



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for February 9, 2009 Rotoplast in Rotary

By Casey Williams

Preliminaries



President **David McDonald** brought The February 9th meeting of Districts 5130's "Cool Club" to order at 12:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Brian Herndon** followed by The Rotary Moment brought to us by **Ken Prouty**.

Four Rotarians visited us today from places exotic and sundry. A gentleman named Frank visited us from the North, a city known as "Calistoga" and one more familiar face in the crowd was Past President **Don Johnson**, of the Rotary Club of Windsor.

Guests of Rotarians: Gail Johnson introduced as a guest **Katherine Wong**.



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Coming Up:

3/16 - 5:00 pm - St. Pat's Day Ball @ Sally Tomatoes, Sonoma Mountain Village, 1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park. No-host cocktails at 5:00, Buffet dinner @5:45, Irish Dancing Girls, too!

[See map.](#) RSVP [Tarina](#)

3/26 - SCARC Dinner - Santa Rosa West

Announcements & Such

Ginny Pitts reminded us of the upcoming happy hour at Equus Lounge.

Fred Zmarzly extended a request to the group to form a committee to de-bunk our current "Lame Duck" (Fred's quote) president. There was mention of flying to Italy and perhaps needing a date?

Susan Nowacki mentioned that there remained a case of Bear Republic Beer as well as a gift certificate for lunch at their fine restaurant in Healdsburg from this year's Crab Feast Silent Auction. A not-so-silent auction ensued on the spot. The battle was close until **Peter Lamonica** blew the competition out of the water with the winning \$100.00 bid. Enjoy your lunch and well crafted beer Peter!



President David McDonald reminded us all of the upcoming SCARC dinner in Cloverdale on February 26th at 6:00pm.

Craft Talk

Our president then invited **Jim Hinton** -as a respected and long-time member- to the podium for a craft talk. Before speaking, Jim did invite everyone that had requested a printing of their business card in the Annual Crab Feast Program to pay their \$50.00 fee as soon as possible.

Jim Hinton started his craft talk by simply introducing himself and announcing that he was currently "unemployed" and attempting to leave the podium. Thankfully he quickly returned and gave a condensed 5 minute talk which spanned a lifetime.



Jim Hinton was born in Illinois in 1937. He moved to California in the 10th grade. He Graduated from high school in San Leandro in 1954. In 1958 he graduated from a certain university in Palo Alto and was married 1 month later at the age of 21. After graduation he joined the Air Force and was commissioned as 2nd lieutenant and assigned to Spain for 3 years. Following his military service he spent 3 years at Berkeley Law, from which he graduated in 1964.

He spent that summer diligently preparing for the BAR exam and moved to Santa Rosa where he was offered a job. At the time he had \$234, a 1958 ford and 2 kids to his name. **Mr. Hinton** lost his first wife in 1986, she passed at the age of 50. In 1988 he married **Carolyn** with whom he has four children:

Paul – A Stanford grad and a biotech scientist.

Laura – a UCLA grad who majored in theater arts. She is an actress in San Anselmo

Two step children:

Leslie – a professor and UCSB grad. Also a faculty chair

Richard – Who had a great career at HP and most recently has ventured into the Las Vegas Real Estate market.

Jim has been a Rotarian since 1986. He was President during the 2004/2005 year which was the 100th anniversary of Rotary. He represented our club at the International Conference in Osaka Japan that year.

He has made a career in civil litigation dealing mostly with auto claims and professional law. Jim let us know that in the 33 years he has learned much of what is commonly referred to as "the art." He shared an in-court example with us thusly:

* Lawyer: "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"

* Witness: "No."

* Lawyer: "Did you check for blood pressure?"

* Witness: "No."

* Lawyer: "Did you check for breathing?"

* Witness: "No."

* Lawyer: "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

* Witness: "No."

* Lawyer: "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"

* Witness: "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar."

* Lawyer: "But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?"

* Witness: "Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere."

Recognition

At the conclusion of **Jim Hinton's** talk it was once again a *"Fine time for fines"*

Ken Prouty – Was fined \$20 for a recent cruise.



Louie Capuano – Was fined \$20 for his participation in a recent Business Leader's Breakfast.

Harry Rubins – Was fined \$100 for his granddaughter **Taryn Rose's** recent appearance in the New York Times.

Raffle

No Winner

15 marbles for a chance at \$500.00 ...good luck next week!

The Wine: was gladly collected by Past President **Jim Valinoti**

Jim Hinton had the other winning ticket and was presented with a bottle of Fred's delicious Albertina wine.



Program: Rotoplast with Jerry Meshulam

Pam David introduced today's program. **Jerry Meshulam** from Rotoplast.



Jerry is a retired OBGYN doc and is a long time Rotarian. He has participated in 7 missions to Guatemala as a Rotoplast Ambassador. Started in 1996, Rotoplast represents District 5130 and has helped over 10,000 children in 18 different countries.

Part of the program was a touching slideshow from a recent mission to Oaxaca, Mexico which showed before and after pictures of children who have benefitted from the cleft pallet repair surgery. He spoke of infants who were unable to properly nurse or drink from a bottle whose lives were greatly improved if not saved by this surgery.

More information can be found at <http://www.rotaplast.blogspot.com/>

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3/16 - St. Pat's Day Ball @ 5:00 pm - Sally Tomatoes

