




The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Dr. Gloria Willingham-Toure

	Date:	December 18, 2020	 <p style="font-size: small;">Rotary Opens Opportunities</p>
	Volume:	2020/21—Issue E19-23	
	Scribe:	Gene Nelson	
	Photog.	D. Schreibman, R. Maybury, J. Dunlap, HH	
	Editors:	D. Still, P. Dirden, J. Holst, T. Boag, HH	
President 2020/2021:		Dan Rasmus	

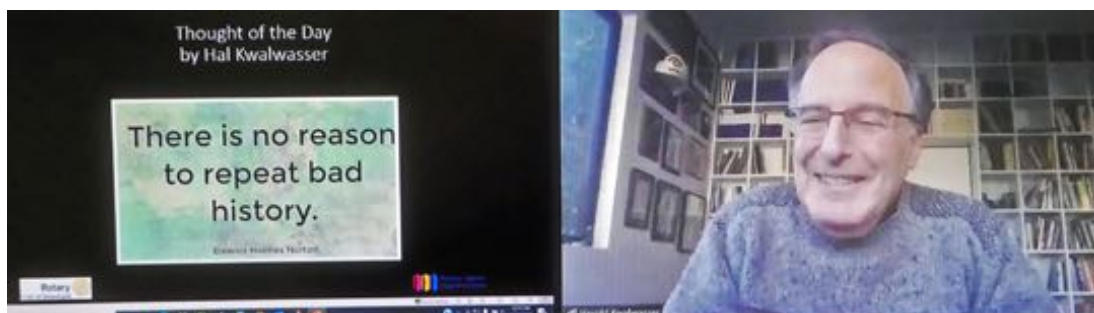
"All the News that Fits We Print"

🍏 **AT THE BELL** 🍏

President Dan Rasmus called the meeting to order at 12:15 and began with a brief video of last night's automobile and fire engine Christmas light parade through Sebastopol.



Hal Kwalwasser provided this thought for the day: "*There is no reason to repeat bad history.*" And now you know why each Rotary President only serves one year!



Future Programs

December 25

**Merry Christmas
No Meeting**

**January 1
Happy New Year
No Meeting**

**January 8
Charles Durrett
CoHousing**

**January 15
Elizabeth Gore**

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS--scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Past District Governor, Bruce Campbell, now living in the Reno area.



Gary Kimes from Colorado Springs, past president of our club.



Michael McGlothlin was seen lurking about in Zoom land as well. He from Sebastopol Sunrise Club.

🍎 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE 🍎

Cindy Carter highlighted the work of the many committees that work under the *Community Service* umbrella:

Community Grants which she co-chairs with **Richard Power**: This committee's funds are generated by our yearly major fund raiser, which we have not yet been able to schedule in this Rotary year. The hope and plan is for it to happen on *May 1, 2021 at the new Balletto Events Center* – designed, by the way, by our own **Edwin Wilson**. This money stays local, funding schools, fire and police services, music programs, other non-profits, etc. \$5000 in grants has been available so far this year. **Aleia Coate** will chair the fundraiser in May.



Crab Feed: This yearly event funds our Mark Sell Teacher Mini-Grant program, but sadly there will be no crab feed in this Rotary year. But donations to the program are certainly encouraged. In 2020, our club made a total of \$14,554 in mini-grants to teachers.

Learn-to-Swim: COVID has also put a halt to this program for 2021, but **Greg Jacobs** and **Rick Wilson** are at work on the production of water safety videos.

Sponsorships: **Ellen Harrington** and **Patrick Dirden** co-chair this committee which is at work on a new Branding Portfolio for our club. We also have a new sponsorship video which can be viewed on the club's website, right under the President's Message.

www.sebastopolrotary.org

School Dictionaries: **Paul Yeomans** chairs this project. Even in this age of Google, these dictionaries remain hugely popular. The schools want it to happen, so the dictionary distribution will take place February-March, 2021.

Community Volunteer Projects: **Diana Rich** chairs this committee which has sponsored Laguna Work Days, an Alzheimer's Walk, park projects and monthly shifts at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. In fact, a good group of Rotarians worked for 2 hours at the Food Bank on December 17th

Homes for Homeless: **Mete Senocak** chairs this committee which will be making a report to the club in the new year.

Warm Coats and Clothes: **Ruthie and Jim Dunlap** have been heading up this program to provide warm clothing for those in need during these cold days. Clothing can be dropped off at their house, 1205 Ferguson Rd. They have a water proof bin on the front porch.



Cloverleaf Ranch and Cool Kids Camp: **Robin Maybury** continues to chair this worthy project.

And don't forget the Holiday Food Box Drive Thru at the Arts Center on High Street on December 24th. People are needed to work 2 hour shifts and you can sign up online. **President Dan** has sent a sign up link.

Thank you, **Cindy**, and your faithful committee chairs, for all your good work. You provide us with so many wonderful examples of, and opportunities to be a part of, Service Above Self!

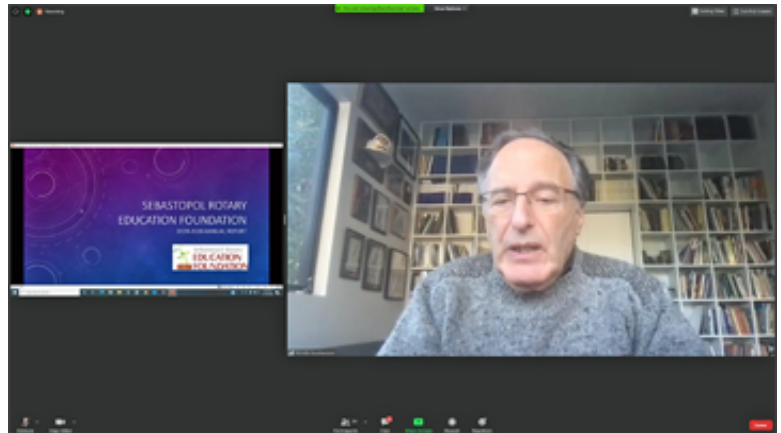


SEBASTOPOL ROTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Even in these challenging days of COVID-19, the Foundation Board has been hard at work. Looking back, **Hal Kwalwasser** highlighted three Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation programs from Rotary year 2019-2020.

-
- North Bay Construction Corp: This new program enrolled 27 West County high school students. Their training, which was interrupted by COVID, was completed on line. The students were able to attend boot camp and internships in June, and several were hired by construction companies. Clearly there is a need for this kind of program and plans are already underway for the entire program to be online in 2021.



-
- Teachers of the Year: Some changes were made in this popular teacher recognition program. One teacher, Mary Jo Kinsey from Pleasant Hill Christian School, was honored with a Career Distinguished Service award. A new award for innovation was won by Joe Maloney from Laguna High School. And Sydnee Mardell of Twin Hills Charter Middle School, was honored as an Outstanding New Teacher. Hal said the zoom calls of recognition were certainly not the same as in person recognition, but interestingly zoom provided an opportunity for more people to share tributes and appreciation. And the award winners received a wonderful write up in The Press Democrat.
-
- \$25K was provided by the Foundation for ongoing programs of The Rotary Club of Sebastopol.

An issue facing the foundation as it seeks to provide another \$25k to Rotary this year, as well as fund its ongoing programs, is will it continue to raise enough funds so that it can function as a source of fall back funds for the club?

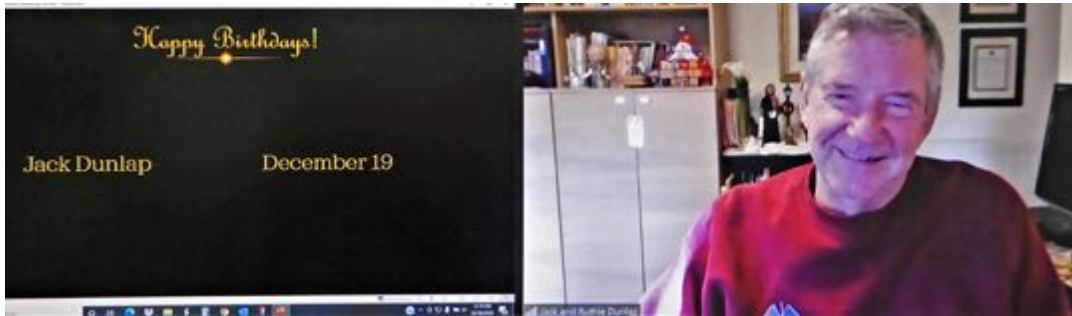
Donate to Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation

Make checks to: SREF

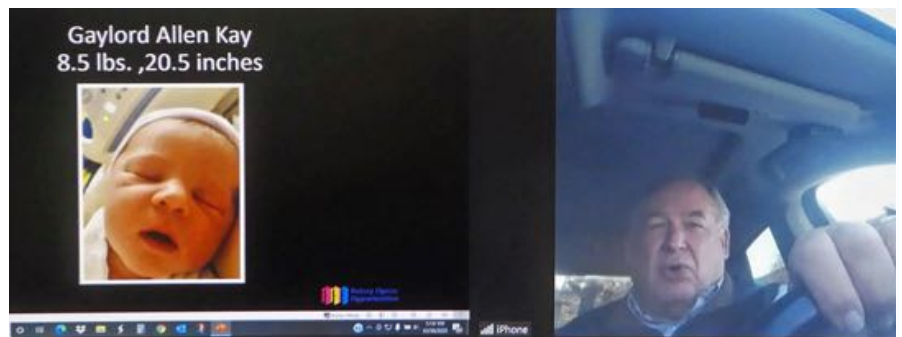
Mail to club's PO Box -- PO Box 213, Sebastopol, CA 95473

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎

Jack Dunlap will celebrate his December 19 birthday. He and **Ruthie** plan to celebrate with a crab dinner...canned crab. I thought that was illegal in Sonoma County. I think they are accompanying the dinner with a smooth boxed wine...from Modesto!



Mike Ferguson was given a moment to brag about Gaylord Allen Keys, born the day before Thanksgiving...his first great grandson. Congratulations. There was talk of mules and guns and dirt. Not sure if **Mike** was talking about himself or Gaylord.

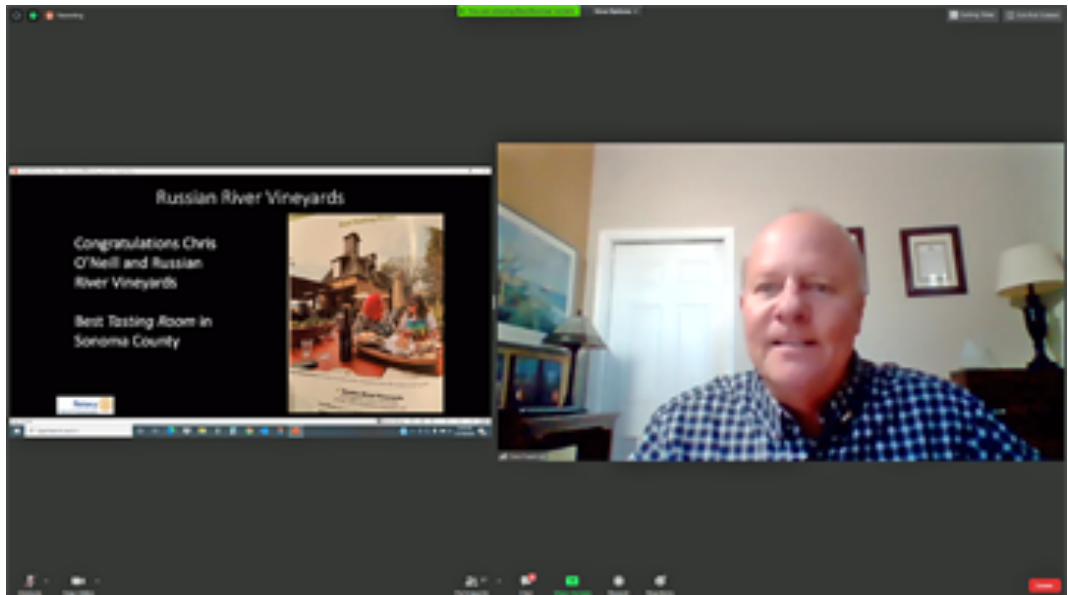


The Russian River Vineyards Stony Point Pinot Noir has sold out. Thanks **Chris O'Neill** and the winery for making this wine available to Rotary. In all, over \$2700 was earned for our *Adopt a Family Program*. Adopt a Family will be December 19th, but this year will not include any Rotarian volunteers. **Pauline Pellini** will give us a report on the day.

Once again, on December 24th, Rotary Sunrise club will be preparing holiday meals for pick up at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. They hope to prepare 300 food boxes. The drive through pick up will begin at 9:00 A.M. Each box costs \$25. You can make a donation to cover the cost through our club – P.O. Box or online. And you can volunteer to work two hour shifts.

Best of Sonoma County.

We mentioned **Chris O'Neill's** generosity. Well, he and Russian River Vineyards were honored in *The Best of Sonoma County* Magazine for Best Tasting Room.



Congratulations. Of course, many of us already knew that.

And for some reason, there was also a glossy photo of **John and Patti Blount** shopping at Friedman's. So much for shopping local! Were they somehow being honored as Sonoma County's Best Shoppers? Funny, I thought my wife held that title

THE PROGRAM

David Still introduced our speaker, Dr. Gloria Willingham Toure, speaking on the topic, "The First, the Only, and One of the Few."



As she began, Dr. Willingham invited us to enter with her into her world, to travel with her through time as she shared her story. But she made no promises that it would be a comfortable or easy journey for us to take. She was born in Little Rock, AK. It was a difficult birth, and it was feared her mother might not survive. Her father walked her home from the hospital – 4 miles – wrapping her in blankets and newspapers to protect from the cold – no car, no public transportation. She said she and her brother were called blessings from God because before their births her mother had suffered six previous still births. Her mother did survive and Gloria and her family lived in an all-Black neighborhood on the east end of Little Rock. She grew up hardly ever seeing a White person except while shopping or on a rare trip downtown.

And when they did leave their neighborhood, every Black child was taught “The Rules.” Among the Rules: don’t touch or pick up anything you do not intend to buy – pick up, buy and leave; step aside for Whites and always walk – never, ever, run; use the bathroom before you leave home; always sit in the back of the bus.

Interestingly, in the South in the 1950’s, Little Rock was viewed as one of the more “liberal” cities in the South! She said that as she grew older, she noticed that White children had different rules...or no rules. They could run around, sit where they wanted and use drinking fountains.



Both sets of grandparents still lived on farms in rural

Arkansas and every summer she and her brother would ride the Greyhound bus – sitting in the back – and visit them. Gloria said her grandmothers insisted that she and her brother learn to read, write, tell stories and count. Stories – remembering – were in many ways the life blood of the Black community, especially in rural areas. Many of these were stories of survival, stories meant to help the next generation to survive. At home there were The Rules. For Black children on the farm, there was “The Talk.” The talk was quite literally lessons on how to stay alive. “Don’t think you can do what White children do” she and her brother were told.

Gloria’s paternal great-grandparents were slaves and the family remembered and told horrific stories. One of her cousins had been lynched simply because he refused to step aside. He was a veteran and no one was ever brought to trial for his brutal murder. Again, the Rules – the Talk – were not simply about good behavior. There were quite literally a matter of life and death. Thinking about White privilege, I know I have never had to give my grandsons The Talk.

In the Black community, the White world was the “world outside.” Families actually had to decide who among their children might survive in that world. Gloria was seen as a survivor, a judgement that would soon be severely tested.

In 1958, a second group of Black students were chosen to integrate Little Rock’s Central High School. Gloria was chosen to be one of those students. She needed a permission slip, but was afraid her parents wouldn’t approve, so she forged her father’s signature on the form. She was 14 years old. She said that no one – Black or White – was prepared for all that would happen. The verbal abuse directed at the Black students was almost more than she could take. Before long, the names and addresses of the Black students were published in the newspaper and that was how



her parents found out. The backlash in the community was vicious. Her father lost his job. The family lost their home – they lost everything – as they were forced to live in a small shack while her father took on odd jobs. But he told her, “Don’t let them push you out!” and she didn’t.

A White man, saying, “This isn’t right,” helped her father finally get a job in the Little Rock Housing Authority, a job he kept until retirement. There were death threats, there was hate mail, and each day in school was nothing less than “daily hell”. But she persisted, she did not give up or give in, and eventually graduated from Central High School. I wonder if I could have been that determined and strong.

Fast forward to 2020 and the killing of George Floyd. She said that the Black community has been here too many times. The knee on Floyd’s neck was no different than the lynch mob’s rope or the slave owner’s whip. Another public killing of a Black man, a scene repeated how many times in our tortured history of race relations? But, said Gloria, this time, maybe for the first time, it was different. She could not believe the extent of the outrage that came from people of all races, both here and around the globe.

Which leads to the question, “What do we do now?” The deadly violence of Minneapolis or Louisville or in so many other cities is something people of color live with every day – a part of “normal” life throughout Black history. Hence the need for the “Talk”. What about White privilege? What about the systems and processes, consider lending bias, that guarantee this privilege even as others are denied opportunity? The time has come for all of us to share our stories, our history. This is no time for amnesia or for walking by on the other side of the road. We are way past due for serious conversations about racism and privilege and equal opportunity. It is no accident that it is votes from largely Black urban areas that are still being challenged as fraudulent. We are in this together, and the sooner we recognize and accept that, the sooner healing can begin.

Thank, you, Dr. Willingham, for this troubling, challenging and thoughtful program. Thank you for your courage and strength.

THE FINAL BELL

And President Dan rang the final bell at 1:15pm sharp.

AFTER THE BELL

JOIN THE PETALUMA SUNRISE ROTARY ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE for
“MOVIE NIGHT”

We will be showing,
“Climate Restoration Investment Opportunity”
from 2nd Annual Global Climate Restoration Forum - with time for discussion &
questions afterwards
Saturday, 12/26/20, 7-9 pm PST
**COME FIND OUT HOW LEAVING A WORLD WE’RE PROUD OF FOR OUR
CHILDREN IS POSSIBLE!**

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WIDELY. bring your own popcorn!

Topic: Petaluma Sunrise Rotary Environment Committee invites you to MOVIE NIGHT
Time: Dec 26, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421081623>
Meeting ID: 834 2108 1623

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Charles Durrett January 8



CHARLES DURRETT

Position: Principal, Architect Emeritus AIA

Phone: 530-265-9980 (o); 916-716-6721 (c)

Email: charles.durrett@cohousingco.com

Office: 241 B Commercial St., Nevada City, CA 95959

PROFILE

Charles Durrett is an architect, author, and advocate of affordable, socially responsible and sustainable design, and who has made major contributions to community-based architecture and cohousing. Charles has designed over fifty cohousing communities in North America and has consulted on many more around the world, having designed an equal number of affordable housing projects. He is the principle architect at The Cohousing Company, based in Nevada City, California. His work has been featured in Time magazine, New York Times, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, The Guardian, Architecture, Architectural Record,

the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, and a wide variety of other publications.

Along with receiving numerous awards for his contribution to cohousing and community-based architecture, he has given many public presentations, such as two to the U.S. Congress, The Commonwealth Club of California, scores of universities, city councils, and planning commissions around the country. Most important, he continues to devote his time to new cohousing groups and affordable housing developments that are just getting started.

His other books include *Creating Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities*, coauthored with Kathryn McCamant, the book that introduced cohousing to the United States, he has also solely authored *The Senior Cohousing Handbook: A Community Approach to Independent Living*, as well as a half-dozen other books about housing. He lives in a 34-unit project, Nevada City Cohousing, in Northern California, a community he designed. The Oxford English Dictionary credits him, along with partner Kathryn McCamant, with coining the word cohousing.

He realized long ago that developing healthy environments requires starting with the culture—and seeing the much wider array of issues other than sticks and bricks.

The Cohousing Company

AREAS OF EXPERTTISE • Cohousing Communities

- Multi-family Housing
- Senior Housing
- Town Planning
- Land use policy and implementation • Project Feasibility
- Educational Design

January 15



ELIZABETH GORE

Co-Founder and President helloalice.com [ElizabethGore](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ElizabethGore) covid19businesscenter.com

Elizabeth Gore serves as co-founder and president of Hello Alice helloalice.com, which helps businesses launch and grow. A free multi-channel platform powered by AI technology, Hello Alice guides business owners by providing access to funding, networks and services. Through a network of more than 190,000 companies in all 50 states and across the globe, Hello Alice is building the largest community of business owners in the country while tracking data and trends to increase owner success rate. At this time Hello Alice is hosting the COVID19 Small Business Resource Center as we believe in business for all by providing access to all owners, especially women, people of color, veterans, and persons with disabilities. Hello Alice exists to serve every American with an entrepreneurial spirit.



Elizabeth previously served as entrepreneur-in-residence at Dell Technologies. There, she drove initiatives to support Dell's goals of helping small and medium businesses scale and prosper, fueling the expansion of global entrepreneurship.

Elizabeth personally advises the growth of purpose-driven companies, such as rideshare-commuting company Scoop, and she is an investing limited partner with Portfolia fund. In addition, Elizabeth is part owner of Gore Family Vineyards in Sonoma County. She is the emeritus chair of the United Nations Foundation's Global Entrepreneurs Council and previously served the UN for nearly a decade as the first ever entrepreneur-in-residence for the foundation, as well as vice president of global partnerships, where she founded strategic grassroots efforts like Nothing But Nets, Girl Up, and ShotLife.

Elizabeth is a former United States Peace Corps volunteer for which she served in Bolivia. Elizabeth has also been a leader in organizations like the Points of Light Foundation, Share Our Strength, and the Texas A&M Foundation. *People* magazine named her one of its "Top 100 Extraordinary Women," *Façon Coman* called her one of the "Most Creative People in Business," and she was named one of *Entrepreneur Magazine's* "Women to Watch." She has been covered in media outlets like ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, Fox Business, *Forbes*, *Glamo*, and *Time*.

Outside of the boardroom, Elizabeth is a world champion equestrian, a sprint triathlete, and has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise awareness on behalf of the UN. Elizabeth is the chairwoman of the First Partner Project, on behalf of the Governor of the State of CA. Elizabeth resides in Sonoma County with her husband, James Gore, a California elected official, and their two hilarious children.