

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for June 22, 2009

"Ecuador: Construction of Latrines at 3 Rural Schools" with Jerry Meshulam and Robert Swift, Sebastopol Sunrise Club Project

By Anne Abrams

Preliminaries



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Coming Up:

8/10 - District Governor's Visit

9/14 - Bartley BBQ

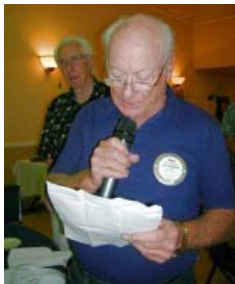
President David McDonald welcomed everyone to "the go-to, having fun, getting things done club" meeting at St. Rose at 12:30 after another Sally Tomatoes buffet lunch of sandwiches or hot entrée and salads.

Thanks to the following Rotarians for their assistance with today's meeting:

Secretary: Janet Coddling, and Secretary "in waiting" Jim Hinton,
 Cashier: Tarina Hall,
 Greeter: Tracy Kline,
 Tickets: Bo Kirsten,
 Photographer: Chris Parr-Feldman,
 Bulletin, Anne Abrams,
 Program: Pam Davis,
 Set-Up: Ralph Lassa.

The Pledge: **Chuck Stark** was called on to lead us in the pledge

The Rotary Moment: **Fred** smartly offered this moment: Duct tape is like "the force" it has a dark side and a light side, and it holds the universe together.



Visiting Rotarians and Guests

We welcomed several Visiting Rotarians: **Gus Wolter** (left) from Cloverdale, with the Exchange Bank. **Rod Harriman** (right) from Sunrise, **Jerry Meshulam** from Sebastopol Sunrise, and **Bob Swift** Sebastopol Sunrise.



Guests were also introduced including **Angie Bell** from Sheppard School.

Announcements & Such

Tarina Hall reminded us of the debunking fest of **President David McDonald** on June 28, Sunday at 5PM. Volunteers to set up should arrive around 3PM. The event is at the Wikiup Swim and Tennis Club in Windsor. Thanks again **Pete** for hosting at your place!



Doug Angelo announced that he needs bar helpers for the debunking. Thanks **Mike Merrill** and others for volunteering.

Darcie: tickets are available for \$30 for **Dogs for Diabetes** fundraiser coming right up on July 25. See her or **Tracy** for tickets (cash or credit)

Gift Presentations:

Presentations continued again this week to more recipients of funds from the crab feed

Boy Scout Troop Leader, **Sean Hanna** of troop 125 received \$3,000. Sean mentioned he is spending most recent weekends camping and hiking with his children now numbering 28 scouts with many new kids and parents getting involved in scouting. This troop helps each year with the crab feed, serving up a feast for our guests at the event. They always do a fine job and it's wonderful to see them. Thanks **Sean**.



Angie Bell received \$700 to cover the costs of a visit to the Sheppard Elementary classrooms next year of the traveling children's museum. Angie says that her scant \$1,000 a year supplies allowance has been cut to \$500. These funds will provide hands-on learning experiences for 5 first grade classrooms much in need of our support.

Raffle

Chris Young drew but got the wrong marble.



Fred Zmarzly took home a bottle of **Ginny's** wine.

**Jerry Meshulam
and Robert Swift**

Sebastopol Sunrise Rotary Club



A trip to the area in 2001 by **Jerry** and **Robert**, Environmental Health Specialists, identified projects that would replace failing cinderblock outhouses that were contributing to unhealthful conditions as El Nino type weather raised the water table. Drinking water at that time was gathered in buckets from dug-out creek beds in streams that were polluted by people bathing, washing, and by free range live stock.

By digging wells far upstream from populated areas and not so close to streams that they would become polluted, and then piping water to cisterns in villages, a water system could be created that would provide healthful drinking water. The projects were designed to require minimal costs and all labor would be provided by the communities who welcomed the assistance when none came from the Ecuadorian government.

Planning projects involved meeting with the leaders in communities and discovering what communities needed. Often times what communities needed was not what was originally anticipated.

The main source of funding for the first projects was the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa, Ca. A donation from the church of \$8,500 paid for the materials and citizens of Ecuadorian villages agreed to donate a day a week of labor to complete the project. Others provided comida for the workers. One slide showed young children walking along the ditches being dug with water for workman.

The project became collaboration eventually between faith-based and secular groups to begin to meet the immediate needs of communities in this rural area. The need principally was in economic development and health and sanitation. The projects included education to communities about sanitary practices.

Other projects needed were economic development. Pig farming was popular as pigs were their "bank accounts". Another was chicken-raising. A women's sewing cooperative was delivered two sewing machines and eventually they were able to construct a store and workshop for their enterprise.

Children attended schools typically a one-room with two classes meeting in that room. The younger children attend in the morning and the older children in the afternoon. These terms are relative as school ends at grade 6 unless a family is able to pay for more schooling. No bathrooms are provided for these schools and the project planned will provide boy and girl latrines with hand-washing facilities.

A \$4,500 donation with matches from Rotary District funds will raise \$15,000 for the sanitation project. Latrines would be installed with leach fields and seepage boxes. Jerry and Robert expressed appreciation to our club for supporting the project.

In response to a question about how electricity had come to be provided to the rural villages, **Jerry Meshulam** recommended the following book: "**Confessions of an Economic Hit Man**" by **John Perkins**.

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