

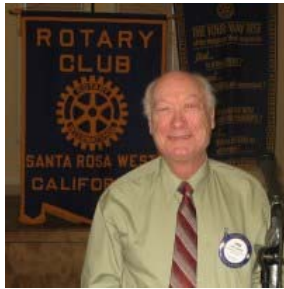


# Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

## Bulletin for February 4, 2008 The Artful Tagger

By Diane Winsby

### Preliminaries



**President Fred** called the meeting to order exactly on time. He thanked those that had volunteered to cashier, set-up, greet and generally get the meeting going today. **Barbara** gave a "moment" of a moment and the meeting began.

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#### Coming Up:

2/11 - Bill Traverso

2/18 - Dark

2/25 - Outer Mongolia and Beyond, Susan and Neil Silverman

3/3 - Keeping in Step, John and Tina

3/10 - SMARTRAIN, Chris Coursey

**President Fred** announced the birthdays and special events being celebrated by various members. Visiting Rotarian **Mark Burchill** was introduced by **Bill Fisher** and was welcomed.



Sunshine Committee reported that **John Palmer**, while on a visit to his daughter, fell on his knee and is now in a cast. After he has completed rehab he hopes to return to the meetings at the end of the month. **Bo** was in attendance and everyone was glad to see that he is feeling better too.

### Announcements and Such:

**President Fred** announced that the Cloverdale Rotary is hosting the Sonoma County Association of Rotary at a dinner on February 28<sup>th</sup> at their annual Crab Feed. Tickets to this event are being sold at \$35.00 each for those that wish to attend. He also announced that the Napa Rotary is holding their annual fund raiser, a 15 to 25 mile bicycle event where donations are collected per mile traveled, if anyone is interested in joining this fun.

The theme of the incoming President of International, President Lee, for 2008-2009 is: "Makes Dreams Real."

**President Fred** said that **David McDonald**, President Elect for the upcoming year, will run two meetings for him due to his having to travel from the area on February 25<sup>th</sup> and again on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He also asked if anyone knew of plans for a St. Patrick's event as **Susan Nowacki** has not at the meeting to discuss this subject.



He also announced that the club would be "dark" on February 18<sup>th</sup> being it is President's Day holiday.

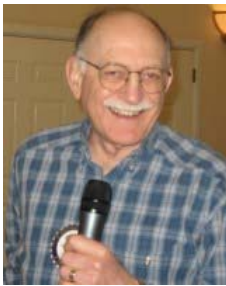
**Harry Rubins** and **Virginia Pitts** recently attended an Association dinner and our group was recognized for having the highest per capita donations for the International Foundation in the area. **Harry** announced that there will be another Foundation matching event in March. He said that he hoped to get a 100% participation and said that "any dollar amount will be welcomed", more to come about this later.

### Recognition

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Several members were recognized by **President Fred**:

**Chuck Baker** for picking & eating wild mushrooms in Occidental (and living to tell about it).



**Tarina Hall** who's had her great looking photo in the Press Democrat quite a lot lately (announcing her new job responsibility).

**Brian Herndon** for his many trips to Mexico to play golf and enjoy the sun (we are all jealous too).



And lastly, **Bill Fisher** for having his and his son's photo in the Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club Newsletter. **Bill** and his son have been sponsoring the "Top of The Bay Junior Golf Classic" for young people less than 18 years of age for 36 years. This year there were around 200 attendees from Santa Rosa & Windsor. **Bill** and his son were honored at a Pebble Beach banquet for their years of putting the event on. **Bill** welcomed anyone that may be interested in getting involved in the future to contact him.

### Raffle

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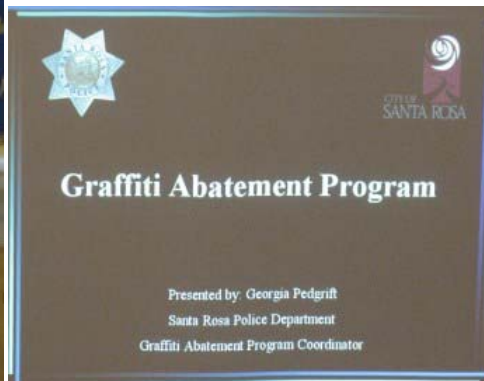
The raffle was held and no one won, even though **Chuck Baker** gave it a try.

## Program: The Artful Tagger

**Dave Watell**, Program Chairman, introduced our guest speaker.



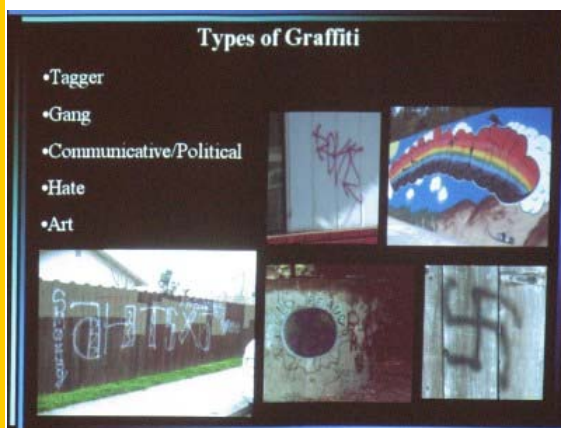
**Georgia Pedgrift** - Santa Rosa Police Department's Program Coordinator of the Graffiti Abatement Program. **Georgia** graduated from local schools and has worked at the SRPD department for 1-1/2 years; her prior experience was 5 years with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department.



**Georgia** explained that there are various forms of graffiti: \*Tagging, Gang, Political, Art and Racial/Religious. Tagging and Gang graffiti are the two most common forms of graffiti.

A "tagger" is usually a person who alone looks to gain fame and status within their subculture by marking their distinctive tags (monikers) in as many places as possible. The internet has gained a world-wide group of these people that follow the "career" of individual taggers and Wanna-Be's tagging property all over the world.

Gang graffiti is done by gang members or people trying to prove themselves to a gang. It is done to mark territory, send messages, boast and intimidate rival gangs and community residents. This form of graffiti is usual local to the area that the gang operates.



The usual victims of graffiti are schools, Caltrans, parks, construction projects, public buildings; this adds up to huge unplanned costs for mitigation. Graffiti by-products also include paint cans dumped into waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas.

The City of Santa Rosa has one contractor that has been contracted to help cleanup City property. Public works departments and park departments also do their best to cleanup their areas within 72 hours. There is also a City

Ordinance #3729 that says a private property owner must clean off any graffiti from any of their buildings within 72 hours or they can be fined. The SRPD has asked paint merchants to lock up all spray cans of paint and unoccupied property owners are being asked to upgrade their properties so as not to encourage graffiti being placed on their buildings. Many thousands of dollars are being spent trying to solve this problem and everyone was encouraged to "be a great witness" and report any graffiti operations to the local police department.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Your Bulletin Reporter:  
**Diane Winsby**



Your Bulletin Editor:  
**Jim Valinoti**

