately after the Supreme Court's decision, the Kiwanis and Lions clubs opened their doors to women.

The Elks finally followed suit in 1995.

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Opinion

Twenty years ago, women were finally allowed to become Rotary members

By PHILIP A. RUE

It was 20 years ago today that the Supreme Court of the United States decided that women could be admitted to business and professional organizations such as the Rotary Club, and by extension, to others.

The decision ended several years of wrangling about whether the First Amendment of the Constitution would be violated if women were admitted to these clubs. A California law (known as the Unruh Civil Rights Act) entitled persons of either sex to be admitted to these clubs.

The Rotary Club of Duarte admitted three women in 1977 and everything seemed to be in good order until the parent organization, Rotary International, learned about this apparent violation of Rotary protocol and revoked Duarte's charter. The club continued to meet.

The Duarte Rotary appealed to a State Court after it was ruled that the club was in error.

An Appeals Court found in favor of Duarte, saying that the exclusion of women by the International parent organization and therefore all local Rotary Clubs was not protected by the First Amendment. The Court found that there were substantial business benefits in the Rotary organization, that it was not a strictly social and private organization, and that it was a business and professional organization which provided community service, promoted high and ethical business standards, and worked for world progress in health and education.

Rotary International disputed the decision and asked the Supreme Court to review the case since it involved interpretation of the First Amendment.

After studying the case, seven of the Justices (two did not participate) ruled in favor of the California law (the Unruh Act) which prohibited gender discrimination in business-type clubs. The date was May 4, 1987. The decision was plain. A California law requiring full and equal accommodations to both sexes in business establishments is constitutional and does not violate the First Amendment when applied to a broad-based business and professional organization.

The admission of women would not affect the purposes of the club.

At that time, there were nearly 20,000 Rotary Clubs with about a million members throughout the world. It was not a private social organization which could have precluded women, but it was instead, a wide-ranging club with an agenda of helping members, the local communities, and helping to achieve world-wide humanitarian objectives.

The Court analyzed the intents and purposes of clubs in order to determine the extent of Constitution protection. It found that Rotary (and other clubs) represent a cross section of business and professional life in a community. The admission of women would not affect that status, but perhaps add to the goals, intents and purposes of clubs. Discrimination is thus eliminated, bringing equal access to women in the operation of these clubs.

It was interesting that the admission of three women to the Duarte Rotary Club would have such legal reverberations that would involve a state law and then analysis by the U.S. Supreme Court before the matter was settled in favor of women 20 years ago today.

Fontana's service clubs all have women members. They probably notice an enhancement in the conduct of club business.

Duarte Rotary honors ruling

BY EMANUEL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

DUARTE Key players in a historic court battle that opened service clubs nationwide to women, a fight that started the Rotary Club of Duarte, will gather again today to discuss the landmark Supreme Court ruling.

A 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision earned the Rotary Club of Duarte the nickname "The Mouse that Roared" for launching the lengthy court battle.

The 20th anniversary of the decision will be celebrated with a 4 p.m. forum at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive.

In 1977, the Duarte Rotary Club was down to eight members. Recognizing that women increasingly held leadership positions, the club voted to admit Duarte school principals Mary Lou Elliott and Donna Bogard as members.

Rotary International repeatedly asked the Duarte Rotary to cancel their membership in the men-only club. When it refused, Rotary International revoked the club's charter in 1978.

This initiated a nine-year court battle against Rotary International.

The Duarte Rotary successfully filed suit in the California courts, arguing that Rotary Clubs are business establishments regulated by the state's Unruh Civil Rights Act, which bans discrimination based on race, gender, religion or ethnic origin.

Rotary International appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, and on May 4, 1987, the court upheld the California court decision.

"I was surprised it went all the way to the Supreme Court," Elliott said. "I didn't think the case would be resolved. I thought it would be put on a back burner and never come forward."

"But we stayed with it and it was the right time. They had to recognize that women were active in the business community and that fair is fair," she said.

Panel members will include Elliott, the first of three women members of the Duarte Rotary; Sanford K. Smith, then an Arcadia attorney who represented the Duarte Rotary pro bono throughout the case; and Carol Agate, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney who worked on the case for nine years.

Monrovia City Council member Mary Ann Lutz, assistant governor of District 5300, will serve as moderator.

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Duarte Rotary Supreme Court Victory 20 Years Later

Public Forum on May 4 to Recall Landmark Decision

Women who today enjoy membership in Rotary Club and other community service clubs can thank the Rotary Club of Duarte, "The Mouse that Roared," for making it possible. Stripped of its charter by Rotary International in 1978 for allowing three women to join the club, the Duarte Rotary sued the organization for gender discrimination. The nine year court battle that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court ended in victory for Duarte Rotary in 1987 and opened doors to women in Rotary and all other service clubs in the nation.

On Friday, May 4, the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, the Duarte Rotary and the City of Duarte will reunite key figures in the landmark civil rights case who will discuss the case in a forum that is open to the public. Historic video news clips of the case will also be shown. The forum will be held at 4 p.m. in the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte. Admission is free.

Panel participants will include: Mary Lou Elliott, the first of three women members of the Duarte Rotary, whose admittance led to the revocation of the club's charter and the lawsuit; Sanford K. Smith, the Arcadia, California attorney, who represented



Mary Lou Elliott was the first of three women members of the Duarte Rotary, whose admittance led to the revocation of the club's charter and the lawsuit. - Photo courtesy of Mary Barrow

Duarte Rotary pro bono throughout the case; Carol Agate, the attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who also worked on the case for nine years and is the attorney of record on the Supreme Court decision; ACLU Affirmative Action Attorney and Board Member, Shelan Joseph, Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the first woman president of a Rotary club in the world. She was elected by the re-instated Duarte Rotary to serve as president for 1987-1988; Luke McJimpson, a principal of Duarte High School at the time and the Duarte Rotary member who was dispatched to the Rotary International Convention in Tokyo in 1978 to appeal speak on its behalf of the club; and Christine Montan, District Governor, District 5300, Rotary International, a fourth generation Rotarian and the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Alhambra in 1987. Moderator will be Mary Ann Lutz,

Assistant Governor, District 5300 and a Monrovia City Councilwoman.

In 1977, with only eight members in the Duarte Rotary, and recognizing that women were increasingly holding key leadership positions in the community, the club voted to admit Duarte school principals Mary Lou Elliott and Donna Bogard into its ranks. A few months later Rosemary Freitag, a psychologist, became the third woman member of the Duarte club.

When Rotary International representatives learned of the women, Duarte Rotary was ordered to terminate their membership or lose its charter. Duarte Rotary, under then president, Richard Key, who was also the superintendent of Duarte Unified School District, stood its ground and eight months later in February of 1978, Rotary International revoked the charter of the Duarte Club. When all appeals to Rotary International failed, the club voted to continue to meet as a quasi-Rotary Club. An X was placed over the Rotary insignia and the club renamed itself The Ex-Rotary Club of Duarte. In June of 1978, with the help of attorney Smith and Agate, the ACLU attorney, the club and women members filed suit against Rotary International. The long battle against Rotary International in the courts was begun.

For more information call Duarte City Hall, (626) 357-7931, ext. 220 or (626) 357-4151.

THE *Monrovia*
WEEKLY

ONLY THE SKY COVERS YOU BETTER
A Publication of Core Media Group, Inc.
MONDAY, APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2007

VOLUME 12 NO 35

WWW.MONROVIAWEEKLY.COM

HEADLINE NEWS:

Kiwanis International to Offer Free Vaccinations, TB Tests for Children May 5

For more information, go to AccessDuarte.com

Duarte, Bradbury to Salute U.S. Armed Forces in "A Hero's Tribute"

By David Crockett



Musical Director Lisa Baird, at the piano, rehearses cast members of "A Hero's Tribute," a community musical production honoring American military men and women and veterans, to be performed April 26-28 at the Duarte Performing Arts Center, 1401 Highland Ave

Four years ago, the Duarte community mourned the loss of one of its own, Lance Corporal Francisco A. Martinez Flores, who died while serving his country in Iraq. Weeks later, Duarte honored the fallen young Marine, who once played trumpet in the high school band, by dedicating the Spring Musical to his memory.

Four performances of "A Hero's Tribute" will grace the stage at the Duarte Performing Arts Center from Thursday, April 26 through Saturday, April 28.

The show will be presented courtesy of Burrtec Waste Services, City of Duarte, City of Bradbury, Duarte Education Foundation and the Duarte Unified School District. "A Heroes Tribute" is a musical revue honoring the men, women

and families who have fought for freedom throughout America's history, from the American Revolution all the way to the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with an additional 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 28th. The show is directed by Mike Bauer. The Assistant Director is Terri Martin Lujan, the Musical Director is Lisa Baird and the Student Choreographer is Brittney Huribut.

Tickets for the show are \$20 for reserved center section seating; \$15 general admission. Students and senior citizens will receive a \$5 ticket discount. Tickets can be purchased by mail, telephone, or in person at the Duarte Public Safety Office in the Target Center, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door one hour before each performance. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Lance Corporal Francisco A. Martinez Flores Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Duarte Performing Arts Center is located at 1401 Highland Avenue. For more information or to acquire tickets, call (626) 256-0155.

Rotary, City of Duarte Commemorate Landmark Supreme Court Case

By David Crockett

The Rotary Club of Duarte, in conjunction with the City of Duarte, will host a forum commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1987 ruling that permitted women to gain membership into Rotary International.

The event will be held at the Duarte Community Center on Friday, May 4 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The Duarte Community Center is located at 1600 Huntington Drive in Duarte.

In 1977, the tiny Rotary Club of Duarte admitted three female members into its traditionally all-male organization, and consequently had their charter revoked by Rotary International for refusing to dismiss the women members. Duarte Rotary then filed a lawsuit charging gender discrimination, and won the ensuing nine-year court battle on May 4,

1987 with the Supreme Court's ruling. The panelists for the event will include: Carol Agate, ACLU attorney who was the attorney of record in the Supreme Court case; Sanford K. Smith, who represented Duarte Rotary pro bono throughout the nine year case; Dr. Sylvia Whillock, the first woman president of Rotary in the world, elected by the Duarte Rotary Club in 1987; Christine M. Montan, District Governor for Rotary District 5300, Rotary International; Mary Lou Elliot, the first of the three women admitted to the Duarte Rotary in 1977; and Ken Caresio, the Duarte City Manager in 1987 and a Rotary member. The panel will be moderated by Mary Ann Lutz, Rotary Assistant Governor, District 5300.

For more information, call (626) 357-7931 x220 or visit AccessDuarte.com.

**City Highlights
DUARTE**

"A HERO'S TRIBUTE"

Thursday - Saturday, April 26 -28, 7:30 p.m.
(626) 256-0155, AccessDuarte.com

FISH CANYON OPEN FOR HIKING

Saturday, April 28, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(626) 357-7931 x221

MOVIE DAY - "RETURN TO ME"

Wednesday, April 25, 12:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
(626) 357-3513

TEEN CENTER PLAYSTATION 2 TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, April 24
(626) 303-0863

**GET IN O ED. GET INFORMED.
City Council Meetings**

-Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m.
-Community Center at City Hall
1600 Huntington Dr.
Duarte, CA 91010

Charter Cable Channel 55



KidsArt Fine Art Instruction
Ages 4 through Adult

Grand Opening



FREE INTRODUCTION CLASS
1600 HUNTINGTON DR. DUARTE, CA 91010
(626) 357-7931



Key players in landmark Rotary case reunite

BY EMANUEL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

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"We tried to make the case as narrow as possible," Smith said, "so that it would only apply to Duarte. But Rotary International would not accept that. They chose to fight us tooth and nail on everything."

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WALT MANCINI / STAFF

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Kiwanis and Lions clubs in 1995. opened their doors to women.

The Elks finally followed suit

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Honoring Rotary equality

20th anniversary of women's admittance marked

By Emanuel Parker Staff Writer

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the WEEKLY STAR

May 3, 2007 — Vol. 6, No. 30

AN EDITION OF THE DUARTEAN AND THE MONROVIA NEWS POST SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF DUARTE AND MONROVIA

AROUND TOWN

Justice turns

A groundbreaking Supreme Court decision will be celebrated May 4 when a panel of women come together to discuss the entrance of women in local Rotary clubs.

Before 1987, women were not allowed in Rotary Club International. Women of the Rotary Club of Duarte took the issue to court and won.

A panel that includes key players in the landmark case will discuss the history behind the decision from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive. For information call (626) 357-7931.



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

Since 1997 • Published In GLENDORA, California
A Weekly Adjudicated Publication Serving all of Los Angeles County

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE

April 26 - May 2, 2007

Volume XI, Issue No. 17

Forum To Commemorate Rotary Victory

DUARTE — Women who today enjoy membership in Rotary Club and other community service clubs can thank the Rotary Club of Duarte, "The Mouse that Roared," for making it possible.

Before 20 years ago women were barred from membership in service clubs such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and others. But that changed on May 4, 1987 when the tiny Duarte Rotary Club that had been stripped of its charter by Rotary International for admitting three women to active membership in 1977, against Rotary International rules, won a landmark victory in the United States Supreme Court that forced the end of gender discrimination in Rotary and ultimately all service clubs.

On Friday, **May 4, at 4 p.m.**, the public is invited to attend a forum to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision. The Rotary Club of Duarte and the City of Duarte will reunite key figures in the nine year court battle who will discuss the case and its aftermath. The forum will be held at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte. Admission is free.

Panel participants will include: Mary Lou Elliott, the first of three women members of the Duarte Rotary, whose admittance led to the revocation of the club's charter and the lawsuit; Sanford K. Smith, the Arcadia, California attorney, who represented Duarte Rotary pro bono throughout the case; Carol Agate, the attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who also worked on the case for nine years and is the attorney of record on the Supreme Court decision;

Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the first woman president of a Rotary club in the world. She was elected by the reinstated Duarte Rotary to serve as president for 1987-1988; Ken Caresio, Duarte City Manager at the time of the Supreme Court decision and a member of Rotary; and Christine Montan, District Governor, District 5300, Rotary International, a fourth generation Rotarian and the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Alhambra in 1987. Moderator will be Mary Ann Lutz, Assistant Governor, District 5300.

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**The San Gabriel
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Duarte Rotary Club Forum on Women in Rotary, the Supreme Court Victory

Friday, May 4, 2007, 4pm

Duarte Community Center

1600 Huntington Drive [Map](#)

Duarte, CA

In conjunction with the City's 50th anniversary celebration, the Duarte Rotary Club will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that opened the doors to women in service clubs nationwide.. A forum will be held featuring some of the key participants in the court battle who will discuss the landmark case. Historic video clips of the national news coverage of the Supreme Court decision will also be shown at the program. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.