



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Dr. Michael Krasny - A Life On The Radio



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President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

June 4, 2021

**Dr. Craig Clements – Fire
Weather Research Lab**

June 11, 2021

**James Alexander - From
Prison to Homeless to
Zimbabwe**

June 18, 2021

**Diana Rich - The Three
Biggest Issues Facing
Sebastopol**

Coming Events

Debunking

June 25, 2021

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS: scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

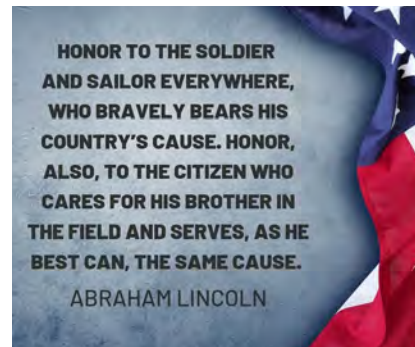
AT THE BELL

It was a perfect spring day as President Dan called the weekly Rotary meeting to order at exactly 12:15.

The upcoming Memorial Day Holiday provided the theme for this meeting.

Tom Boag – released from his usual electronic control booth and present at RRV – led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The quote from Abraham Lincoln, appropriate for the day, was provided by **Keller MacDonald**:



President Dan showed a video of Arlington National Cemetery, which continued the Memorial Day theme. Remember our fallen heroes on this Memorial Day.

VISITORS & GUESTS

The one and only visiting Rotarian was Jennifer Strong of Lakeport.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



David Schreiber had the honor of awarding the club's newest member, **Kathy Schwartz**, with her red badge. Well done **Kathy**. Welcome aboard !



Hal Kwalwasser gave a brief report on the recent Community Needs Summit. This club – **Ellen Harrington, Diana Rich** and **Hal Kwalwasser** - instigated and managed the event. He

stressed that we lead by doing! There were 69 organizations invited to participate. 150 people participated by attending the virtual event. Hal thanked everyone for their help. A summary report can be found on the City's website. Hal was honored by a vigorous round of applause for this huge and worthwhile effort.

This is Rotary Foundation Month. **President Dan** showed a video that mentioned the many causes served by the Rotary Foundation.



John Blount came to the podium and spoke with passion about the Rotary Foundation. The foundation funds (1) the drive to eliminate polio (2) global grants and (3) district grants.

There have been only two cases of polio reported this year – one in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan.

Total giving to the Rotary foundation is up 4% this year.

So far this year there have been 1600 global grants awarded, which is 200 more than last year. There will probably be 2000 grants awarded by the end of the Rotary year.

This year the grants awarded total 105 million dollars. That is 40 million dollars over budget. Those funds are coming from a variety of sources. **John** was clear that the fund is doing what we want it to do – responding to an extraordinary international need.

The Rotary Foundation is highly rated – Consider a gift to the foundation now!



Steve Prandini took the podium and microphone to say as follows:

This year we (Sebastopol Rotary) gave \$6000 to Puerto Vallarta South to pay for equipment to facilitate eye surgery in that community.

We assisted Sebastopol Sunrise in funding a Zimbabwe project.

We paid for a portable X-Ray machine for surgery in Nicaragua.

The World Community Service Committee could use more help so do please contact the chair – Bob Rogers – to volunteer.

Anyone that gives \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation is a major donor. Several of our members are "on the cusp" of crossing that threshold. It is possible to give stocks. Log in to Rotary.Org. Give on line – easy to do. Any questions – just ask.



On a lighter note, District Governor Nominee Jennifer Strong from the Rotary Club of Lakeport was highlighted. She talked about the District 5130 social meeting associated with the upcoming International Rotary Convention. The event will be on Friday June 11th at 6PM. To attend, register in advance – see the recent e-mail from Jennifer Strong. All District 5130 Rotarians are invited to participate. Jennifer assured us that there will be some program and games.



Continuing on the theme of parties, **Meredith**

Bertacco rose to discuss a party coming four weeks from this meeting, on June 25th. That is the date of the Dan Rasmus DEBUNKING. The party starts at 5:30. Dinner – paella – will arrive later, at 6:30. Tickets are \$45. To buy a ticket contact Lu Frazier or Ken Jacobs. Meredith promised "**Lots of FUN**".



Toni Beal addressed the club and discussed the imminent consolidation of Analay and El Molino high schools. Laguna High School will move to Forestville. There will be six special classes at El Molino campus, all in the afternoon. This high school consolidation is the result of severe budget problems. There will be one principal and three vice-principals for the combined school. A master schedule is complete. Teachers are packing up now. The move will start on June 7th and will be complete by mid-July.

Bus service is organized. There will be many shuttles from Forestville to Sebastopol. The El Molino campus will be used for some sports teams.

The temporary name of the consolidated school will be "West County High". The permanent renaming process will commence in the fall. The lawsuit process continues. The consolidation is almost complete.



RECOGNITIONS



Birthdays

Linda Irving – birthday was May 26th.

Anniversaries

Jerry and **Kay Warren** – 40 years. They celebrated with three days in Mendocino.

Rotary Club Service

Mario Ramos and **Karen Daniels** were named.

Dorothy Rodella has joined the board of the Humane Society. She was in need of a photo



of herself with a cat. **President Dan** was able to fill that need. The cat in his picture is very well fed.



THE PROGRAM



Pam Graber introduced today's speaker. Michael Krasny is recently retired. He is very well known and respected in Bay Area circles. He has been a college professor, a talk show host, a writer and commentator.

Michael spoke with an easy gait reciting the many high points of his career. He was fifty years on the faculty of San Francisco State. Public Service is the high point of his career. He began as a scholar and a novelist. He drifted in to radio and television. He interviewed world leaders and Noble Prize winners.

And when not preoccupied by world leaders, he could meet characters such as Bob Marley and Jerry Garcia.

His interest has been "people making a difference". He published a book on agnosticism.

He reads and studies his guests to prepare for interviews. He was on KGO and then moved to KQED, which was a better fit. He does use polysyllabic words, and that has worked out well. Michael spoke of the need to keep the news honest and to raise news reporting to a higher level. This worked out well he said.

He said that he kept the conversations vibrant. He is all for inspiring the community.

He closed by saying we should all keep on doing what we are doing.

He answered a few questions. He plans to do a little writing in his retirement. And be very well prepared if you are going to interview someone.

His comments were crisp and moving. He is a very experienced presenter !

President Dan announced that the club would be making a donation to the Learn to Swim program on his behalf.



THE FINAL BELL



The bell sounded. The meeting had ended. Rotarians – freshly inspired to do good in the world - dispersed on a lovely pleasant spring day.



FUTURE PROGRAMS



June 4, 2021 – Fire Weather Research Lab - Dr. Craig Clements



Dr. Craig Clements is a Professor of Meteorology at San José State University and Director of the Fire Weather Research Laboratory. He leads research on fire weather, extreme fire behavior, fire-atmosphere interactions, and conducting wildland fire field experiments. His current research focuses on obtaining meteorological measurements using state-of-the-art Mobile Atmospheric Profiling Systems such as Doppler Lidar and Radar at active wildfires in the western US and his research has been featured in PBS NOVA, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Time Magazine, CNN, and Scientific American.

June 11, 2021 - From Prison to Homeless to Zimbabwe - James Alexander



James Alexander served in the United States Marine Corp and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of noncommissioned officer. Unfortunately, while serving as a successful Marine, James participated in an accidental murder. After two trials, the first being a mistrial, he was sentenced to prison. While in prison, he achieved an electronic technician certification, an X-ray technician certification, and an alcohol and drug abuse counselor certification. James also earned an Associate of Arts degree and co-founded inmate self-help programs. He was released from prison in April of 2011 after 28 years in the California prison system.

After his release, James received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in psychology. He sat on the board of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors. He currently sits on the board of the Friends Committee on Legislation in California. James is still very active in advocating for Criminal Justice Reform.

In 2014, His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, honored James Alexander as an Unsung Hero of Compassion. James currently works for the Sonoma County Department of Health Services as a Case Manager connecting the homeless to county services. IBM, highlighting his work with the homeless population, featured James in a nationally televised commercial.

James is an inspirational speaker, has collaborated in the authoring of a book, and has written his own book *Courage in the Face of Cruelty: My Twenty-Eight Year Journey Through The California Prison System*. James is also very involved in the charitable nonprofit, The Courage of H.O.P.E. Foundation, EIN: 84-4363859, PO Box 9624, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. The Foundation seeks to bring clean water and sanitation to the Bhika/Chidembo village in Zimbabwe, Africa.

June 18, 2021 - The Three Biggest Issues Facing Sebastopol - Diana Rich



Sebastopol Rotarian and Sebastopol City Council member Diana Rich will share her insights on the three biggest issues facing Sebastopol today. Don't miss this chance to get an insider's view of our home town.

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent Rotary International logo. It is a gold-colored gear with a blue center. The word "ROTARY" is written in gold on a blue arc at the top, and "INTERNATIONAL" is written in blue on a gold arc at the bottom. The gear is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of white stars and light rays.

JEOPARDY!

The Debunking of Dan Rasmus
June 25, 2021 • Russian River Vineyards