



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin



Chernobyl Travelogue – Jack Blasco

Date:	March 13, 2020
Volume:	2019/20—Issue E18-32
Scribe:	Patrick Dirden
Photog.	Robin Maybury
Editors:	P. Dirden, D. Still, J. Holst, T. Boag, HH
President 2019/2020:	Keller McDonald



“All the News that Fits We Print”

🍏 NOTE FROM PRESIDENT KELLER 🍏

Club Members and Friends,

To do our part to slow the spread of coronavirus, we cancelled our club meetings on March 13 and 20, as well as Happy Hour on March 13. We donated the food prepared for our March 13 meeting to the Redwood Gospel Mission soup kitchen as a community service.

County and state government advisories released through March 15 recommend that folks age 65 and older stay home, and no indoor gatherings of more than 50 people age 60 or older or those with chronic health problems. With conditions changing so rapidly, it's quite likely that coronavirus precautions will impact a number of Rotary events in the coming weeks such as Friendship Dinners, High School Speech Contest, Learn to Swim, Overcoming Obstacles, Teacher of the Year, and Apple Blossom Parade.

We'll reevaluate all club activities based on updated advisories and information from official sources, and keep you posted via ClubRunner emails.

As of March 13, the Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise has cancelled (perhaps postponed) their Parisian Rendezvous fundraiser. The Rotary District 5130 Training Assembly on April 11 has been postponed to a later date to be announced. We haven't yet heard any change of plans for the Chamber of Commerce Community Awards scheduled for Thursday, March 19. We'll pass along any information we receive about changes in scheduled events related to Rotary.

We are exploring the using the Internet to hold virtual meetings via Zoom or other meeting software, as Sebastopol Sunrise and other organizations are doing. We'll keep you posted about possible virtual Rotary meetings.

I would love to have an informal Rotary birdwatching day soon, but we'll have to wait until Governor Newsom lifts his request that folks over 65 stay home and not circulate in the community.

We all hope our club – and the rest of the community - gets back to full action very soon. Please keep checking your email for club updates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Stay well!

Yours in Rotary Service,

-Keller

Future Programs

TBD until further notice

Events

**Friendship Dinners
Canceled**

**Golf Tournament
TBA**

**DeBunking
June 26**

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–JackEDunlap@gmail.com

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

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

sebastopolrotary.com

COVID 19 RESOURCES

During this time, finding accurate information is of most importance. Your AppleKnocker team has assembled a cadre of reliable resources for you, so you can stay abreast of the latest news and health information regarding COVID 19.

World Health Organization – Stay informed on the worldwide spread of COVID 19. Includes resources on how to slow the spread.

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control – Updates on the national response, and resources for businesses, schools, travelers, etc.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

California Department of Public Health – Updates on the state response.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

SoCo Emergency – Updates on the county-wide lockdown, the county response, and local resources.

<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/>

Press Democrat – Local coverage of the COVID 19 pandemic.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/topics/?t=Coronavirus>

EDD – Resources for dislocated/impacted workers

https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

CA Office of Business & Economic Development – Resources for businesses impacted by COVID 19

<https://business.ca.gov/coronavirus-2019/>

Redwood Empire Food Bank – Where to find or donate food.

<https://getfood.refb.org/>

Catholic Charities – Where to find food resources

<https://www.srcharities.org/distributions/?filter=food>

AARP – Wide array of resources regarding COVID 19

<https://www.aarp.org/health/?CON-HEALTH-COVID19-031220>

Virtual Museums – Virtually visit some of the World's best museums from your couch.

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

2-1-1 Sonoma Information & Resource Hotline is a number for the public to call for information and resources on the County's response to the Coronavirus. In addition to calling, people can call 2-1-1 or text their zip code to 898-211 to be connected with a call taker.

Mental Health Support - Reduce stress and anxiety and practice self-care. For support, call the National Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 Or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 Or TTY at 1-800-846-8517. Services available in English and Spanish.

Stay connected via Social Media – If you are on Facebook and/or Twitter, consider subscribing to our local government agencies. These feeds are updated 24-7.

County of Sonoma

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CountyofSonoma/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CountyofSonoma>

City of Sebastopol

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSebastopolCA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SebastopolCity>



DELIVERY SERVICES



Most major grocery and drug stores offer delivery services, including Safeway, Lucky's, and CVS Pharmacy. With many restaurants closed or limited to take out only, you can employ services like Uber Eats, Doordash, and Grubhub. Amazon has prioritized orders for medical, household goods, and high demand items only. You can instruct the deliverer to leave the items at the door. Please note, many of the food/restaurant delivery services charge delivery fees, so please factor that in when ordering. Additionally, with increased demand for delivery services, deliveries are subject to long delays, so please plan accordingly.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



During this time of crisis, we are launching a Letter to the Editor section. We encourage you to send us your thoughts by contacting the AppleKnocker team. Our first letter is from **Harvey Henningsen**.

Editors,

I am one of the 3 million-plus 65 & older Calif. citizens that Governor Gavin Newsom advised to socially isolate themselves. I'm home alone as my wife is in So. Cal. at her Mom's 90th birthday.

It's lonely up here on Cherry Ridge. Fortunately, I've older neighbors to talk to & to help & be helped by. There is so much information out in the cyber-universe right now. Who do we listen to? How long will this pandemic last? What are the safe-guards. What's truthful information & what is bogus?

I write to you because we have a very strong and active organization of [can-do] members. **Unfortunately, 2/3 of our club falls into the 65 & older, isolate yourself category.** Because a majority of our club members is in this elevated-risk category it will be a benefit to share useful information with each other.

Having said that here's my first tip on sanitation with advice from my Nephew who is a Dr. in Paso-Robles. His advice in his own words follows.

There is some talk about vitamin D boosting the immune system. I think the messaging on sterile technique is poor. My approach is that your hands are always unsafe. If you wash your hands then touch a door knob your hands are again unsafe. So, wash hands frequently but do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Steer clear of finger food like chips, popcorn etc...food that other people have touched. Don't eat prepared food like sandwiches etc. as they were touched by food preparers. Wash all fruit including oranges and apples as

people touch those. Given that the bug is 20-150x the death rate of the flu with the scant data we have, you don't want to get it. We need to be mindful of behavior modification and social distancing until we have more data.

My nephew also sent this link regarding cleanliness and sanitation.

https://www.ariadnelabs.org/resources/articles/news/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day/?fbclid=IwAR2cOgmFLX9cH-n9fhYBBVX0MHe2EnJ7Lkd_mIS1rhc678mCU2trs8xLBjg

I am in hope these two pieces of advice helps to keep you all safe and healthy.

As one of the first forum submissions to the Apple Knocker I would like to encourage other Rotary club members to be active in your submissions to the A.K. editor so that our weekly Rotary newsletter can be of value & service to our club members staying safe & well during this period of anxiety.

Be well, wash your hands and take my nephew's advice & don't touch your face, Harvey Henningsen

IN OTHER NEWS

The North Bay Construction Corps is up and running! There are currently 31 students in the program. We recently visited one of their evening classes.



Our Rotary Club has a lot to celebrate about! Not only do we have an amazing cadre of club members, but we also have some winners in our numbers. At the upcoming Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce Community Awards, we will be celebrating **Jim Pacatte**, the 2020 Citizen of the Year! We'll also be celebrating the 2020 Youth Volunteer Service winner, our own Analy Interact Club. And last, but definitely not least, the 2020 Business of the Year, Sonoma West Times and News. The awards ceremony was scheduled for Thursday, March 19th. With the pending shelter in place order, it's likely the event will be canceled. As of this time, there is no information on a rescheduled date.





PRESENTATION – JACK BLASCO AND CHERNOBYL



Chernobyl - 34 Years Later

by Jack Blasco

As an environmental scientist I've always been fascinated by the Chernobyl accident, the world's largest civilian nuclear disaster. Why did it happen? What were the consequences? What lessons can we learn from Chernobyl as we consider whether nuclear power can help us meet the challenges of global climate change? In January I got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to answer some of these questions when I spent four days photographing inside the Chernobyl exclusion zone on an Atlas Obscura trip, *Photographing Chernobyl In Winter*. This article is a brief preview of the program that I'm looking forward to giving when we're back to our regular meetings.

What Happened and Why?



(Photo: theatlantic.com)

In the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, 94 kilometers north of Kyiv in Soviet Ukraine, the operators of Reactor 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station were performing a complicated test of Reactor 4's emergency cooling system. Unknown to them the reactor had serious flaws which had been kept secret by its designers. Due to unexpected delays the test was performed after a shift change by a group of operators who had not been briefed on the test protocol. The chief reactor operator had only been on the job for two months and made a simple mistake that unexpectedly brought the reactor to an almost complete shutdown. In their attempt to restart it the operators unknowingly created the unlikely combination of conditions that exploited the reactor's design defects and caused it to run out of control, overheating the cooling system and causing two massive explosions which shattered the reactor core, blowing fragments of its nuclear heart out into the world and releasing a cloud of radioactive gas and debris that spread over northern Europe.



(Photo: cbsnews.com)

In the days following the explosion Soviet authorities established a 1,000 square mile exclusion zone in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. 50,000 residents were given two hours notice to evacuate the modern city of Pripjat, and 66,000 more were evacuated from other towns and villages inside the zone. Less than 200 have returned, and Pripjat remains a ghost city inhabited only by wild dogs descended from the pets that were left behind.



(Photo: theatlantic.com)

In the months following the explosion thousands worked feverishly amidst highly radioactive debris, building a concrete sarcophagus to entomb the destroyed reactor and its remaining nuclear fuel. It leaked almost from the beginning, and continued to deteriorate until 45 countries contributed over € 1.6 billion to build a replacement.



(Photo: theatlantic.com)

Two operators died on the day of the accident, and 52 additional souls, including firefighters, operators, and pilots, died within four months from acute radiation poisoning. Five percent of the population of Ukraine, one percent of Russia's, and 19 percent of the population of Belarus lived in areas contaminated by the explosion, which produced a generation of children with birth defects and thyroid cancer. Estimates of additional cancer deaths range from 4,000 to 40,000, and the government of Ukraine has provided survivors' benefits to 35,000 families "owing to the loss of a breadwinner whose death was deemed to be possibly related to the Chernobyl accident."

The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone Today



These days the power plant looks like any other large industrial building, with what looks like a huge airplane hanger attached to one end.



The New Safe Confinement Structure covering the sarcophagus and the remains of Reactor 4 was completed in July 2019, and is intended to prevent the escape of radioactive particles for the next 100 years.



It is large enough to contain the Roman Coliseum and tall enough for the Statue of Liberty and is the largest structure ever built at a contaminated site.



We spent one day touring the power plant. Before you enter you strip down to your underwear and suit up. Don't forget your dosimeter!



The switchyard control room still controls the electric grid for parts of Ukraine and Belarus.



Hmm, they're still running Windows XP. Maybe PG&E isn't so bad after all.



Soviet technology circa 1980 on display in the power station's computer room.



Now that's a printout! But what does it mean?



Remember when computers ran on tape drives?



The control room for Reactor 3, which is almost identical to the control room for the doomed Reactor 4.



These gauges show the positions of the control rods that kept the nuclear chain reaction under control.



Our tour guide shows us the reactor control panel as he reaches for the switch that triggered the explosion on April 26, 1986.



Dad, can I have the keys to the reactor tonight?



The control room for Reactor 4, where everything went horribly wrong. Stripped of their guts during decontamination, only the skeletons of the control consoles remain.



Remains of the indicator lights that showed the status of Reactor 4's fuel and control rods, before they were blown through the roof of the reactor building.



Standing on the upper biological shield covering the top of Reactor 3, identical to the doomed Reactor 4. An identical 1,000 ton cover was blown through roof of the reactor building by the explosion, leaving the remains of the reactor core shooting deadly gamma rays into the sky.



At the wall separating the plant from the remains of Reactor 4 is the memorial to Senior Circulating Pump Operator Valerii Khodemchuk who was killed by the explosion and whose body remains entombed with the reactor. The imprint of the hands and body were made by Valerii's wife, who visits the memorial every year.



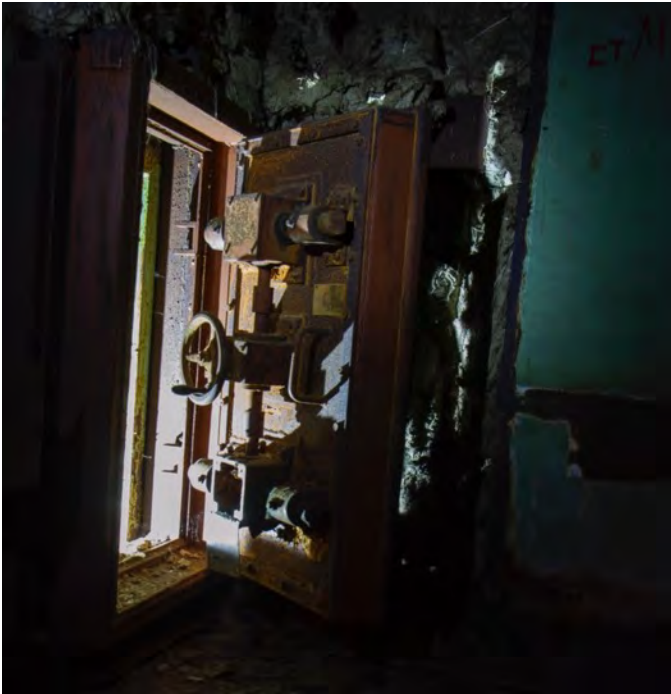
At the time of the accident Reactors 5 and 6 were under construction. They were abandoned on April 27, 1986.



As the sun began to set and the fog rolled in, we entered the building for Reactor 5, exploring the abandoned site with the light from our headlamps. It's forbidden to enter these buildings, but here I learned my first lesson about life in the zone. There are two kinds of bribes; one you give so someone does their job, and one you give so they don't. Gifts were given and the guards looked away as we walked inside.



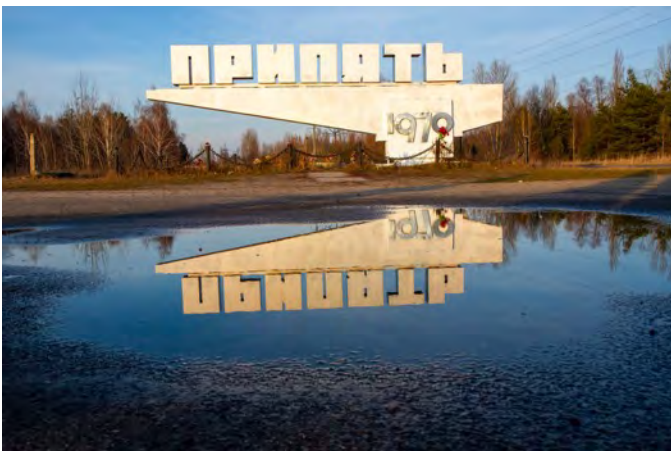
On the 15th floor you can crawl across steel girders and look out a window where you can see a toppled crane and the partially flooded remains of the unfinished building.



Avoiding open elevator shafts and the edges of unguarded platforms we made our way to the reactor room, wondering, why are we on the wrong side of that door?



Radioactive debris was buried in over 800 locations inside the exclusion zone. This is one of them. We decided not to dig for buried treasure.



The city of Pripyat was carved out of the forest of Ukraine and was home to over 50,000 scientists, technicians, workers, and families from the power station.



Now the main square is silent. After the evacuation the city was looted on an industrial scale and the spoils, much of it radioactive, were sold on the black market.



You can still find a phone booth, which is more that I can say for Sebastopol. And you can even have a seat while waiting for your call.



Pripyat city hall, also known as the White House, later became the headquarters for the cleanup of the exclusion zone.



Broken windows reflect the broken dreams of the nuclear city.



Where the promise of the atomic sun turned to disaster



The hammer and sickle still watches over the abandoned city, whose fate reflects the fate of the Soviet Union. This is the only place in Ukraine where Soviet symbols remain in large numbers.



Streets where signals once stopped traffic have become trails through the forest.



The grand opening of Pripjat's amusement park never took place, but the park opened briefly on the day after the accident to distract Pripjat residents from the unfolding disaster nearby. The Ferris wheel has become an iconic image of the abandoned city.



The Ferris wheel glows at night---if you bring your own flashlight. It's forbidden to enter the abandoned city at night, but gifts were given and the guards at the checkpoint opened the gate.



The area under the Ferris wheel is one of the most radiologically contaminated in Pripjat.



Only the skeleton of the parachute ride remains.



At night you can imagine the ghosts of Pripyat waiting their turn to ride.



The Swing Boats lie beached, no children to pretend they are the pirate captain or pirate queen.



Powerless, the bumper cars sit idle.



Weeds and lichens are the only riders now.



Animals grazing in a mural eerily foreshadow the city being taken back by these animals today.



Let's take a walk down Sportivnaya Street to the Sports Stadium.



Scheduled to open on May Day, it never saw a game.



Today the grandstands are empty.



Over 11,000 students attended 20 schools in Pripyat.



And radioactive moss is the only spectator.



They slid down slides.



And shot hoops.



But nobody plays indoors today.



In the classrooms they sat two by two, hanging on the teacher's every word.



Indoors and out.



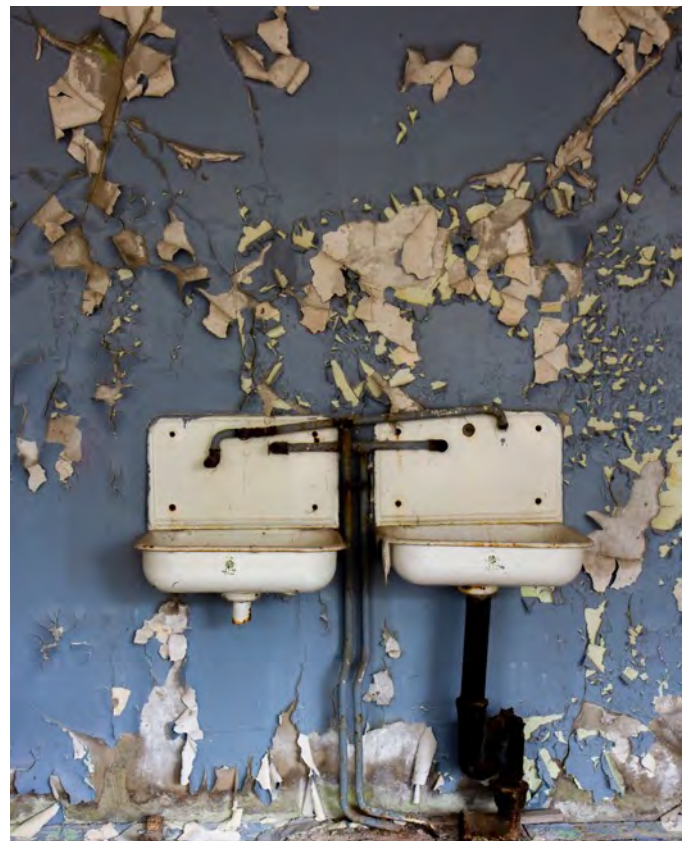
What page would you leave your last book open to?



An important lesson, now lost.



No more projects in the wood shop.



Don't forget to wash your hands.



Pripyat had 15 kindergartens.



The children are gone but their beds remain, and a doll waits in vain.



Pripyat's bas-relief mosaic murals remain striking, even as they decay. During the Soviet era, murals were used extensively as a medium of propaganda, spreading ideas and slogans through brightly colored



The remains of a child's gas mask gathers leaves.





Now, some appear to reflect the pain of the dream that was lost



The Azure swimming pool and sports complex.



Where the pool, once crowded with children, only holds debris.



And the platforms give the phrase "taking a dive" a whole new meaning.



The mural "Energy" marks the corner of the Prometheus movie theater, where the screens are dark.



But you can still have the best seats in the house.



The sign atop the hospital declares that the health of the people are the riches of the country. Entering the buildings of the abandoned city is forbidden, but another lesson of the zone is that in Ukraine, it's not illegal if nobody sees you do it.



Not the room you were expecting? I'm sorry.



Don't forget to take your meds.



These aren't flower vases.



Waiting.



Lonely corridors.



Pripyat's calendar ended on April 26.



The only room we were told not to enter. Firefighters with radiation burns were treated here on the night of the accident. Three hours passed before the medical staff was told that their patients and their clothing were highly radioactive.



Old bandages and tubing still remain from that night, and caused our radiation detector to scream.



In the children's ward, a green frog waits in a green room.



Names of those now long forgotten.



The reading circle is silent.



At night empty cribs cast eerie shadows on the wall.



Everywhere we went in the abandoned city the dogs of Chernobyl came to greet us. Descendants of the pets abandoned during the evacuation, they're fed by the tour guides and checkpoint guards. Although appearing healthy and happy, life in the zone for them doesn't last longer than five or six years.

Coming Attractions

If you enjoyed this brief preview keep an eye out for for my program, *Chernobyl - 34 Years Later*, when we resume our regular weekly meetings.

Rotary Club of Sebastopol – Board Report Summary – March 10, 2020

President's Report to the Club for March 2020

Fellow Club Members and Friends,

The "Overcoming Obstacles Award" program (OOA) is one of our club's most popular and valued efforts. Annually, we invite Rotary leaders from our region to attend our club meeting on OOA day and share the impact of this program. I'm pleased and proud that the Rotary Club of Windsor is moving toward adapting OOA for their club. Kudos to the Overcoming Obstacles Committee for working closely with Windsor Rotary to grow OOA in Windsor!

One of our club Board's goals this year is to earn District Governor Kathy Flanson's "Close-Knit Community" District Citation for achieving significant projects that connect our club with the local and international community and other Rotary clubs. The Rotary Club of Sebastopol is the first club in District 5130 to submit a completed application for a District Citation, based on partnering with Sebastopol Sunrise on the SuperPlayground replacement project, helping Windsor Rotary start their own Overcoming Obstacles Awards, working with the Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation to start the West County Construction Corps, and supporting the Sebastopol City Council in their proclaiming October 24 World Polio Day in Sebastopol. THE ROTARY CLUB OF SEBASTOPOL ROCKS ... but you already knew that!

The 2020 Crab Feed produced a net \$26,302.80 – a new record to fund the Mark Sell Rotary Teacher Grant program this spring and fall! Again, thanks and congratulations to **Crab Feed Co-Chairs Scott Briggs, Patrick Dirden and Nao Noguchi**, the **Crab Feed Committee**, and the hundreds of hands that made this event a huge success!

Our fundraising efforts to support our other community, youth, vocational, and international projects have left us a bit underfunded for Community Grants, SRJC scholarships, Community Hand-on Projects, and International Projects. We are seeking sponsorships for ANY of our club's many projects for 2020 that will allow us to fully fund ALL of our projects. If you or someone you know is able to help support a specific club project or offer general support, sponsorships can be directed to our Rotary Club of Sebastopol Foundation. Please see Treasurer Ken Jacobs or me for more information.

Thanks for making the Rotary Club of Sebastopol a "bastion of do-goodery" shining brightly for our local and world community.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Keller McDonald

Rotary Club of Sebastopol President, 2019-20



[You can see the full Directors' reports at

[ClubRunner](#) | [Member Area](#) | [MyClubRunner](#) | [ViewClubDocuments](#) | [BoardMeetingMinutes](#) | 2019-2020. –Ed.]

CLUB ACTIVITIES – ELLEN HARRINGTON, DIRECTOR:



APPLE BLOSSOM PARADE FLOAT (**Dan Rasmus**, Chair) – The parade & festival are scheduled for April 18th. **Dan Rasmus & Aleia Coate** have agreed to work on the float project together. **Dan** will submit the application & payment the week of March 9th then soliciting volunteers & truck, playground equipment, etc.

DEBUNKING (**Ellen Harrington**, Chair) – The Committee has been meeting to put together this year's debunking. The various aspects of the event are in the works.

FRIENDSHIP DINNERS COMMITTEE (**Cindy Carter-Flamm**, Chair) – **Cindy** has been signing up hosts & guests for friendship dinners for March 21st & 28th 2020. She has recruited many hosts, but more guests are needed. [Late News: March 21st is in question.]

GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE (**Jackie Moreira, Katy Spyryka, Aleia Coate**, Co-Chairs) – The committee has reserved the restaurant patio and the course at Northwood Golf Course in Monte Rio. The tournament will begin at 1pm on May 21st, & we will play 18 holes. The final cost is not yet established. We will be doing a BBQ that the restaurant will provide, & a beverage cart will also be available. There will be prizes.

HAPPY HOUR / FIRST FRIDAY (**Aldean Noethig**, Chair) – **Aldean** has planned an event around St. Patrick's Day. It is scheduled for March 13th, 5:00-7:00pm at Patti & John Blount's home. **Aldean** has sent details out to our membership. [Late News: CANCELLED]



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

HOLIDAY PARTY (CLUB) (**Cindy Carter-Flamm**, Chair) – This item is closed for the year.

PAST PRESIDENT DAY (CLUB) (**Harry Polley**, Chair) – **Harry** has some ideas, & discussion is taking place to fit this in. No current updates.

PICNIC (CLUB) (**David Still**, **Bob Cugini**, Co-Chairs) – This item is closed for the year.

SUPER BOWL BOARD (**Aleia Coate**, **Torrey Olson**, Co-Chairs) – **Bob Cugini** was the big winner of this year's Super Bowl board. This item is closed for the year.

VETERAN'S DAY (**Mike Ferguson**, Chair) – This item is closed for the year.

CLUB SERVICE – PATRICK DIRDEN, DIRECTOR:

ANNIVERSARY CARDS (**NANCY DWYER**, Chair) – No report this month.

APPLEKNOCKER EDITORS (**David Still**, Chair) – AppleKnocker editing set through end of year.

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM (**Paul Thielen**, Chair) – The A/V team is off to PETS in San Jose this Wednesday. [Late News: CANCELLED] We're still shopping out a new trailer. Also, we're trying to work out the cutouts on the club mic. No ready explanation yet.

BIRTHDAY CALLER (**Pam Graber**, Chair) – No report this month.

GREETERS (**Rick Wilson**, Chair) – No report this month.

HISTORY (CLUB) / ARCHIVAL (Chair: **Tom Boag**) – No report this month.

MEMBERSHIP (**David Schreibman**, Chair; Subcommittees: ROTARY INFORMATION, MENTORING, NEW MEMBER ATTRACTION) – The Membership Committee is happy to announce that both the Board and members-at-large have approved **Gail Gijzen** for membership, and we are still shooting for a quick induction this Friday March 6. **Gail** is excited to join and has already engaged in many activities in a short time.

Sue Labouvie has requested to renew her Friend of Rotary status. **Sue** is a friend of **Lu Frazier** and was formerly director at the Center of the Arts.

I feel the need to echo **President Keller's** recognition for two groups of people who do a wonderful job behind the scenes. The Rotary Information Committee, led by **Rick Wilson**, has worked seamlessly for years now, pairing two past-presidents with the sponsor and prospective members. The relatively new Membership Retention Committee led by **Jack Blasco** is doing a remarkable and necessary job of keeping in touch with members who don't engage for a short period. **Jack** is also responsible for training and coordinating a team of mentors who volunteer to work closely with new members. This is also working very well and should not be taken for granted. There is preliminary discussion for a meeting of select club leaders to discuss a strategy for member attraction moving forward. Will report further.

PHOTOGRAPHY (AK) (**Harvey Henningsen**, Chair) – All remaining months of **Keller's** reign-of-terror have been filled with reliable, capable, artistic image-makers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (**Hal Kwalwasser**, Chair; Subcommittees: PRINT/RADIO, TV AD MEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA, WEB DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE) – The Public Relations Committee published a press release on the Crab Feed and Art Show that ran in various local newspapers. In addition, we've been in the process of revising the website. In the coming month, I am going to work on "Learn to Swim" materials and the Teacher of the Year event.

SCRIBE (AK) COMMITTEE (**Patrick Dirden**, Chair) – Scribes are almost lined up through May 1st.

SECRETARY SUPPORT (**Jack Dunlap**, Chair) – No report this month.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (**Nao Noguchi**, Chair; Subcommittee: Song Leaders (**Jeff Boal**, Chair) – No report this month.

Speakers, Weekly (**Jørgen Holst**, Chair) – Despite a few near misses and panicky Thursday afternoons lately, as well as the committee chair being outside the country for what felt like months on end, the program committee has been going well lately, and has several very interesting programs coming up over the next months.

We have only three open Fridays before the summer, and a lot of great suggestions have popped in just this week!

SUNSHINE (**Mark Fink**, Chair) – No report this month.

TREASURER SUPPORT (**KEN JACOBS**, Chair) – No report this month.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA – SCOTT BRIGGS, DIRECTOR:



COMMUNITY GRANTS (**Linda Johnson**, Chair) – The Board is still finalizing budget discussions for this program. Committee efforts for this grant program should begin this month.

Community Volunteer Projects (**Diana Rich**, Chair) – Nothing new to report since completion of the Sebastopol Library benches project.

CRAB FEED (**Patrick Dirden**, Chair; **Scott Briggs**, Secretary; **Nao Noguchi**, Secretary) – As noted previously the Crab Feed was a sell out and a huge success, netting \$26,302.80, which I believe is a new record!! The Committee met Feb 27 for an event wrap-up meeting.

DICTIONARY PROJECT (**Paul Yeomans**, Chair) – I believe the dictionaries and book plates have now all been delivered to our 3rd grade recipients. Great job **Paul**!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS – Nothing new to report since February report.

LEARN TO SWIM (**Rick Wilson, Greg Jacobs**, Co-Chairs) – The Learn to Swim Program is slated for April 20 to May 14. Swim gear bags have been ordered, as well as tee-shirts for kids and volunteers. Permission slips have been provided to all schools to be signed by parents. Publicity efforts start this week, including coverage from local papers, Ives Pool, Analy, radio, etc. Greg Jacobs reports that he expects approx. 370 second graders, a slight drop from last year

MARK SELL ROTARY TEACHER GRANTS (Jack Blasco, Chair) – Happily the Crab Feed netted just over \$26k for this Program! The Spring application period is now open, closing March 15. As of March 2, at 9 AM 14 applications had been received. The Committee meeting to select grant recipients has been scheduled for March 26.

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION: (**Henry Alker**, Chair) – Nothing new to report.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE (**Ellen Harrington, Patrick Dirden**, Co-Chairs) – Ellen reports that a \$2.5k sponsorship has been pledged for next fiscal year.

SUPER PLAYGROUND PROJECT (**KELLER McDONALD**, CHAIR) – The City of Sebastopol has finalized design plans and budget and is now ordering equipment from the vendor. This project is on track for completion this Spring. **Keller** expects to be setting dates for volunteer hands-on work on the playground in the next 6 weeks.

TROPICAL ESCAPE FALL FUNDRAISER (**Mia Del Prete**, Event General Chair) – Nothing new to report on this now completed, successful event.

Vocational / Youth Service Area – **JØRGEN HOLST**, Director:



Career Fair at Analy High (**TBA**, Chair, if Analy has event) – Happening on April 9th, currently establishing how much Rotary participation is needed and if so, who will attend.

COOL KIDS CAMP (**Robin Maybury**, Chair) – Cool Kids Camp have received just a few checks from the clubs in District 5130. We typically have not received many checks at this point in the year. They tend to roll in in April and May. I'm a little concerned that raising the per child ask from \$500 per to \$700 per, might result in diminished donation amounts this year. We did this to ensure Cloverleaf Ranch at least break even on the Cool Kids who go to camp. (They let us know last year that they were subsidizing each Cool Kid to the tune of \$200.)

I am not planning to go to the District Conference this year but if **Keller**, or someone would be willing to make a plea for clubs to remember to send in their Cool Kids Camp checks soon, and that it is now \$700 per kid, that would be fabulous.

Cloverleaf Ranch have a 501.c3 non-profit, which is known as "Charm's Place" in honor of someone very special to them at the Ranch. The current owner/manager of the ranch, Shawna DeGrange has made an offer that might bring in more individual donations. She offers that donations can be made to Charm's Place and identified as / assigned to provide funding for a cool kid for \$700. We have been asked by various Rotarians in District 5130 if there is a non-profit/501.c3 number which could be used to claim a tax discount for a donation. This would be a great way to achieve that. (Looking for how best might I broadcast this throughout District 5130 please? I'd love advice, from our board, on the best way to achieve that. One way would be to email all the club presidents. I do have their email addresses.)

FINANCIAL LITERACY (**David Schreibman, Tim Moore**, Co-Chairs) – There is nothing new to report on the Financial Literacy Committee except that three members (**Aleia, Dave McLennon** and myself) volunteered to assist with the Junior Achievement Finance Park project last month.

HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH CONTEST (**Richard Power, Larry Ford**, Co-Chairs) – All good as to contestants. Still looking for one judge.

INTERACT (ANALY, TWIN HILLS, BROOK HAVEN) (**Pauline Pellini**, Chair) – Brook Haven and Twin Hills Interactors helped with the Crab Feed by setting tables and decorating on Friday after school.

Twin Hills held a very successful Game Night Fundraiser on February 21st. Final total not in but looks like they made around \$700. They will be helping the PTA with a rummage sale on March 7th.

Brook Haven did a lollypop sale for Valentine's Day. They raised around \$300. They are planning an ice cream sale in the spring.

Both clubs meet at least twice a month and have attendance of over 30 students.

INTERACT HOLIDAY ADOPT A FAMILY (Chair: **Pauline Pellini**, Chair) – Over for now.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AWARD (**Tom Boag, David Schreibman, Hal Kwalwasser**, Co-Chairs) – On track. Two (of three) guidance emails have been sent to all students and the students have acknowledged receiving them. All but one of the students has provided a photo for the Tri-Fold. Students are on Spring Break now and there is a likelihood of that break being extended a second week. We may have to adjust schedules a bit, but we can do that as required. TBD

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) (**Cindy Carter-Flamm**, Chair) – Flyers and Applications distributed to counselors, teachers, and juniors via email. Applications due 3/13 from students before Spring Break (3/16-3/24, maybe longer); After Spring Break, work with Paula Bush (Analay) to schedule interviews; three top candidates notified that they will be going to RYLA camp; Permission slips and medical authorization forms must be returned. Our club will (as usual) provide a welcoming BBQ for the students on 6/14. [Late news: No students applied for RYLA – Look into this after Spring Break.]

SRJC SCHOLARSHIPS (**Scott Briggs**, Chair) – We have submitted to the Scholarship Office our list of our 5 Committee members who will review this year's student applications, two of whom will attend [They did on 3/13 via Zoom internet meeting.] an SRJC training session on March 13 regarding use of the SRJC's new online scholarship program. By end of March our full Committee will meet to reach consensus on our slate of candidates for interviews. Interviews will take place first half of April... we will likely interview 6-8 candidates. Committee will select our scholarship winners by the end of April. Our budget only allows for two \$4,000 scholarships this year, unless, as in past years, our members choose to fund an additional scholarship.

TRADE PATHS (VOCATIONAL) AWARDS (**Hal Kwalwasser**, Chair) – The Board has decided this committee will be dormant for now, due to the collaboration with the North Bay Construction Corps.

YOUTH EXCHANGE (**Aleia Coate, Jackie Moreira, Katy Spyрка**, Co-Chairs) – Cruising right now. [!]

LEARN WITH ME (**Linda Irving**, Chair) – No new news.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AREA – BUD DAVEIRO, DIRECTOR:

PROGRAMMA DE Becas (**Dorothy Rodella**, Chair) – Nothing to report this month.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (**Ruthie Dunlap, Lu Frazier**, Co-Chairs) – **Lu** reported that \$640+ was collected for Polio Plus.

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (Chair: **Bob Rogers**, Chair) – Per **Bob Rogers**, at our board meeting this month (March) we will vote on sending \$2,500 for a project t

