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THE GOLDEN KEY NEWSLETTER OF CAL POLY POMONA

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# WORK & PLAY

Golden Key's 30th anniversary lives up to the hype.



*[ "I JUST SAW USHER!!!" ]*

Yes, Usher. The stylish R&B singer with the Michael Jackson dance moves and Colgate commercial smile that makes girls swoon the world over was at Golden Key's 2007 International Conference! Usher wasn't actually part of the conference where Golden Key celebrated its 30th birthday, however. The rumors as to why Usher happened to be available for a quick photo-op in our hotel's elevator lobby ranged from hosting a fundraiser for presidential hopeful Barack Obama,

to having just gotten married, and using the hotel as a location for his reception. To date, this non-investigative journalist has no idea why Usher was there. I only know that an Australian girl I had befriended on Friday came running up to me during the after-dinner dance on Saturday night, and delivered the above quote. She then immediately showed me the photo on her camera to provide photographic evidence to corroborate her exclamation. *(continued on next page)*

Over eight hundred spirited Golden Key members checked into Atlanta's Hyatt Regency Hotel for four days that consisted of workshops, networking, slightly less formal mingling (read: partying), and local sightseeing. The workshops were good, helpful, insightful, and not boring at all. Golden Key does a good job of harvesting feedback from members in an effort to keep workshops relevant. They also typically have student officers or advisors present the workshops, as opposed to boring, monotone, 60-something aged speakers that are out of touch with today's collegiate population. After all, Golden Key members get enough of that in their academic classes, right? The topics of the workshops were equally relevant. Workshops ranged from educational and personal enrichment like "All You Need to Know About Graduate School" and "The Real Life Adventures of a Top 40 Under 40," to workshops aimed at improving Golden Key chapters like "GK 201: Thought You Knew It All?" and "Show Me The Money! Fundraising Ideas for Golden Key Chapters." PowerPoint presentations from some of the workshops are available online at the Golden Key headquarters website.

Golden Key stepped it up when it came to their featured keynote speaker. Jack Canfield, most recognizable as the originator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, addressed all the chapters in attendance at Saturday's luncheon. Living up to his title of "America's Success Coach," Mr. Canfield went over several characteristics that have helped him become successful and could likely lead to success in our lives as well.

To sum up the 2007 International Conference in a sentence, I would have to say that friends were made, ideas were exchanged, knowledge was gained, and very little sleep was had... just like it should be.

by Dan Dow



*“FRIENDS WERE MADE...”*



*... IDEAS WERE EXCHANGED...*



*... KNOWLEDGE WAS GAINED...*



*... AND VERY LITTLE SLEEP WAS TO BE HAD...*



*... JUST LIKE IT SHOULD BE!”*





# PEPPERTREE ELEMENTARY

by Lee Tuazon

This year, Golden Key is focusing most of its community service events on literacy programs. So, naturally, our first community service event of the year was to assist the Upland Community Partnership for Youth Development with their dinner fundraiser. All proceeds were used to support after-school programs in the City of Upland. On Saturday, October 6, 2007, in conjunction with the City of Upland Recreation & Community Services Division, the Upland Community Partnership for Youth Development held their 9th Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Pepper Tree Elementary School.

Two hours before the actual event started, a few Golden Key members arrived at Pepper Tree Elementary School to help with the setup and decoration of the cafeteria, where the dinner was to take place. We had to set up enough tables for the 200 people expected to attend this event. A few of our members helped prepare the kitchen area so that it could accommodate all the spaghetti, salad, bread, and drinks that would be served to those in attendance. Some of our members (the technologically savvy ones, that is) even helped with the sound system setup for the entertainment, as well as a PowerPoint presentation that explained the purpose of the event. Because of the abundance of volunteers from other organizations, including Golden Key, setup didn't take too long.

The night started off rather slowly, but as more and more donors arrived, Golden Key's contributions to this event became even more vital. Some of our members were in the kitchen area, serving food - even our very own president was sporting an apron & gloves and serving Vince's Spaghetti! The amount of food served was such that we had our members continuously walking through the aisles, clearing tables so that other people may sit and eat comfortably. Later on, as people began to finish dinner, the young and talented singers of Moultrie Academy graced the event with their musical gifts, singing everything from the classics to the best of today's music. After the entertainment, the night was topped off with a raffle and silent auction, in which people walked away with various prizes, ranging from gift baskets, flights to Hawaii, and even fine art photography.

Once everyone left, all the volunteers, us GK'ers included, got right to work cleaning up and putting everything away. Thanks to the abundance of volunteers, cleanup only took about half an hour, leaving everyone plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the night. All in all, the event was a success - Golden Key was a great help to the cause, and the Upland Community Partnership for Youth Development raised quite a lot of money for the after-school programs in the Upland school district.



# GO, SPEED RACER

**[**“FLOOR IT ON TURN 4,

**CHECK.**

**FAST LINE THROUGH  
THE ESSES,**

**CHECK.**

**AVOID DEBRIS IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE TURN,**

**CHECK.”****]**

“45 seconds...wow, I’ve got some work to do.” That’s what I thought as I completed my first lap on the Grand Prix track. I have some amateur go-kart racing experience that includes multiple wins, so I had been talking smack the entire week leading up to Golden Key’s SpeedZone social.

As my competitors and I waited in line before our turn on the track, I kept an eye on the lap times being turned by those who raced before us. The fastest I saw was a forty-two second lap. Therefore, my goal when I got into the driver’s seat of the biggest, fastest go-kart I had ever driven was to break the forty-two second barrier. I knew that a forty-one second lap wouldn’t be a record and probably not even the fastest time of the day, but it would be a good lap and most likely enough to beat the guys I was racing against, and that’s all I cared about.

The first lap was a learning experience. I feathered the gas coming out of turn four when I should have floored it, my racing line through the esses in the middle of the track was more off than one of A.P.’s air balls during his Thursday night basketball games, and I eased up a little coming to the finish line. Still, I didn’t think I would have to make up four seconds to accomplish my goal. My second lap was better at a time of forty-three seconds. At this point I thought I could do it. Still, it wouldn’t be an easy task. We had decided to pay for three laps and no more. It was go time and I had to get it right or risk the embarrassment of second place after talking a big game (are you starting to realize how competitive I am?). I would have to

hold my foot to the floor, keep a clean racing line, and not be afraid of that stupid wall that jutted into the track off of turn four.

When the light turned green signaling the start of my third lap I sped off, fast and focused. Apex the first turns as tightly as possible. Check. Floor it off of turn four. Check. Fast line through the esses. Check. Avoid debris in middle of turn. Check (yeah, that was annoying...how did that black thing get there anyways? I still don’t know exactly what it was).

As I crossed the finish line and pulled in to the pits I eagerly looked up at the scoreboard. Listed at the top, car number three with a time of 41.892 seconds! Instinctively my fist flew up into the air in a Tiger Woods-like celebratory fist pump that was definitely overkill for a fast lap at what is essentially an amusement park, but I don’t care...it felt good.

by Dan Dow

\*SpeedZone photos  
by Elizabeth Nevarez

Every year, Golden Key members dress up for Halloween and go “Trick-or-Canning” in Diamond Bar, collecting canned food to donate to Food Finders, an organization that distributes canned goods to needy families throughout Southern California.

All that was left was to deliver the cans to Food Finders. All the food was dropped off at my house after we finished our work in Diamond Bar. As Community Service Director, it was up to me to bring it to the Good Sheppard Presbyterian Church, where Food

# TRICK OR CAN



This whole event was actually a three day thing, and it started off with distributing fliers on the Sunday before Halloween. When we arrived at Diamond Bar, we split up into two teams, and then began walking around the neighborhood, placing fliers that explained what Golden Key was planning to do come Halloween night. Once the fliers had been distributed, all the Golden Key members did one last cheer and went home, eager for Wednesday to come a little faster.

Three nights later, an unlikely group of people met at Cal Poly Pomona to carpool to Diamond Bar one more time. They consisted of a mobster, a sexy cavewoman, a doctor, a black-winged angel, a fairy, a witch, a tourist, Neo and Agent Smith from The Matrix, a few more gangsters, a card dealer, an East Indian princess, and the Punisher (my personal favorite... because that was me).

Once again we split up into two teams, and each had a car that would be used to store all the donated cans. Once all was set, both teams walked throughout the neighborhood, collecting as many canned goods as they possibly could. By the end of the night, we had two cars whose trunks were so full, they could barely contain all the food donated by the residents of Diamond Bar!

Finders sorts the cans, boxes them, and distributes them to needy families. Food Finders calculated that Golden Key donated 275 cans & 50 other products, which comes to a total of approximately 600 pounds of food. The event was a great success for Golden Key, and gave many needy families in southern California something to be thankful for during this years Thanksgiving holiday.

by Lee Tuazon

# LAST LAUGH

by Dan Rarela

The following is an actual conversation I had with Carmen, one of the nice old ladies at the Pomona Vista Alzheimer's Center as part of the Golden Key Valentine's Day for Seniors event. The women were asking if there were any handsome guys at Cal Poly or something, and Dan Dow jokingly pointed at me. I wasn't paying any attention to what they were saying until I heard my name pop up, so it kind of caught me off guard. I think I played along with it pretty well, though...

**DAN:** Oh yeah, you know, I'm one of the few that are left. Good looking guys are a rare commodity in Pomona...

**CARMEN:** Are you Mexican?

No, although I've gotten that question a couple of times before. I'm actually Filipino.

What? No way! You *look* Mexican! Do you speak Spanish?

*Solamente un poquito.*

(Haha, whatever, I can show off a little bit, yes?)

You know, I've got a niece that I'm sure would really love to meet you. She's very pretty, and her name is Sabrina.

Oh really? How old is she?

(Uh oh...this terrain feels horribly familiar...)

She's very pretty.

Er...

(What the heck?! I asked how OLD she is!)

**HOSPITAL**

**WORKER:** He's asking you how OLD she is.

Sixteen.

Oh, she's a little too young for me, then. I'm 21.

(Listen, lady, there's only 1 R. Kelly in this world, and that's already more than anyone wants. Don't even start.)

A 5 year difference? That's not so bad. Actually, did I say 16? I meant 18!

Uh-huh, you're just giving her age a 2 year curve, aren't you?

(Ugh, this never gets any less awkward, does it?)

::laughter from everyone at the table::

Here, let me write down my number somewhere so your niece can call me up sometime...

(Or rather, let me call 911 so I can tell the police I'm getting cornered by a couple of older women trying to sell their niece off to what they seem to think of as fresh meat)

::more laughter from everyone at the table::

Anyway...

::turns to the other end of the table::

Oh, hi! Has anybody filled out a Valentine for you yet?