

Bulletin for February 25, 2008 Rustic, Rough & Tough: Travel to Outer Mongolia and Beyond

By Ruth Lincoln

Preliminaries



President Elect David McDonald presided over today's meeting on **President Fred Zmarly's** behalf. The bell rang at 12:25 to welcome a record number of guests and visiting Rotarians. The 3 Stooges watched over the meeting from our President Elect's tie.

Pledge: Louie Capuano

Rotary Moment: Chris Rosell shared news about fellow Rotarian **Joe Perez's** close encounter with the next world flying his Ultralight aircraft a wee bit close to electrical lines, nearly missing, and then threading the needle by flying under a bridge to land safely on a Russian River sand bar. Truly a high wire feat with a soft landing: we all held **Joe** close in our thoughts wishing him boring landings in the future.

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Coming Up:

3/3 - Keeping in Step, John and Tina

3/10 - SMARTRAIN, Chris Coursey

3/17 - Special ST. PATRICK Meeting

3/24 - Jerry Johnson - Safari West

3/31 - Katherine Barnet – Savory Magazine

Visiting Rotarians:

Jim Sullivan welcomed all of our visitors including **Kim McDonald, Insurance** – East Santa Rosa Club, **Clarice Bolles**, Real Estate Investment and **Dave Carter** - Santa Rosa Downtown Club; **Randy Seelye**, Newspaper Publishing – Santa Rosa Sunrise Club and **Pierre LaGourgue** – Sebastopol Club.



Introduction of Guests: Ray Mattison brought a special guest, his wife **Ursula**; **Gail Johnson** brought **Jennifer Flory**, interim Vice Principal of Roseland University Prep (RUP) High School and **Bob Zeni** brought **Brian Cox**, Piner High School Counselor.

Announcements and Such:

Gail Johnson introduced **Jennifer Flory, Rigo Morales and Erick Delgado** graduating seniors from RUP. Rigo and Erick serve as great ambassadors of the first graduating class that started as freshman at RUP.

Gail turned the mike over to **Jennifer Flory** who shared heart-felt appreciation on behalf of RUP for the Club's donation toward library resources. The funds will be used to purchase much needed computers, printers, expand RUP's library collection by more than two hundred books and purchase bookcases. **Pete LaMonica** presented **VP Flory** with a check for \$20,000 while thanking Club members for making the donation possible through hard work on the wildly successful annual crab feed fundraiser.



Bob Zeni introduced February 2008 Students of the Month from Piner High School **Nicole Mayes** and **Kevin Tran**. **Nicole** was inspired to become a registered nurse as a direct result of a family member's experience surviving a stroke at the young age of 65. The professional nursing care and attention received made all the difference in the recovery and made a lasting impression on **Nicole**. Upon graduation she will attend SRJC and transfer to CSU Sacramento.



Kevin Tran is captain of Piner High School's badminton team and is always the first to arrive and last to leave practice. He is committed to work hard now in school to make a big difference later working harder to eventually take over family responsibility from his parents. Born of Chinese and Vietnamese parents, **Kevin** had the opportunity to travel back to Vietnam to visit family. The experience left him appreciative of his good fortune to have parents who are able to provide him with all he needs. He met many family members and his cousin in Vietnam who attends school most of the day and works at night to bring home \$100/month, still an insufficient income to meet the family's needs. **Kevin's** parents own a restaurant in Sonoma County and send money to help their family who were unable to leave Vietnam. **Kevin's** career goal includes dentistry, specializing in orthodontics, or a medical related field, such as newly emerging technology with a biomedical specialty. Upon graduation he will attend SRJC and transfer to UC Davis.

Recognition

Michael Moore contributed \$100 to the Club for becoming a new resident of an exclusive fifty-five and older Palm Springs gated community, which comes with taser-toting guards. He regaled us with stories about jet-set desert cronies racing pimped-out Cadillacs and golf carts. It was well worth \$100, thank you **Michael** for a different twist to Moses in the Desert. It seems **Tarina Hall** had two Rotary badges and was assisted by **Mike Moore** with her contribution of \$20, an amount \$19 more than expected to buy her old badge - thank you **Tarina**. Also recognized were **Bill Fisher** and **Ginny Pitts**.

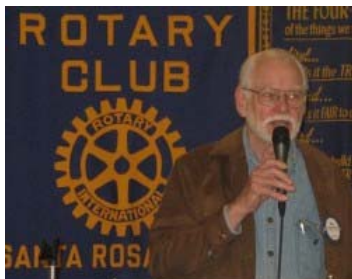


Raffle

Raffle: **Chuck Olson** sold the winning tickets to **Pete LaMonica** who missed the black marble and **Bill Dotson** who took home the bottle of wine.

Program: "Outer Mongolia and Beyond"

Cashier **Will Richards** did double-duty filling in as program announcer for **David Wattell**, who was absent on the injured list from a bad fall on hard ice. Our thoughts for a speedy recovery are sent your way David.



Will introduced Club program favorites **Susan and Neil Silverman** and their featured topic "Outer Mongolia and Beyond"

Rustic, rough and tough describe what was a riveting photo journey through China, Mongolia and beyond. High points included a wonderful photo journey through Sunset in Tiananmen Square, Buddhist Temples, and introduction to a real Mongolian Eagle Chief, wild horses and camels, yaks, the cities of Beijing, Ulaan and Olgii.

The Silvermans' journey starts in China with a visit to their son in his high-rise Beijing apartment. Cranes, skyscrapers, construction and big city views as far as the eye can see through the smog set the contrast for what followed in the far reaches of Mongolia. A succinct history of Mongolia's oppression by China and Russia framed their story. The magnificent photos bring their journey to Rotary in a touching human story of life in a cold and harsh landscape with limited or no access to medical care as we know it. Photos portray glimpses of nomadic Mongolian family life in a harsh, cold and what initially appears to be a barren environment. Smiles of joy and love for family and sports were captured in eyes and expressions in their images on film.



Survival as a nomadic culture that moves 4 times a year was linked to living close with nature and using everything, wasting nothing. The pride of the Eagle Chief who captures and trains young eagles to hunt for food to the beautiful smiling faces of parents with their children were memorable and left us all with a lasting sense of another world on earth.

The Silvermans' know how to close and brought us back to St. Rose with a stunning no place like home recap. Questions and answers followed with lively audience engagement - thank you **Neil** and **Susan**.

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