



# Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

## Bulletin for September 24, 2007 The Economic State of Things... with Ben Stone

By Chris Rossell

### Preliminaries



President **Fred "Einstein" Zmarzly** rang the bell at 12:32pm which was followed by a rousing rendition of the "Pledge" which was led by **Anne Abrams**.

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#### Coming Up:

10/8 - Sonoma County Recycling, Pam Davis

10/15 @ 5:30 pm - Bartley BBQ

10/22 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Sam Pierce

10/29 - John Samples on Children's Language/ Learning Center

11/5 - Safari West

11/12 - Global Warming, Fred Zmarzly

**Ken Prouty's** moment called on us to "Don't Worry, Be Happy". The only thing that could have made it better would have been had he sung it to the Bobby McFerrin tune.

**Fred** thanked **Bob Zeni** – cashier, **Chris Young** – ticket sales, **Ray Mattison** – greeter, **Chuck Baker** for set up and **Jim Valinoti** for pictures.

Visiting Rotarians included- **Barbara Beedon**, Santa Rosa Downtown and sitting assistant Dist. Gov. Also in attendance were **Don McMillan**, **Mark Burchill** and **Joe Perez**. **Louis Capuano, Jr.'s** guest was **Louis III** or otherwise known as Louis Jr., Jr., the annual winner of our golf tourney.



Birthday greetings were made to **Ken Dansie** 9/29 and **David Wattell** 9/22. I don't know how old Dave is, but Dansie hit the big 6-0. Congratulations!

### Announcements and Such:

Announcements: The Bartley BBQ will be at **Ginny Pitts** on Monday, October 15 at 5pm. Remember to thank Ginny and **Scott Bartley** for their generosity in donating the cost of this to our membership. This has allowed SRWRC to donate \$25 per member to the Foundation over the past 5 years. Bravo!!



**Chris Parr-Feldman** announced that our club has sponsored Augustine Orozoco a home mortgage consultant with Wells Fargo. He is 27 and will be going to Nigeria with the Group Study Exchange Team in April 2008.

Congratulations to **Teddy Sipe** - she's the recipient of SRWRC's first Honorary Member Badge.

Veteran's Day Celebration - The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribute to Our Veterans will be on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Cost \$15 and we will be dark on Monday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Buy a Vet lunch.

**Mike Moore** was recognized for becoming the Santa Rosa Junior College's newest member of the Board of Directors. Does that mean the JC gets new copiers in every class room- Mike you're soooooo generous!



And thus it was that **Mike** got to make the Big Announcement of the Day, which was that **Susan Nowaki** will be SRWR Club President in 2009/2010. **Susan** will follow **David McDonald's** regime next year. Congratulations **Susan!**



Finally, **Harry Rubins**, SRWRC Foundation Chair eternal, kicked off the annual Rotary Foundation Drive. Harry provided each member with the latest information on our Foundation donation. Please help support this year by giving what ever amount you can. This year's goal is \$140 per person. President Fred started it off by giving Harry his check for \$140 and asked for 100% participation this year. Not only does Harry talk the talk, but he also walks the walk. He became our Clubs fourth Major Donor with his Foundation donation.



### Craft Talk: Doug DeAngelo

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**Doug DeAngelo** took one step closer to earning his blue badge with his craft talk. Doug returned to Santa Rosa last July after sweeping his bride of 22 years off her feet from the steps of the SRJC campus. The happy couple found their way to Bishop, CA where Doug embarked on a career in banking. Starting out as a teller, he is now a VP with Wells Fargo's Private Banking Group. Not sure what he really does, because it's private! Anyway, along the way, Doug and the missus sired a boy and girl both of whom currently attend SRJC. Doug was previously a member of the Sonoma Rotary Club for 5 years, so he's all trained and ready to rock! Welcome.

### Raffle

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Two Chucks & a buck. **Chuck Baker** couldn't draw the Black marble from a bag of three and **Chuck Olson** won the two buck chuck.

### Program:

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**Dave Wattell** introduced our Speaker, **Ben Stone**, director of the Sonoma County Economic Board. Joining **Ben** was SCEB intern & computer whiz, **Robert Knockstein**.



While Ben is known by many in our club, many of us may not have known that he goes way back with Rotary. Ben informed us that not only was he sent to England as a Rotary High School exchange student, but he was also on the Rotary GSE team that went to Brazil. It was lead by none other than our own **Bill Fisher**, GSE team leader. **Bill "Samba" Fisher's** contribution was to teach the team members how to party.



**Ben** highlighted Sonoma County economic happenings and how they may be impacted by the larger world economic forces. In short, consensus is that the world economy is running on 8 cylinders so "don't worry, be happy".

While the sub prime mortgage debacle may be making the news, the COBE (Chicago Board of Exchange) VIX index is low. Glad he cleared that up! There are some things to watch and may be of concern as we move forward.

1. US household debt has increased 20-30% over the last few years and our savings rates are negative!

2. China and India each are graduating more engineers than we are in the US.
3. 80 million baby boomers are retiring soon with a much smaller group of main income earners supporting the bill.
4. Join the rest of the world and drink more Sonoma County wine, at least you'll feel better about it. You know **Ben**, I think you were right.

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**Jim Valinoti**

