



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Chris Smith – The Press Democrat



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President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL



The weather was not with **President Dan Rasmus** on this Friday. **Dan** had a lot of weather-related problems. During the meeting setup, and the business portion of the meeting, the wind was gusting pretty hard, nearly causing the umbrellas to knock over the TV we use on site, and some of the cameras. Members sprang into action to tie down the umbrellas. Your scribe wonders if **Dan**, and the brave souls gathered at Russian River Vineyards, qualified for hazard pay?

AT THE BELL

President Dan Rasmus struck the Roto-bell at 12:15 sharp. He pointed out that Rotary has been promoted up to the winery patio, complete with heaters.

Kathy Schwartz led the flag salute. Kathy is transferring from the Santa Rosa Main club to Sebastopol Rotary. Welcome, Kathy.

Greg Jacobs gave us the Thought for the day. "Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, on another, this country and this world." Sharon Salzberg, author of meditation books on Loving-Kindness Meditation.

"Bring it on. Dissent is central to any democracy." Harry Belafonte



VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

We were joined by Bruce Campbell, from the Sebastopol Sunrise Club; and TK Owen, from the Santa Rosa Main Club.

We were also joined by Sharon Daviero, and Marion Moore.



Future Programs

November 13

Mitcho Thompson
Cannabis

November 20

Kent Porter
Photojournalism on a Deadline

November 27

DARK – No Meeting

December 4

Bob Rubin
Manta Rays

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTDOWN: 55 days, 11 hours, 40 minutes. Countdown until what? Christmas? The first Bowl game? Dan Bornstein's next guest appearance on zoom? We miss you, buddy! **Dan** pointed out that it was that long until 2021 arrives. Does he want this year to be over as much as the rest of us?

Our Veterans Day Remembrance is coming up on Friday. If you are reading this now, send **Tom Boag** your pictures ASAP. Let **President Dan** if you want to talk about it at Friday's meeting.

On Friday, we will have our 2020-2021 Annual Meeting. Not only will we announce the 2021-2022 Board of Directors for Incoming President **Ellen Harrington's** term, but we will also announce the 2022-2023 President. **Rick Wilson** will preside the meeting. Be there to celebrate this milestone.



ROTARY REFLECTION

Harvey Henningsen gave a poignant speech about three of his outstanding memories with Rotary over the last 30 years. He started with the fact that Rotary found him, he did not find Rotary. He joined in his late 30's and pointed out that the club was full of "old farts," and a few other younger members.

His first memory was of **John Blount's** District Conference in 1991. **Harvey** was asked to photograph the event. The theme was Retro 50's. It was a spectacular show, that included bike riding around the room. This was in the 90's, so they used 12



slide projectors placed all around the room. They had three 15x30 screens, run by a primitive computer. **Larry Ford** also took pictures. These pictures were processed in the hotel bathroom that was set up as a dark room, and were hand cut and mounted onto a slide. A very time-consuming process, but well worth it.

The second memory was when he was Program director, and it was the day of the club picnic. **Harvey** did not make it to the picnic because he had been arrested for possession of pot plants. When he was released, he did not want to go to the next Rotary meeting. His late wife, Linda, told him that if he did not go to the meeting, he would probably never make it to another meeting. He went. He was accepted back, and is grateful for the acceptance of the members.

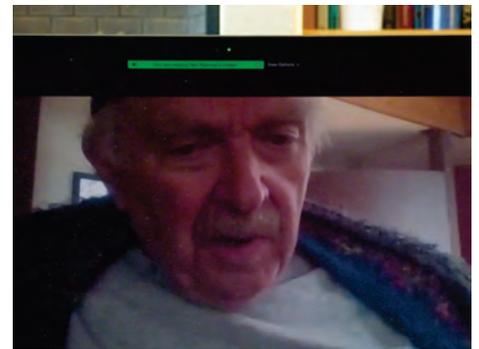
The third memory is **Bob Rogers'** District Conference at McClellan Air Force base in 2017. **Tom Boag** was leading the crew. **Harvey** pointed out that with digital cameras it was a far cry from developing slides in a bathroom. The presentation was fantastic.

Harvey misses the Roto Palace and eating a great lunch and talking with great people. He then read a thought sent to him by **Bob Rogers**. "Surround yourself with dreamers and doers, the believers and thinkers. But most of all, surround yourself with those who see the greatness within you even if you do not see it yourself."

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



David and Nan Still celebrated their anniversary on November 4th, by visiting Quarry Hill Botanical Garden and then went to Glen Ellen for a nice lunch.



Bob and Julie Cugini celebrated 32 years of marriage on November 5th.

Rotary Years of Service Anniversaries	
Rotary	
Larry Ford (44 years)	November 1, 1976
Scott Briggs (5 years)	November 6, 2015
Chris O'Neill (5 years)	November 6, 2015
Edwin Wilson (28 years)	November 6, 1992

Rotary Service:

Larry Ford 44 years of service.

Scott Briggs 15 years of service.

Chris O'Neill 15 years of service.

Edwin Wilson 28 years of service.

THIS IS Roto-Jeopardy! President **Dan** put the categories on the screen. Turns out they were all fake categories.

They were: National Politics; Religious Beliefs; I've been arrested, who am I; Picnic and Holiday Party blunders; and Embarrassing Rotarian Statements/Actions (things they wish they did not say/do). Definitely not PC.

Dick Zimmer, Frank Mayhew and Patti Blount/Kathie Mayhew were the lucky victims, answering the regular cadre of Roto-Jeopardy questions.



Needless to say, a lot of fun was had trying to answer the questions, or not answering them! Mentioned in questions were **Gene Nelson, Jim Passage, Ken Jacobs, Nao Noguchi, Pauline (Hal) Pellini, Bob Rogers, Edwin Wilson, Linda Johnson, Aleia Coate, Larry Ford, Rick Wilson, Kathie Mayhew, and Ron Puccinelli**. We're sure the late **Alex Trebek** would approve.



PROGRAM



Jeff Boal introduced Chris Smith, with a story of how he was left off the obituary of his mother 20 years ago.

Chris Smith was a bit over a year out of journalism school when he began writing for The Press Democrat in 1977. He started as a staff writer, specializing in the human side of the news, when he jumped at the chance to write a weekly column, "Must Be Friday." Following the semi-retirement of his mentor and friend, Gaye LeBaron in 2001, he commenced writing the item column that appears in the PD two times a week. He also writes many of the newspaper's VIP obituaries. Chris and his wife, fellow PD reporter Diane Peterson, have one child, Max, who's proud to be a native of Sonoma County.

Chris posed a question to the Roto flock. "Why go to a funeral?" After years of writing obituaries, Chris says he often walks out of a funeral inspired by a life well lived. He tries to strike to the essence of that person and put it in the obituary. What were their passions? What did they care about?

Chris discussed six obituaries that stood out as unique. There was Herb Loudon, a veteran who died on Veteran's Day at the age of 97. Then there was Fred Bollinger, a Sebastopol native, who met Luther Burbank at the age of seven in 1923. He died at the age of 103 in 2020. Then there was Nicolas Green. The Green's donated his organs to seven Italians, saving their lives. Brian Kahn, who died recently in Montana. Brian was the youngest person to serve on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. He was a true Renaissance man. He was a conservationist, public servant, attorney, and radio broadcaster. He was a creative thinker. Susan Swartz was a Press Democrat reporter along with her husband Bob Klose. They were stars at the PD for 30-plus years. Bob died of cancer, and she died six weeks later by stepping off a cliff in Bodega Bay. Brad Marsh was the youngest combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam at the age of 18. He became a police officer in Santa Rosa. After retiring, he rescued a pair of baby birds, and took them to the bird rescue center. It happened again two weeks later. He then found a new avocation. He became the raptor specialist and was well known throughout the region. He then noted that he has pre-written obituaries, including one for our favorite photographer, **Harvey Henningsen**. Friends, **Harvey** is still kicking, and no, we cannot repeat what Chris has written for **HH**. This is a family paper after all!



THE FINAL BELL



With that, **President Dan** struck the Roto bell, bringing the meeting to a close at 1:15 sharp! Remember, on Friday, the Annual Meeting of our club will take place! Incoming President **Ellen Harrington's** board will be announced, along with the 2022-2023 President.



AFTER THE BELL



It has to be said, our club members step up in times in need. As Chris Smith began to speak, it started to rain. Those onsite quickly gathered all of the electronic equipment, put a tarp over the AV equipment, and move the lectern under an umbrella. All members had to scramble for cover as well. The awning covers were supposed to be in by now but weren't. They are coming in this week though! Five minutes after the meeting ended, the sun was out, and there was no wind. Go figure. Just another day in the weird world of 2020. Way to hustle, Rotarians!



ERRATA



We would like to take a moment to acknowledge a few spelling errors in our October 30th edition. We sincerely apologize for the following spelling errors.

Darrell Ramondo

Jim Pacatte

Chris O'Neill

Amee Sas

Paul Thielen

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 13, 2020 Mitcho Thompson

"Reclaiming Cannabis" - understanding the various cannabinoids and other constituents such as terpenes, as well as how the plant is processed will dictate how it affects you will allow you to choose the medicine and form best for your needs. Mitcho Thompson is the current Vice President of the Sonoma County Herb Association. He is a founding board member and the former Community Liaison for Peace in Medicine in Sonoma County. And he is the Chancellor Emeritus of Oaksterdam University's former North Bay Campus. Mitcho owns a CCOF farm in South Sebastopol with a large garden where he grows certified organic medicinal herbs, hosts workshops and teaches volunteers from the Sonoma County Herb Exchange. He also illustrated the amazing book by Leslie Gardener on growing medicinal herbs "Life in the Medicine." His new business "Phytomagic", located in downtown Sebastopol at the "Resourcery", will focus on the manufacturing of "CannaCentric" Herbal Products of all sorts.

