



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for January 12, 2009 "Immigration Issues in Sonoma County" Richard Coshnear, Esq.

By Ruth Lincoln

Preliminaries



President David McDonald brought the cool Rotary Club of West Santa Rosa to order at 12:30 sharp and welcomed a full house of guests and visiting Rotarians.

Pledge: **John Hathaway**; Rotary Moment: **Susan Nowacki**; Set-up: **Ginny Pitts**; Greeter: **Ralph Lassa**; Raffle Tickets: **Gary Lucas**; Cashier: **Bob Zeni**

Visiting Rotarians: **Vicki Lochner**, Education Consultant from SR Sunrise and **Bill Hatcher**, Real Estate Law, SR Downtown.

Introduction of Guests: all visitors and their escorts were acknowledged. **Mike Merrill** introduced his guest **Wanda Tapia**.

Bob Zeni, retired principal of PHS introduced Brian Cox, Piner High School counselor who brought two Rotary scholarship candidates.



Janel Gunderson has her cap set to attend UCLA. Janel has been a thirteen year member of Girl Scouts plays inter-mural soccer and is enrolled in Piner's bio-tech program. She plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Atwood Winter spoke about his motivation to study how the real world works around us in order gain a better understanding of ourselves. **Atwood** decided it was time to retire his baseball mitt and bat and take up tennis as he redirects most of his time and focus on higher education and ultimate career goal of becoming a pathologist. He will attend UC Davis to study cellular biology. **President David** awarded each candidate with a beautiful plaque honoring them as WSR's Students of the Month.

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Coming Up:

1/26 - Sonoma County
Transportation Authority,
Suzanne Smith

2/2 - Laguna Farms, Community
Supported Agriculture

2/9 - Jerry Meshalum, Rotoplast

2/16 - Dark

2/23 - Renata Billinger, Climate
Protection Campaign



Announcements & Such

President David shared that Rotary news. Congratulations to the RCSRW for a 2% membership increase. He also shared that Rotary was hit by approximately one tenth of 1% in the recent high profile investment scam featured in the news this week.

Other announcements included a Red Badge meeting immediately following today's meeting. **Chris Young** and **Bill Dodson** encouraged all to sell more South Sea Adventure tickets and to check out the click and [view web link with the Doobie Brothers' Laura Johnson](#). According to **Chris Y.** she alone will sell the event with her amazing vocal talent.

Ken Kushner made a last call for all live auction items. Creativity was encouraged for home electronic installation services, restaurant gift certificates and lodging. **Bill Dodson, Jeff Ray** and **Ken Kushnir** are your contacts for live auction items.

Get your raffle ticket stubs to **Jim Benoit** today if possible. The catalog goes to print on January 15th, this week. Tarina needs your business card for inclusion in exchange for \$50. Get her your card ASAP and she will catch you later to collect.



Pete LaMonica recapped the value of this year's raffle prize, Hawaiian holiday package at the Sheraton with airfare and rental car, a great get-a-way week for anniversary, birthday surprise or graduation trip. All sang for Rotary birthday celebrants **Von, Pete, Tedi, Tarina** and more.

Susan Nowacki called for silent auction items. If you are donating a basket, she requests that you include a value estimate and the name of donor. **Susan** suggests that you ask for dining for 4 and gratefully accept certificate for 2 – you never know unless you ask!

Raffle

Harry Rubins missed the black marble and \$400. Only 18 marbles left for January 19th. Fred's Albertina wine was won by a lucky ticket holder.

Program: "Immigration Issues in Sonoma County" Richard Coshnear, Esq.

Pam introduced immigration attorney **Richard Coshnear**, program presenter on the topic Immigration Issues in Sonoma County. In 2006 Mr. Coshnear received calls from immigrant families with young Latino men held in the County jail seeking assistance. These were often young men in limbo – having lived in the US for over 10 -12 years, attended/graduated by local high schools, yet without citizenship.



A succinct PowerPoint presentation with key dates made it easy to follow the history of immigration.

The history of US immigration policy based on the 14th & 15th Constitutional Amendments informed Club members about the limbo status for some immigrants. He reviewed the complex categories of citizenship. Who immigrates from where, which categories are subject to the shortest and longest wait times, and more on the status of immigration in Sonoma County that included some new information for many. He recounted the impact of overt racism in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act; the 1924 Quota Act - no visas required for well-to-do countries, in contrast to the current official benign policy.

Club members were informed about a current climate of detention and deportation of many long term Latino males by Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) officers. The impact and charge of misdemeanor violation of illegal

border crossing was recapped and how that plays out in Sonoma County and between ICE, law enforcement and detention practices. A brief touch on the 2007 Dream Act and what it hoped to accomplish, as well as, the movement affirming Sonoma County as a County of Refuge.

Questions and answers followed.

Your Bulletin Reporter:

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