

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for January 23, 2006 Old Railroad Square - Past & Present

By Jim Benoit

Preliminaries

President **Chris** called the meeting to order in a timely manner.



She called on **Barbara Larson** to lead the Pledge, and delivered the Moment herself, a reflection on volunteers. She has a copy available for all who wish one.

Ginny Pitts stood tall on the Mighty Mite's platform in introducing the visiting Rotarians, who included a solid contingent from the downtown club.

Guests of Rotarians included **Teddie Sipe**, with her worse half **Dale**, and **Carl Munoz**, guest of **Jim Valinoti**.



Tarina Hall handled cashiering duties, **Chris Rosell** sold raffle tix, and **Jim V** snapped the photos.

Announcements and Such:

Democracy visited S.R. West Rotary for a brief shining moment, as the club passed the new bylaws, drafted by the stellar committee composed of **Brian Herndon**, **Jim Hinton**, **John Palmer**, and **Chuck Stark** – at least they were the ones present. Thanks, guys.

Coming Up

1/28 - CRAB FEED!

1/30 - San Francisco - Rags to Riches, 1836-1906

2/6 - Suzanne Brangham, founder of The General's Daughter, Ramekins, McArthur Place

2/13 - A Special Valentines Program with the Silvermans

2/20 - DARK

Crab Feed R Us: the announcements had a common theme. Crab Feed Chair **David McDonald** announced that there were about 100 admission tickets left, and that we need more bartenders. **Bill Dodson** described the succulent crab catch furnished by the new vendor from Coos Bay, Oregon.



Ginny Pitts announced that the raffle ticket stubs should be returned to her or **Jim Benoit** in order to have a chance to win. Your scribe would like to thank all who have supported the raffle by purchasing tickets.



Ed Burr introduced several members who were providing major live auction items, including **Judith Light** (donating a gourmet picnic for six); **Joe Perez** and **Gil Lucas** (donating a private flight for two in their airplane);



Terry Galazzo speaking for herself, **Ginny**, and **Tarina** (donating a Cinco de Mayo dinner at **Ginny's** house, complete with mariachis, margaritas, and a one-week trip for two to Puerto Vallarta); **Jim Valinoti** (donating a gourmet Latin Fusion dinner for 8 prepared by a private professional chef in your own home); and **Susan Nowacki** (donating a gourmet, paired-wine meal at her house with the winemaker at Chalk Hill winery). **Ed** also mentioned a Las Vegas timeshare donation.

While he was on his feet, **Ed Burr** informed us that our Thai exchange student **Print** has just started at Windsor High, having done well at Piner. **Susan Nowacki**, **Ginny Pitts**,

and Prez **Chris** have taken **Print** on outings. She loves museums, and **Ed** invites members to get to know this young lady by taking her on weekend excursions.



President **Chris** announced that the board meeting next month will be on February 7, because of the Valentine's Day activities the following week.

Recognition

The Diminutive Dynamo turned to her fine list, with basket man **Mike Moore** worrying after her about how little money she was extracting:

She first recognized **Pete Lamonica** for his birthday on the 20th and his daughter's wedding on the 21st.



Then she turned to **Pete's** Irish table mate **Jim Sullivan**, who just became a grandfather for the fourth time with the birth of **Ryan Thomas Sullivan**: the tally is now four sons and four grandsons.

President **Chris** then moved a couple feet and found **Marv Hyman**, up from the desert, from whom she extracted \$20 for his birthday on the 10th.

She awarded **Bob Marigo** a Service Above Self coin for his self-restraint.

She bestowed on **Chris Young** a Service Above Self award for naming some of his fellow board members.

She handed Judith Light a Service Above Self award on general principles.

She recognized **Susan Foster** with a Service Above Self Award for completing the new club roster.



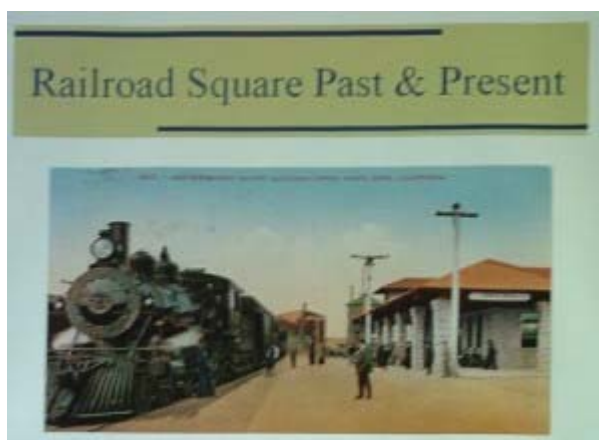
Susan thanked former member **Bob Harris** for his assistance in assembling it and **Jim Valinoti** for his illuminating mug shots of the membership.

Raffle:

Susan Nowacki pulled a blue marble in the raffle drawing, winning a blue marble. **Cal Kimes** won the award winning wine and donated it to the crab feed.

Program: Old Railroad Square - Past & Present

Susan Nowacki rose again to introduce **Dee Richardson** of the Railroad Square Association, who gave us an interesting presentation about Old Railroad Square Past & Present, with some fascinating historical photos of the area through the years.



Dee walked us through a lot of the history of the district, focusing on a number of distinguished structures. Then she sketched out the modern view, looking forward to the Wine Center and the SMART station. There are now 50 businesses in Old Railroad Square, 14 of which are restaurants, with two new eating establishments slated to open in the near future.

There are 29 residential apartments now available in the district, with an 80-unit condominium project now in design review.

While the old water tower has been moved to accommodate the changes, it still remains in the area as a reminder of our past. The area has enthusiastic and spirited leadership in **Dee**, whose presentation was



informative and well received.

Your Bulletin Reporter:

Jim Benoit



Your Bulletin Editor:

Jim Valinoti

