



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Shirlee Cunningham – An Artist's Journey



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"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

Hello, fellow Rotarians, this is an **editor's** note, from an ancient and somewhat rusty Appleknocker **editor**. I am using this space to tell you all you need to know about meetings at Russian River Vineyards and Zoom. The crew arrives early (for Rotarians) to set up cameras, a TV, sound system, laptops, and an electrician's



nightmare of cable. How everything fits into **Past, Past President, District Governor, etc, John Blount's** SUV is a mystery. **President Dan** unwraps the Rotary Bell from its velvet lined lock box and gets comfortable at the **Podium**, er **Lectern**. **Sergeant at Arms, in Training, Steve Prandini** makes sure everyone can sit socially distanced. **Zoom Host and Security Expert Tom Boag** along with **Master AV Technician Ken Jacobs** makes sure that any necessary adjustments are made to the sound and picture during the pre-meeting test. **Paul Thielen** and **Jack Dunlap** round out the usual crew with **Paul** manning the cameras and **Jack** steering the Zoom laptop.

Finally, the wine shows up along with some gregarious (but socially distanced) Rotarians and the meeting begins. -Ed.

Dressing warmly for what looked to be a cold day at Russian River Vineyards, the sun broke through just past Green Valley Road. It was a glorious day, sunny with white puffy clouds and warm breezes. There are 23 of us at RRV today and it feels good to have a face-to-face conversation with other Rotarians. The lunches at RRV are delicious and the great tasting free wine does not hurt. I miss the Breakout Room on Zoom but you can't beat the social contact live with others.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

February 26
Letitia Hanke
ARS Roofing, Gutters & Solar

March 5
Oak Dowling
Justice Ginsburg

March 12
Fire Chief Contreras

March 19
Glenn Warring
Questions and Waiting for
Answers

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

If you want to revisit any of the Zoom meetings, they are recorded and can be downloaded. See Tom Boag for instructions. (TRBoag@aol.com)

AT THE BELL

Dan rang the bell at 12:15 pm and welcomed everyone to Forestville ?? Rotary, quickly corrected to Sebastopol Rotary.

Jim Passage led the Pledge of Allegiance with vigor.

Sally Ewald authored and presented both Thoughts of the Day today. Maybe we should do this more often? [Fine if you happen to be both creative and profound -Ed.]

“When you open yourself to possibilities incredible things will happen.”

“Together we will get beyond this Pandemic.”



VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

David Still's wife **Nan** was on Zoom.

Jack Frazier, grandson of **Lu Frazier** was in attendance at RRV. (He likes the food)

Mark Stevens brought his assistant Yana Brova?

Scott Briggs was accompanied by his wife **Sally**.

[Hard to tell whether it is the new Biden administration where PDA is officially acceptable, or the fact that the meeting was only 5 days away from Valentines Day, but some Rotarians are



clearly enjoying staying at home -Ed.]

🍎 **IT'S RAFFLE TIME!!** 🍎

The Crab Feed that 'wasn't', has collected \$11,550. There was an email appeal for the **Mark Sell Teacher Grant** since doing a live crab feed was definitely not going to happen this year. Congratulations to the Crab Feed Committee for hanging in there despite Covid-19. They are all hoping next year will be "back to normal" and we can all enjoy fresh crab and conversation.



Scott Briggs, in his role of Co-Chairman of the Crab Feed, was onsite at RRV to announce the rules of the drawing and the winners. He thanked his committee for their work. He then announced that **Paul Thielen** and his wife **Yvonne** won the raffle for contributing the most money. The prize was three bottles of high-end wine, including a Kosta Brown Pinot Noir, worth over \$300.

The second draw was for everyone who contributed over \$70. There were 34 Rotarians and 34 non-Rotarians who sent in donations. Of those 68, 55 sent in over \$70. **President Dan** drew the winning raffle ticket belonging to Ryan and Gail Lanigan from Stinson Beach. They also received some genuinely nice wine. A letter will be going out to all donors for tax purposes.

🍎 **PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITIONS** 🍎

Steve Prandini, International Director presided over the presentation of awards to seven recipients. Those who donate \$1,000 receive a Paul Harris Foundation (PHF) pin. The next \$1,000 donation is PHF+1. This goes on to PHF+8. Once over \$10,000 has been donated, they become a Major Donor.

Steve explained that Rotary has spent over \$3 billion to improve living conditions throughout the world. They have built schools, improved clean water sources, helped eliminate polio and many other projects. Currently, Sebastopol Rotary is helping kids in Mexico with eye problems.

Recipients:

Ellen Harrington	PHF+3
Tom Boag	PHF+4
Jim Passage	PHF+5
Linda Johnson	PHF+6
Mark Stevens	PHF+6
Paul Thielen	PHF+6
Harry Polley	PHF+7

Congratulations to them for keeping up the good work.



🍎 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** 🍎

February 25, is the next volunteer day for Sebastopol Rotarians at the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Time: 1-4. Call or email Cindy if you plan on attending. Cindycarterflamm@yahoo.com 408-431-7820

Vaccine Poll: Polled on Zoom and at RRV. 35 members have had a first shot- approximately 1/3 of membership.

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



Birthdays:

Lu Frazier February 17. **Lu** spent the day with friends. She visited the new tasting room in the Barlow, [Region](#). They have a unique way of dispensing wine while being socially distanced. They also have a lot of outdoor space to sip the wine. That evening other friends treated her to dinner at the [Gravenstein Grill](#). Delicious as always.

Anniversaries:

Keller McDonald and **Marsha** are going to celebrate at Chez McDonald in Lucerne.



Rotary Service Anniversaries:

Kathie Mayhew celebrated 20 years in Rotary.

🍎 THE PROGRAM 🍎

Jeff Boal introduced [Shirlee Cunningham](#) as a fantastic artist and the wife of **Past President Russell Cunningham**.

Currently, her piece is one of the 877 chosen out of 12,000 anonymous submissions for the De Young 125th Anniversary Show. Her piece is titled *Origins of Extinction: Kiwi*. The show was called "An Artist's Journey". You can see the piece on her web site- [ShirleeCunningham.com](#) or on the DeYoung website.

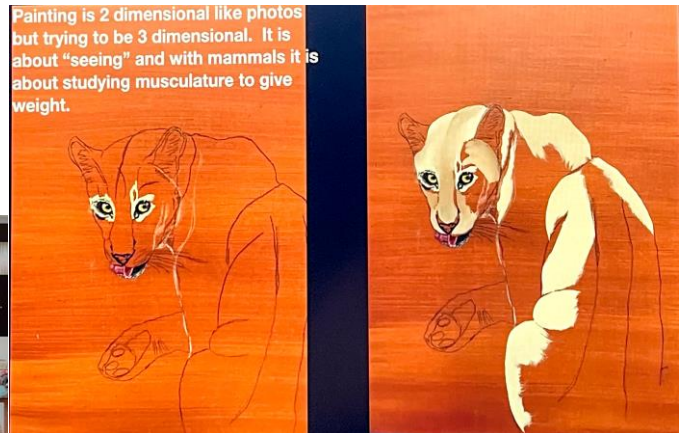
Shirlee grew up in the Detroit projects. At 16 she became the first student intern at GM. She worked there while obtaining her degree at Wayne University. She then earned a master's degree at University of Michigan and worked for Lafayette Clinic and Psychiatric Hospital in inner city Detroit. After a trip to Hawaii and the Bay Area, she moved to the Bay Area and obtained a job managing the 6th floor of Macy's in San Francisco. After that, she worked for PG&E for 10 years initially in the Employee Assistance Program and held other jobs in PG&E. She met **Russell** at PG&E and eventually they married. Since he was an executive officer at PG&E, she had to quit. She then became a management consultant.



At the age of 44, **Shirlee** was bedridden for six months. She had a cardiac disability and underwent a 14 -hour spinal surgery. This left her without a career. What to Do? Using her skills as a management consultant, she undertook a four-step process to decide what to do next. The steps include assessing strengths & weaknesses; change made by curiosity, passion, desire, and gut; removing restraining forces; and developing momentum and alternating with burrowing in. In the end, she chose art. Painting makes her happy. She also decided what she could tolerate. For example, galleries require 15-30 paintings for a show which was too much, so, she does competitions. However, she did one show sponsored by **Frank** and **Kathie Mayhew** and Main Street Theater. It sold out, with the proceeds donated to the Uganda Women's Hospital,

Shirlee's art style is Contemporary Realism and observation is key to this art style. **Shirlee** explained that "Art is trying to sell you yourself". Art is also trying to take something inside of you and "putting it out in the world to be relieved of it". Ideas come from where the artist comes from.

How the sausage is made: or how **Shirlee** brings a painting to life. Her style is crisp, not loose. There can be 10 layers of oils on one painting. Contemporary Realism requires conceptual rigor to be called Fine Art. The paintings "interrogate the social and cultural ideas of the time". They are "on edge with their world artists." Shirlee then showed examples of her art.



The last part of her talk was what made up the world's perception of art. 'Great' art is not only made by the artist, but also by dealers, assistants, curators, critics, and collectors. She said that in a way, the art market is fictional with collectors and dealers funding museums, etc. to publicize the artists' works and therefore make money.

THE FINAL BELL

President Dan rang the bell at 1:15, but that was not the end of the fun. Shirlee answered questions for another 20 minutes. It was a fascinating talk. Thank you Shirlee and the Program Committee.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 26 Letitia Hanke Founder of ARS Roofing, Gutters & Solar.

A small-town girl from Lake County, California, Letitia (LA-TISHA) Hanke (HANK-Y) grew up dreaming of a music career. Recognized from childhood for her musical talents, she attended Sonoma State University envisioning a future in the performing and recording arts. When the opportunity arose, she took a position at a prominent roofing company and managed the business for 8 years. In 2004, she started her own roofing company Alternative Roofing Solutions and Sonoma/Napa/Marin Seamless Gutters now known as ARS Roofing, Gutters & Solar. In March of 2021 she celebrates 25 years in the industry. She currently employs 24 full-time, year-round employees servicing the North Bay.

Letitia's vision to advocate for the disadvantaged inspired her to start the 501c3 nonprofit foundation called The LIME Foundation in 2015. Through three programs, her non-profit advocates for at-risk youth in the community along with seniors and veterans, by providing health services, music and arts, technology, and construction training.

