



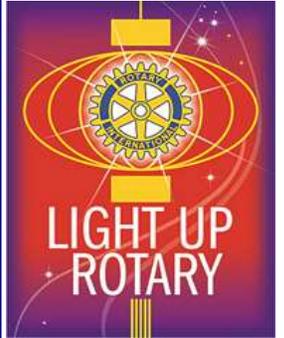
The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Overcoming Obstacles Awards



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Scribe: David Still
Photog: Jerry Warren, Guy Smith, HH
Co-Editors: Jack Dunlap /Tom Boag ☑: The Dilleys
Club President 2014/2015: Ron Puccinelli



["All the News that Fits We Print"](#)

 **Before the Bell** 

The Rotary Club of Sebastopol held its fifth annual leadership conference for six west county high school students who had been selected for the Overcoming Obstacles Award. These students were selected for their perseverance in overcoming various obstacles in their lives - obstacles not faced by many of their peers.

Each of the students was paired with a Rotarian mentor who would stay with them for the morning leadership conference and, more importantly, provide support for them as they prepared to speak to the assembled Rotary Club and guests at the noon luncheon. Mentors included **Dorothy Rodella, Susanna Simms, Diana Wilson, Nao Noguchi, Bob Cugini, Mike Carey, and Rick Wilson.**



After some coffee, snacks and get-to-know-you time, **David Schreibman**, the morning emcee, called the session to order at 9:30 am. **David** welcomed the students, the committee members and (unknown to the students) community members who were attending the session to act as judges. **David** briefly spoke of the goals and methods of Rotary, described the upcoming events of the day, and stressed the importance of the morning session with an emphasis on "networking." He also noted the USB drive given to each student which is a primer on financial literacy. The drive could be called a parting gift except that it was awarded at the beginning.



The first speaker of the morning was Lizzie Harrison. Lizzie runs a large ophthalmology office in Santa Rosa. She is married, has two children and lives in Windsor. Lizzie spoke of the difficulties she encountered growing up in a home marred by substance abuse and physical abuse. Her parents moved her from Oakland to Lake County at age 5. She recalls being the subject of overt racism as the only African American in her school. While her parents fought and her brothers went down the wrong road, she struggled. She resolved to work hard and get good grades. At age 10, she was greeted by a baby sister and she immediately became the primary caregiver. Despite all of these obstacles, she went to Empire College and became the success she is today.

Lizzie shared parting advice for students " Believe in yourself, someday you may be up here giving this talk." She also noted that, although she has given this talk once before at a previous leadership conference, she was extremely nervous. But, in her words, "If something I say can help one person, it is worth it."

[Future Programs](#)

[April 24, 2015](#)

Dark for the District Conference

[May 1, 2015](#)

Speaker: **The Honorable Judge Gary Medvigy**

Program: **Prop 47 & How Prison Overcrowding will impact Sonoma County**

[May 8, 2015](#)

Speaker: **Teachers, Students and Special Guests**

Program: **"Outside the (Classroom) Box" - Student "Trade Paths" Awards**

[May 15, 2015](#)

Speaker: **Ray Johnson, Director**

Program: **The Wine Business Institute at SSU**

[Future Events](#)

[District Conference](#)

[April 23rd – 26th](#)

[Sebastopol Golf Tournament](#)

[April 27, 2015](#)

[De Bunking!!](#)

[June 19, 2015](#)

[Handy Links](#)

[Pinot for Polio Form](#)

[Sebastopol Rotary Website](#)

[Overcoming Obstacles Photos](#)

[Miscellany](#)

[Next Board Meeting](#)

Date/Time: [Wednesday, May 13th, 5:15 p.m.](#)

Location: [New!! Vanguard Properties Office](#)
[The Barlow in Sebastopol](#)
[6790 McKinley Street Suite 120](#)

[MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS – jcbiasco@comcast.net](#)

[On-line Make-Ups: www.RotaryEClubOne.org](#)

[INTERACT MAKE-UPS – HAVE YOU TRIED IT?](#)

Analy High: 12:40 Most Wednesdays In Choir Room (Check with Bob Hirsch, Jack Dunlap, Ted Baggett)
Brook Haven: 12:10 First & Third Thursday, Room 18 (Check with Pauline Pellini, Mike Carey)
Orchard View: Different meeting times (Check with Mike Carey)
Twin Hills: Every Other Tuesday 12:45pm - 1:20pm (Check with Dan Rasmus)

For all Interact Mtgs.: CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM MEETINGS

!!! [CHECK IN AT SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE FIRST](#) !!!

After a short question and answer session with the students, **David Schreibman** introduced the second speaker of the morning, [Armando Coronel](#). Armando was born in Mazatlan Mexico and was brought to the U.S. at age 7. Today he is a successful and well known Sebastopol restaurateur, owner of the popular "El Coronel".

Armando described living in the Los Angeles area at a young age in a very bad neighborhood. He lived with relatives and never really knew his mother. He spoke of loneliness and dislocation. At age 14, he was taken back to Mexico to live with other relatives. At age 19, he returned to the U.S. and began to work in a restaurant. He fought off the loneliness with hard work and a deep desire to have a family, something he felt he had been denied. He married his wife and had a son, but struggled with alcohol for many years. Finally, in 1999 he decided to clean up and went into detox. He has been clean ever since, fathering two more children and creating the home he always dreamed of.



He urged the students to face their fears and be strong. He told them "let go of the guilt and fear and your dreams can come true."

The third speaker of the morning was [Rebecca Courry](#). Rebecca is a therapist with an advanced degree from UC Berkeley. She eventually attended UC Berkeley where she finished her schooling and became a certified therapist.

The morning session ended with the students asking questions of the speakers and taking inspiration from the stories of obstacles overcome.



At the Bell



At 12 noon, with Rotarians and Guests standing and applauding, **David Schreiber** introduced the student honorees, Adelaide "Max" Timpe, Jayne Hoyt, Nyala Grose, Irene Vargas, Seneca Gottschlich, and David Cundall. The students were seated at tables with their personal guests and a Rotarian Sponsor. The sponsors included **Sally Ewald**, **Dorothy Rodella**, **Dr. Harry Simms**, **Monica Kretschmer**, **Steve Beck** and **Jim Passage**.

President Ron called on **Nao Noguchi** to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance*.



Tom Boag then read the Thought of the Day:

"There are but few on earth free from cares, none but carry burdens of sorrow, and if all were asked to make a package of all their troubles, and throw this package on a common pile, and then were asked to go and choose a package which they were willing to bear, all would select their own package again. Your heartaches may be great, burdens heavy, but look about you, and with whom would you change?"



Visiting Rotarians & Guests



District Governor Kevin Eisenberg was introduced.



From the Sunrise Club, Helaine Campbell and Bruce Campbell

Terry Kelley gave a wave.

Russ Cunningham, once and future Rotarian, was there.

Barbara Barney attended too.

Although the room was full of guests...



Overcoming Obstacles Awards



President Elect Rick Wilson served as emcee for the program. He welcomed everyone to the program and stated that this meeting -- Overcoming Obstacles -- is his favorite meeting of the year. Unknown to most attendees is that **Rick** and **Linda Johnson** spent many hours working with the students to prepare them for the terrifying prospect of speaking to the Rotary club of Sebastopol.



Adelaide "Max" Timpe was the first student speaker to take the podium. Max is from El Molino High School and stated that she truly enjoyed the morning leadership program.

Max's parents divorced when she was 7. She and the family moved about continuously. When she tried to build a normal life, even raising livestock, she was moved again. She became essentially responsible for raising her younger brother. Things came to a boiling point on Christmas Eve 2013 when she left home with her younger brother with no idea of where to go or what to do. She eventually found her father who has since tried to change and inspire them. Max has found solace in old movies and, as she called it, the media of

an earlier time, making many in the audience feel that they are from an earlier time [Yes, we are fortunate to have witnessed many changes in the world –Ed.] She now plans to go to UC Santa Cruz and study art and art restoration to protect and save these older media that have inspired her.



Nyala Grose has been modeling for three years but said that has never been as nervous on the runway as she was right then in front of such a large group. Nyala is in independent study at El Molino High which means she studies business at SRJC while still in High School. Nyala also moved about frequently as a child, being whisked off to Washington state at one point then, to her surprise, off to Amsterdam to live. She didn't attend school there so spent her time starting two successful businesses. Upon her return to the U.S. and Sonoma County, she struggled with substance abuse. She finally took the steps necessary to clean herself up and put herself on the road to success.



David Cundall was the next student speaker. As David grew up, he struggled with parental controls and anger issues. David finally could not handle the tension in his home and at age 14 got in trouble with the law. This began a several year struggle to adapt and with various run-ins with the authorities. David spent some time in group homes and on his own. He realized that his physical health was deteriorating and he needed to find some stability somewhere. He found that stability in the home of a friend and his friend's mother who took him in. He now feels he is in a good place. He spoke proudly of a job offer he intends to take with the merchant marine.



Jayne Hoyt is a proud student at Laguna High School. The product of a broken home, Jayne has felt her life lacked stability since the family home burned down in 2004. She has been forced to move frequently. She was unable to do school work effectively and felt, in her words, that she was 'a total failure as a freshman.' She credited the staff at Laguna High School for pulling her out of her tailspin. She plans to go to culinary school as her dream is to own and operate a restaurant someday. Jayne said that she "will not let the demons from the past interfere with my happiness in the future."



Irene Vargas came to the United States at age five and her earliest memories are of being thrust into a world of school where she didn't understand what was going on around her. She slowly learned to read and write in English but effective communication eluded her. She became withdrawn and spoke very little in class or otherwise. She found solace in food. By the time she reached the fifth grade she had gained so much weight that the thought of going to middle school terrified her. Rather than give in to fear she resolved to overcome. She went on a diet, got Zumba tapes, and danced for hours. She lost 65 pounds and became the attractive confident young woman who spoke from the podium. Her confidence grew and she honed her leadership skills with the 1-4-1 club. She wants to be the first in her family to graduate from college.



The final student was Seneca Gottschlich. Seneca lived on a ranch near Sebastopol until age nine when his life underwent a transformation. His mother moved him to Hemet, California. His life became unstable and living in Hemet was a series of being bullied and harassed. His mother moved the family frequently and he found himself raising his younger siblings. He eventually got back to Sebastopol and in his words, I feel that I raised myself." He emphasized, "I hate change." Seneca feels confident now that he can live out his fondest dream, to be an aerospace engineer.

Introductions

While the judges reviewed their notes, several introductions were made. Max Timpe introduced her father Alan Timpe. Nyala Grose introduced her boyfriend William Edwards and his mother Ann Johnson. David Cundall introduced his guests Amber Pearson, Gina Pearson and Neysa Hinton. Jayne Hoyt introduced her guests; boyfriend Isaac Dungan and friend Halley Miller. Seneca Gottschlich introduced Christy Howard, Jim Walton and Tom Lambert. Irene introduced her mother Silvia and boyfriend Jesus.

Mike Carey took the microphone and introduced several members of the local academic community. Chris Heller, Principal at Analy High; Matt Dunkle, Principal at El Molino High; Kent Cromwell, Principal at Laguna High; and Counselor staff including Kim Finch, Doug Pepe, Debbie Demeduc (retired), Lucia Garcia, Carmelina Grant and Amy Miller.

Finally, the judges were introduced; D.G. Kevin Eisenberg, Mark Idhe CEO of Goodwill, Alexis Persinger an architect, George Dutton a grower, and **Linda Johnson**.

The Results

The judges had completed their work. **David Schreibman** explained that this was not a speech contest. Each of the students received a check for \$200 for personal use. They all will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. One of the six will receive a \$2000 award. The judges found student Irene Vargas deserving of a \$2000 scholarship.



Photos

Many excellent photos were taken of this event. Click [here](#) to see the photos or click the Handy Link on Page 2.

The Raffle

There was barely enough time for the raffle and Nyala Grose held the winning ticket and a chance to spin the wheel for \$\$\$. She gave it a good shot and we don't know whether she walked away with \$\$\$ and the candy or just the candy. It was great that one of the honored guests got a shot at the \$\$\$.



Announcements

Rebuilding Together starts on Saturday. Meet at Ives Park at 7:00 am for coffee and assignments. The house needs some windows, doors, some painting and plumbing work. There is also a fair amount of landscaping clean up outside. **Tom Dilley** and **Jim Pacatte** are overseeing this project.

Remember that the DeBunking of **Prez Ron** occurs on June 19. Hold that date on your calendar for a great party and show.

The Final Bell

President Ron closed the meeting at precisely 1:30 P.M. with the ringing of the Rotary Bell.

After the Final Bell

Rotarians Taking Action

Learn to Swim is underway under gloomy skies but with no loss of enthusiasm. There are many Rotarians as well as parents trying to follow the able direction of **Greg Jacobs** and **Rick Wilson**. The kids are great, making this valuable effort a great experience.





[How a simple school project became a global grant](#)

U.S. Rotary members in Maine wanted to improve schools in Bikaner, India. At first, they simply donated school desks. But working with local Rotary members, they created a global grant project to meet the community's most urgent needs: better training for teachers and giving unschooled children a chance at education.

- [Read how they did it](#)
- [Find out how to apply for a global grant](#)
- [Browse more education projects on Rotary Showcase](#)
- [Support a classroom project in Nigeria](#)

GIVE

Polio eradication

Rotary flame arrives in Evanston

The Rotary flame arrived at Rotary headquarters in Evanston on Tuesday on its

journey from Chennai, India, to its final destination in São Paulo, Brazil, for the Rotary Convention. The flame commemorates a major victory in Rotary's effort to eradicate polio in India, which is now polio-free, and 30 years of PolioPlus.

- [Read more about the Rotary flame's stop in Evanston](#)
- [Follow the flame to São Paulo](#)
- [Help us end polio](#)
- [Join the discussion on ending polio](#)

Service in action

Two of the most exciting words in Rotary

At a regional meeting in the U.S., Rotary leaders posed a simple question: What if? Those two words propelled them into a \$109,000 Rotary global grant project for a Rotary Family Health Day, to ensure thousands of men, women, and children in Ghana receive vital health services.

- [Read Kenneth Solow's blog post about the grant](#)
- [Support Rotary Family Health Days](#)
- [View a Telly-winning documentary on Rotary Family Health Days](#)

GET READY FOR YOUR JULY CLUB INVOICE; CREATE A MY ROTARY ACCOUNT TODAY

Your next club invoice will be available online in late July. Make sure you're able to access it by creating a My Rotary account.

- [Find out how to create a My Rotary account](#)
- [Update your club membership by 1 July](#)
- [Learn more about the new club invoice](#)



MAKE A RECURRING GIFT AND SUPPORT ROTARY YEAR-ROUND

Support our efforts to do good year-round by making a recurring gift – a simple and secure way to make a big impact.

- [Make monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions online](#)
- [Or, if you prefer, return the completed Rotary Direct enrollment form](#)
- [Learn more about our Annual Fund](#)

Announcements

Rotary makes headlines

In the first three months of this year, Rotary received significant coverage from global news organizations including Agence France-Presse, Christian Science Monitor, Daily Nation, Europa Press, the Guardian, Huffington Post, Manila Bulletin, Radio Times, SABC Channel Africa, Saturday Evening Post, Times of India, Time Magazine, and UT San Diego. Much of the news focused on PolioPlus grants, fundraising, and vaccination efforts.

- [Saturday Evening Post examines the war on polio](#)
- [Christian Science Monitor features Rotarian Jo Anne Miller for her work with at-risk kids and abandoned horses](#)
- [Daily Nation profiles Nairobi Rotary members who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise polio awareness, funds](#)

Resources & reference

[Rotary Voices: Stories of service from around the world](#)

[Rotary Leader: Helping club and district officers achieve success](#)

[Rotary Images: Download photos to use in your club or district publications](#)

Rotary Weekly brings you the latest Rotary news, features, and resources. Use this content in all of your Rotary communications, including club or district newsletters and websites.

Send questions to website@rotary.org. Share comments on [Rotarians Worldwide discussion group](#).

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