

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for March 6, 2006 Around the World with Burt Fohrman

By Jeri Arnold

Preliminaries



President **Chris** called the meeting to order with her usual exuberance and enthusiasm! She always makes us smile!

Coming Up

3/13 - Becoming Independent,
John McCue

3/20 - Sonoma County Medical
Reserve Corp., Mike Doyle

3/27 - Travels to Turkey,
Bergen Johnson

4/3 - Speech Contest

4/10 - GSE Team

Pledge: Led by **Jim Benoit**

Moment: **David McDonald** with a tribute to the recent academy awards.



Visiting Rotarians: **Tarina Hall** presented the four guests joining us this week; Carolyn Coleman, Terri Acuna, Gary Combs, and Peter Foreman

Announcements and Such:

President **Chris**: New Rotarian magazine is out - please read it - it has some great articles. Chris also sent out the Future Vision Survey via email. It is very easy so please complete. District award requests are due March 20, 2006.

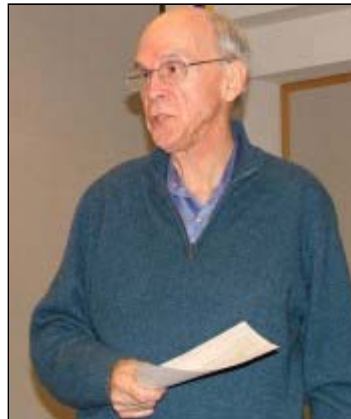
Brian Fikes: Meeting for March 13, 2006 is changed to an evening meeting at the Black Rose Pub for St. Patrick's Day.

Ken Prouty: International Committee is meeting on Thursday at 12:00 at Josef's

Ed Burr: Fishing in the City is scheduled for April 8, 2006. Please call Ed if you would like to help-it is a lot of fun and a great help to the kids.



Ken Dansie: Student interviews at Ridgeway is scheduled for March 23, 2006. Please contact him if you would like to help him with these interviews.



Harry Rubins: Now is the time for the club match on your donations to the foundation. The club is able to do this thanks to **Scott Bartley** and **Ginny Pitts**. They put on the Bartley BBQ and pay for it all so the funds that are collected can be used to match your donations.

Past District Governor **Mike Merrill** announced a very important group of people: **Bob Zeni, Jack Bill, Bob Coleman, Louie Capuano, Bo Kershin, Barbara Larson, Bob Reinking, and Ken Kushnir**. This group has donated collectively over \$15,000!



Mike talked about all of the great work that Foundation does and how it changes the lives of both the donors and the recipients.

Mike, President **Chris** and **Pat McDowell** (Foundation Chair for the Windsor club) made a moving presentation to **Don & Gail Johnson** who have attained Major Donor Status after giving more than \$10,000 to Rotary International.



Chris Young: Reminded everyone that March 18 is the Habitat for Humanity project. Contact him if you want more information.



Recognition

Gayle Johnson was fined because the Christmas Card President **Chris** mailed to her was returned.

Jim Hinton went on a wonderful ski trip to Aspen with fellow Rotarians-**Bill Dodson, John Hathaway, Ken Prouty** and **Peter LaMonica**.



Jim Underhill had a birthday but wouldn't say which one.

John Withers was also celebrating his birthday-81!

Raffle

Ed Burr won the chance at \$450 but did not get the black marble.

Don Ling won the wine!

Program: Around the World with Burt Fohrman

John Withers introduced **Burt Fohrman**, an International Business and Finance Attorney who specializes in Real Estate. He was a prior speaker at Santa Rosa West Rotary, and due to popular demand, **John** asked him to come back and speak again.



Mr. Fohrman has worked all over the world and has his license in many countries. He began his travels in 1970 when a man in an elevator asked him to do a transaction in Germany and he has been on the "road" ever since.

Due to the fact that he has worked in 26 countries he is privy to the internal workings of these countries and how people really live. He has been asked many times - of all the

countries he has been to what is the best place he's ever been, his answer - Sonoma County. He said that this is the best place on earth and people in other countries would love to live here.

One of the things Mr. Fohrman has discovered during his travels is that all countries that are in the same socioeconomic condition as us have the same concerns as us. We are truly a unified world in many respects.

He is also very interested in the status of women in the world and is fascinated with the difference in standing of women in different countries. Particularly in China and Japan. In China women are held in high regard and are used as a resource in business and government, whereas Japan's women hold very lowly positions in the workforce, and do not work at all once they have children. One of the reasons Mr. Fohrman is interested in this situation is because he has both Chinese and Japanese daughter-in-laws.

Mr. Fohrman is so interesting that he did not even have time to answer questions! Maybe we will have to have him come back again!

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Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti

