

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for December 7, 2009 The Eyes Have It on Pearl Harbor Day

By Jim Benoit

Preliminaries



President **Susan Nowacki** lit up the very busy meeting with her now-familiar smile, led us in a chant of "The Good, The Crab, and the Ugly," and we were under way.

She thanked the members who filled in Club Service Director **Tarina Hall's** task grid for the day:
Setup **Chuck Baker**
Cashier **Janet Coddling**
Ticket sales **Scott Bartley**
Greeter **Gary Lucas**
Program chair **Matt Delaney**
Photos **Jim Valinoti**
Bulletin **Jim Benoit**

David McDonald led us in the pledge of allegiance, sporting an appropriately patriotic tie.

Fred Zmarzly successfully conveyed the thought for the day.

Bo Kirschen went slightly ape with a very funny joke, well delivered.



President **Susan** acknowledged our sole visiting Rotarian, CPA **John Jones** from the Sunrise Club, who also presented the program.

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Coming Up:

12/14 - Polio, Past District Governor, Larry Myers

12/19 - Christmas Party

12/21 - Dr. Mary Bates, Boys and Girls Club, Santa Rosa

12/28 - DARK

1/4 - Petaluma History, Katherine Rinehart

1/11 - Club Assembly

1/30/10 - [Crab Feed](#)

Madame Prez then called for Rotarians with guests to introduce their invitees, and **Laura Buhner** rose and presented her guest, Mr. Dana Andrews.

Recognition

The Prexy thereupon had a little fun and raised a little money to get things done:

She charged jovial **Ken Dansie** for retrieving his BMW keys from the podium.



She added \$10 worth of insult to a thankfully uninjured **Joe Perez**, who had his Mercedes totaled in a freeway rear-ender, and who was so pleased with the safety engineering that he bought his wife a new one.

She called again on **Laura Buhner**, to recognize her for the honor her Larkfield branch of the Exchange Bank garnered for being tapped as the Exchange Bank midsize Branch of the Year. Congratulations, **Laura**.



Rich Pratt paid \$30 to report that he and Kathie had been traveling in November, including Newport Beach and Thanksgiving in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Diane Winsby proudly fessed up to a bragging bucks occasion, informing us that her granddaughter Shelby Funez was pictured in Santa Rosa Magazine as one of two keynote speakers (chosen out of 5,000 girls) at the Girl Scouts' Jewel of a Woman Banquet in Windsor on September 18.

Announcements & Such

Speaking of Santa Rosa Magazine, **President Susan** pointed out some other contents of that upscale publication: references to our January 30, 2010 crab feed ("The Good, The Crab ..."), **Tracy Kline's** photo ad, and the Santa Rosa West Rotary Club ad. We are well represented.



Our CEO reminded us of the holiday Christmas Party at her house on Saturday, December 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m -- bring an appetizer or dessert and a bottle of wine to share.

Doug Angelo reminded us that our club is providing Salvation Army Bell Ringers for December 18. He can use backups and fill-ins, so call Doug if you would like to help.

Pam Davis pointed out the Paul Harris political comic book insert in the latest Rotarian, and told us how she enjoyed it.

Crab Feed updates:

Janet has admission tickets. She has handed out envelopes of ten tickets to many members.



Harry Rubins is handling the raffle tickets, and buying lots himself. He also handed out envelopes of ten raffle tickets each. Members are under no obligation to sell them, but **Harry** uses them as client perks. First prize on the raffle is \$2,000 cash, second prize, \$500. **Jim Valinoti** purchased the back of the tickets for advertising, so you will see his name there. **Harry** has included a credit card payment slip in each envelope for those members who want to put them on a card.

Casey Williams reminded us to hand out letters to potential donors. He acknowledged **Brad Leslie**, who took 15 envelopes, and came back with about 10 silent auction donations. We still need more. The live auction items include **Mike Merrill's** vacation house, a number of dinners (including one by our president), a John Ash group dinner, a Google tour, 12 months of dining out, and more. And we need more. Business card ads in the auction program are \$75 this year but will include broadcasting on the big slide show at the event.

History & Membership

President Susan reminded us that today is Pearl Harbor Day.

She also recalled that May 22, 1965 was the day **Bill Fisher** and 18 other members founded Santa Rosa West Rotary. Since then, the club has funded over \$1 million dollars in projects, both local and worldwide. Different members are passionate about different projects, and that is what drives how we contribute. To continue and expand these good works, we need new members. To that end, Diane placed a list of Chamber of Commerce member businesses and organizations on each table for our current members to look at and perhaps flag for invitation to a meeting and potential membership. Susan had each table confer for several minutes about possible names to contact from the list.

And the winner is...

Janet had the winning ticket, but drew a non-winning marble out of the four in the bag, after slippery Jim Hinton tried to switch out the bag on her with a bigger bag full of marbles. Janet thereby missed the \$775 prize. **Bo** won the bottle of wine.

Program: Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club Eye Care Projects John Jones, CPA

Matt introduced our speaker and fellow Rotarian **John Jones**, CPA and managing partner with Likenheimer LLP.



John has been a Rotarian for thirty years, and regaled us with tales of his adventures in a truly humanitarian endeavor, providing eye care in areas of extreme poverty around the world. Under John's leadership, and with the help of local optometrist **Dr. Les Shipley**, the Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club has undertaken nine missions to remote areas to provide eye exams and prescription glasses to needy native peoples.

Their projects have taken them to Mexico in 1995, Haiti in 1997, Guatemala in 1999, Samoa in 2001, Nicaragua in 2003, Viet Nam in 2006, Nicaragua again in 2008, and a follow-up trip to Nicaragua in 2009.

Adventures? In Haiti in 1997, they hired a tough, mean looking body guard to take them through Port-au-Prince, marked at the time by civil unrest and danger. In Viet Nam in 2006, the government confiscated all their eyeglasses and the dental amalgam and tools brought by the dentists they brought along. They acquired new eyeglasses and dental tools and amalgam on the local economy, and after they served several hundred people, but before finishing their planned work, the mayor sent them home.

Humanitari assistance? They have conducted thousands of eye exams, fitted thousands of pairs of prescription glasses, brought clarity of vision to thousands of people who would never have been able to bring their worlds into focus.

Satisfaction? Many Rotarians have teamed up with **John** and **Dr. Shipley** and, later, the dental professionals, to make a huge difference in the lives of people who walk, talk, breathe, and see in remote parts of the earth. In the process, they have seen other parts of the world, experienced contact with other cultures, and deepened their friendships with their fellow club members. As **John** says, it does not get much better than that.



Think one person can't make a difference? Look at the staggering results of the passion of this one Rotarian, who is nowhere near done.

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