

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for July 26, 2010 Gangs in Sonoma County

By Bo Kirschen

Preliminaries



President Bill brought the meeting to order at the precisely appointed moment and thanked the following for their contributions to the assemblage:

Greeter: **Gail Johnson**

Cashier: **Janet Codding**

Tickets: **Brad Leslie** ably assisted by his brother **Justin**.

Program: **Matt Delaney**

Photos: **Kerri Rego** who showcased her multi-tasking capabilities by also leading the pledge.

Moment: **Fred Zmarzly**

Bulletin: **Bo Kirschen**



We had one visiting Rotarian, **Bill Nelson** of Sebastopol, introduced by Gail.

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Coming Up:

8/2 - Gary Wysocky, SR City Council Member, Santa Rosa Budget

8/9 - District Governor's Visit

8/13 - [Golf & BBQ Social](#)

8/16 - Ben Stone, Executive Director, Sonoma County Economic Development Board

8/18 - SRWR Board Meeting @ Italian Affair

8/23 - Jonathan Coe, President/CEO, SR Chamber of Commerce

8/30 - TBA

9/6 - Labor Day (Dark)

Announcements and such...

Janet Coddington gave an overview of the Rotary Means Business program and advised of the August meeting which she will host at her home.



Janet



Casey



Jeff

Casey Williams made an announcement on behalf of the Healdsburg Sunrise Rotary Club that is putting on a fundraiser at the Raven Theatre in Healdsburg on September 18 consisting of the "Complete Acts of Shakespeare" performed by 3 actors in 90 minutes. Prior incarnations of this show have been hilarious and this go round promises to be likewise. Tickets are \$35 for the show only and either \$100 or \$150 for the show and dinner depending on your choice of restaurant. Contact Casey if interested.

Jeff Ray reminded the group of our golf tournament and barbecue scheduled for August 13 at Bennett Valley. Casey has challenged King Louie to a barbecue smack down. Should be interesting, and very tasty.

Terry Galazzo and **Peter LaMonica** jointly announced a club ILT Golf trip to Nueva Vallarta from January 27 to February 3, 2011. The trip includes airfare and 8 days and 7 nights at a beautiful resort. The price includes all meals at a choice of five on-site venues, large suites, in room bar service and use of the spa, all at a fraction of the price usually charged for the room alone. Golf is not mandatory, but three rounds can be purchased for play at either of two local, championship courses for a total of less than \$300 with additional courses nearby available at reduced rates. Peter's Tennis Club has made this jaunt for a number of years. I have gone on several ILT trips to other locations, and can vouch that they are great values and great fun for both golfers and non-golfers alike. This should be a great club activity. Many thanks to **Peter**, for setting this up.



Terry



Chris

Chris Parr-Feldman had just returned from a Zone meeting and gave a very sedate, lethargic and low key announcement about our new club potential member brochure. Actually, if you can believe it, she was even more hyped than usual.

Recognition

This meeting was **President Bill's** first opportunity to "recognize" and, if necessary "fine" the club proletariat, an activity he took to like a duck to water (or, in Bill's case, more like a snowy egret).

Bill's first victim, uhh, recognizee, was **Mike Moore** who admitted that he had greatly enjoyed the assessment process during his reign of terror. **Mike** has sold his house in Indio (which, he says, is Hebrew for "Moses wouldn't go there") and purchased a much larger home on the Citrus Golf Course complete with pool, casita and many extra bedrooms. The bedrooms are available to visiting club members but only from June to September when 100 degree days are described as a cool spell. **Bill** asked for \$25 but, having been conditioned by many trips to the confessional in his youth, **Mike** ponied up \$100 to cover all the stuff that no one knows about.



Mike



Lidio



Bob

Lidio Tropeano had the audacity to have his photo in the North Bay Business Journal as a result of his booth at the Chamber of Commerce Expo and paid \$25 for the privilege.

Bob Zeni finally admitted that he was recently returned from a 56th wedding anniversary cruise on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and up the Columbia Canyon.

Raffle

John Palmer blew a chance at \$250 in the raffle and **Mike Merrill** walked off with a lovely bottle of Chardonnay.



John



Mike

Program: Gangs in Sonoma County



Rogelio Roman, who is employed by Life Works, speaks at local schools on the perils of drugs and gangs.



Matt handled the introductions

Rogelio Roman speaks from sad experience as a former addict, gang member and inmate at several state penal institutions. Both of **Rogelio's** parents were employed seven days a week leaving him to care for this two younger siblings and, as a result, with little social life. As a minority student at a school with few minority students his peer associations were limited to other minority students. After a fight with his parents, he dropped out of high school in 12th grade and moved in with friends in a totally non-disciplined, gang oriented environment. He began using and selling drugs to support his habit which began with marijuana and progressed to hard drugs. Over the course of several prison terms he got his GED but also became a gang member. He kicked his habit several times but went back to using drugs on each occasion. After doing two years in solitary he began to doubt gang wisdom. After his younger brother was stabbed by members of **Rogelio's** former gang he severed connections.

He completed the Sonoma County 12 Step Program and has been clean and sober ever since. He subsequently began his job with Life Works, which offers bilingual prevention and intervention services to at risk youth and gang members. He is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Drugs and is studying criminal justice at SRJC.

In response to questions **Rogelio** advised that he believes legalizing marijuana would lead to more drug addicts. There are at least 12 local gangs affiliated with major state or national gangs, as well as many offshoots and that the number of local gang members continues to grow.

Your Bulletin Reporter:
Bo Kirschen



Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti

