

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for September 19, 2005 Education and Conservation in the Amazon

By Scott Bartley

Preliminaries



President Chris Parr called the meeting to order with a smack of the bell and her normal truckload of enthusiasm.

Mr. John Palmer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance today. I noted that we still include the words 'Under God' in it, which proves that we are not Communists.... Hey how could we be that??? We are Rotarians! However I need to remind our members that it is "One Nation Under God' not 'One Nation, Under God'. Just listen and follow Sullivan.

Barbara Larson gave the Rotary moment or as we use to call it the invocation... there goes that God thing again!... It was a well considered quote however and got a positive reaction from everyone... well almost, but you can't please **Marigo** all the time.

Ginny Pitts put on her best Carnival Cruise Line Activity Director persona and introduced the visiting Rotarians and almost made it through without a mistake... until she came to visiting Rotarian... **Nancy Aida**.... Oh no! wait.. that is an opera... she meant to say **Nancy Aita**.....now now **Ginny**! How many years have you known Nancy?



Paul Stychno introduced our GSE Team Member, **Christopher Pennacchio**, who is with the architectural firm Kellogg & Associates

Coming Up
10/2 - Wine Tasting & Bocci, Windsor Club
10/3 - Red Cross Disaster Preparedness
11/19 - Rota Rock Cafe : District 5130 South Foundation Celebration

here in Santa Rosa. He will be representing us on the GSE team's travels in Argentina.



And lo and behold! Who is there with the Camera this week but former member **Bob Harris**! Bob needs to come back, it just isn't the same without him.. especially with camera in hand... I mean all those great pictures he has taken of **Kushnir** religiously every time and not a one of them can be printed!



Announcements and Such:

Chris Rosell announced that the Board discussed donations for Hurricane Katrina relief. He suggested that if members want to donate to it they should do it to the Club's Foundation and identify it for Hurricane relief. The money we collect will be distributed through a local Rotary Club in the area for hurricane relief. Past President **Louie Capuano** is down there now dealing with the hurricane impacts on his immediate family.



Yale Abrams from the Downtown Club announced their big annual fund raiser on October 22. It is their annual Hoe-down Party at the Fairgrounds. He donated two tickets to our club to auction off. Tickets are \$50 each. Lets get a good showing from our club at their event. Downtown is a consistent supporter of our annual Crab Feed and we need to return the favor!

Ginny Pitts announced the Annual Tribute to Our Veterans Luncheon on November 3rd at that big building on Maple Avenue, know to most people as the Veteran's Building. Gee how appropriate! **Ginny** has tickets and urges all members to come and bring a Veteran as their guest. Tickets are \$15 each. Ginny has 100 to sell for our club so lets give her a hand!

Also this year there will be donation barrels from organization MOMS for items that our troops can use. Check with **Ginny** for a list of appropriate donation items.

Chris Young is ordering the books this week for our elementary [School Dictionary program](#).

Tarina Hall announced that the first meeting of our Club at it's new meeting Location will be December 5th. We will be meeting from that day forward at the Fountain Grove Inn at the corner of Bicentennial and Mendocino Avenues. And yes they have a bar! Lets all pray that the Rodent Insurrection doesn't happen any sooner at the Los Robles.



Patty Prescott from the Windsor Club announced a Vineyard Afternoon event on Sunday Oct 2nd. Tickets are \$50 each and there will be wine and merriment there. Contact the Windsor Club or **Maureen Merrill** for details.

Craft Talk

One of our new members, **Bo Kirschen** took one more step on his quest to Blue Badgedom.

Bo was born and raised in New Jersey and attended Yale Law School. Although he found Hartford Connecticut to be a beautiful and exciting place to live, he decide to move west and came out to Los Angeles.



He was aware of Rotary from early in his career as all of his bosses were Rotary power brokers. Feeling inferior, he joined Kiwanis. He went from private practice to Fireman's Fund where he became General Council for the Company. He worked there for many years until deciding that dealing with the issues of one of his insurers... DOW Chemical that he had enough.. One could say that he was hit in the head with a brick.... (actually a face brick popping off the wall of a building... you had to be there...) (I remember talking to the architect of the Wells Fargo Mortgage building here in SR and said how tough it must be dealing with all the bricks falling off the building. He responded that it wasn't so much that the bricks popped off.. it was that when they did they tore holes through 3 floors of expensive awnings before hitting someone in the head....)

Anyway back to **Bo**.... He has been married to his second wife for over 30 years and now fills his time as a Gentleman Farmer, Golfer and a Hobo. He is in Rotary because he figured that any organization that would take **Bob Marigo** couldn't have all that high of a standard. Welcome **Bo**... you sound like great Clean Up material for the Crab Feed!!

Recognition

Ginny Pitts was recognized for her amazing efforts in hosting the Bartley Barbeque! She is so good to do it and it was a great event, with over 75 members in attendance, in spite of the chilly weather. She was given a "special award" by **President Chris**.... I am not sure what it was.. but have an idea.. **Ginny** pushed the on switch and it began to vibrate and light up! Um.... Well I knew they vibrated when you switch them on... but never realized that they lit up.....not that I have had any experience with one..... Do the lights add to the experience????



Speaking of the BBQ... **President Chris** won the first and 4th quarters of the Football pool and the organizer of the pool.. **Bryan Fikes** won the 2nd and 3rd quarters! Well they both donated half their winnings back to the club.

Thanks are also due to the other members who help make this event such a success every year. They are **JimValinoti** for donating wine, **Chris Rosell** and **Tarina Hall** for helping with set up, **Bill Dodson** and **Scott Weiss** for setting up the bar, and all the members for attending. The money raised goes to Rotary Foundation for the Club.

Jim Benoit, the world famous poker player, was a big winner at the Poker party a couple weeks ago. His winnings, were \$346!!!! Pretty good, even for an old poker pro like Jim. Now it only cost him \$150 to enter the tournament, so that leaves him with almost \$200. Being the good guy that he is he gave \$100 of that to the Katrina relief fund.



Speaking of **Bo Kirschen**... in addition to the craft talk, he has been busy this summer. Birthdays and an Anniversary in August. And a trip to Europe... well that is worth \$100 to his Paul Harris Fellowship!

Louie Giacommeti was recognized for being honored by the Farm Bureau as inductee in their Hall of Fame at their 88th annual awards program. No fine just a hug from **President Chris**!



Raffle

For the raffle, **Yale Abrams** had a chance for the big bucks but ended up with a marble... oh well.. and **Chuck Baker** won the bottle of award winning buttery Sonoma County chardonnay...

Program: Education and Conservation in the Amazon



Our speaker, **Gina Low**, Executive Director, APECA Peru, had an enviable early life - raised in Pennsylvania, father an MD, husband a corporate executive, but in her 40's, her life changed and during her travels she visited Peru. The Amazon rain forest was not Bryn Mawr but that became her home for what has been the last 15 years. Why? "I couldn't do here (in the USA) what I had an opportunity to do there."

Imagine living on a houseboat on the Amazon River where the river rises and falls as much as 50 feet during the seasons. There are no highways - only a few trails on the numerous islands in a wide and meandering river. Thus, the only transportation is by boat. **Gina** sensed her calling was to help the natives understand that the appalling infant mortality rate was caused by their most abundant resource - water! A huge river and a drenched rain forest but every drop in that river, in the few wells and on the surface was polluted. Some 50% of their infants die before age 5 from parasites or other

water born diseases. Those that survive remain victims of illness.

Solution? The imagination of speaker **Gina Low**, and Santa Rosa business women **Pam Chanter** and former SRWR member **Laura Zlot** led Santa Rosa West Rotary, an Iquitos Peru Rotary Club, and others, to join together to fund the construction of a low tech rain water collection prototype. A community vote decided that the first project was to be located in Nuevo Progreso. Its success has helped the natives understand its importance. The locals have picked the sites for future projects and they hope that 20 or more locations in the Fernando Lores District of Peru will have these pure water projects. That gives hope to a population of about 80,000 people in some 39 villages.

APECA is organized in both Peru and the United States with independent boards of directors. Gina Low serves as APECA Executive Director and board President in Peru, while holding a position of Director on the APECA board in the USA.



APECA began it's activities in Peru in 1993 when **Gina**, a former resident of Connecticut purchased and began using a floating health clinic to deliver medial services to the remote Amazon River villages of Loreto. APECA has expanded its work to create programs facilitating healthy, stable communities involved in conservation of the Amazon Rainforest while collaborating with government ministries to deliver services to the isolated villages.

APECA's most immediate goal is the stabilization of existing communities along the Amazon while the conservation of the Amazonian rainforest is the ultimate goal. The empowered residents of these stabilized communities will provide the human resources and understanding needed to address the complex issues of preservation and conservation.

APECA Philosophy

The earth is a global village, and the rain forests of the world harbor resources for maintaining the health of this global village and its inhabitants. As deforestation and the displacement of indigenous peoples from their lands continue to threaten the harmony of the rain forest, it becomes the task of all earth's citizens to help rain forest communities become self-sufficient and healthy. Education can provide solutions to problems such as pollution, disease, and malnutrition, thereby strengthening these communities. People who are not consumed with concern for survival are able to be concerned about the larger community.

With this philosophy as its basis, the primary mission of APECA is to promote the conservation of the rain forest and remote Amazon

River villages of Loreto, a large area of northeastern Peru.

Through conservation, empowerment, and education, they accomplish their mission by helping people develop their own sustainable methods of health care, education, and conservation.

Today, APECA PERU continues to grow toward realizing the vision of self-sustaining communities. In turn, the people are beginning to recognize that their region helps to sustain the global life-giving rain forest ecosystem. APECA PERU's mission is to help river villagers meet their basic needs. Through education, they help individuals improve their health, as they realize their role in conservation of the amazon rainforest. They empower communities by stabilizing social institutions, encouraging cooperation through multifamily projects, and increasing economic productivity.

For more information on APECA, go to their web sit at www.apecaperu.org and check out the Pilot water catchment system at Nuevo Progreso, a joint project of Rotary International, and APECA. "APECA, Inc." is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) non profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Education and Conservation in the Peruvian Amazon rain forest.

Thanks, **Gina**. And thanks, Santa Rosa West Rotary for helping to fund an interesting and important International Service Project.

Your Bulletin Reporters:

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Your Bulletin Editor:

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Duty Roster

TASK	26 Sept	3 Oct	10 Oct	17 Oct
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SET - UP	Chris Y	Scott W	Chris Y	Scott W
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TICKETS	Ron M	Dale S	G Lucas	Ginny P
MOMENT	G Lucas	G Lucas	John M	David Mc
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PROGRAMS	Susan N	Susan N	Susan N	Susan N