



Jennifer Strong – The Power of Rotary



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Scribe: Tony Given
Photog. M. Ferguson
Editors: J. Holst, P. Dirden, D. Still, T. Boag, S. Kellner, H.H.
President 2017/2018: Jack Blasco



"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

Last weekend was dark, because of our very own **District Governor Bob's** big Conference over in Sacramento, and it was a hoot. Among the highlights were the award given to our club for Cub Excellence in All Areas of Service, in other words:

- Community Service
- International Service
- Vocational Service
- Public Relations/Public Image
- Youth Service
- Membership
- Foundation
- Club Service

President Jack was called up on stage to receive the award, and he was beaming!



AT THE BELL

Prez Jack rang the May 25 2018 meeting of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol to order at approximately 12:15. **Jordan Burns** started things off by leading us in the pledge to the flag, **Karen Daniels**, with her operatic voice, led us in singing "America, The Beautiful," before **Richard Power** stepped up and provided us with the thought for the day: "The only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary."

VISITING ROTARIANS

Secretary Jack Dunlap introduced **PDG, Bruce Campbell** from Sebastopol Sunrise, and **Dan Bornstein**, a frequent visitor and dentist, from Santa Rosa.



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

June 1, 2018

Speaker – Charles Prickett Civil Rights Movement

June 8, 2018

**Speaker – Troy Niday
The Value and Importance of Local Journalism**

June 15, 2018

**Speaker – Gisela Zebroski
The Berlin Airlift**

June 22, 2018

**Speaker – David Goodman
Redwood Empire Food Bank**

🍎 Future Events 🍎

Debunking: Saturday June 30th

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–JackEDunlap@gmail.com

**On-line Make-Ups:
www.RotaryEClubOne.org**

**Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234**

sebastopolrotary.com

🍎 GUESTS 🍎

Governor Bob introduced Zack Schiebleerl, a Rotaractor; **Mia Del Prete** introduced Natasha Miranda Isacova, our outgoing exchange student; **Norm Stupfel** introduced Ben Broadbent, Pastor at Community Church of Sebastopol; **Keller McDonald** introduced Anna Moore, Director of the North Coast School of Education; **Pauline Pellini** introduced Brookhaven interactors Adanna Okiwelu and Marin Broadbent-Bell; **Ron Puccinelli** introduced **Jennifer Strong**, our speaker for the day and Lakeport Rotarian, while **Jeff Boal** introduced the light of his life, Jean!





🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK: We will be there on May 31 from 9:30 -11:30, sign up with **Jerry Warren**.

AFTER HOURS MIXER: **Mario** hosted another great function at his restaurant on May 10, and a good time was had by all,

COMMITTEE SIGNS UPS: Do not hold back on the 2018-2019 committee assignments. In-coming **Prez Larry** and the club needs you, so sign up and get involved.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION this summer is in Toronto, June 23-27

DEBUNKING is Saturday June 30

COOL KIDS CAMP: We will be constructing a fence June 2 and the camp starts June 10 for more info, contact **Robin Maybury**.

🍎 THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE 🍎



Prez Jack congratulated our very own **District Governor Bob Rogers** for hosting an outstanding District 5130 conference.

A conference "*Where Dreams Took Flight*". It was held at The McClellan Conference Center & the Lions Gate Hotel in Sacramento, from May 18-20.

Gov Bob also took the opportunity to thank the many Sebastopol Rotarians that helped put on this great convention.

🍎 ROOKIE SKETCH 🍎



Nancy Dwyer stepped forward to give her Rookie Sketch. **Nancy** was sponsored by **Ellen Harrington** and mentored by **Hal Kwalwasser**, and she was grateful to both. **Nancy** works with the mentally disabled.

Nancy was born and raised on Galveston Island in Texas. **Nancy** mentioned she grew up while living in one of many Victorian houses on Galveston Island, which seemed like a fantastic and idyllic place to grow up. Her father was in the Navy.

🍎 RAFFLE 🍎

Mark McDonell drew the lucky number and hit a white balloon to win a big \$1. Instead taking the \$1, he chose the grab bag and walked away with a water bottle which may, or may not, have been a non-claimed prize for a long forgotten Rotary speaker.



🍎 BIRTHDAYS 🍎

Dave Madsen confessed that he really did not go to Botswana on an African Safari for his 4/25 BD (Evidently, he remembered the four-way test), but instead spent his BD in Moraga watching his grandson pitching and hitting the winning home run in a baseball game. (Your scribe did not ask him how that squared with the four-way test)

Richard Peterson played golf in the morning of his May 19 BD but in the afternoon grew ill and spent the rest of the day in bed. (Nobody asked him if that had anything to do with his golf score.)



🍎 ANNIVERSARIES 🍎

On May 15, **David Schreibman** and **Carolee** had lunch at Bar and Grill in Healdsburg, had dinner with some Rotary friends and later went on a wine tasting tour. **Jerry Warren** and **Kay** had dinner at Salt and Stone Restaurant to celebrate their May 23 anniversary. Unfortunately, **Trish Power** had shoulder surgery on their May 17th anniversary, so she and **Richard** were unable to celebrate



🍎 FINES & RECOGNITION 🍎

Never wanting to miss a chance to enhance the club's treasury, **Prez Jack** dinged **Ron the Pooch** \$20 for working on debunking at the art center. **Ron** promised that it is going to be a great event and one that you do not want to miss. **Jordan Burns** had to part with \$20 for not being able to answer the trivial pursuit question; "*Who was the Roman equivalent of the God Bacchus?*" The answer was Dionysus.

🍎 THE PROGRAM 🍎

Governor Bob came forward to introduce today's speaker, **Jennifer Strong**. **Jennifer** is a member and twice past President of the Lakeport Rotary Club. She joined the Lakeport club in 1998, served her first term as president 2001-2002 and her second term was 2015-2016. On both occasions she filled the terms of individuals who could not meet the responsibilities of Presidency. She also did an outstanding job as Emcee of the 2018 5013 District Conference. It was during her 2015-2016 term as president of the Lakeport Club that the Valley Fire broke out and it quickly became apparent that the destruction was going to be vast. Something needed to be done, and the Fire Relief fund was born two days later, and a call to action was sent to the clubs throughout the District. **Jennifer** is also the chair of one of Lakeport Rotary's major projects the Konocti Challenge a cycling event held every year it's a 100-kilometer ride held in October of every year and 2015 was no exception, thanks to **Jennifer**.



One of **Jennifer's** favorite sayings and the one that inspires her to meet her Rotary Objectives, the saying is by Mark Twain and goes: "*The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why*". The "why" for **Jennifer** is to have the opportunity, and meet that challenge, to be a significant force in helping people in need.

Rotary provides her with the opportunity to meet that "Rotary Moment". It was in the summer of 2015 and it began with the July 29th "Rocky" Fire where 69,438 acres, 43 homes and 53 outbuildings were devastated. On August 9th, the "Jerusalem Fire" broke out,

destroying 25,118 acres, 6 homes, and 21 outbuildings, and on September 2nd "Elk Fire" followed, destroying 673 acres, though no homes or out buildings were lost.

Then, the big one hit on September 12th. The "Valley Fire" burned 76,067 acres, destroying 1280 homes, 27 multi-family homes, 66 commercial properties, 585 outbuildings, an additional 93 structures damaged, 4 firefighters injured, and 4 dead, with 1 still missing and presumed dead. This was the 3rd most damaging fire in California history. At one point 1/3 of Lake County population was evacuated. It was evident that something had to be done, so on September 14th 2015, the Lakeport Rotary established the Valley Fire Relief Fund, hoping to raise \$50k. A call went out to all of District 5130. Lake Area Rotary Club Association created a committee of three Rotarians from each of the four Lake County Rotary Clubs, and over 100 Rotary Clubs from around the world responded, and over 1000 made donations. Funds started to roll in and total funds raised for the Valley, Rocky & Jerusalem fires was just over \$756k. The funds went to fund needed support programs such as a business grant program, reforestation, grief counseling, various school programs, after school programs, coats for kids, OEF notification program, animal care grants, home rebuilds, plus many, many more.

But luckily there were still some funds left to allocate. Just when they thought they were in the clear, almost one year later, the Clayton Fire broke out on August 13th, 2016. It ravaged through downtown Lower Lake, burning 3929 acres, destroying 209 homes, 8 businesses, and another 80+ structures. Many lives were impacted again. Again, LARCA assembled and raised \$190k.

All this made the LARCA prepared for the biggest of all the fires. October 8th 2017, 14 fires broke out in four North Bay counties; Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino. Panic ensued. Over 100,000 people were evacuated, nearly 200,000 acres were burned, over 8000 homes and businesses destroyed 44 people died. The Rotary Fire Relief fund jumped in, expanded to the District level and raised much needed additional funds, bringing the total raised to more than \$2.8million.

Jennifer's own Rotary moment, the moment when she realized her WHY, was when, at the Konocti Challenge bicycle race shortly after the fires in 2016, a little girl thanked her for the bike that Rotary gave her, since her own bike had gotten "stolen by the fire monster". She shared a picture of the moment and told us she still cannot look at it without tearing up. That is quite understandable!

Jennifer closed by quoting a phrase by Past President of Rotary International President Clem Renouf:

*Rotary takes ordinary men and women
and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more
with their lives than they ever dreamed possible.*

PDG Bruce Campbell of Sebastopol Sunrise came forward to welcome our speaker **Jennifer Strong** into the Paul Harris Society. Rotarians become members of the Society when they donate \$1000 per year to the Rotary Foundation.

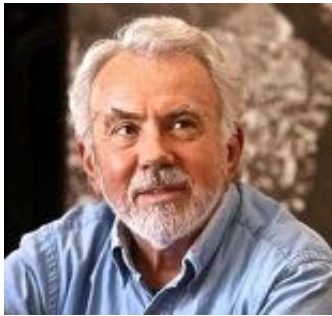


AT THE FINAL BELL

President Jack looking relaxed and well rested rang the final bell at 1:30pm.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 1, 2018: Charles Prickett – The Civil Rights Movement



One of the original “freedom fighters” in the American civil rights movement, Dr. Charles O. Prickett is an author, educator and speaker who brings the history and lessons of the period alive. Dr. Prickett participated in the 1963 March on Washington, the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer, and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. In his recently published book, “Remembering Mississippi Freedom Summer,” he chronicles his time as an active participant in the civil rights movement. Among others, the book includes his experiences teaching at a “freedom school” and meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King while working on the Selma to Montgomery March.

As an acclaimed public speaker, Dr. Prickett has appeared before audiences ranging from civic organizations to colleges to high schools and elementary schools. In addition to showing a film about the period, he recounts his often-harrowing yet deeply meaningful experiences in the civil rights movement.

June 8, 2018: Troy Niday - The Value and Importance of Local Journalism



Troy Niday is Chief Operations Officer for Sonoma Media Investments publisher of the Press Democrat and other Sonoma County publications and websites. He oversees all aspects of audience development, consumer revenue generation, production and distribution for the organization. A native Nebraskan, Troy worked at four other media companies before bringing his expertise to Sonoma County in 2014. He resides outside of Sebastopol near the town of Freestone with his wife Pam; they have two children in their early 20s, and enjoy traveling together.

June 15, 2018: Gisela Zebroski – The Berlin Airlift

When WWII broke out in 1939 Gisela Zebroski’s privileged childhood came to an abrupt end. The Soviet Union took over Latvia, the country of her birth. Her parents, destined for deportation, fled to Germany and settled in Poland.

The memories of WWII and its aftermath had compelled her to weave those stories into her two novels, “The Baroness” and “Mephisto Waltz.” Years of preparation and studies had acquainted her with her own complex background as a refugee and immigrant.

The Berlin Airlift stands out as a turning point. The Allies had defied Stalin and kept him from taking West Berlin as well as West Germany saving her family from being deported to Siberia. She enjoys telling how President Truman and General Clay saved Europe from the Soviets. Her own story is a work in progress under the title of SELFIE SIDEWAYS. Please join me in welcoming Gisela

