Rotarians approached Memorial Hall through a newly renovated plaza area, the site of heavy construction work for the last several months. The area is so beautiful you could swear it was designed by *An Architect*.

*Before the Bell*  🍎

**Rollie Atkinson** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Keller McDonald** led a rousing version of *God Bless America* - (his word – "rousing").

**Rev. Gene Nelson** was called upon to give the thought for the day. **The Rev. Nelson** was dressed in a conservative coat and tie. No sign of Green and Yellow adorned him.

His thought came from **Rev Martin Luther King**.

“We are called to be thermostats that transform and regulate the temperature of society, not thermometers that merely record or register the temperature of majority opinion...The time is always right to do what is right.”

And with that, the **Rev. Nelson** informed the group that Martin Luther King Jr. was, in fact, a Green Bay Packer fan.

*At the Bell*  🍎

*Visiting Rotarians and Guests*  🍎

From Santa Rosa Rotary came their Charter President, **Bill Fisher**.
All the way from Colorado Springs came Gary Kimes, once a member of Sebastopol Rotary.

Guest Diana Wilson was introduced by President Edwin.

David Woodruff brought his fiancée Marcela Gaskill

Liz Schott introduced two Interact members from Brook Haven Middle school, Anthony Villareal and Brenna Whitehead. Brenna is her club’s Secretary.

Mark Fink, who apparently didn’t get the memo, came to the meeting in full San Francisco Giants Regalia (?). He announced that 363 Dictionaries have been delivered to local schools and school children. Spring training is still six weeks away, Mark.

Dan Rasmus announced that the first of many Super Bowl Boards to benefit the SREF was only four squares away from selling out (not gambling) Henry Alker quickly penciled out the odds and bought the four squares on the spot. Henry is only interested in good solid investments (not gambling). When asked the secret to success in this opportunity, Ken Silveira replied simply “Dumb Luck”. (not gambling). More chances next week.

Bob Rogers is still looking for a good number of Rotarians to take the Club Survey he sent out by email. He has received 25 responses leaving lots of potential survey takers out there. Please respond by Feb 1.
The Rotary International Convention will be held in Lisbon, Portugal June 23-26.

Dick Zimmer will be going in for surgery next week. He says he is looking forward to it.

The Crab Feed is on the road to huge success. Tickets for the 7PM seating are SOLD OUT. The 5PM are going fast. Dorothy the Ticket Queen felt no need to nag. Troy McAdams is looking for raffle items and would like Rotarians to bring in wine for packaging in the silent auction. You don't need to bring in that bottle of Cheval Blanc you have been saving for a special occasion - something more mid-range would be appropriate. No Ripple or Two Buck Chuck, please.

Tom Campbell, looking natty in coat and tie, began what sounded like a closing argument but was actually a pitch to guess Aleia's costume at the Crab Feed. $10 buys a chance to guess. Aleia was kind enough to offer a clue which was "It's not what you think" which was not particularly helpful. It is always helpful to be reminded not to believe everything you think.

Jack Blasco began his volunteer pitch by banging loudly on a dustpan. He then started to mime his presentation. He quickly cut it off with the admonition that we all know what to do.

Green Badge to Red Badge – Jack Dunlap

Last week’s Rookie Speaker and birthday celebrant, Jack Dunlap, completed his list of tasks so he came forward and received his new Red Badge. President Edwin chased after him to retrieve the green Badge. Jack will be speaker on February 15.

Birthdays:

Guenter Meiburg paid a 5 dollar fine in honor of his 12-22 birthday. He received a much needed new supply of tennis balls from his grandchildren.

Jim Paquette celebrated his 1-16 Birthday with dinner at eight, or was that dinner at "Eight".

Bob Hirsch celebrated his 1-14 birthday at a party of 50 invitees. Some didn't leave until the next day.
Sally Ewald's birthday fell upon meeting day January 18. She not only planned to celebrate at the meeting but planned to attend a follow-up meeting that very day, followed by a mammogram. She really knows how to party. Sally pledged $100 to polio plus then followed with another donation of another $100 in honor of her recent anniversary not recognized by President Edwin.

Anniversaries:

Gary Kimes visiting from Colorado Springs fined himself $5 to honor his 50th wedding anniversary celebrated in August. When he asked if he could get an "Amen", he got an "Amen".

Jim Paquette was reminded that his upcoming 47th anniversary will require some planning in advance. He said that he was not worried; his wife would take care of everything.

Other Recognitions:

Kathie Mayhew was recognized for her upcoming trip to Uganda to continue her good work on the Adopt a Village Program. Kathie will be accompanied by her daughter, a budding anthropologist. Among other things, Kathie will be taking pencils and toothbrushes for the locals. Several club members became concerned that loving husband Frank will not be going along and will be left to fend for himself. A short film of Frank's dilemma was shown. The gripping drama showed how Frank struggled with the mysteries of the TV dinner and the microwave; Frank's bewilderment with the invention of the can opener; and finally, Frank subsisting on a series of meals of mixed nuts. Kathie, while not unconcerned with the plight of poor Frank, suggested that if he became hungry he could make reservations for dinner. Kathie was assessed a fine of $20.

President Edwin stated that one of the great things about Rotary was sharing the highs and joys of the club members. Rotary also has an obligation to support the club members in their time of distress and need. In this vein, President Edwin called upon known Green Bay Packer fan Rev Gene Nelson to share his grief. President Edwin noted that several famous sportswriters including those in Sports Illustrated were also misguided and totally wrong in picking the Packers to win so Gene shouldn't feel too badly. Gene is busy filling out his application for Packer Defensive Coordinator, a job that may come open soon. Gene was fined $20 for the words of consolation.

Dr. Paul Thielen recently returned from an extended trip to his wife's native Australia. Paul's first visit was a great success. The photo shown to the club was either the Sydney Opera House or a homemade geodesic dome in Graton. Paul went swimming on Christmas day, saw a kangaroo, and ate Vegemite. President Edwin, in hopes of relieving the post vacation blues secured a jar of Marmite, the British equivalent of Vegemite. Apparently, the Australian gourmet treat is banned from import to the U.S. Paul says it tastes just like eating Bullion. Yum. Paul was fined a whopping $35 bucks.

Several photos of the Munson-Coate wedding were shown. Past President Aleia looked ravishing in her wedding finery and the wedding party was a huge success. Tahoe may never be the same. Bob Cary, Ken Silveira and others took part in an impromptu money dance with the new bride.
Frank Mayhew played Sebastopol monopoly but did not draw the money card. Instead, he drew the Sebastopol School District card which allows him to stand yard duty. Someone observed that he might have to pass a background check first.

**The Program – Dr. Joe Serra – “Polio Update – 25 Years... and Still Counting”**

John Blount took the lectern to introduce the program. Dr. Joe Serra is an orthopedic surgeon. He is a Korean War Veteran, a graduate of Wayne State and in private practice in Stockton California. He has done volunteer work all over the world correcting the ravages of polio including performing surgery on “crawlers”; children who are struck by polio who are restored to walking through his work.

Dr. Serra opened his remarks with a joke he recalled hearing last time he spoke to Sebastopol Rotary. The joke was rather generic and has been doctored by this scribe to appeal to more readers.

How do you get a (insert college or university name here) graduate off of your front porch?

**Pay him for the Pizza.**

None of the 406 Stanford graduates in the audience took offense. [Ahem! -Ed.]

In 1985 Polio was still a worldwide threat. There were 350,000 new cases that year in 125 countries. A thousand people a day were paralyzed or died from polio that year. A worldwide coalition of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the Centers for Disease Control, and Rotary set on a path to eradicate polio from the world. Later, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation threw their resources in with the coalition.

Much success has been enjoyed through the hard work of these groups. Last year only 250 new cases were reported in three countries, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. The final 1% of cases has proven stubborn. On the positive side, no new cases were reported in India or Angola. On the negative side, health workers have been terrorized including the killing of fifteen workers in Pakistan by the Taliban. Superstition and fear are still obstacles to this important work.

Rotary continues to pour resources into the battle; both human and financial. Research has identified subsets of polio and tracking has improved. Some countries, including India are funding their own eradication program. Other countries struggle with the financial burden of immunizing every child. There is a constant threat that countries will lose their motivation to continue the program.

The WHO has deemed the world to be at a crossroads. Polio can be eradicated but not without continued work to get the last 1% and to continue existing in countries where polio could still flare up. Rotary has raised $228 million for this project. Bill and Melinda Gates have given Rotary International $405 million to continue the work. Work with the political leaders in threatened countries continues. The next five years will be critical to the effort to eradicate polio. We are this close.

**The Closing Bell**

President Edwin thanked our speaker, Joe Serra, for his presentation with a donation in his name to The Pathway Home. He then ended the meeting with a quote from Indira Gandhi, past Prime Minister of India:

“There exists no politician in India with the courage to explain to the populace that cows may be eaten.”
The ABC’s of Rotary
(Taken from “The ABCs of Rotary”, a Rotary International publication originally prepared by Dr. Cliff Dochterman who was RI President in 1992-93)

#49 Presidential Conferences

From time to time, Rotarians see promotional literature announcing a presidential or regional peace conference to be held some place in the world. Such a conference is quite similar to the annual Rotary International convention but smaller in attendance and serving Rotarians and guests in a region that is a considerable distance from the site of the international convention.

The purpose of an RI presidential conference is to develop and promote acquaintance, friendship, and understanding among the attendees, as well as to facilitate the development of international service projects, and provide a forum to discuss and exchange ideas about Rotary and activities to promote goodwill and understanding. A few peace conferences have actually initiated peaceful relations among nations with historic conflicts. Presidential conferences are considered special events on the Rotary calendar and are not held on any regular schedule. The conferences are arranged by a committee appointed by the RI president.

Rotarians from all parts of the world are always welcome to attend. Participating in a presidential conference in another region is an enjoyable, rewarding, and fascinating experience that provides another opportunity to enjoy the international fellowship of Rotary.

Membership Moment – Jack Blasco

My first contact with Rotary was in the early ‘90s when we were asked to be a host family for a teacher from Mexico who was here on a Rotary teacher exchange program. That teacher turned out to be Mario Ramos, and our six week commitment turned into six months, which was fine with us because it was the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

It was only fitting that Mario was my sponsor when I joined Rotary in 2006. I joined Rotary because I was looking for a way to give something back to my community, but was unprepared for the doors that it opened to contribute not only locally, but internationally.

As a new Rotarian I was excited to bring home a flag from my first out-of-state makeup, so excited that I volunteered to make new flag banners because the ones hanging in the hall were full. My wife’s first comment was “he volunteered for a sewing project and he can’t sew” so you know who was really responsible for those new banners. As I had more opportunities to participate in projects where I could actually contribute something, I became more and more impressed with the way that a group of Rotarians can leverage their diverse talents and work towards a common goal - and have a good time in the process.

I was always told that you really don’t know Rotary until you attend an international convention, and found that to be true when I attended my first convention in New Orleans. Meeting people from around the world, all working toward the same goals that we work toward locally put a real face on “International”. I’ll never forget the words of one speaker, recounting his conversation with an elder in a village where his club had completed a water project: “after Rotary came and drilled our well, the children stopped dying.” What more can you say? Jack Blasco, 1-15-2012
Sebastopol Rotary’s 11th Annual
CRAB FEED

Saturday, February 9, 2013
First Seating: 5:00 p.m.
(Bar Opens & Music Starts at 4:00 p.m.)
Second Seating: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Ghost Hall, 7960 Mill Station Road, Sebastopol

Get your tickets NOW!!
Seating is LIMITED
This event sells out EARLY

Tickets are available in Sebastopol from EXCHANGE BANK

All You Can Eat Fresh Cooked Crab,
Clam Chowder, Salad, Bread,
Dessert & Wine
$50 Donation

For Tickets or Information, go to: www.SebastopolRotary.org
or call 823-4087

All proceeds of this event will be used to fund
Sebastopol Rotary’s Education Grant Programs

Over $165,000 in Teacher Mini-Grants
Awarded to Date
To: Bob Rogers, Rotary Club of Sebastopol

Dear Sebastopol Rotarians,

I know you all love our club and what it stands for, otherwise you wouldn't be a member of this great organization. We also realize that there is always room for improvement. Are there things you like and/or dislike about our club? Do you see ways that we could improve?

We are inviting you to participate in a short survey (5 to 10 minutes) about your experience in Rotary and our club so that you can share your opinions.

This survey is sponsored by Rotary International and they will compile the results and make them available to us to help make our club even better. Rest assured that responses are confidential and anonymous. The results will contain only statistical summaries of all responses.

To take the survey, simply click on this link [http://tinyurl.com/MultiDistrictSurvey](http://tinyurl.com/MultiDistrictSurvey) or type this link into your web browser.

Please know that we are interested in your honest opinions. We ask that you complete the survey before Friday, February 1.

We look forward to sharing the results with you in April. Together, we will act to make our club better and more successful!

Sincerely,

President Edwin & PE Bob

Rotary Club of Sebastopol
2013-14 RI theme

RI President-elect Ron Burton announced the 2013-14 RI theme, Engage Rotary, Change Lives, at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, on 14 January.

- Read more
- Watch a video
- Get graphics
- See comments from governor-elect

In other news

Incoming district leaders learn about new grant model
Rotarians everywhere will benefit from the training their new leaders bring home from the International Assembly.

Rotary's leadership considered vital to eradicating polio
World Health Organization's Bruce Aylward urges district governors-elect to step up efforts to finish the job.

Saving Little Hearts
RI Director Sheikh Mela, and others, share their Rotary Moments at the assembly.

Announcements

Learn how to host a successful peace forum in the January issue of Rotary Leader

Enter the first Rotary Friendship Exchange video contest

Read the latest RI Strategic Plan Progress Report to help your club grow and thrive

Learn about the Rotary Global Peace Forum in Honolulu, Hawaii

Resource guide

RI Theme Materials
Features the 2013-14 RI theme along with a message from 2013-14 RI President Ron Burton.

Rotary Media Center
Your online resource for public service announcements, videos, and more.

Rotary Video Magazine Collection 6
Includes six inspiring videos on one DVD.
Rotary District 5130 presents

Pinot for Polio

Raising Money for PolioPlus — one Case at a Time

Pinot for Polio is a Rotary District 5130 fundraising project for PolioPlus.

Increase your Paul Harris credits, contribute to PolioPlus, and drink great wine at the same time.

What could be better?

Your cost per case of 12 bottles of Balletto Vineyards 2011 Russian River Valley Sonoma County Pinot for Polio is:

- Cost per case $305.00
- Sales tax $27.00
- Total cost $332.00

$150.00 from each case will be sent in your name to PolioPlus. You will receive Paul Harris credits and it will also count towards your club’s annual Foundation giving.

What a simple, effective and delicious way to raise money for PolioPlus.

We’re This Close...All We Need is You

Pinot for Polio Order Form

___ Cases of Pinot for Polio at $332/case = ______
___ Winery Pickup (Balletto Vineyards)
___ Ship to me - $30 inside CA.

Number________________________

Rotary Club______________________

Exp:____________ CVC__________

Name__________________________

Signature_____________________

Address_______________________

City_____________ Zip__________ Phone__________________

Fax to 707-829-3184 or Mail to: Pinot for Polio - P.O. Box 2481 Sebastopol, CA. 95473
For more information contact Michael McGlothlin at 707-829-3529 or michael.mcglothlin@gmail.com