



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Jack Blasco on the Magic of Burning Man



Date: October 4, 2019
Volume: 2019/20—Issue E18-12
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President 2019/2020: Keller McDonald



"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL



After a crazy week in the world, your scribe was relieved to enter the Roto-hall on this Friday. There was word that today's talk would involve heat and dust storms, so your scribe was prepared. During lunch, Keller welcomed us all with a reminder of more tropical times ahead while the AV crew sweated over the wires, plugs, and dials.



AT THE BELL



President Keller struck the Roto-bell at 12:15pm sharp. Our own Barbara Streisand, **Karen Daniels**, led the flock, not in song, but in the salute to old glory. Our terrific tenor, **Gene Nelson**, led the flock in a mostly on-key chorus of "My Country Tis of Thee." Lastly, **Bob Rogers** gave a timely thought for the day from Honest Abe.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." Abraham Lincoln

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Bob Rogers

Nearly all men can stand adversity,
but if you want to test a man's character,
give him power.

-Abraham Lincoln



Rotary
Club of Sebastopol

Tropical Escape

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 5-10 pm

THIS FUNDRAISER POWERS OUR CLUB'S GOOD WORKS
FOR THE KIDS, FOR THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THE WORLD!

Special menu! Special drinks! Special entertainment!

Winery tables hosted by winners of 15 Gold Medals and
2 Sweepstakes Awards at 2019 Harvest Wine Competition!

Halleck Vineyard -- Hanna Winery -- Balletto Vineyards
Hook & Ladder Winery -- Russian River Vineyards



Super special silent & live auctions!

Tickets \$125, Wine Table Tickets \$150

For tickets contact dianagrigh@gmail.com

Rotary
Club of Sebastopol



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

🍎 Future Programs 🍎

October 11, 2019

Rotary Project for Kenyan Mothers

October 18, 2019

Recology

October 25, 2019

World Polio Day Program

November 1, 2019

Creative Sonoma

November 8, 2019

Veterans' Day

🍎 Events 🍎

Fall Fundraiser
October 26th

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—JackEDunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

🍎 VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS 🍎

Our own **Bud-Man Bud Daviero** introduced our visiting Rotarians from near and far. Our first visitor was Maria Robinson, from the East Santa Rosa Club.



The next guest came a little further than Santa Rosa; Becca Mohally, from Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua. She also introduced her husband, Paul.



Nao Noguchi introduced his friend Darryl Yagi. **Jorgen Holst** introduced his better half, **Cordelia**, who would speak to the flock later. **Jack “Burning Man” Blasco** introduced his guests, John and Susan Lowry, and his better half, **Marie**.



🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

President Keller singled out **Dana Moises**, to switch her green badge out for a red badge. Congratulations, Dana!

Even the high and mighty have to take a slice of humble pie, and that includes our own fearless leader. **President Keller** fully admitted to three offenses: wrongfully labeling a sponsor's level, omitting **Lynda Puccinelli** from the Friends of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol, and misspelling **Lu Frazier's** last name. While there were some heated discussions about possible impeachment charges, **Keller** lived to see another day. We'll be watching you!

Keller gave the lectern to our visiting Rotarian from Nicaragua, **Becca Mohally**. **Becca's** club in Ciudad Sandino may be small, but is busy with many projects, including bringing fresh water to 576 families, which involved 35,000 hours of labor, 13 miles of pipe, and a \$150,000 global grant! The work is not done, as they are working on a sewage project and helping coffee farmers deal with climate change.



The clock is ticking! It's almost time to take your Tropical Escape on October 26th. Tickets are still on sale! Remember, this is where we raise the majority of our funds to do all the good, we do in our community. We can fill all of the seats! Bring your friends! Bring your neighbors! Friday, sport your best Hawaiian shirt, and show your tropical spirit! A prize for the best dressed is guaranteed.... prize is unknown.

You can also help underwrite some of our incredible silent auction packages. Some of the items need to be purchased. If you underwrite the costs, the more money we can raise. See **Ellen Harrington** or **Diana Rich** for details. In addition to the silent auction items, we have some breathtaking and unforgettable experiences,

including a wine and culinary experience like no other! Enjoy a catered dinner prepared by Ramen Gaijin chef/owner Matthew Williams, and paired with wines from Halleck Vineyards!



Tropical Escape
Donations gladly accepted to offset
approximately \$1900 in live and silent auction costs
(food for celebrity chef dinners,
cleaning fees for condos, supplies, etc.)

**This is a great way to support the event if you can't attend
or if the live auction items don't float your boat!**

See Diana Rich or Ellen Harrington to donate



Tropical Escape dress down day at Rotary
is next Friday, October 11
Wear ***Tropical Escape*** attire
shirt, hat, mumu, sarong, flip-flops, snorkel and mask ...
whatever floats your boat

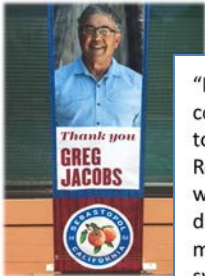
PRIZE FOR "BEST DRESSED"



While hometown hero **Greg Jacobs** was recovering from arm surgery, we celebrated his "Locals Who Make a Difference" honor! Although we weren't expecting to see a half-naked **Jeff Boal** looking up to his Rotary brother! MY EYES!!!!


City of Sebastopol

"Locals Who Make a Difference"





Thank you
GREG JACOBS

"It's comforting to have my Rotary Brother watch over me during my morning swim!"



"Yep, I thought so ... He has a little piece of spinach between his teeth!"



Keller turned the lectern over to Executive Director of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, Cordelia Holst. She had great news to share with the Roto-flock. Cordelia pulled out her notes and told us that exciting things are happening! Work is happening on the restrooms. Plans for a brand-new facility on top of the existing one are being drawn out! The facility will be 100% green, will be flood proof, and compliment Laguna Park. Sounds good? It should. It's all from a letter written in 2004! The reality is that the road to recovery from the winter floods has been hard, due to red tape, governmental rules, and FEMA eliminating assistance. However, the tidies turning, and you can help!



Mayor Neysa Hinton has been working with State Assemblyman Mark Levine to secure \$1.5 million in flood recovery funds. At the October 15th City Council meeting, allocation of the flood funds will be voted on. Show your support for the Community Center at the meeting. If you can't make it, email the council, and show your support for the Community Center!

You can also [sign the petition right on this link to digitally support them!](#)

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎

Edwin Wilson celebrated a birthday on September 29th. His big day involved a nice breakfast with friends, and a family get together. **Jack Blasco** celebrated his birthday on September 30th by making a run to the border...Taco Bell, that is! He ate in and re-organized his macho grande used oil filter collection. All that fun will be \$4.93 at the next window! **Mike Carey** celebrated his big day on October 1st by taking a field trip to San Francisco by train and ferry. He visited his daughter's fancy office in the big city! **Edwin and Diana Wilson** celebrated their anniversary in true Rotary fashion, they attended the Rotary meeting! They even got a solo version of "Happy Anniversary" by **Keller**.



Aleia Coate decided to take the upcoming Tropical Escape one step further, by having a tropical escape of her own. After all, that's the way to celebrate a birthday, and celebrate she did. **Aleia** and Matt spent a relaxing week near Puerto Vallarta. For all that relaxation, \$10! **Meredith Bertacco**, and her husband **BJ**, spent twelve amazing days in Northern Italy, enjoying the sights, and taking perfect selfies, as you can see below! Are you sure those faces weren't photoshopped in, Meredith? Twelve days for \$12 sounds fair. **Tom Boag**, and his partner, Ralph, took a journey to the great Northwest to see family. **Richard Power** is in a sticky mess! He received a formal complaint from the Brotherhood of Bruins Local 99 for alleged infringement of historic honeycomb harvest rights. His defense was priceless...it was pretty sweet! HI-YO! That knee slapper will cost \$15!



RAFFLE

Would the elusive dark marble evade today's sucker, err, raffle winner! **Jeff Boal** had the winning ticket. Would he win? Would his fingers land on the recluse marble. NOPE! The pot thickens next week!

THE PROGRAM

It was now time to dawn your sunscreen, grab your goggles, and prepare for a dusty ride to the Playa of Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Today's speaker was none other than our own Burning Man aficionado, **Jack Blasco**! The annual gathering in the high desert north of Reno attracts thousands of artists and free spirits each year.



Burning man started in San Francisco in 1968, where a group of artists lit a small sculpture ablaze on Baker Beach. In 1986, Larry Harvey and Jerry James dragged a larger sculpture to the beach, and set fire to it, which attracted a large crowd. The Latte Carpenters and the underground San Francisco art scene became attracted to the gathering. During the late 1980's, the amount of people gathering to witness the oversized beach bonfire slowly grew. The party ended in 1990, when National Park Rangers put an end to the annual bonfire. The group found a place far from the maddening crowds, and National Park Rangers, Nevada's Black Rock Desert. After that move, the rest was history.



The location was desirable for Summer gathering. Temperatures around 100 degrees, 60 MPH winds, and dust storms. But, it was far enough away for artists, free spirits, and some anarchists to live for two weeks without rules. Where else could one drive at night without headlights, or visit a drive by firing range. The free life started to take its toll on the event. In 1995, four people died at the event, forcing organizers to reign in the rules, forming the modern day Burning Man.



Larry Harvey's small group of Latte Carpenters is now a robust nonprofit, employing over 100 staffers, and thousands of volunteers. The organization is responsible for planning and preparing the annual event, which includes coordination with The Bureau of Land Management, artists, contractors, and vendors. The event has an onsite volunteer fire department, medical center, security force, store selling ice, coffee, water, and lemonade, and a vehicle licensing office, known as the Department of Mutant Vehicles. There's even a Rotary meeting onsite.

To accommodate the 80,000 residents, the city is composed of 13 circular avenues, 224 blocks, and is seven square miles. The center of the city, off The Esplanade, is home to the burning man and the temple. Builders arrive one week before the event to construct the art installations and camps. After the event finishes, volunteers clean the road in and out of Black Rock City, and fully restore the playa, ensuring no trace of the event remains. All vehicles are parked at the Campsite. People use bicycles, segways, flame throwing mutant vehicles, and dragons on wheels, to travel around Black Rock City.



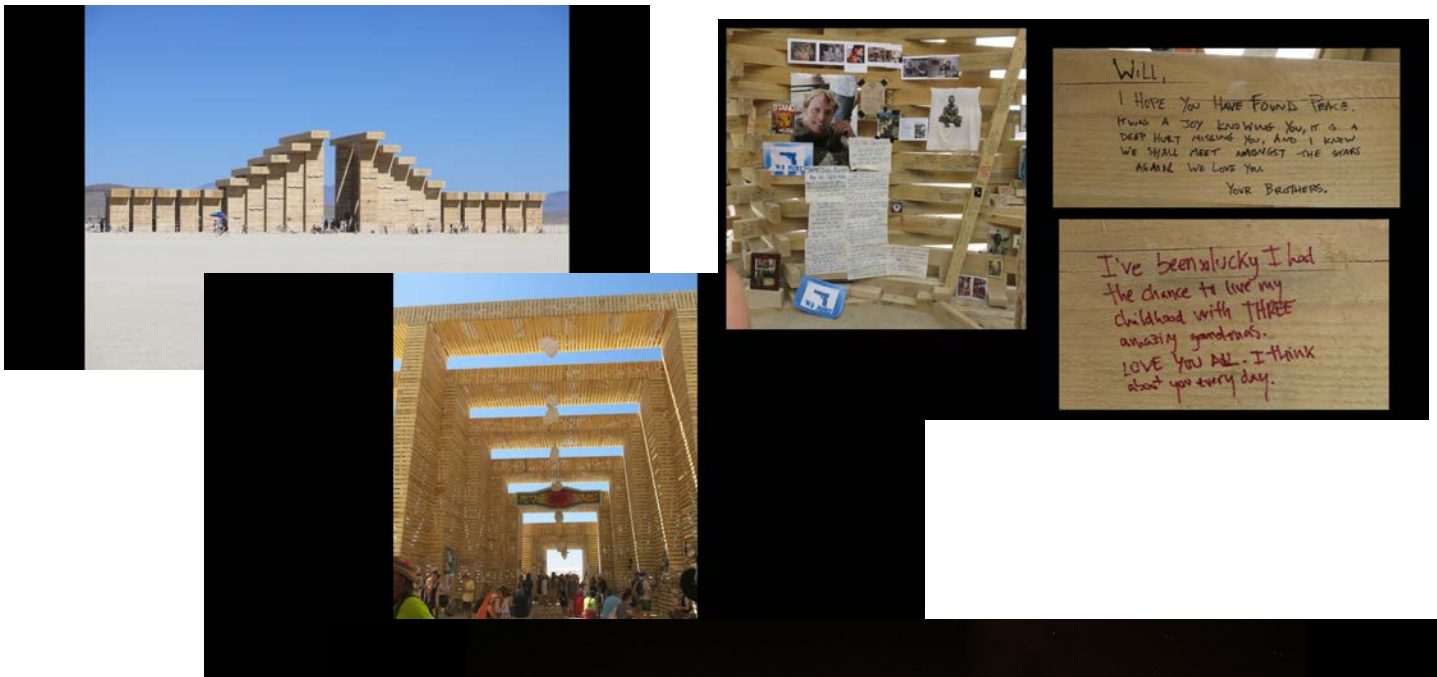
The Ten Principles

Radical Self-expression

The 10 principles of Burning Man.

1. Radical Inclusion – anyone can attend, if you can find a ticket
2. Gifting – No pro quo, gifting is encouraged.
3. Decommodification – no sponsors, transactions, or advertising.
4. Radical Self Reliance – Bring everything you need to survive. No pizza deliveries!
5. Radical Self Expression – Free and encourages to express yourself, as long as you respect the rights of others. what happens in Dante's InFURno Room stays in Dante's InFURno!
6. Communal Effort: Takes a village to build Black Rock City.
7. Civic Responsibility: Works together to build civil society
8. Participation: Everybody participates! There are NO observers!
9. Leaving no trace: MOOT = Matter out of place. Nothing is left behind on the playa
10. Immediacy: Live in the now. Forget the past. Leave worries about the future at the gate.

The Burning Man obviously is the central attraction! The night the man burns, the playa takes on a carnival atmosphere. Numerous artists, light shows, and performers gather near the man. Fireworks take to the night sky. As the man burns, people sit in a trance, watching the scene. Counterpoint to the man is the temple. The Temple is a community space where people can share memories, honor loved ones, and express themselves, all on the blank walls.



And the last night of the event, the Temple burns.



The theme camps are the heart and soul of Burning Man. The camps provides services, art, and entertainment to the residents, all for free. Places like Atlas Chemicals and Circle J had everything the campers need. Additionally, the art installations are creative, and exciting. Anything from an old 747 fuselage, Mick Jagger's Lips, to a building made out of salvage parts from Victorian homes, called The Folly. This year, there were over 345 art installations. **Jack** told us that he's a part of a theme camp called disorient.



The group is comprised of members from all around the globe, including Banana Man! The group has a performance dance floor where a DJ spins the tunes, while lasers reach the stratosphere. They constructed two cars resembling Chinese Junks, and a temple on the outer Playa. They also had an art installation called The Archaeopteryx.

Tickets typically cost a little over \$1,000. Attendees are typically in their 20's and 30's, have middle class incomes, and are new campers. For those that get into Burning Man, they get to experience an event like no other.



THE FINAL BELL



After **Jack's** incredible virtual field trip to the Playa, **President Keller** blew the playa dust off the Roto-bell, and struck it at 1:30PM sharp!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 11: Piper Gianola – Improving the lives and health of mothers and kids in rural Kenya

Piper is the founder and executive director of goal4.org. She was a communications professional in the high tech industry for 15 years, the last 11 years at Cisco Systems. Her retirement in 2011 marked a long-planned transition from the private sector to the non-profit sector. Since 2011 she has been developing and overseeing goal4.org projects in Kenya and working as a consultant to non-profit organizations in the US. Prior to working in corporate communications, Piper was a linguist and educator with a specialty in intercultural communications. She held roles as a lecturer at U.C. Berkeley, director of an adult language school, and language instructor in the United States and Switzerland. Piper holds a Master of Arts in Linguistics, a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, and a Diplôme d'études Françaises from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Piper is an active member of Soroptimist International, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through social and economic empowerment.



Piper will give us an overview of the work goal4.org does in rural Kenya to improve the health and survival of mothers and children. We'll hear about a Mothers' Education Program that uses mobile video to teach mothers how to keep their babies healthy and a Safe Birth Project that helps mothers and newborns survive the birth process. Piper has worked in the same group of villages for 8 years, developing these programs in partnership with the community. One of the programs she'll be speaking about today, the Safe Birth Program, is in the early stages of sponsorship by the Vacaville Rotary Club.

October 18: Ambrosia Thomson of Recology

Ambrosia Thomson is a Waste Zero Specialist for Recology Sonoma Marin. Her area covers all of West Sonoma County and includes, Sebastopol, Point Arena, and South West Santa Rosa. She develops and delivers public education programs to commercial businesses, schools, and residential customers by doing company wide trainings through presentations and attending events where you can find her talking to the public about what goes where. Her goals are to create a relationship with the communities she serves to promote a healthy environment through education on proper recycling, commercial composting, and diverting items from the landfill.



Ambrosia Has always been passionate about the environment and has found jobs in the past where she can make a difference. In her current role at Recology Sonoma Marin she has taken full advantage of this passion by joining various committees and sub committees to make a lasting impact. She serves as Vice President on the Executive Board of Directors for The Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce, a Committee member on the City of Sebastopol Zero Waste Sub Committee, Member of the Sebastopol 350 Sonoma, Recology's Women Leadership Committee, and the Sebastopol Climate Action group.