

 <h1 style="margin: 0;"><i>The Appleknocker</i></h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;"><i>Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin</i></h2>		
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Candy Pierce - CASA</h3>		
	Date:	January 22, 2021
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	Editor:	D. Still
	President 2020/2021:	Dan Rasmus
		

"All the News that Fits We Print"

🍏 BEFORE THE BELL 🍏

Well, this could be the Final Issue.

Or next week could be the Final Issue.

Or the week after that.

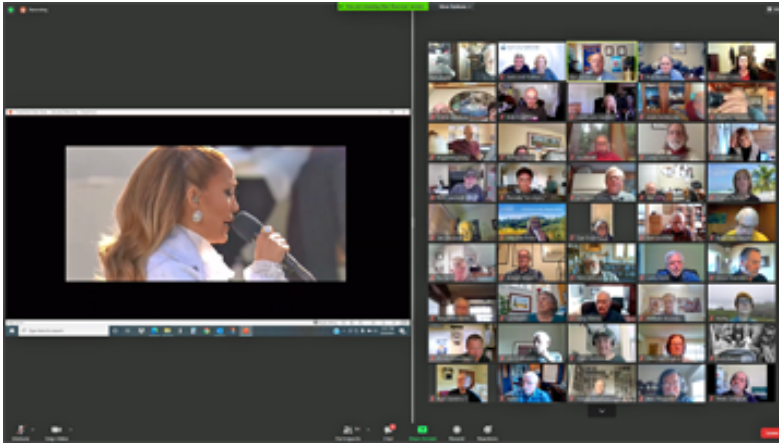
The AppleKnocker is down to one editor which is not a sustainable situation. We need volunteers who can be trained by the Great **Tom Boag** to pitch in. Otherwise, the AppleKnocker could go the way of the BetaMax or the Palm Pilot. Don't let this happen. The AppleKnocker has a long and illustrious history. It goes all the way to back to when **Harvey** was young and foolish, **Gene** still had his tattoo and **Harry** had a black mustache

🍏 AT THE BELL 🍏

Following break-out sessions, **President Dan Rasmus** called the meeting to order at 12:15.



Sparing no expense, our President was able to persuade J.Lo – aka Jennifer Lopez - to lead our opening song. Actually, it was a video of her performing “*This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land*” at President Biden’s inauguration.

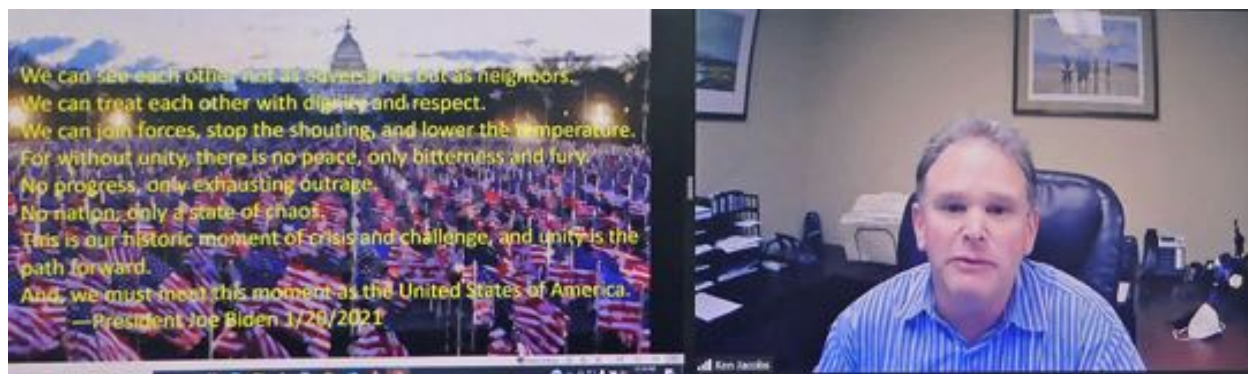


I understand **Dan** tried for Kid Rock but he is sulking, something about J.Lo and Lady Gaga stealing his votes.

For our thought for the day, **Ken Jacobs** shared some reflections on the deep divisions in our country in these challenging days. He wondered if an organization like Rotary, where we come together and work together regardless of political, racial, ethnic or religious backgrounds, can be a source of healing and unity. When it comes to Service above Self, perhaps red state, blue state or purple state doesn't really matter. Ken then shared these words:

The past several months, culminating on January 6, made it clear that we have become a fractured nation. We are so deeply divided, in so many ways. However, it occurred to me that groups like Rotary can, and in my opinion should, be a substantial part of the healing that must happen in order for us to address the many other challenges facing us in this difficult time.

Consider this: Set aside Rotary International for now and look just at Rotary United States. There are Rotary clubs in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia), with clubs in red, blue, and purple communities throughout our country. No matter how divided we are, no matter how impossible it seems at times to even communicate with those with different political views, we Rotarians have a huge advantage, in that we still have



one thing in common: Rotary, with its shared ideals, ethics, purpose, traditions, and commitment to a common cause. It is my hope that Rotarians can come together under a common banner, Rotary, and simply start talking to each other again. Maybe, just maybe, that could be a kernel of our national recovery? Who knows?

Keeping that in mind, for today's *Thought* I'd like to read a short excerpt from the Inauguration Address by the 46th democratically elected President of the United States, Joe Biden:

We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbors.

We can treat each other with dignity and respect.

We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature.

For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury.

No progress, only exhausting outrage.

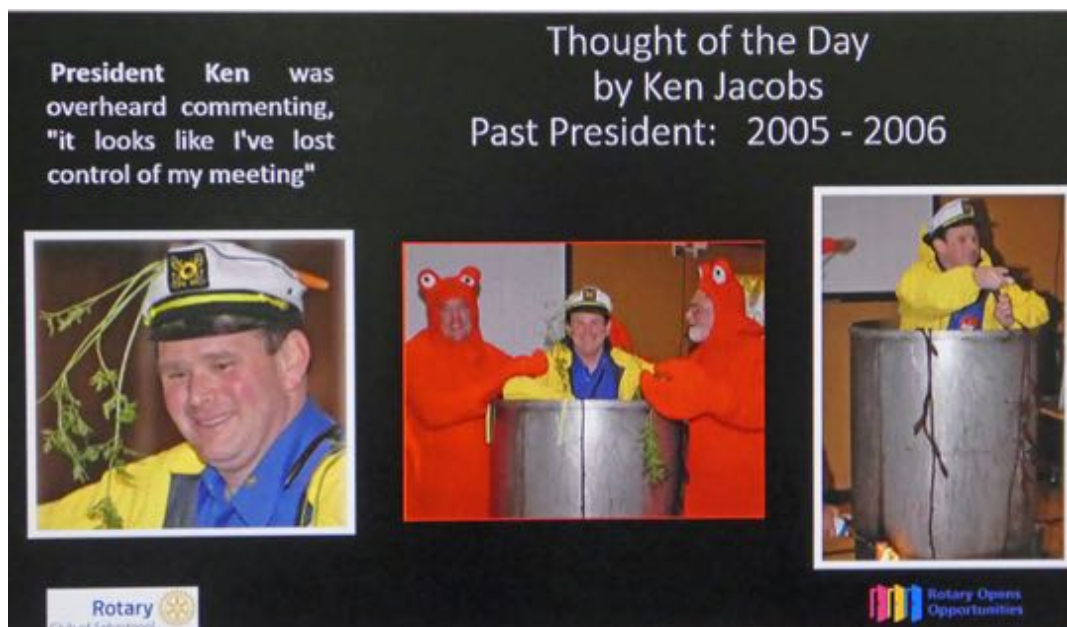
No nation, only a state of chaos.

This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward.

And, we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

I'd add to this, we must also meet this moment as Rotarians.

President Dan thanked **Ken** for his thoughtful words and rewarded him with photos of **Ken** as Rotary President standing in a crab pot...15 years ago, the same year our current President joined the club. I suppose one could say we have been in hot water ever since!



Future Programs

January 29
Hal Kwalwasser
Thurgood Marshall

February 5
Brett Parkman

February 12
Michael Krasny

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS--scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Larry Lira from the Santa Rosa Club.

His wife, Marilyn, who would join us later, is our current Rotary Lieutenant District Governor.

Gary Kimes of Colorado Springs – former President of our club.

William Rousseau Santa Rosa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



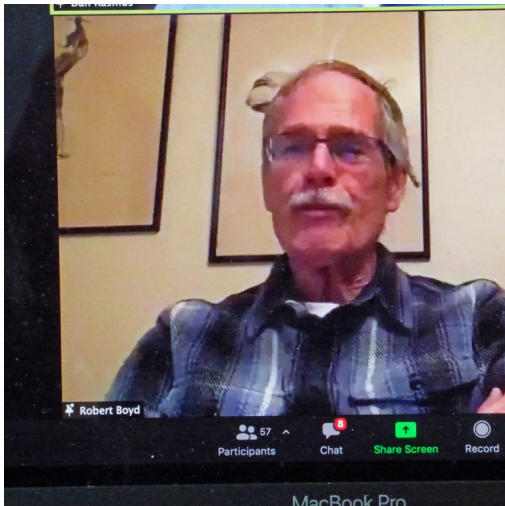
William Rousseau is chair of the District 5130 Ethics Committee. He announced the North Coast Ethics in Business Awards coming up in October. Check out an earlier email from President Dan for details.

Russian River Rotary Crab feed is coming on January 30. RussianRiverRotary.org

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎

Birthdays: (Our President had a little ground to make up)

Dec. 26: **Mark McDonell**. As befitting his rapidly advancing age, he had no memory of his birthday celebration. Rumor has it he has also misplaced a number of tax forms.

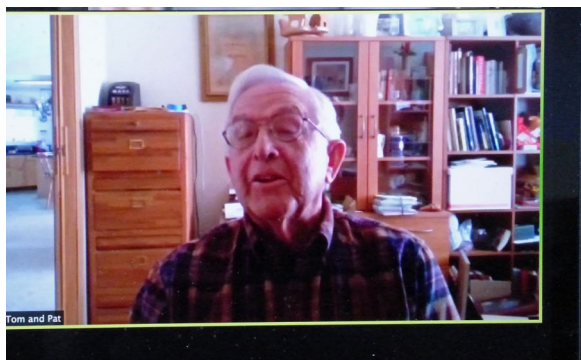


Dec. 27: **Bob Boyd**. Like most of us, he and Mary Ellen celebrated at home, then zoomed with family sharing cake and a firestorm of candles.

Dec. 29: **John Blount**. He and **Patti** went up to Mendocino County and stopped for wine tasting in the Navarro area. More on that in a moment.



Jan. 1: **Hal Kwalwasser**. Shared a number of phone calls with friends and family, then enjoyed a take-out meal from Single Thread restaurant in Healdsburg. He said the meal was worth the second mortgage he had to procure in order to pay for it.



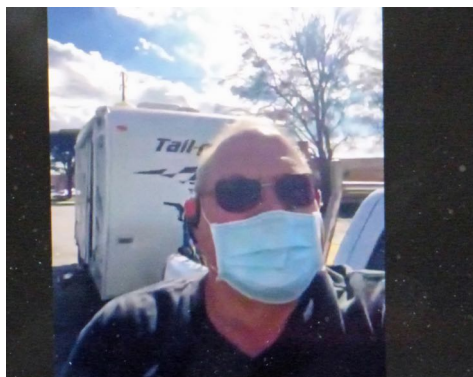
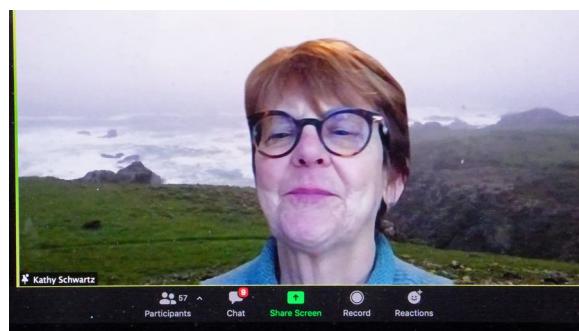
Jan. 4: **Tom Dilley**. Happy to still be above ground, he and Pat had a nice meal at home. The next day was Pat's birthday so they shared snacks and good whiskey with **Aldean**. Not sure, but I think **Tom** was drinking for two!

Jan. 4: **Dana Moises**. Audio only from **Dana** as she was spending the day in her jammies, waiting for the vaccine. Do we get a better place in line if we wear our pajamas? She had dinner with her son and daughter-in-law and is planning a big, post-vaccine celebration for #70.



Jan. 7: **Patti Blount**. She and John went to Napa County for lunch, but no wine tasting. And she informed us that there was no wine tasting in Mendocino County. So, Mister Former R.I. Director...is it the truth? Perhaps this should be discussed over a bottle of wine.

Jan. 9: New member, **Kathy Schwartz**. Phone calls with family and Friends, then dinner at the home of Les.



Jan. 14: **Bob Hirsch**. **Bob** is still on the road celebrating his birthday. Spent his birthday on his motorcycle in the desert near Palm Springs.

Controversy Strikes Sebastopol Rotary!

Bud Daveiro says that he and **Harvey Henningsen** joined Rotary on the same day...January 7, 1980, when **Harry Polley** was President.

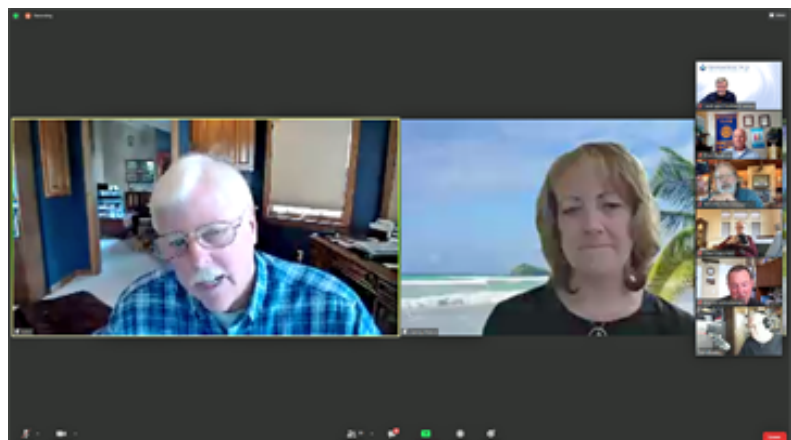


But **Harvey** is ahead of him on the badge board. Hmmmm – did **Harvey** jump the line? Were deals made behind closed doors? Did **Harvey** offer free photos for the **Polley** family? Stay tuned.

🍎 THE PROGRAM 🍎

John Blount introduced Candy Pierce, executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates - CASA – of Solano County. She is the past president of the Rotary Club of Cordelia and has been active in the wider Rotary world.

CASA traces its roots to Seattle in 1977. As was – and is – the case in many cities, the Foster Care program was being overwhelmed – too many children, too few case workers and too few law enforcement personnel to provide supervision. Kids were often a name on a piece of paper. There was little time for workers to actually get to know children. So a Seattle judge made the decision to form a group of volunteers who could meet with foster kids one-on-one and provide the court



with a fuller picture of the children's lives. Volunteers would be trained and would actually be officers of the court. They would also often be the most stable and dependable adults many of these children would have ever known, adults who could be trusted and counted on. If they promised to meet a child on Tuesday, they would be there on Tuesday. And so the Court Appointed Special Advocates – CASA – program was born. As other judges heard about the Seattle program, inquiries were made and the program began to grow, coming to Sonoma County in 1996.



A CASA program was first proposed for Solano County in 2005, but was met with a great deal of skepticism by the legal community and political leaders. The program struggled and in 2010 Candy was asked to be the “interim” director of CASA...just a short term appointment. Right! The interim title disappeared long ago and the program has grown under her direction.

CASA volunteers receive 30 hours of training – 40 in Solano County. They are also required to take in service training along the way. They spend at least

three hours a week with their foster child, and report to the court every six months. There are disturbing trends that CASA works to overcome. Over the years it has been determined that only 6% of children in foster care go to college. Within three years of leaving foster care, up to 50% of foster kids are incarcerated, homeless or pregnant, often with their second child. An overwhelming percentage of inmates currently in prison came through the foster care system, a system that remains badly broken.

CASA works to provide some stability for these kids, including help in finding a permanent place to live when they leave foster care. Since siblings are often separated in the foster care system, CASA volunteers help these siblings to connect and maintain a relationship, even though they live in different homes. Again the volunteers are advocates for and a stable adult presence in the lives of these children. But so much more help is needed. In Solano, CASA is only able to serve one-third of the eligible children. And male volunteers are desperately needed. But that isn't only true of just Solano County.

Being a CASA volunteer is no easy task. These kids who have faced so many challenges can be challenging themselves. But it is work not without rewards. Candy told the story of one volunteer who wanted to work with small children, but ended up with a rather surly, non-responsive 17-year-old boy. She believed she was making no progress, not helping him and exhausting herself. Then one day, when she accompanied him to a school basketball game, he chose to sit with her and not with his friends, saying, “Sometimes it is good to be with someone who loves you.” Later, after she has put him in touch with a welder who taught the young man welding, he said to her, “If I hadn't have had you, I would be dead or in prison.” In that moment, she knew that all the hard work and sacrifice were more than worth it. Thanks for sharing with us, Candy. And thanks for all you do to help these kids.



THE FINAL BELL

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

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 29, 2021

Hal Kwalwasser



This week, we will hear from our President Elect Nominee, Hal Kwalwasser. Hal will share with us a book he is writing on Thurgood Marshall, who among many other significant achievements, was the first African American admitted as a Justice of the Supreme Court. Hal's book focuses on the years from 1936, when Marshall joined forces with the NAACP to 1954, which was the year that the Brown v. Board of Education decision was handed down by the Court.

The book has taken much longer to research than Hal thought it would because Justice Marshall did not write a lot of letters and he was not a big story teller. He did not talk about himself, rather let his actions and achievements speak for themselves. This is an insightful look at a great American and a highly effective advocate. You are not going to want to miss it.

