



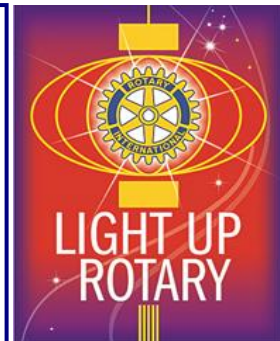
The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Erin Sheffield – Luther Burbank Gold Ridge Experiment Farm



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Scribe: Barbara Beedon
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Club President 2014/2015: Ron Puccinelli



"All the News that Fits We Print"



At The Bell



The Pledge was led by **Mike Long**,

The song was led by **Les Crawford** who reached back to his school teaching days to lead the group in

Row Row Your Boat [good thing Les remembered the words because not many others did —Ed.]



The Thoughts for the Day came from **Greg Jacobs**:

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

— Groucho Marx

"... the educated citizen has an obligation to serve the public. He may be a precinct worker or President. He may give his talents at the courthouse, the State house, the White House. He may be a civil servant or a Senator, a candidate or a campaign worker, a winner or a loser. But he must be a participant and not a spectator."

— John F Kennedy May 18, 1963

Future Programs

April 10, 2015

Speaker: Rick Nowlin, Executive Director
Program: Wells Fargo Event Center: A Historical Perspective

April 17, 2015

Speaker: Community Leaders and Youth
Program: Overcoming Obstacles Awards

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

Future Events

District Conference

April 23rd – 26th

Sebastopol Golf Tournament

April 27, 2015

Handy Links

Pinot for Polio Form
Sebastopol Rotary Website
Teacher Mini-Grants Application

Miscellany

Next Board Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, Apr. 9th, 5:15 p.m.
Location: New!! Vanguard Properties Office
The Barlow in Sebastopol
6790 McKinley Street Suite 120

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS – icblasco@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 !!!

Visiting Rotarians & Guests

Visiting Rotarians were introduced by **Bud**, and were:



Past President Russ Cunningham, Sr.
Active, Rossmoor Senior Living

And Stephanie Payne Campbell from South Pasadena.



Dorothy Rodella introduced Richard Adler, Chairman of SCORE, which used to stand for Service Corps of Retired

Executives. [However, the name is no longer an acronym, was changed years ago, and is now simply **SCORE –Scribe.**]

Richard Petersen introduced Mike and Debbie Brooks, who own the Santa Nella House, and are prospects for the noon club.



Linda Johnson introduced Michele Kimble, a writer who was previously a member of the morning club.



Bob Rogers introduced his wife and First Lady, **Peggy**.



Jim Passage introduced today's speaker, Erin Sheffield, Farm Chair, as well as Laurie Horn, and Christie Staats, all from the Luther Burbank Experiment Farm in West County.



Jack Dunlap introduced his "friend" Ruth Loy for the last time, and introduced us to his Fiancé Ruth, to enthusiastic applause and cheers!



Green Badge to Red Badge



As the applause died down, **Ron** invited **Jim Passage** to accept his Red Apple Badge, which **Jim** earned in record time!



Announcements



Sally Ewald had JUST taken a bite, when **Ron** called on her to introduce the Rotary Foundation Spring Drive. So, she chewed fast, and told us that when we joined Rotary, we joined a very special Club, one that comes with a worldwide family! Foundation funds are used to promote peace, clean water, education, growing local economies, and generally providing for overall welfare of the world.

As Rotarians, we are expected to contribute every year "Every Rotarian, Every Year", and the Spring Drive goes until the second meeting in May – May 8th, so we have time to meet our goals. So far this year, we are over the top on Polio Plus, but are only 75% to our overall goal of \$25,000. Only another \$8000 to go, and **Sally** isn't worried.

But to help us get there, **Sally** is asking that we all have a little fun with the Raffle this year.....by donating Raffle prizes for the drawing that will be held on May 8th.

So please don't wait to bring something remarkable in for the Raffle as soon as possible. **Sally** and her team need a little time to present them well to help us raise the needed funds! And of course, **Sally** thanks us in advance for our usual fine support of the Rotary International Foundation!

Sally also noted that she is giving up her room at the Tenaya Lodge, so if you are going to the District Conference, there is another room available.





Richard Petersen is concerned that the Annual Golf Tournament may be in jeopardy this year.....and is hoping there are a few more golfers out there to help keep that from happening!

The number needed to meet the Club's minimum is 40, and so far, 24 are signed up. He thanked **Les Crawford** for coming through with a foursome this past week, and asked again that anyone else who is thinking about signing up please let him know, so the event can hopefully happen this year.

Only \$100 gets you a game of golf at the SR Golf & Country Club, Dinner and Prizes
*Please let **Richard** know ASAP if you will join in the fun!*

Tom Lambert reminded people about the Work Day at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Environmental Center on Saturday, April 11, from 9 am til noon. The purpose is to create a Children's Discovery Garden and Playscape where kids can explore and safely have fun outdoors. About 20 Rotarians and friends are needed for the project. The location is 900 Sanford Road, at the intersection with Occidental Road. Call or email **Tom** for more information.

Ron noted that the 2nd round of Friendship Dinners reportedly went well, and **Jerry Warren** volunteered that it was great fun, and promised to send in a photo.

Richard Adler, **Dorothy's** guest from SCORE, provided some information about the organization. The local office is located in Santa Rosa, and is comprised of volunteers, who are business leaders and entrepreneurs. They serve all five counties of the North Bay – Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt. There are 24 members who counsel and mentor other business people in the area, and they are always looking for more! He noted that the one of the best things about volunteering is the experience is good for the mentors, too!



Membership



Membership Guru extraordinaire **Harry Polley** presented a "Membership Moment" by telling us about why he is so happy he received the "Gift of Rotary", and encouraged us all to do the same thing to help grow our Club.

Harry was happy to be elected President of the Club in 1982, and shared some information about the PETS experience – President Elect Training Seminar – a 3-day weekend that gives Incoming Presidents information vital to their success as a President of a Rotary Club. It also inculcated the idea that asking others to join Rotary is "sharing the gift" of Rotary. He also pointed out that there is a saying that says "Never give the podium to a Past President!" -- Funny, but True!

We're glad to see that members ARE sharing the gift of Rotary – there are 3 new applications in the pipeline – one from **Richard Petersen**, one from **Dave Madsen** and **Brad Benedetti**, and one from **Linda Johnson**.

So, when you get the feeling that someone would be a good candidate for Rotary membership, by all means, Replace yourself, and "Give the Gift of Rotary."



Some More Announcements



Katy Spyrka announced May fundraising events and programs for the Council on Aging. She also told us that Sophia Luna, our Exchange Student, will be coming back in the summer, and that our inbound student from Brazil will arrive on August 2nd.

Robin Maybury made an announcement regarding Cool Kids Camp, which was started by **Tom Farrell** in 1947. We are raising money to send 40 Kids to Camp.....so far we have enough to send 34, so please see **Robin** for more information, and to make a contribution.



Les Crawford wanted everyone to know that our Overcoming Obstacles Program (which originated in Reno) will be the program on April 17th. Assisting are **Dorothy Rodella**, **Mario Ramos**, **Bob Cugini** and **Diana Wilson**. Thanks for their help. Please see **Les** if you are interested, or have any questions.

And last, but certainly not least, **Greg Jacobs** and **Rick Wilson** thanked everyone who has volunteered so far for the *Learn to Swim* program. They can still use a few more volunteers.

The Raffle



Guest Christina Staats held the winning ticket and almost hit the jackpot (Rotary Logo) on spinning the wheel. She also missed pulling the correct candy bar from the bag. However she did walk away with a few candies for her efforts.

Erin Sheffield – Luther Burbank Gold Ridge Experiment Farm



Jim Passage introduced our speaker, Erin Sheffield, who is the Farm Chair at the Luther Burbank Experiment Farm. **Jim** is himself a volunteer there, and noted that Luther Burbank was an incredible man who did a lot of work that has both local and international consequence.



Erin started by showing a photo of the Farm sign on the highway, and thanked the Rotary Club for providing the funds to create it some years ago. She said it has helped by letting people know about their plant sales, which occur every Wednesday from 9 am to Noon, and are a good source of income for the Farm.

She went on to point out that the old plant signs, which correspond to the Walking Tour pamphlet, are being upgraded. In addition to being impervious to squirrel nibbling, they also show both the plant common name, and the plant botanical name. Because of these changes, they also want to create a new tour brochure, AND they are now categorized as a “botanical garden”, which is an important distinction in the plant world!

Luther Burbank was born in 1849 in Lancaster, Massachusetts. He moved to California when he was 25, so he could “garden year-round.” He lived in Santa Rosa, and purchased the Gold Ridge property in 1885. He traveled to the Farm a couple times a week to work on his experiments. Speculation at our table about how he got there.....train? wagon? buggy? Imagine how long those 8-10 miles would have taken back in those days! But I think he went there in his car, which today is in a garage at our own Guy Smith’s “Georgetown” property.

Luther was famous for discovering the Russet Potato (not hybridized). To this day it remains the most widely planted potato in the United States, because of its higher starch content; it has more nutrition, doesn’t rot, and can be shipped without refrigeration.

Luther one day saw a daisy that had small petals and decided to see if he could make them longer.....and created the Shasta Daisy, which is also the City Flower of Sebastopol. It continues to be hybridized, is also very popular and is widely planted.

The Santa Rosa Plum was hybridized from a variety he purchased from Japan. He introduced many new types of plums over the years, and created the Plumcot, a cross breed of Plums and Apricots. Unfortunately, a Nursery in Missouri took elderly trees from the Farm, and started to market them as "Pluots", since they couldn't use the original name. [note - not only is that dastardly behavior, it's also a crummy name! "Plumcot" is much better! **-Scribe**]

Luther even improved Rhubarb – (you either love it or hate it) by importing it from New Zealand and tricking it into blooming when it was summer THERE (and winter here). Other plants of note on the farm are Crabapples, Apple Blossom Rose, Spineless Cactus and Pink Ladies.

The Farm also serves as a laboratory where some of Luther's experiments continue to evolve and are studied by scholars and horticultural researchers.

Luther was world famous, and was visited by dignitaries and he met with other notables at events and celebrations. 100 years ago, at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, he met and was photographed with Henry Ford and Thomas Edison – three inventors who changed the world!

Another genius – who visited him at the Farm – was Helen Keller. Luther was self-taught, and the two of them got along famously. Helen sent Luther a Cedar of Lebanon tree, and he is buried beneath it.

Paramahansa Yogananda, famous for bringing Yoga to the U.S. dedicated his 1946 book, "Autobiography of a Yogi" to Luther Burbank.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Polish pianist and Prime Minister of Poland after World War I, was also a fan.

In addition to Plant Sales and Volunteer Work Days every Wednesday from 9 am to Noon, the Farm also has other fundraising events, such as an Open House in April – 23rd and 24th this year – where for \$5 per person you can see actress Lilith Rodgers portray Rachel Carson, another famous naturalist, showing the "Triumph and Tragedy of the Founder of the Environmental Movement"

They also have a Cemetery Walk in October and a supper where local actors perform vignettes of famous local folks.

You can find them at 7777 Bodega Avenue (go past the Senior Apts.)

As Erin said "we are wedged between the Orchard Senior Housing and Cemetery, so you can roll out of bed and into your grave."



The Final Bell



Thanks for a very entertaining talk, Erin! **President Ron** rang the meeting to a close.



Next Week's Program



:
Rick Nowlin, Executive Director of the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts..... its more than just music and dance! Come hear about their "Present and Future" programs and plans.

🍎 After the Final Bell 🍎

Teacher Mini-Grants

Since its inception in the fall of 2002, the Sebastopol Rotary has distributed nearly \$210,000 in Mini-Grants to local teachers.

Grant Size: \$50 to \$500 maximum.

Qualifications: Any teacher working in a public or tax-exempt private school located within the boundaries of the West Sonoma County Union High School District.

Deadline: April 17, 2015.

Submit application using this [link](#) for consideration.

Questions can directed to Michael Hixson at mikehixson@comcast.net

RI READING: Rotary Weekly
[CLICK HERE TO GO TO RI WEBSITE](#)



3 April 2015 | A roundup of Rotary news



Rotary clubs are having a tremendous impact on communities around the world. In southwest Uganda, Rotary members from Europe, Uganda, and the United States have teamed up with a pioneering doctor and two private entrepreneurs to address the needs of the Batwa Pygmies. Together, they've opened a nursing school to train badly needed caregivers for the entire region.

- [Read more](#)
- [Learn more about how Rotary works to save mothers and children](#)
- [Browse Rotary Showcase for projects that have reached mothers and children](#)
- [Support a project to build a hospital in Ngandu, Uganda](#)

GIVE

Providing clean water

Water projects always on tap for Rotary clubs

World Water Day 22 March draws attention to the plight of millions who lack access to clean water and safe sanitation. As one of our areas of focus, water is always on the minds of Rotary members. They are mobilizing communities to manage and maintain new infrastructure, like wells and water systems, and develop educational programs that teach the importance of hand washing and good hygiene.

- [Learn about Rotary's commitment to water](#)
- [Register for the World Water Summit in São Paulo](#)
- [Find a water project to support on Rotary Ideas](#)

Membership development

Is your club fun?

The Rotary Club of San Francisco Evening puts into practice what many successful clubs have learned: that it's important to continually assess what you offer members and make sure you are providing opportunities for service, personal development, and fun. And even with their crazy wigs and funny glasses, members honor Rotary's traditions and values.

- [Read about the club in a post on Rotary Voices](#)
- [Get resources to take your club from good to great](#)
- [Join a discussion about attracting and keeping members](#)

REGISTER FOR CONVENTION BY 31 MARCH & SAVE

Don't miss your last chance to save on registration fees for the Rotary Convention, happening 6-9 June in São Paulo.



- [Register by 31 March to save](#)
- [Buy your tickets to the Rotary Carnival](#)
- [Get others to join you with these social media promotions](#)

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER

Rotary's 2013-14 annual report shows what we can accomplish when members are active in their clubs and service projects.

- [View Rotary's 2013-14 annual report](#)
- [Download the report](#)
- [Learn how to engage your members](#)

Announcements

Rotary convention has it all

Harriett Schloer and her husband have missed just three Rotary conventions since 1998. They have come to view the convention as an annual vacation and an opportunity to visit foreign countries, spend quality time with old friends, and make new friends. Find out why you should put attending the international convention on your to-do list.

- [Read Schloer's post on Convention Insider](#)
- [Learn why you'll be inspired in São Paulo](#)
- [Register now \(members of Rotaract save through 15 April\)](#)

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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