



Rotary Club of Los Gatos Cat Tale

District 5170 Club #487 Chartered 1924 Volume #30 Issue #3 March 12, 2018

Larry Jinks was the very appropriate person to introduce a recently retired reporter for the San Jose Mercury News. Larry was Mercury News Editor in 1977, then went on to be Publisher in 1989.

He introduced today's speaker, **Scott Herhold**, who joined the paper just as Larry became editor.

Retired Mercury News columnist Scott Herhold spoke about his career and the fate of newspapers.

Herhold said three great changes had eroded the power of newspapers — generational, demographic and technological.

The ex-columnist told several anecdotes about big stories he had covered — including the **Mark Achilli** murder in Los Gatos in March of 2008. Herhold's take: The unraveling of the plot could partly be explained by economic factors: The ringleader, **Esequel "Paul" Garcia**, thought he could get the killing done on the cheap — and he got what he paid for, an amateur job.

Herhold said his best work was a 1998 magazine article on attorney and Los Gatos resident **Allen**

Ruby, who went on to defend Microsoft and Barry Bonds. "I think he owes me a debt for boosting his business," the columnist joked.



Today's speaker
Scott Herhold

At his retirement in January, Scott wrote the following farewell piece:

"Near the end of the movie 'Titanic,' as the big ship is about to plunge into the deep, Jack turns to Rose and says, 'This is it!' almost giddy as the freezing water approaches.

"I feel a bit that way today as I write my last column for the Mercury News. Yes, this is it: After 40 years with the newspaper and more than 14 as a local columnist, I'm retiring.

I'm almost giddy, though I wonder about the temperature of the water.

"It was in November, 1977, that I walked into the Mercury News' North County bureau in an office building at the San Antonio Shopping Center in Mountain View. At age 28, I was convinced I knew everything about my craft.

"I did not. And the last four decades have been an exercise in slowly dawning humility — the nagging suspicion that the guy whose position

you've just savaged might have an equal purchase on truth, or that maybe that there's more than one truth.

"I had been at the Mercury News less than nine years when my predecessor as a local columnist and history buff, **Harry Farrell**, retired at age 62 to write a book about San Jose's 1933 lynching.

"I remember Farrell writing that his 44 years at the paper, interrupted by a stint as a soldier, had gone by remarkably swiftly. Forty-plus years? I thought I would never stay that long.

"And yet I have. And Farrell was right: It's gone by swiftly. On my first day, veteran reporter **Ed Hering** showed me around the bureau, his dry cadence explaining supplies and office politics.

"On my last day, now the fodder for many jokes, I said farewell to my colleagues on the eighth floor of a high rise in San Jose. The two days seemed to follow one another without punctuation.

"I've enjoyed a parade of beats: the Peninsula, county government, general assignment, night cops, downtown San Jose, venture capital. I've done stints as an assistant city editor, a political gossip columnist, a magazine contributor, a tech stocks writer.

"By far my best job is the one I'm leaving today. Like most reporters, I always had opinions about the people and stories I covered, but I had to hew to the code of straight news. When I became a columnist, those coils were suddenly loosened.

"That freedom was balanced by this truth: If you write opinion, you will offend. And if you pound the table — as I have done, ever so oc-

asionally — you can vex or wound.

"So I've also tried to inject humanity and humor into this space. I've told stories about my father, **Bob Herhold**, a Lutheran minister who loomed large in my life.

"I've explored the niches and riches of San Jose's past. I've talked about my adventures riding the bus or pedaling my ancient Nishiki bicycle. I've tried to write about good people.

"Throughout my stint, I've depended on gracious colleagues and on readers who have provided insights or suggested stories — people like Jeff, the West Valley professional who pays keen attention to local politics; or Ron, the retired cop from the East Bay with a wise take on life and law enforcement; or Phyllis, a retired San Jose librarian with an unflagging memory.

"In the end, staying in one place for 40 years inevitably makes you a quiet homer, a booster. There would be no point in chasing all those stories unless you had come to care about San Jose and its surroundings.

"While my plans are still uncertain, I'm planning to stay around. My email in retirement is herhold6@gmail.com. I don't think the water will be that cold."



Larry Jinks gave a warm introduction for his friend of forty years, Scott Herhold.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Meeting

Presiding

President Suzanne Boxer-Gassman

Pledge — Myron Smith

Inspiration — John Pencer

Editor Julian Rodriguez

Photos Don d'Arms



TINA ORSI-HARTIGAN ANNOUNCED THE INTERACTERS QUILT MAKING THURSDAY.

MIKE NORCIA ANNOUNCED ALL DETAILS FOR THE GREAT RACE

PRESIDENT SUZANNE, ANNOUNCED THE CHAMPIONS FORMS ARE NOW DUE,

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 20

Enterprise Leadership Conference

March 27

Annual Interact Auction

April 3

Vocation / Hobby Day

April 10

Mike Wasserman, Santa Clara County Supervisor will give us an update from our district.

COMING EVENTS

April 29 GREAT RACE



President Suzanne presented a certificate commemorating the gift of a wheelchair in honor of the speaker.

Rotary Club of Los Gatos
P. O. Box 1018
Los Gatos, CA 95031
Return Requested

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Bulletin Committee Chair: Don d'Arms
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Julian Rodriguez,
Ron Smith,
Patti Van der Burg.
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Don d'Arms, Kamyar Negari.
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Web site addresses:

Los Gatos
<http://www.losgatosrotary.org>
District
<http://www.rotary5170.org>
International
<http://www.rotary.org/>

MONDAY

PALO ALTO
Ming's Restaurant
1700 Embarcadero Road
MILPITAS
Embassy Suites Hotel
901 E. Calaveras
SCOTTS VALLEY
Hilton Hotel

*All meeting times 12:15 pm
Unless noted otherwise*

Los Gatos Lodge
50 Los Gatos- Saratoga Rd

TUESDAY

MOUNTAIN VIEW
Historic Adobe Bldg.
Moffett Field
SANTA CRUZ Sunrise
7:15 am De La Viega Golf
CAMPBELL / S.J. West
Eastfield Ming Quong Ctr
251 Llewellyn Ave
SUNNYVALE
Lookout Rest. Muni Golf
GILROY Elks Lodge
2765 Hecker Pass Rd
FREMONT
Massimo's Restaurant

WEDNESDAY

SUNNYVALE Sunrise
7:00 am Le Boulanger
LOS GATOS Morning
7:15 am Los Gatos Lodge
50 Los Gatos- Saratoga Rd
SAN JOSE Summit Ctr
4th & San Fernando
CUPERTINO
Quinlan Comm. Center
WATSONVILLE
Elk's Lodge
MORGAN HILL
Morgan Hill Comm. Center
FELTON / San Lorenzo
Mt. Hermon Ctr. / 7 am

THURSDAY

SANTA CLARA
Hilton Santa Clara
4949 Great America Pwy
SAN JOSE EAST
Ranch Golf Club
4601 Hill Top View

FRIDAY

SAN JOSE North
HP Pavilion Arena
SARATOGA
Community Center / 12 n
SANTA CRUZ
Elk's Lodge / 12:10 pm

Los Gatos Lodge
50 Los Gatos- Saratoga Rd

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Bulletin Committee Chair: Don d'Arms

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and Patti Van der Burg.

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Los Gatos

<http://www.losgatosrotary.org>
<http://www.clubrunner.ca/losgatos>

District

<http://www.rotary5170.org>

International

<https://rotary.org>

SISTER ROTARY CLUB MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

MONDAY

PALO ALTO

Ming's Restaurant
1700 Embarcadero Road

MILPITAS

Embassy Suites Hotel
901 E. Calaveras

SCOTTS VALLEY

Hilton Hotel

*All meeting times 12:15 pm
Unless noted otherwise*

Los Gatos Lodge

50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd

TUESDAY

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Historic Adobe Bldg.
Moffett Field

SANTA CRUZ Sunrise

7:15 am De La Viega Golf
CAMPBELL / S.J. West

Eastfield Ming Quong Ctr

251 Llewellyn Ave

SUNNYVALE

Lookout Rest. Muni Golf

GILROY Elks Lodge

2765 Hecker Pass Rd

FREMONT

Massimo's Restaurant

WEDNESDAY

SUNNYVALE Sunrise

7:00 am Le Boulanger

LOS GATOS Morning

7:15 am Los Gatos Lodge

50 Los Gatos- Saratoga Rd

SAN JOSE Summit Ctr

4th & San Fernando

CUPERTINO

Quinlan Comm. Center

WATSONVILLE

Elk's Lodge

MORGAN HILL

Morgan Hill Comm. Center

FELTON / San Lorenzo

Mt. Hermon Ctr. / 7 am

THURSDAY

SANTA CLARA

Hilton Santa Clara
4949 Great America Pwy

SAN JOSE EAST

Ranch Golf Club

4601 Hill Top View

FRIDAY

SAN JOSE North

HP Pavilion Arena

SARATOGA

Community Center / 12 n

SANTA CRUZ

Elk's Lodge / 12:10 pm

Los Gatos Lodge

50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd

MEMBER INFORMATION

As the Cat Tale will again be published on our web site, we will cease posting new member info and member address corrections in the Cat Tale, for privacy reasons. For this information, use the **Clubrunner Members Area**, which is NOT available to the public.

MEMBERS INDUCTED IN FY 2015-2016



Angelique Pimentel



Henry Vitkovich



David Karwowski

MEMBERS INDUCTED IN FY 2016-2017



Joyce Cordi



Ketan Shah



Geraldine Arce



Marty Fishman



Dick Konrad

MEMBERS INDUCTED IN FY 2015-2016



Michelle Behr



Jack Chevlen



Michael Bisbee



James Park



Leola Edmond



Neal Mudgett



Margaret Smith



Canan Sonuk



Madeline Smith

MEMBERS INDUCTED



Greg Butterfield



Amy Potts



Cathy Schumacher



Chad Clemings



Janice Gali



Shane Rogers



AnnMarie Valle

IN FY 2014-2015



Patti Van der Burg



Gordon Levin



Kathy Murtfeldt



**ROTARY CLUB OF LOS GATOS
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Assistant Secretary	Paul Mudgett
Treasurer	Ed Bowen
Assistant Treasurer	Dan Snyder
Immediate Past President	Tony James

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2017-2018 DIRECTORS**

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Club Events Director	Greg Smith
Community Relations Director	Amy Potts
Youth Services Director	Colin Duerson
Philanthropy and Finance Director	Tom O'Donnell
Sergeant-at-Arms	Greg Butterfield
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Rotary District 5170 Governor	Owen Mahoney