



Steven Spainer – The Ideological Divide



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President 2017/2018: Jack Blasco



"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

As your faithful **scribe** entered the building, he heard the familiar voice of Bruce Springsteen singing of those "Glory Days." Your **scribe** and every other past-president in the room thought the Boss was singing about his/her year! Ah, those were the days!

AT THE BELL



President Jack struck the bell at 12:15PM. After an enthusiastic call to order, **President Jack Blasco** called upon **Rollie Atkinson** to lead us in the Flag Salute. A chorus of song leaders – **Karen Daniels, Steve Beck, Keller McDonald, and Rick Wilson** led a rousing rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Go Giants and "Somebody get me a red hot and a beer before I die!" Recall that film?

David Schreibman provided this thought for the day: "The greatest discover of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude" William James. The questions is...how can I alter my attitude about Congress?

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Mike Pastyrk – Santa Rosa and Assistant District Governor

District Governor Elect Barbara "Barb" Spangler – Valley of the Moon Rotary Club.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

🍎 Future Programs 🍎

April 6, 2018

**Speaker – Charlotte Tunstall Pearce
Dogwood Animal Rescue Project**

April 13, 2018

**Teacher of the Year
Chair – Barbara Bickford**

April 20, 2018

**Vocational Awards
Rick Williams, Emcee**

April 27, 2018

**Speaker – Cordelia Holst
Universal Basic Income**

May 4, 2018

**Overcoming Obstacles Award
Co-Chairs: Bickford, Boag, Schreibman**

May 11, 2018

**Speaker – Susan Starbird
Olympic Hopes on the Petaluma River**

🍎 Future Events 🍎

Friendship Dinners – 4/21

Learn to Swim – Starts April 23

Rotary Peace Garden – 4/28

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–JackEDunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com



Members of the Orchard View School Interact Club joined us: Jack Jacobs, Koidi Kokott and Sierra Smith. They shared a word about their fundraisers and projects such as fire relief and robotics. You will have to ask them - and not me - exactly what they were talking about with the whole robot thing.



Joyce Oneko from Nairobi was with us again, introduced by **Marie Blasco**.

Sarah Lee introduced by **David Schreibman**.

Dana Moises introduced by **Ruthie Dunlap**.



Lucy Olson, introduced by husband, **Torrey**, who seemed somewhat mystified that she was actually joining him at Rotary meetings. Life must really be slow on the farm these days.

Aldean Noethig introduced her grandson, Aiden, and gave a strong pitch for Marina's bake sale which was happening today. So much for the old diet!

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

Ideation Session following today's meeting. Theme: Rotary's Response to Homelessness. This was to be a preview of similar sessions at the District conference – May 18-20 in Sacramento.

Map Your Neighborhood – next meeting will be April 4th. See **Tom Boag**.

Next Week's Meeting – April 6th: Bring Your Dog to Rotary Day. Fill in your own punch line here.

Apple Blossom Parade – April 21st: Volunteers are needed to work on the float along with members of the morning club. See **Torrey Olson** if you can help. We are also encouraged to walk in the parade alongside the float. C'mon...it's not that far! Theme of this year's Apple Blossom Festival is "Blossoms Divine," which led to a number of comments at our table, such as, "Didn't she used to dance in a club on Santa Rosa Avenue?" or "Let's see...was she in line before or after Stormy Daniels?"

April 18th - You Ought to Be in Pictures!! Here is your opportunity to star in a video production that will be shown at our District Conference, May 18-20 – sign up now. You are all invited to show up at the Quail Inn in Oakmont on April 18th at 7:00 P.M. to star in a **Paul Thielen** production. Bring a flashlight and be prepared to have some fun. Lights! Camera! Drones! Action!!!

April 28th – Sebastopol's Lend A Hand Day. This will be a day of volunteerism throughout our community – an opportunity for caring people to make a difference. Our club has a project – The Rotary Peace Garden at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. **Ellen Harrington** is coordinating this. See her to sign up.

Mia Del Prete presented our club with a banner from the Taipai – Shihlin club. She was there with family as her father was honored as one of the World War II veterans who fought and served there. **President Jack** also had a banner from Munich, sent to him by Patrick, a member of that club who visited our club a while back.



"What Rotary Stands For" **President Jack** shared a brief video reminding us of the many ways Rotary makes a positive difference in this country and around the world. From clean water projects to health care for mothers and children to education for all to fighting disease to projects promoting understanding and peace, Rotary is there...we are there!



President Jack called **David Schreiber**, **Jeff Boal**, **Rick Wilson** and **Dave Madsen** forward and thanked them for their faithful work on the Membership Committee. The growth of Rotary is a task in which we all need to share and their leadership has been essential. They each have a new pin honoring their service.

The Raffle

Warning, Warning...Here Comes the Raffle! But wait, something is different.

At this point, **Dan Rasmus** and **Paul Thielen** took over the meeting – I mean, someone had to do it – turning our President into a human dart board. In this case, truly a picture is worth a thousand words! The theme..."If you succeed, **President Jack** will bleed!" But in the name of compassion – and to avoid nasty lawsuits – nerf darts were substituted for the real thing. A number of Rotarians were invited to take a shot at the **President**. All it took was a contribution of the Rotary Educational Foundation. It seems our incoming District Governor Elect Barb Spangler, had a particularly good time. Fun for all...except perhaps for one. Thanks, **Jack**, for being such a good sport.



Recognitions

Recognitions: For unknown reasons, the music, "Dazed and Confused" began to play. Perhaps a comment on the Rotary year so far? Or perhaps on the work of our District Conference Planning Committee.

John Blount's wallet is a bit lighter as he was fined for an upcoming trip to Haiti on behalf of Rotary. He will be speaking at a District Conference there. It will be interesting to hear his observations when he returns. Hope all goes well, **John**.

Bob Cugini was asked to share something good or exciting in his life. He suggested that just waking up that morning was quite a gift! Which would be true of us all. He also shared a touching moment with his Fijian "grandson" who calls him "**Tu Tu Bob**." And hug and a kiss from the boy were worth a \$20 contribution. But for **Bob** they were clearly priceless.

Dan Rasmus was also asked to share something new and exciting in his life, but he could think of nothing. So he paid \$20 for having such a lousy and dull life.





THE PROGRAM



At this point, **Steve Zivolich** introduced Steve Spainer, who spoke on the topic: “Solving Problems of a Deeply Polarized Society.” Steve, by the way, has a 3 handicap in golf, which was already polarizing for many of us.

Steve spoke of the ever increasing polarization in Washington and our society. He showed a bumper sticker urging people to vote for “Giant Meteor – The End It All Party.” And indeed, many people seem to feel that way. In August, 2016, a poll revealed that only 16% of voters approved of Congress. And yet, a deeply partisan public keeps electing a deeply partisan Congress which is so divided it cannot get anything done. Sadly, the “if you disagree with me, you are my enemy” atmosphere in Congress is but a reflection of a similar atmosphere in American society today. Steve pointed to two significant sources of polarization – media and demographics.

Media: Red meat partisanship in media is popular with the base, so it leads to even more red meat partisanship which only divides us further – us vs. them. And on the internet and social media, lies are quickly accepted as truth. Essentially these days, truth is what I say it is and my feelings are more important than facts. Media personalities become more important than political figures to voters. He told of internet sites in a small town in Macedonia which became hugely influential pro-Trump web sites during the election, even as they spread a number of untruths. Again, media appealing to narrow, partisan audiences. On the left and right, we tend to live in informational bubbles where we listen only to those who agree with us.

Demographics: The face of America is changing, and as it gets browner or blacker – as they don’t look or talk like us – these differences can be exploited for political gain. White, Christian America, now experiences more deaths than births each year, the only demographic group where this is happening. This fear that the America we used to know is disappearing, can lead to a polarizing anger. When this is coupled with economic inequality, we have a deeply divided America. “Kick out everyone who is not like us!”

What to do? Steve highlighted the emergence of the Trans-partisan Movement. Throughout the United States, there are groups that are emphasizing relationship, common ground, civility, and collaboration, not confrontation. There can be no mutual understanding without face to face dialogue. If we can speak to each other as individuals and not as representatives of some group, we discover we share many of the same hopes and dreams and values. Rather than giving in to stereotypes and preconceptions, the trans-partisan approach invites us to examine the assumptions behind our fears and to do it together. We fear each other because we have forgotten how to communicate with each other. E. Pluribus Unum – From the many...one. Interaction – listening – understanding – appreciation. Then we begin to see each other as people, not caricatures.



After a thought provoking meeting, **President Jack** struck the Roto-bell at 1:30PM.



AFTER THE BELL



A lively and provocative Ideation session was held in the church Fellowship Hall where groups discussed and brainstormed the role Rotary might play in resolving the ongoing issue of homelessness. Convened by **Jeff Boal** and facilitated by **Jorgen Holst**, it was in fact an exercise in listening and understanding and mutual problem solving. This will be the ongoing theme of our upcoming District Conference: Just how can we work together to enable big and daring dreams to take flight?

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 6, 2018: Charlotte Tunstall-Pearce, Solving the Problems of a Deeply Polarized American Society



Charlotte Tunstall-Pearce is a Sonoma County native. After graduating from Analy she headed south to Silicon Valley and had a successful 18 year career in the wireless (cellular phone) industry. She left the corporate world in 2003 to set out fulfilling her life's dream of working with animals. She is the owner of Affinity Pet Services, LLC. Charlotte and her team of professional pet sitters and dog walkers serve clients in Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and the surrounding towns.

She began volunteering at Humane Society of Sonoma County in 2004 and found her passion for helping animals in need. In 2015 Charlotte and several other women, who had all been doing animal rescue for decades, realized if they pooled their resources they could make a greater impact in helping animals, together they formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Dogwood Animal Rescue Project. Charlotte feels honored to be part of this all volunteer team that wants to make a difference, not only through rescue and adoptions but spay/neuter and education as well. Charlotte looks forward to sharing more information about Dogwood Animal Rescue Project with Rotary Club of Sebastopol.

April 27, 2018: Cordelia Holst, Universal Basic Income – a Radical, Yet Increasingly Popular solution to Many of our biggest Problems



Cordelia Holst went to Apple Blossom, Twin Hills, and Analy High School in Sebastopol, and earned a BS degree in Business and Marketing from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She lived and worked 13 years in Norway before she moved back with her family to Sebastopol in 2016. Cordelia's career has been in marketing, founding and running her own pie shops, and recently started as Executive Director of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center. Seeing the vast inequalities in American society, put in stark perspective after over a decade in Norway, she became interested in the Universal Basic Income movement that is growing in both size and attention these days. She has attended conferences at the Basic Income Lab at Stanford University in the Ethics department, attended a weekend long create-a-thon and the CASH conference sponsored by the Economic Security Project. She has contributed to the movement by working as a freelance journalist for BIEN, the Basic Income Earth Network. Cordelia believes a UBI could be a solution for economic insecurities facing Americans today.