



# *The Appleknocker*

## *Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin*

### VALENTINE'S DAY AND CRAB FEED



**Date:** February 10-11, 2017  
**Volume:** 2016/17—Issue E15-30A  
**Scribe:** Jim Passage, Yvette Williams van Aggelen  
**Photog.:** (2/10) R. Power, G. Smith, R. Maybury;  
 (2/11) P. Dirden, L. Ford, R. Power,  
 D. Schreibman, B. Beedon, B. Hirsch  
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**President 2016/2017:** David Schreibman



"All the News that Fits We Print"



### BEFORE THE BELL

#### Friday Morning Crab Preparation by Scribe Jim Passage, Photog. Richard Power



Yes, this **Scribe** didn't know "straight-up about a crab" (to borrow and contort an old cowboy expression) but I had heard that we would be outdoors and that we would get wet. So I equipped myself with rubber rain pants and heavy waterproof gloves, found my old *wellies* and waterproof coat, and made my way to the crab killing site. I was apprehensive but here goes and I'd give it a whirl. I have no regrets whatsoever.

Let me tell you a little about the

Friday morning work party. Most of the fellows there were old hands at this and knew exactly what to do. Different Rotarians came and went during the morning so any Rotarian census count would depend on when noses were counted. At 8:30 am I counted 14 folks. There were many more later on. I naively



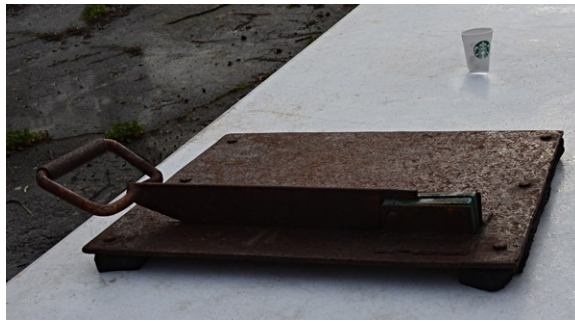
commented to **Rick Wilson** at one point that only men were present — Where were the Rotarian Ladies I queried? I thought that Rotary was co-ed. **Rick** laughed. Here — for the benefit of other Sebastopol Rotarians who have never afforded themselves this unique opportunity is what occurred:

Three bins of crabs (I was told there were

1,800 crabs total) arrived at the site about 9:15am, in large plastic bins, in a delivery van from Bodega Bay. **Bob Cary's** fork lift, with **Brad Benedetti** at the wheel, off-loaded and maneuvered the bins with ease. No toes were run over.







It must be said that **Committee Chair Nao Noguchi** had set up a table with sake, coffee, and pastries. **Nao** really had this operation perfectly planned. The refreshments were often tasted and much appreciated.

Doesn't everyone drink their morning juice from a small wooden box?



Two fellows – mostly **Harry Polley** and **Tom Dilley** picked the live crabs out of the bins and tossed them on a large raised worktable.

The crabs don't come with nice handles, but **Harry** and **Tom** grabbed them just so – no problem.



**Bob Cary** used a custom tool (quite similar to a heavy paper cutter) to cut the crabs into two pieces – right down the middle fore and aft. This was the crab killing operation. **Bob** was obviously an experienced crab executioner, as he wasted no time with the chore. Grab, place, whack, toss – like that.

Several men (including past, present, and future **Club Presidents**) stood around this work table doing the principal cleaning. This work might be considered as apprenticeship training for regular would-be human surgeons or undertakers. Of course hospital surgeons don't usually work



in rain gear and boots. **Brad Benedetti** showed me the best and fastest method – no *lolly-gagging* at this chore! Hold that crab-half by the legs with one hand, and pry off the shell with the







## Future Programs



February 17, 2017

Speaker: Sarah Hart, President, Hartcom  
Program: Leadership for a Thinking Environment

February 24, 2017

Speaker: Alan Silow, SR Symphony  
Program: Search for a New Conductor

March 3, 2017

Program: Analy Jazz Band  
Coord. Dawn Johnson

March 10, 2017

Emcee.: Jackie Moreira  
Program: High School Speech Contest

March 17, 2017

Emcee.: Sally Ewald  
Program: Trade Paths Awards

March 24, 2017

Speaker: Mr. Nan Su  
Program: Humanities Last Stand

March 31, 2017

Emcee.: Barbara Bickford  
Program: Teacher of the Year



## Future Events



Sunrise Mardi Gras Casino Night 2/25

Community Grant Deadline 2/28

District Training Assembly 4/1

SCARC Dinner (Club hosted) ("Keeping Girls in School") – 4/27 (at church)

Learn to Swim 4/24 – 5/18

District Conf. (Tahoe) 5/12-14

RI Conv. (Atlanta) – 6/10-14



## Miscellany



Next Board Meeting (& SREF)

Date/Time: **March 7, 2017, Tues 5:30**

Location: **David Schreiber's Home in Windsor**

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–JackE Dunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)

INTERACT MAKEUPS

Analy High: Check Day, Time with  
Dan Rasmus or Donna Pantzer

Brook Haven: Check Day, Time with  
Pauline Pellini or Mike Carey

Orchard View: Check Day, Time with Lisa Jacobs

Twin Hills: Check Day, Time with Dan Rasmus or  
Monica Kretschmer

For all Interact Mtgs.: CALL AHEAD TO

CONFIRM MEETINGS

**! CHECK IN AT SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE FIRST !**

LINK: [Sebastopol Rotary Website](#)



other hand. Piece of cake – nothing to it. The shell and *various ugly unwanted bits* went in a garbage can and the parts for the crab feed went into other tubs for cooking.

**Mike Long** had his cooking operation under careful control – assisted by timer **DGE Bob Rogers**. **Bob** kept score on a white board – It looked like he was taking side bets on a six horse race. Six large pots rested on propane fired burners. The crab halves were in perforated stainless inserts (the inserts looked like very large pasta cookers). The water with the crabs was brought to a rolling boil, and then allowed to sit

for exactly the right length of time to cook. When **Bob** said "NOW", **Mike** removed the perforated crab pot from the boiling water, then dumped them onto an assembly of three tables.

ere is where I spent most of my morning. The hot cooked crabs were sprayed with cold water. Then from each crab-half we removed any unwanted bits that had come through the killing and cleaning table and the boiling water. We sprayed each half crab with clean cold water and threw it into a tub. **Jim Pacatte, Brad Benedetti, Alain Serkissian, Richard Power**, and others were also employed in this chore. I preferred this work to the messier first cleaning at the killing table. **Rick Wilson**, probably the only worker who was not



outfitted in waterproof gear, carefully packed the crabs (now cleaned and cooked) in the bins and covered them with ice. By the end of the morning there were three bins of prepared crab ready for further attention by the afternoon crew.

This commentary would be grossly incomplete without pointing out that in addition to the actual work with crabs there was a great deal of work in setting up, in cleaning up and in removing and replacing the materials and tools in a storage container. **Nao, Brad, Mike, Harry**, and others were quick and efficient – Do you suppose that they have done this before? Clearly the club has invested in the various tools and other elements to pull off an event such as this. We should all take some measure of satisfaction that we – Sebastopol Rotary – does this work with our membership, rather than buying the crab ready cooked and cleaned.



Rotarians returning from the crab killing-cleaning-cooking event were greeted with the strains of The Beatles' "I want to hold your hand..." [Shouldn't that be "I want to eat your claw?" -Ed.]



## AT THE BELL



Photogs.: Guy Smith and Robin Maybury



**President David** rang the bell, jolting us from our conversations. He asked **Jim Pacatte** to lead us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Song of the Day, for Valentine's Day, was "Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you..." – led by **Keller McDonald**.



## VISITORS AND GUESTS



**Jack Dunlap** introduced Visiting Rotarian **Brian Bauer** from the Sunrise Club.

**Bob Hirsch** introduced **Joelle Branham**. **Robin Maybury** introduced his 95 year old friend, **Frances** and then introduced "interested-in-membership" **Patrick Dirden**. [Note that Patrick is one of our AppleKnocker Photogs this edition. -Ed.] **Jeff Boal** introduced his wife **Jean**.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### CRAB FEED

**President David** updated us on the Crab Feed. A tremendous surge in ticket buying took us from 345 before last Friday (2/3), and then the Friday meeting took us to 446 – By Tuesday, the event was SOLD OUT. (There have been several cancellations – opening up a few seats in the second seating.)



**Cindy Carter** made a special request for volunteers to help (right after meeting) with decorations and setup for the Crab Feed venue, Holy Ghost Hall. **Dan Rasmus** seconded this with a request for more club members to volunteer at the event – "Just pitch in."

**Rotary Club of Sebastopol**

**Sebastopol Rotary's Annual CRAB FEED**

Saturday, February 11, 2017  
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 FAST!

Tickets are available at Sebastopol Dues EXCHANGE table

**SOLD OUT!!**

All proceeds of this event will be used to fund Sebastopol Rotary's Education Grant Program

**\$226,000 in Teacher Mini-Grants Awarded to Date**





## SUPER BOWL BOARD RESULTS



**Aleia Coate** and exchange student **Malene** then announced the Super Bowl Winners – notably **Cindy Carter**, **Malene**, **Mike Long**, and **Mark Fink** --- and especially, the Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation which won \$360. **Malene's** winnings should help with her planned trip.

## DINNER RAFFLE

**Exchange Student Malene** then talked about the Dinner Raffle for the Crab Feed (the red tickets) – The results will be announced at the event and posted in a future AppleKnocker.



## THE RAFFLE



Ticket #...106 was called and claimed by today's **Scribe Yvette Williams van Aggelen**. **Yvette** failed to answer the date the Community Grant applications close [February 28. – **Ed.**] so she made only \$5 – that is...\$5 more for **Malene's** trip.



## ELEVATOR SPEECHES



**Paul Thielen** explained that he “is in the business of getting people to agree to give us permission to do things that they really don't want us to do. We fix stuff, we try to keep people from breaking stuff.” **Barbara Beedon** then explained that, since she has so much fun **Scripting** for the AppleKnocker and writing the weekly reminder messages, that she has also undertaken a monthly article in the Pacific coast Air Museum Newsletter. Her work is writing, and she is looking for other opportunities – especially those that pay!. [**Barbara** is one of our regular **Scripters**. -**Ed.**]



## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Members-Not-Wearing-Rotary-Pin (any pin) “Award” (they pay) netted \$5 each.

Friendship Dinners are continuing with recent dinners at **Mayhew's** and **Warren's**. [**Still's** also. –**Ed.**]



## RECOGNITIONS



**SUPERSTAR RECOGNITIONS** were awarded by **President David** – to a long list (those present) including:

**Edwin Wilson** – “With a new job in Sonoma, we don't see as much of **Past President Edwin** but he still serves as **VP** of our Education Foundation.”

**Harry Polley** – “Considered a father of club since he has “inducted” [inducted ? -**Ed.**] over 25 new members into club. **Harry** is a guide to all of us.” **Past President** of our club 1980-81.





**President Elect Jack Blasco** – “Tireless promoter of Club events and opportunities, on our club board at least nine times, the Champion of Clubrunner.”

**Jim Pacatte** – “Six or seven (or more?) years on our Sergeant-At-Arms Committee, heads up most of our construction projects, a go-to guy.”



**Past President Jerry Warren** – “Many years of service on our board, involved in everything.”

**Jeff Boal** – “After return from Weaverville, took on Membership Committee (‘even though he’d never done it before’). **Past President** of our club.”

**Keller McDonald** – “Past Rotarian of the Year, Chair of Teacher Mini-Grants Committee, President of Education Foundation, Co-Founder of Overcoming Obstacles Award program.”

**Robin Maybury** – “There when you need him, Photographic skills [A Photog for this issue. –Ed.], a very caring attitude.”

**ANNIVERSARIES** – **President David** “recognized” anniversaries of several members, including:



**Mark Stevens** (“Worked in garden, dug weeds”...\$5), **Brian Langermann**, **Bill Lippert** (Didn’t recall but later assisted to identify trip photographs.), **Dennis Judd** (“Had good fun, stayed home – good time.”), **Jim Pacatte** (“Great anniversary, celebrated with the **Dilleys**, shared lunches”...\$5), **Tom Dilley** (...\$5), **Norm and Judy Stupfel** (“Went to Sausalito”...\$5).



**President David** called **Bill Lippert** back up and showed him some PowerPoint slides – **Bill** identified a trip to Peru, recognized daughter. **Bill** was “recognized” with an additional \$70.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



**President David** mentioned that **Sue Engle’s** new store “**Flower Song**” was featured in Sonoma County Gazette. In return for a \$70 “recognition”, **Sue** said she would donate 10% of the proceeds from all Rotarian Valentine’s Day orders to the Rotary Foundation. She added, “We’re here to help send smiles and warm hearts to your Loved One(s), and to help benefit others in the process. **Sue** and the team at Flower song are at 307 North Main Street in Sebastopol. ❤️

[www.flowersongflorist.com](http://www.flowersongflorist.com)



(**President David** delivered the Standard Disclosure about “fines” really being only an unpaid portion of annual dues.)

**Peggy Rogers** next described her recent trip (with **District Governor Elect Bob**) to Santa Barbara – “for Governor Elect training”. **Peggy** said she wore her first full length gown since age 18 and Bob his very first Tuxedo. That and an International Association photo with cheese heads netted **Peggy** a \$50 “recognition”.





## THE PROGRAM – VALENTINE'S DAY – GENE NELSON



HEARTS, FLOWERS, SURPRISES, LAUGHTER, SMILES, AND TEARS?

By Scribe Yvette Williams van Aggelen



After all the fun of Recognitions and fining, **Gene Nelson** came up to the podium to without introduction (though none was needed since we all know him and his occupation) to start the Valentine's Program part of the Meeting.

Following his career as a minister, he shared one of his most memorable wedding rehearsals – an outdoor wedding beside a lovely pond with ducks and geese swimming in it. The wedding party all took their places, and **Gene** started the rehearsal – unfortunately, every time he went to speak or anyone else in the party did, the geese and ducks started HONKING, very loudly. This continued through the whole rehearsal. **Gene** was going crazy in his head, while keeping his composure. By the time they had finished the rehearsal; he was thinking of racing to the nearest feed or hardware store to buy a few gallons of fowl poison. Luckily, for all involved including the ducks

and geese, the next morning they awoke to rain and rushed to find an indoor place to hold the wedding.

**Gene** went on next to tell us about the minister who mentored him in his early years. **Gene** said he gave him the best advice he'd ever received, write everything down, be it your sermon or the wedding ceremony. He told **Gene** that when you're in the moment, you might forget an important thing you wanted or needed to say. Well **Gene** was back in NY, performing the wedding for his sister's husband. His sister had passed away a few years earlier, and her widower had met a lovely woman whom the children and the rest of the family adored. **Gene** was thrilled to have been asked to perform the ceremony. He traveled to NY, looking forward to the wedding, catching up with family, and perchance doing some fishing. Everything is going along fine, except he called the bride JoAnna or Julie; unfortunately, for **Gene** her name was Gracie.

He shared with us one of the many weddings he has officiated at, at Ocean Song. He discussed the great beauty of the grounds and the fantastic view. However, the wedding he told us about was a little different from the others. He was at the do you BOOM, take BOOM as your lawfully BOOM and the rest of the ceremony went on in this manner – including the I now pronounce you BOOM. After the fact, the couple, minister, and guest found out it was the opening of the first day of the annual Civil War Reenactment. It was a "war" – the BOOMS continued through the reception. We all knew how the couple felt that day, but what a spectacular story to have to tell about your wedding day.

He told us of when he had his first congregation in a rural area 30 to 40 miles from town, and the wedding couple were on the point of hysteria; they'd forgot the rings. From that day on **Gene** always kept a few inexpensive wedding rings on hand for the times the ring was dropped, lost in the car, the best man left it at the hotel. He treated us to the ceremony where the ring was dropped as it was being put on the third finger left hand, where he, the couple, and all the guests just watched it roll down the aisle and drop right in to the heating vent.

Of course his career wouldn't have been complete without the bride left at the altar, which happened right here at the Community Church of Sebastopol. The church is full, the bride and party were in the Fireplace Room waiting for the song to start. The Best Man is up by the altar with **Gene**; the time for the groom to arrive has also come and gone. The congregation was buzzing; **Gene's** asking best man, "Have you talked to him today? Was anything bothering him?" Best man said yes to the first question and no to the second. Calls are made its well over an hour now. Suddenly, this look comes across the best man's face and he runs out of the church discreetly (if that was possible). He return's five minutes later, proving to all he was the Best Man, because beside him was the sheepish looking groom. The groom had arrived early and was waiting in his car in the parking lot... and fell fast asleep.

**Gene** even had a father of the bride story. The wedding was somewhere in Southern California, it was 115 degrees in the shade; it was dusty. The guests were all huddled under the edge of a building nearby. The chairs were all set-up, flowers and ribbon hung with care, but no father of the bride – They waited, but still no bride's father. After they had all waited for 45 minutes in the heat, the preacher decided the crowd needed to have something to drink before *all heck* broke up. So, that preacher did what any preacher would have done under those circumstances, he ordered the keg opened. The father of the bride finally turned up two and a half hours late. **Gene** believes he married the couple and signed the proper papers and forms; however he did admit that things were a little hazy by that time.

The couple he married by candle light in a cave.... The wedding went perfect; however it was an awaking to him that he needed glasses.

Then he went on with the everyday events at a wedding: The adorable flower girl who decides she's tired of wearing that itchy dress and disrobes, the ring bearer who decides he'd rather chase the flower girl down the aisle, the two-year-old flower girl who sees her mother or dad and forgets the altar and bride and runs directly to her parent. The little ones' flower girl or ring bearer who walks through the entry to the church, sees all the people, and bursts into tears. The ushers who faint.

**Gene** saved the best story for last – about a lovely couple who moved to Sebastopol and joined the Community Church of Sebastopol. Darrel and Alvin were a great gift to the church and the church community. They were a gay couple and the first openly gay couple in the congregation. They were very active members in the church and were usually two of the first pair of hands up volunteering to help. No job was too small or too big, they had been partners a long time and it was obvious to all who knew them how much they loved and cherished one another. Finally, that wonderful day came in California that any two people who loved each other were able to celebrate that the way it's been celebrated for as long as we have historical records. So, of course, they wanted to be married in their church by their minister surrounded by their church family. **Gene** shared the story to show how much they were loved and appreciated by their church family. The phone in the church office was ringing off the hook with people wanting to volunteer to help for and with Darrel and Alvin's wedding. That was a first for the church to have more volunteers than they could utilize. Darrel and Alvin's was the first gay marriage ever preformed in the Community Church of Sebastopol, but not the last. I'll bet there was not a dry eye in the church.



**Gene** said he's always had one firm rule about weddings; the reception doesn't start before the wedding. Then the words that always to this day terrify him... "I don't know what I'm going to say.", because that means they have no idea when they're going to stop.

Then **Gene** invited our **President-Elect Jack Blasco** and his first lady **Marie** up to speak about how they met. **Jack** was from NY and **Marie** grew up California. They met in Berkeley in the late 60's when it was the happening place to be, plus you got a fantastic academic education at the same time.

**Jack** started on how they had met she had been dating his best friend. They broke up then **Jack** met up with **Marie** again when she was camping one weekend with a girlfriend and he was camping at the same place at the site next to theirs with a couple of guys including his roommate. The roommate invited her and her girlfriend to a party at their place.

Well **Marie** knew what she wanted she went to the party and didn't go home. Two months later she moved in with a duffle

containing all her earthly possessions. It was the "days" of we don't need no stinking badges." As **Jack** said, like many living in the *People's Republic of Berkeley*, they were married in Tilden Park by a friend, or a friend of a friend who was a minister in the "Universal Life Church" on Memorial Day as we all knew before our government got fixated on all holidays being on Monday's was the 31<sup>st</sup> of May to Honor All Who Had Given their lives in the Civil War on both sides and grew to honor all those who have died since the Civil War fighting for their country. Now **Jack** and **Marie** fight over whether their anniversary is May 31 or the last Monday in May. No contest – **Marie** is right. Just for the "fun of it" (or health insurance) they got married again at City Hall in Fullerton, late afternoon on a Friday. Their luck was running strong that day. A receptionist, secretary, or clerk went in to the chambers of a Judge who was on the way out the door and convinced him to stay and marry this nice young couple, so she would be able to get on his insurance plan on Monday morning. The Judge and staff were in such a hurry to get home, they didn't collect the \$12 and **Jack** wasn't sure they had filed the papers. Though they did have that stinking license on Monday, morning and the family had their life insurance.

**Marie** did make it clear there may be three different dates; however they were only paying for one anniversary.

**Gene** next introduced **Frank** and **Kathie Mayhew**, and they discussed their many engagements and time and hard work Frank had to do to get her to the altar.

**Kathie** went first because **Frank** wanted to have the last word. They met for the first time at a square dance at the Methodist Church she attended with her parents, who were also at the square dance. **Kathie**, said she took one look at **Frank** and said (inside her head) "Hey good looking, what you doing latter." However, she was 16, it was 1958, and her parents were there, so lowered her eyes smiled and said Hi! It was love at first sight, her parent's liked **Frank**, he became a regular fixture around the house, and they were thinking marriage. So, to help them save up for that marriage, **Kathie's** dad found a job for **Frank** with the Forestry service 50 miles away – the furthest away from his dinner table and his daughter.



However, being a local and a Methodist, he knew the church summer camp was just down the road a piece and that **Kathie** was there. So, he got himself down there with his grandmother's engagement ring in his jean's pocket. She said yes and they were engaged for a year and a half. Then **Kathie** said she broke up with him because she was getting too much grief from her parents.

**Kathie** met someone else – They were married for 14 years, then they divorced, and **Kathie** was a single mom for 6 years. **Frank** also married and had 2 sons. After her divorce, **Kathie** moved to Crescent City, living in the boonies making cheese and bread. **Frank** and **Kathie** got in contact with each other again. He was living in Castro Valley, and had recently divorced. He was doing some traveling for work and would stop in and visit with **Kathie**. The spark was still sparking for **Frank** so he proposed again. **Kathie** turned him down; she couldn't imagine giving up her perfect life baking bread and making cheese to live in Castro Valley.

So, **Frank** returned to Castro Valley and remarried the wife he'd divorced...a mistake. **Kathie** remarried again for 11 years, this time moving to Portland, OR. Divorced again and lived single up in Portland. She was seeing a therapist and things weren't progressing with the therapy. So, her therapist said she need to contact people from her past and collect information from them – **Frank** being one of those people. So, she called and set up a meeting with him in a neutral location. **Kathie** didn't even recognize **Frank** as he was searching the parking lot looking for her. Once he had come inside and connected with **Kathie** he reached out to put his hand on top of **Kathie's** and make physical contact. **Kathie** pulled her hand back and said no. He asked her to consider seeing each other again. **Kathie** said no she wasn't interested. **Frank** thought it was over.

**Kathie** drove home, talked with her best friend, then sat down to write this letter to tell **Frank** all the reasons they could never be together. She started writing that after 35 years he still drove her crazy, there was no "going to be" and she started sobbing she realized that **Frank** had always been the one constant in her life and he was always going to be there for her.

The third time was the charm she said yes. Three divinities married them: a Judge, a brother-in-law (didn't catch his church), and a religious science (again I didn't catch the name). When they were engaged, **Kathie** told **Frank** she wanted to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. **Frank** said I'll be 105 years old, **Kathie** said I'll be 101. She said there have never been any second doubts, it has been a wonderful life, we've shared so many wonderful experiences, and we've done things I'd never even dreamed of doing. So much of which we learned of and done because of Rotary.



### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – LARRY FORD**



**Larry Ford** offered the following quotation from Sir Winston Churchill:

**"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."**



### **THE FINAL BELL**



With that, **President David** thanked **Gene Nelson** for a fun talk – presenting him with a bottle of Pinot for Polio. **David** then rang the bell – sending all to assist in cracking crabs and preparing hall.



### **AFTER THE BELL – CRAB CRACKING**



**Photog: Richard Power**





**AFTER THE BELL – THE CRAB  
FEED EVENT (SATURDAY, 2/11)**



Photogs.: Patrick Dirden, Larry Ford,  
Richard Power, David Schreibman,  
Barbara Beedon, Bob Hirsch

**THE CRAB FEED EVENT  
PHOTOGRAPHS ARE IN  
THE CRAB FEED EVENT  
SUPPLEMENTS**

**ISSUE 15-30B AND**

**ISSUE 15-30C**

**( Total 3 FILES )**



HAPPENINGS AT SUNRISE (MORNING) CLUB...

Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise Presents:



**Saturday February 25th 2017**

Sebastopol Community Center 6:00 - 10:00pm

## Future Programs

### **February 17, 2017: Leadership for a Thinking Environment Speaker: Sara B. Hart**



Dr. Hart earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University and taught at Queens College in New York City before joining Pfizer Inc. During her 20 years at Pfizer, she was responsible for a wide range of HR activities, including building and managing the learning and development function for the research division in the US, helping to develop strategy for process redesign, and launching the change with the organization. She also was the Head of HR at Pfizer's research center in the UK. Subsequently, Sara served as the Executive Director of the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology, Palo Alto, CA.

Sara is the founder and President of Hartcom, a consulting company, which specializes in building effective groups, developing supervisory and leadership excellence, enhancing presentation skills, and maximizing employee effectiveness. In some of her work, Sara focuses on the importance of developing a Thinking Environment™ in which each of us can do our most creative and brilliant thinking. Sara also is actively engaged in her Sign of Enough™ campaign, which asks all of us to consider the question "How will I know when I have enough?" Dr. Hart is a certified coach from the Hudson Institute of Santa Barbara, HeartMath Inc., and from the world renowned Time to Think, Inc. She is an experienced consultant to organizations and professional speaker.

### **February 24, 2017: Search for New Conductor Speaker: Alan Silow, Exec. Dir. SR Sym.**

Alan Silow has been Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony since July of 2002. During his tenure, the Symphony has returned to a fiscally sound basis that has produced annual surpluses in both operations and an endowment that has grown over 500%. Silow played a leadership role in the public/private partnership with Sonoma State University to build a new world-class symphony hall that opened in Fall 2012. The Santa Rosa Symphony is now the largest California regional symphony orchestra north of Los Angeles and the resident orchestra at the world-class Green Music Center. He also currently sits on the Board of the Santa Rosa Convention & Visitors Bureau to provide better cross-cultivation between the arts and tourism. Silow's accomplishments were recognized with a nonprofit leadership award for innovation, community engagement and growth given by North Bay Business Journal in October 2012.



Prior to taking this position, he concluded a successful, three-year tenure as Executive Director of ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in Columbus, Ohio. Previous positions include Director of Marketing & Public Relations for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, a world-renowned, performing arts organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Executive Director of the Santa Fe Convention & Visitors Bureau. During his tenure, readers of *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine named Santa Fe the top travel destination in the world.

Silow graduated Phi Beta Kappa with an undergraduate B.A. degree in Economics with Honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs. He is married with one son and lives in Oakmont located in Sonoma Valley.

### **March 24, 2017: Humanities Last Stand Speaker: Mr. Nan Su**

With the strong bi-partisan support, U.S. Congress unanimously passed resolution H.R. 343 in June 2016, expressing serious concerns about the on-going large scale forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China. European Congress passed a resolution in Dec. 2013, urging the Chinese government to stop this brutal practice. The governments of Israel, Spain, and Taiwan have made policies to prevent their citizens from going to China to receive organ transplants.

How did all these happen? How did it begin, catch public attention, and become a prime focus internationally?

Born and raised in China, Mr. Nan Su came to the U.S. in 1989. He has been serving as a news commentator for SOH International Chinese Radio Network and NTD International TV Network since 2003, commenting on a wide range of national and international news events. In the past decade, Mr. Su has made many speeches at public events on topics related to China. He has also been publishing poems, short stories, and prose in Chinese since 2000.



In addition to his media work, Mr. Su is an advocate for human rights in China. He was one of the coordinators of Human Rights Torch Relay in 2008 prior to Beijing Olympics. Starting from Athens, Human Rights Torch Relay spanned from July 2007 to July 2008, with stops at more than 100 cities around the world in order to raise international awareness of China's human rights situation. Mr. Su was instrumental in making San Jose as the first stop of the torch relay in North America.

Besides his involvement in the public, Mr. Su holds a Master degree in Engineering, and has been a professional engineer for over 20 years. Mr. Su has been married for 27 years, and currently lives with his wife and two daughters in San Jose, California.