



Chartered August 1, 1916 || Volume 31, No. 28 || February 12, 2018

**The Rotary Club of Reno meets at Harrah's Reno at Noon on Monday**

## MONDAY'S PROGRAM

**Ralph Whitten**

*The air we breath and how  
to make it safe.*



The air around us is filled with chemicals. Some are good chemicals like the smell of baking bread and some are harmful like a natural gas leak or the formaldehyde coming from the

cushions of our furniture. Many people don't know that the "clean" outside air in an average US city contains 70 chemicals, many of which cause illness. Furthermore, the US Environmental Protection Agency has documented that the "clean" air in our homes is often five times worse than the outside air due to the chemicals that emanate from the materials in our homes. Worldwide approximately 7M people die each year as a direct result of air pollution. Until now, there has been no economically viable means of detecting hazardous chemicals.

NevadaNano has solved this problem by developing a silicon chip that analyzes and identifies the chemicals in the air. Using silicon allows the system to be inexpensive and suitable for use in our workplaces, offices, homes, cell phones and distributed

*Continued on Page 2*

## When Bicentennial Park Was A Divorce House

*See Page 4 for story.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [www.renorotary.org](http://www.renorotary.org) to sign up

### Reno Rotary February Social Event

Feb 21, 2018 5:30 PM ~ 7:30 PM

Liberty Food and Wine Exchange

### Tahoe City Rotary Club 42nd Annual Ski Challenge

March 2, 2018

Northstar Ski Area

### Food Bank Volunteer Day

March 10, 2018 9 AM ~ 11 AM

Food Bank of Northern Nevada

### Mardi Gras Fundraiser

March 24, 2018

Reno Ballroom

## upcoming meetings

February 19, 2018

**NO MEETING**

*President's Day*

February 26, 2018

**Harrah's V.P. and G.M. Lee Dillard**

*Business Update on Harrah's in Reno*

March 5, 2018

**Achievement Beyond Obstacles Students**

*Overcoming Adversity*



## THE RENOTARIAN

Published by  
THE ROTARY CLUB  
Reno, Nevada

### Rotary Club of Reno Officers and Directors

Bill Boon.....	President
Phil Mahoney.....	President Elect
Mary Brock.....	President Nominee
Craig Wesner .....	Past President
Carl Fuetsch .....	Secretary
Vic Bucher.....	Treasurer
Kirk Bailey .....	Director
Tina Doherty.....	Director
Diana Hoffman.....	Director
Mark Meich.....	Director
Stefanie Scoppettone .....	Director
Maria Sheehan .....	Director
Trudy Nauman .....	Director
Gary Warren .....	Director
Tom Young.....	Director

### Reno Rotary Foundation

Laurie Leonard .....	President
Carl Fuetsch .....	Secretary
Vic Bucher .....	Treasurer
John Spears.....	Investments
Bill Boon .....	Ex-officio
Phil Mahoney.....	Ex-officio
Brian Armon .....	Trustee
Mary Brock.....	Trustee
Harvey Fennell.....	Trustee
Sheila Hlubucek.....	Trustee
Jim Pfrommer .....	Trustee
Phil Stone .....	Trustee
Tom Taelour .....	Trustee

### Newsletter/Website

David Spillers .....	Newsletter Editor
Oliver Grosz .....	Web-master

## Ralph Whitten

*Continued from Page 1*

across our cities as part of the Internet of Things. Measurement of these chemicals allows the user to improve the air quality through filtration or remediation of the source of contamination thereby improving our health and safety.

Ralph Whitten is President and co-founder of NevadaNano, based in Sparks, NV. Ralph is a veteran of the semiconductor industry in Silicon Valley, with previous experience with four innovative start-up companies, specializing in the field of MEMS – MicroElectrical Mechanical Systems that have enabled devices like miniature microphones in cell phones, air bag sensors in our cars and position sensors in the Wii games. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He has two grown children and lives in Reno with his high school sweetheart and wife of 37 years.



*President Bill presents "Rotary Club of Reno Member of the Month" pin to member John Spears.*

## RYLA APPLICATIONS

**Camp RYLA 2018 Dates:**

**Week 1: June 17 – 22**

**Week 2: June 24 – June 29**

**Week 3: July 8 – 13**

The RYLA committee is currently accepting applications for participants to the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) to be held this summer in Grizzly Ranch by Portola. It is a weeklong camp in which campers will learn skills including leadership, teamwork, communication and self-awareness. Participants must currently be a junior in high school. In addition to Reno High School, other high schools will be considered. We encourage students who are related to our club members to apply. Please contact Tom Taelour for more information 771-4008 or [ttaelour@charter.net](mailto:ttaelour@charter.net). Info: [www.Camp-RYLA.org](http://www.Camp-RYLA.org)

## TAHOE CITY ROTARY SKI CHALLENGE

It's that time of year to start thinking about being part of our clubs team for the Tahoe City Rotary Clubs annual ski race. It will be held at Northstar again this winter on Friday the March 2nd. 2018. I need at least five (5) club members to make up our clubs team. Only Rotarians can race on our team, but guests can also race for the fun of it. Skiers and snowboarders are all welcome.

If you are interested please contact me at (w) 775-322-0695, (c) 775-722-2576 or email: [markmeich@yahoo.com](mailto:markmeich@yahoo.com)

Info and forms are available at [www.tahoecityrotary.org](http://www.tahoecityrotary.org)

Thank you, Mark Meich



*President Bill presents Blue Badges to Rick Clark and Olivia Tearnan, who is standing with Jack Yammine (right), her sponsor.*

## LAST MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Scanner: ..... Cate Kegg  
Greeter: ..... Kevin Melcher  
Raffle Tickets: ..... John Kadlic  
Invocation: ..... Debe Fennell  
Pledge: ..... Ryan Hart  
Sgt. At Arms: ..... Mary Brock  
Sgt. At Arms: ..... Amy Clemens  
Photographer: ..... Dan Nichols  
Piano: ..... Genie Mathews



*President Bill (left) and Chair of the Club's Rotary Foundation Committee David Morgan (right), present additional Paul Harris Fellow awards to Trudy Naumann (PHF+1), Diana Hoffman (PHF+5) and George Golbov (PHF+2).*

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Is it time for you to really step up and get involved in your club's board of directors? It's hard to find someone who has served and didn't think it was a great experience. If you are interested, you have to have been a member of our club for three years.

You also need to: be willing to chair a major club committee during your term (three years), be able to attend all board meetings with few exceptions, and be familiar with most club functions. It would also be helpful to have good club attendee (currently).

If you would like to consider getting more involved, contact Marlene Olsen, at [marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com](mailto:marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com) or call 775-772-0020, or any member of the nominating committee: Rew Goodenow, Pat Horgan, Bill Mathews and Stephanie Scoppettone.

## When Bicentennial Park Was A Divorce House

*by Joel Fuetsch Pehanick*

NOTE: This article is based on a large body of research Joel acquired while writing **PORCH LIGHT BURNING**, A Mostly True Novel.

*The book is carried at Sundance and on Amazon*

It's a pleasure to wander through the Sculpture Garden in Bicentennial Park on Riverside Drive. Smile at the whimsical cigar smoking "Rhinoman," run your fingers over a curled up granite rat named "Winter Mouse" or puzzle over a yellow mosaic wave embedded with discarded keys. As you move through these and other artistic creations, contented birds sing and the adjacent Truckee flows freely. This delightful garden was spearheaded and financed by the City of Reno and the Downtown Reno Rotary Club - claimed to be the oldest in Nevada. The city had already provided this river side park for its citizens in 1976. Three years ago it partnered with Downtown Rotary for the addition of the Sculpture Garden - a celebration of the club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

What a contrast to what was there before this tranquil park!

An elegant Queen Anne Victorian, built in 1905, graced this prime real estate, a part of the old Powning Addition. Bordered by Ralston and First St., it was then known as 435 Riverside Drive, a family home until Nevada became the nation's divorce capital in the 1920's. The town needed rooms to rent. With that in mind, its first owners, the Edward Barber family, converted their barn, added an annex and opened its doors to roomers and boarders. Thus, a high end guest house was born, catering to affluent divorcees, mostly women, arriving from throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The home faced 165 feet of the river, the bluffs and the opulent mansions above. With its two stories of white peaks, turrets,

gables and welcoming veranda, it was an architectural gem. And it had a practical advantage too: guests could reach the heart of town by a short stroll along the scenic Truckee with its stately aspens and friendly mallards quacking for bread crumbs.

In 1927 a man named Joe Fuetsch, age 27, fresh up from Tonopah, began work for



George Wingfield's newly opened Riverside Bank. Joe became a boarder at the Riverside address, one of few not seeking a quickie divorce. Edward Barber, with these words, "in consideration of the love and affection which he bears toward his son" had recently bequeathed the property to his Neil, Joe's landlord. In 1930 when Joe married popular Reno legal secretary Alice Harrington he moved on to a nearby apartment. But he kept in contact with the Barbers.

It was two years later that one family's tragedy became another's good fortune.

Early in '32 Neil Barber and his wife Florence died within months of each other, leaving two young children. Joe, the oldest of eight surviving offspring of Josephine and



Carl Fuetsch, saw an opportunity for his remaining family in Tonopah: Lease the Barber boarding house for his mother to manage and have the family - three sons already in Reno - move in and assist her. Joe's dad Carl, a once successful saloon keeper, one of the rare ones who refused to boot leg, had been unable to support the family adequately since the state went dry in 1918 and the Great Depression descended in '29. In truth, they were struggling. The employed siblings had contributed what they could; in fact, the oldest daughter Freda delayed her marriage for seven years, her paycheck assuring the family's basic needs.

It was a stroke of luck for the Fuetschs that, the year before, Nevada had lowered the residency requirement for a divorce decree to six weeks, unheard of in that era. The demand for rooms had shot up. So, with trepidation and determination, Josephine, packed up their household and youngest children - Ed, age 18, Marguerite, 15 and Shirley, 13, left Tonopah and assumed managership of one of Reno's foremost guest houses. Josephine may not have realized that she had a 'resume' that would serve her well for this position. At age twelve she had worked the family's fields and cooked

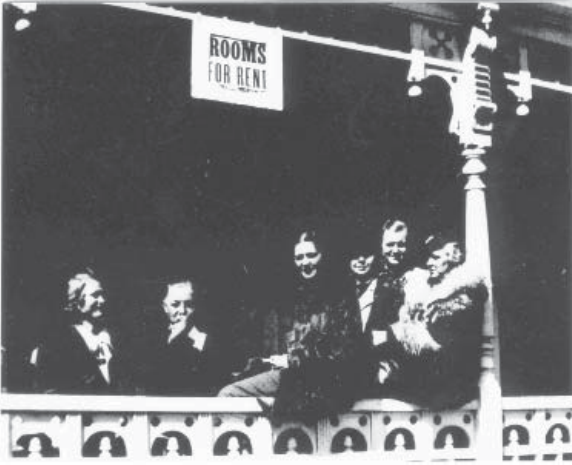


in quantity and with quality for them in her native Mitterdorf, Gottschee (now Austria). In the late 1800's, at age 14, she had immigrated to the United States. Alone. She raised eight children - the ninth buried in the Tonopah cemetery - in hard scramble mining towns for some 25 years. A woman of deep faith, she was good hearted and tolerant with a wide range of friends, even a former prostitute.

The family, now including sons Carl Jr., also a Riverside Bank employee, and Fred, studying mechanical engineering at the university, moved into the converted guest house with its two annexes. The property was valued that year at \$47,800; it totaled twenty bedrooms, two of them sleeping porches. Whoever rented the furnace room - yes, it was fully furnished - must have gotten a price break, not to mention being quite toasty in the winter months. As to the furnishings, the Fuetsch family, purchased, via a bank loan, the entire contents of the property for the sum of \$1,125. They were described in eleven legal size pages of inventory. Only old timers or history buffs would recognize some of those bygone items: thirty dresser scarves, an Atwater Kent radio, two wash boards, one Ford Model T wheel puller, and two curtain stretchers. The Barbers had vacated in such crisis that Mrs. Barber's wardrobe was still in a closet - much to the delight of the daughters Marguerite and Shirley who played 'dress-up' with her gar-



**Fuetsch family members, circa 1932:** Front Row: Ed - age 18, Josephine - age 52, Freda - age 29. Back row: Shirley - age 13. Marguerite - age 15.



ments until their mother needed the closet space, packed them up and donated them to Good Will.

Josephine ran a tight ship. For instance curfew was 9 p.m., no exceptions. Some guests paid extra for breakfast, qualifying them as boarders, but Josephine was quite selective about which few could join them for dinner. It must have been a coveted position to achieve: The room was lite with elegant wall sconces, and there was always a pristine white damask table cloth and napkins in silver rings. (One used the same napkin for a week; it was then replaced with a neatly ironed fresh one). A tiny, wispy haired German cook named Delia scurried in with steaming platters of sauerbraten, potato dumplings and other Rhineland delicacies. Dinner conversations were lively, fueled by guests' contributions from throughout the 48, particularly New York and sometimes Europe. The inordinate number of New Yorkers was partly due to certain Reno attorneys paying a 'finder's fee' to those steering prospective divorcees to their fair desert city and specific law offices. Occasionally there was a celebrity in the group – a Vermont governor, a San Francisco socialite, a Raskob - the latter to monitor his family's Nevada mining interests

The accounts ledger reveals a wide range of rates for guests and is open to interpreta-

tion depending on what room one rented or if one shared it and for how long. Prices appeared to range around \$10 to \$20 per month for a single while a 'with bath' garnered about \$35 to \$55. 'With meals' also altered the rate. Carl Jr. made his walking around money by supplying \$4 a gallon hooch to a particularly well to do gentleman who commandeered the upstairs master bedroom where he hosted nightly cocktail parties for the household.

Josephine, in addition to the stress of her many household responsibilities, became a confidante and consoler to many of the women guests, sometimes up late at night listening to their woeful tales. Marguerite, while still a teen, was incensed that "the men sent the women to get a divorce. Why didn't THEY come if that's what they wanted?" she would exclaim. Josephine was also a Resident Witness; that is, she accompanied guests to the court house when their decree was final and attested to their six weeks residency in the state, for which she was able to bank \$5 per appearance.

Sadly, this beloved mother was diagnosed with cancer in 1937 and died in November 1938 at age 58.

The grieving family in the home at this point totaled nine: Joe, wife Alice, their two daughters (ages four and four months), his father Carl Sr. and siblings, Carl Jr., Ed, Marguerite and Shirley. Joe had been the star witness for the three highly publicized Graham and McKay trials which had just ended, finally with convictions. He had been carrying a gun and was under federal guard for four years but now could concentrate on a full-time permanent job with Firestone, as well as co-managing 435; He and Alice accepted the challenge of filling Josephine's shoes.

Judging by the messages in the guest book for those departing, they became hosts extraordinaire. Alice especially took to her role as enthusiastically as the ducks did to the river across the street. One New Yorker wrote her, "May that well of laughter so deep within you continue to bubble over and cheer the weary hearts that come your way." Joe kept the books and offered financial advice to distraught middle-aged guests and Alice, taking up Josephine's role, comforted the emotionally distraught. The two had a rock solid marriage, a bulwark against their guests' marital morass. Another penned, "Here's to Alice and Joe, whose wit and charm made our evening meal the gayest part of the day." A Chicagoan said with nostalgia, "It is finally November 17, 1939, and I must go home. I arrived in Reno counting the days when I might leave. Now I almost want a reprieve. Alice, you took my tears away over my divorce, gave me gay smiles and a reason to think the future could be happy. I'll never forget either of you. You have meant a great deal to me and my life." One who described herself as the "Mad Russian" succinctly wrote, "You are the sweetest people I ever meet."

All this came to a screeching halt in 1940. Joe was promoted to the San Francisco division of Firestone. Yet another family was destined to become part of 435's history: B. F. and Lettie Boice with adult daughter Celesta Kunde. The Fuetschs were able to sublet and sell "all of the good will of the rooming and boarding house business in addition to its contents," for \$3500 to the Boices. Joe and family departed for California. There he lived to near 98 years old, Alice to 94, she died on their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Property history after this is a little sketchy. There is evidence showing the Boices still owned the home in 1942. But one close Reno relative, Helen Handy, doesn't recall a boarding house operation there for very long after the Fuetschs' departure. Assessor's records show a succession of owners: e.g. Celesta Kunde (the Boices' daughter), later a title insurance and trust company. In 1957 there was a Robert Allen, Nevada representative for J. Hemy Helser Co., who had his office and home at that address. John and Margery Cavanaugh owned it (unoccupied) for a brief time in the early 70's. They brought in a demolition crew then sold the land to the City of Reno.

At the time, preservationists probably didn't have the clout or the funds, as they would now, to save this near eighty year old architectural and historical treasure. Bicentennial Park, a lovely spot to explore, peruse and ponder, has replaced it. The park is also a place to pause and remember with warmth these families and guests of 435's past who lived, loved, made their mark and moved on.



### WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad.

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

#### **Our motto: Service Above Self**

For more than 110 years, our guiding principles have been the foundation of our values: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

#### **What we do**

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

*Promote peace*

*Fight disease*

*Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene*

*Save mothers and children*

*Support education*

*Grow local economies*

### the **4** way test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

### HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS AT A CLUB MEETING

When introducing a guest or new members during a Club meeting, the correct way is to greet the Club President, fellow Rotarians and guests, introduce yourself and state your classification, and then introduce your guest, their title and business affiliation. Please do not introduce any guest as a prospective new member or that they are looking for a position or clients.

### ATTENDANCE

Please make sure you turn in make-ups to Carl Fuetsch at a club meeting or by email: [info@renorotaryclub.org](mailto:info@renorotaryclub.org). Don't forget that you need to attend or make up at least 50% of club regular meetings in each half of the year (rolling six months) and attend at least 30% of this club's meetings in each half of the year. Credit can be received for Rotary committee work and other official Rotary functions.

**Rotary**  
Club of Reno



[Rotary Club  
of Reno](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofReno)



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

Published by  
**The Rotary Club of Reno**  
P.O. Box 1750  
Reno, NV 89505  
[info@renorotary.org](mailto:info@renorotary.org)

David Spillers, Editor,  
DigiPrint Corporation  
(775) 786-4464  
[david@digiprintcorporation.com](http://david@digiprintcorporation.com)

Articles and inserts must be received by 2 p.m. on Wednesday for inclusion in the next week's newsletter.