



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Dr. Robert Rubin – Magic Fish



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President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL



Hope you are all enjoying the pre-meeting chat rooms. It was great seeing Gary – Kunta – Kimes (warning...old guy's reference!) for a few moments prior to the meeting. Hasn't changed a bit! (Is it the truth?)



AT THE BELL



President Dan Rasmus from our Russian River Vineyards site, called the meeting to order at 12:15, in spite of a missing presidential gavel. Past President **Keller McDonald** announced his presence. He still insists some kind of conspiracy involving ducks and fraudulent shotgun shells denied him a second term!

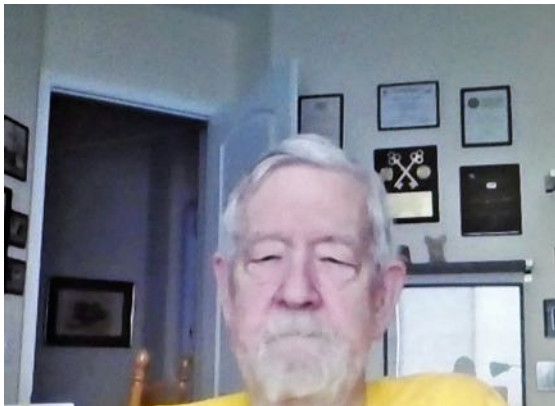


Past President **Rick Wilson** led us in the Pledge.

Past President **Larry Ford** provided a thought for the day from Winston Churchill: “*A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.*” A good lesson for these times and, believe it or not, **Larry’s** power point worked! Truly a Christmas miracle!



● VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS !



Past District Governor, Bruce Campbell from the morning club.

Brian Bauer from the Sebastopol Sunrise Club



Michael McGlothlin also from the morning club.



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

December 11

Mike Martini
Cue the Locusts

December 18

Gloria Willingham-Toure
A Matter of Black Lives

December 25

Merry Christmas
No Meeting

January 1
Happy New Year
No Meeting

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

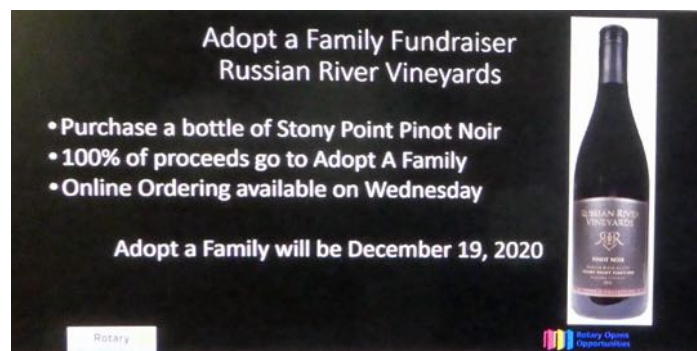
Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

Seth Prandini here with his dad, **Steve Prandini**.

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

There is one case left of the Russian River Vineyards Stony Point Pinot Noir. It sells for \$46.00 a bottle and 100% of the proceeds go toward our *Adopt a Family* program. So support this great program and enjoy a great wine while you do it. *Adopt a Family* will be December 19th with more details to be announced.

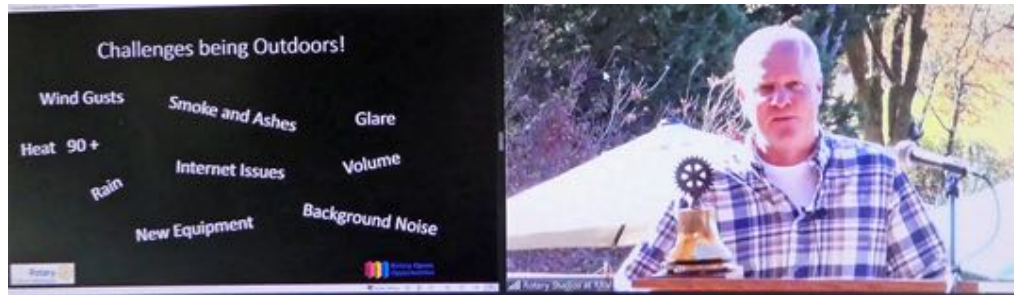


December 24th: The Sebastopol Sunrise Rotary Club will be preparing holiday meals for pick up at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. They hope to prepare 300 food boxes. Working on the project will begin at 9:00 A.M. Drive through pick up will begin in the afternoon. Each box costs \$25. You can make a donation to cover the cost through our club – P.O. Box or online.

More information including a signup website will be available soon.

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎

President Dan took a moment to thank all those who are making our hybrid meetings - part Zoom part Live – possible. Truly it takes a village.



Thanks to those who have hosted our meetings:

- **Tom and Pat Dilley** at their home
- Troy McAdams at Discount Alley
- **Chris O'Neill** at Russian River Vineyards



And thanks to all who make these meetings possible. Set up each Friday begins at 9:45. Gear such as computers, sound equipment and cameras are unpacked and set up. Other items such as lectern and flags are stored currently at the winery and must be moved and set up. At 11:15 there is a sound check and video run through. Then, after the meeting, everything must be put away, keeping our crew at the winery until after 2:00.



There have been technical challenges, and also challenges beyond anyone's control. But much like mail carriers, neither wind nor rain, nor smoke nor heat nor the glare of the sun off of **President Dan's** head can deter our crew. So big thanks to **John Blount, Jack Dunlap, Edwin Wilson, Paul Thielen, Steve Prandini**, and all the others who make these meetings possible week after week.

Steve Prandini – Celebrated a Nov. 24 birthday. Took him a while to remember what he did – age is a wonderful thing. He believes he had fun lunch with **Polley**, **Madsen** and Benedetti, then a birthday dinner at home.



Robin and Jean **Maybury** celebrated their anniversary on December 2...40 years! A shared salmon dinner at home with their daughter and cat. Not sure who ate the most salmon.



Rotary Anniversaries:

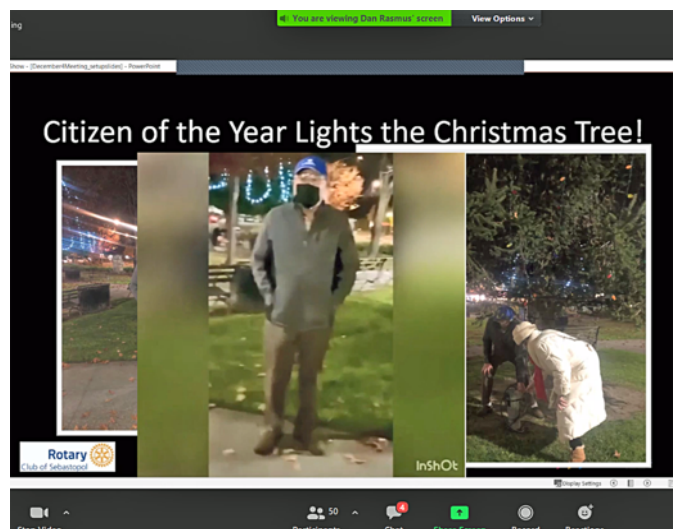
Ken Jacobs – 28 years

Jerry Warren – 21 years

Hal Kwalwasser – 5 years

Sebastopol's 2020 Citizen of the Year, our own **Jim Pacatte**, lit the town Christmas Tree on December 3rd. Before doing the honors, he spoke of his dedication to our community and his ongoing commitment to community service, finding expression most often through the Rotary Club of Sebastopol.

Great job, **Jim**, and thank you.



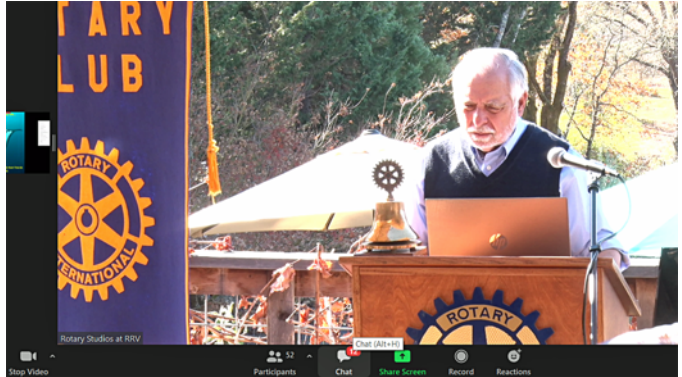


THE PROGRAM



Barbara Beedon introduced Robert Rubin from Santa Rosa Junior College. His topic: Magic Fish and Their Friends.

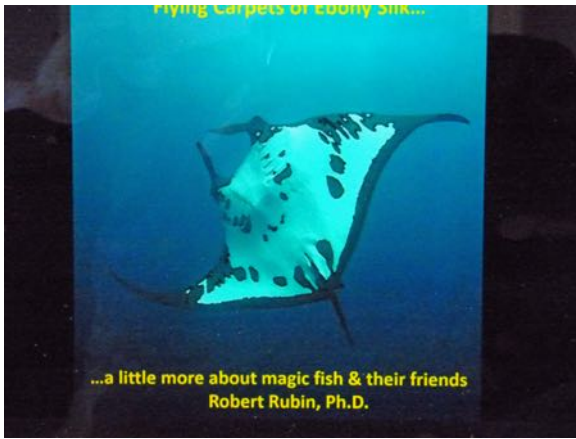
This is the second time he has spoken to our club. His previous program on Manta Rays was so popular that he was asked to return. Although he did express his dismay about the lack of cookies...quickly remedied by a caring Rotarian. Sacrificing a cookie...truly Service Above Self!



Dr. Rubin began by sharing some of the evolutionary origins of sharks and rays. By the way, did you know that great white sharks are not nearly as aggressive as they are made out to be? Some divers actually swim with them. They are the ones with only one arm. Just kidding. Also these sharks are officially known as white sharks. They have only been called great whites since the film, "Jaws." Sharks first appeared 430 million years ago. They were open water swimmers with a lot of big teeth – teeth that even these many millions of years later replace themselves. Sharks have a cartilage skeleton, so most of what we know about ancient sharks we learn from fossilized shark teeth. Interestingly, an area near Bakersfield called Shark Tooth Hill is well known for containing an abundance of these teeth. Sounds like good material for a Merle Haggard song.



Then, 250 million years ago came the great Permian extinction – volcanic activity that wiped out 90% of the life on earth...land and sea. This was the first of five great extinctions. In fact, Dr. Rubin believes we are in a 6th extinction right now. That might be another interesting program. All the free swimming, open water sharks were wiped out. However, Heterodont sharks, sharks living on the bottom near reefs, survived. They had two sets of teeth for both catching and tearing prey but also for sucking up food from the bottom. This seems to have enabled them to survive.

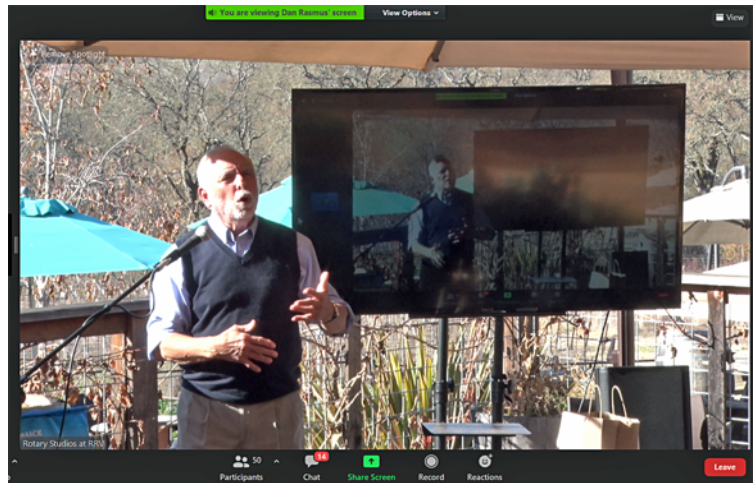


Today's sharks come from these hardy survivors. The evolution of sharks went in two directions, essentially sharks and rays. Said Rubin, "Flatten a shark and you get a ray."

He shared some observations specifically on Hammerhead Sharks and Manta Rays. Both are evolutionary youngsters: Hammerheads appeared "only" 20 million years ago; mantas have been around only 5 million years. Both feed their young in utero. No eggs – live births. Mantas, which can grow to 21 feet across have no teeth, feeding on plankton. Both have large brains, and can be quite social.

Indeed, mantas seem to remember and recognize divers who return to study them.

Dr. Rubin, an avid diver and researcher, then shared some of what we are learning from studying sharks and rays around the Revillagigedo Islands off the coast of Baja California. That area is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is crucial to the survival of manta rays that for years were slaughtered in the nets of tuna boats that fished near – too near – the islands. Using tags that can upload information to satellites – so much for the slide rule – researchers are able to track migration patterns of rays and hammerheads, research crucial to the survival of these marvelous creatures. These tags can be programmed actually to unhook from the fish after gathering data. They then float to the surface where they make contact with a satellite. We are also attempting to learn what guideposts on the ocean floor these animals use to guide their migrations.



Robert Rubin...thank you. What a wonderful resource living right next door. What wonderful work he has done and continues to do. And what a great tribute to the lasting value of community colleges. He finished with a quote from the late, great anthropologist Loren Eiseley, some members of The Community Church have heard quoted many times over the years: "I would say that if 'dead' matter has given rise to this curious landscape of fiddling crickets, song sparrows and wondering man, it must be plain even to the most devoted materialist that it may not impossibly be but one mask of many worn by the Great Face behind."



🍏 THE FINAL BELL 🍏

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

🍏 AFTER THE BELL 🍏

HH went on a motorcycle ride after the bell. Thanks HH.



🍏 LETTER TO THE EDITOR 🍏

Actually not a literal letter to the editor but a note given to President Dan after the November 13 meeting at the Russian River Vineyards.

"I love it!

Sitting in a Rotary meeting, in the rain, at a winery, getting a lecture on the best marijuana "for you". "

(editor's note: Only in West County and only at the Rotary Club of Sebastopol

FUTURE PROGRAMS

MIKE MARTINI – CUE THE LOCUSTS



The former Mayor of Santa Rosa and current General Manager of Taft Street Winery will discuss agriculture in the face of the pandemic, social unrest and wildfires. Mike is an electrifying speaker who will describe the world as we now know it to be, in the North Bay, 2020 style".

Dr. Gloria Willingham-Toure – A Matter of Black Lives

Dr. Willingham-Toure'(ne' Nelson) was born during the Jim Crow Era of legalized racial segregation in the United States. Subsequently she grew up in all Black communities and rarely had any contact with White persons, nor with any other races.



At the age of 14 she was selected as one of four Black students to enter the newly desegregated and history-making Little Rock Central High School(LRCHS). This was her first experience around large numbers of White people. It was a world that neither her enslaved Great-grandparents or her freed grandparents, or her born free parents had ever experienced. It was a world that was neither welcoming nor kind to her, while at the same time exposing her to opportunities and rights afforded to Whites that she previously did not know existed. It quickly became apparent to this child that Whites had legally protected rights that were not provided to Blacks.

Dr. Willingham-Toure's Life story is archived at The Center For Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. as a part of the 2018 Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage Oral History Project. She is currently the Executive Director- Afram Global Organization Inc and Founder of The "Village P.r.o.j.e.c.t.s." Her presentations are consistent with the Village P.r.o.j.e.c.t.s. Mission:

"To create environments in which persons from diverse circumstances and experiences can come together and co-learn with each other in a way that bridges the opportunity gaps, retains the respective cultures, and ultimately benefits society." (villageprojects.net)

