



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Past RI President Ravi Ravindran



Date: October 23, 2020
Volume: 2020/21—Issue E19-16
Scribe: Patrick Dirden
Photog. J. Dunlap, D. Schreibman, R. Maybury, HH
Editors: P.Dirden, D. Still, J. Holst, T. Boag, HH
President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

This meeting was going to be one not to miss. Today's speaker was former Rotary International President (2015-2016), and current Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran. The group gathered at Russian River Vineyards, and on Zoom, was quite robust.

AT THE BELL



President Dan Rasmus struck the bell at 12:15pm sharp. **Aleia Coate** led us in the salute to Old Glory. **Tom Lambert** gave us two timely thoughts of the day.

"We do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." Thomas Jefferson
 "Democracy is not a spectator sport." Marian Wright Edelman

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Dan introduced us to several noteworthy guests, including current Rotary International Director Jorita Solari; past Rotary International President, Ray Klinginsmith (2010-2011); past Rotary International Vice President (2010-2011) and current Chief Strategy Officer, Tom Thorfinnson; and several current and past district governors.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

October 30

Rick Wilson
A Witness to History

November 6

Chris Smith
My Life with Obituaries at
The Press Democrat

November 13

Mitcho Thompson
Cannabis

November 20

Kent Porter
Photojournalism on a Deadline

November 27

DARK – No Meeting

Miscellany

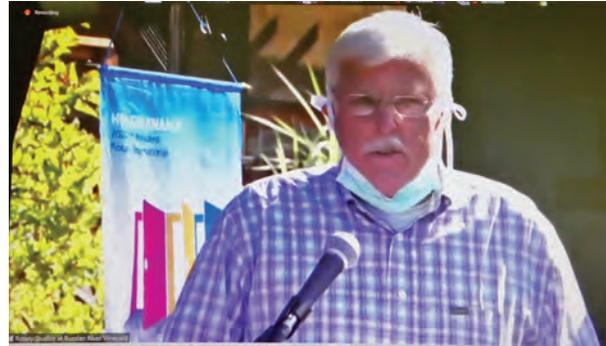
MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

PROGRAM



Dan turned the program to past Rotary International Director, past District Governor, and current Club Activities director, **John Blount**, to introduce today's speaker, **Ravi Ravindran**. **John** met **Ravi** in 1993, where they both trained incoming District Governors. **Ravi** led the Polio Plus outreach committee in Sri Lanka, and negotiated a settlement with rebel fighters to lay arms down so they could vaccinate children. Additionally, **Ravi** led an effort to rebuild schools in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami. **Ravi** became Rotary International President in 2015, and was essential in leading efforts to improve efficiencies and corporate governance. **Ravi** also is owner of Print Care, one of South Asia's premier shipping and printing companies.



Ravi was joining us from Sri Lanka at 1am in the morning. He started by discussing World Polio Day. Despite the challenging year, we have many reasons to be happy. On August 26th, Africa was officially declared free of the Wild Polio virus. When Rotary started its attack on Polio 41 years ago, they knew Rotary could not do it alone. World Polio Day is a tribute to the workers, volunteers, scientists, partners, and Rotarians who have worked tirelessly to help eradicate Polio from the globe. It's also a celebration of our shared values of protecting people, equal opportunity of access to vaccinations, and health care. Polio Plus is an investment in a healthier, compassionate, and peaceful world. Yet, our work is not done. Cases of Polio are still present in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, Rotary International **President Holger Knaack** and **Ravi** met with the Pakistani leadership to discuss Polio cases. **Ravi** mentioned that the Prime Minister and Military Generals expressed shame in the Polio cases, and demonstrated a strong commitment to vaccinate the nation's children. One of the challenges against Polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan is the Taliban. The Taliban has no leadership structure, is made up of fractured guerrilla groups who have no interest in humanitarian causes, and commit atrocities. They



also spread mistruths of vaccination efforts via social media. Despite this, Rotary forges on.

Ravi shared a story about a Rotarian in Pakistan who had a compelling conversation with a Taliban leader. The Rotarian, visiting a hospital, struck up a conversation with a Taliban leader. The leader's 18-month old son had Polio. The Rotarian mentioned that Polio drops would have prevented his son's Polio. The leader demurred, stating that it was his son's destiny to catch Polio, and that he cannot go against God's will. The Rotarian then asked why his son was wearing two sweaters. The leader explained they came from the snowy mountains, and he did not want his son to catch cold. The Rotarian exclaimed that the leader's explanation was wrong, and that he was going against God's will. After a moment

of reflection, the Taliban leader understood the Rotarian's argument, and asked if the drops could help his son. The Rotarian said it was too late, but not too late for people in his community. The leader returned to his village, and administered Polio drops to the children. That story, along with the efforts of the Pakistani government and the Rotarian leadership, gives great hope to Ravi.

All of these efforts cannot be done without great financial support. Clubs worldwide have been asked to give \$1,500. However, money from clubs alone, coupled with the Gates Foundation match, is not enough. It will require great investments of time, and money, to eradicate Polio. There is global interest in Rotary's fight. Ravi attended an event in Abu Dhabi, where health leaders from around the globe committed over \$2 Billion towards Polio eradication. However, COVID-19 has placed great stress on this fight. The social and economic damage from COVID is still not fully known, and could have long lasting impacts. Indeed, COVID-19 has impacted Rotary's efforts towards Polio Eradication, as our vaccination efforts were suspended. Happily, our vaccination efforts recently resumed. There is no choice but to resume. Without our efforts, Polio would rapidly spread, infecting millions of people.

Ravi likened Rotary's Polio efforts to a war. A war fought with love and compassion. A war against ignorance and misinformation. A war, Ravi proudly exclaims, will be won soon. When it's won, Rotary will have a great story to tell. He encouraged all of us to write the story, and write us well. A story that fulfills the promise of eradicating a preventable disease. **Dan** thanked Ravi for sharing inspiring stories with our club, and announced a donation to Polio Plus in Ravi's name.

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

Dan announced that our annual Rotary Work Day at Cloverleaf Ranch would take place on Saturday, October 24th. Expect more details about our work day in next week's AppleKnocker. **Dan** mentioned that there is still time to submit stories and photos for our club's Veteran's Day Remembrance on November 13th. If you submitted photos in the past, no need to submit them again. If you have a photo you want to submit, send it to **Tom Boag**. If you have a story, send it to **Dan**. Photos and stories must be received by November 6th. **Dan** announced the sudden passing of Sebastopol Sunrise Rotarian Louis Hopfer. He died on Thursday, October 22nd. Louis was a long-time member of the Sunrise Club, and was very active in the community. We all send our love and support to Louis' friends and family.



🍎 CRAFT TALK 🍎



Dan invited **Chris O'Neil** to the Roto-lectern to give a craft talk. **Chris** is proprietor of Russian River Vineyards. He commended **Dan** for taking great strides in bringing the Friday Rotary meeting to him for a change! COVID-19 has not adversely affected his business, because of the large outdoor space available. Because the asks for wine donations has diminished, **Chris** has been selling the wine committed for donations, and giving all the proceeds to various nonprofits. His efforts have resulted in over \$10,000 to local nonprofits. **Dan** thanked **Chris** and his staff for their hospitality, and announced he will be working with **Chris** to get a wine fundraiser for Rotary going soon. Watch this space!

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



Barbara Bickford recently celebrated her birthday on October 19th. **Steve Beck** celebrated his birthday on October 20th. He took a nice drive around the West County, and had a picnic at Salt Point State Park.

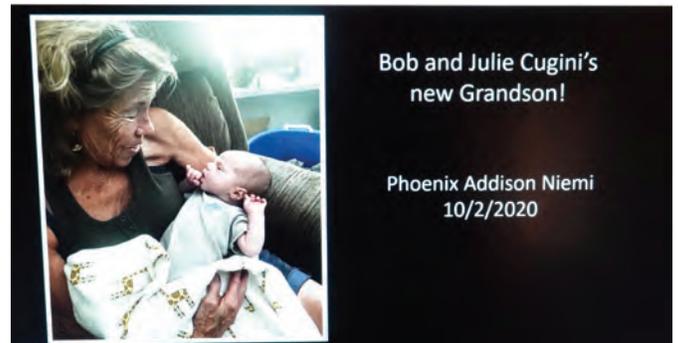
Richard Power celebrated his birthday on October 21st, by enjoying a nice dinner at Flavors with **Larry** and **Gerry Ford**.



Chris O'Neil celebrated his birthday last week. **Dan** shared a nice video that combined **Chris'** love of wine and dogs. **Rick Wilson** celebrated 10 years of being a member of our club. Congratulations, **Rick!**



Bob and **Julie Cugini** celebrated the arrival of a new grandson. Phoenix Addison Niemi entered the world on October 2nd. Congratulations, **Bob** and **Julie!**



Dan has a special invitation to everyone in the club! With Halloween coming up fast, it's time to show off your pumpkin carving skills. This coming Friday, if you have the coolest pumpkin on the block, show it off at the meeting. And, if you want to wear a costume, go for it!

🍎 THE FINAL BELL 🍎

With that, **Dan** brought a very special and inspiring meeting to a close at 1:15pm sharp.

🍎 AFTER THE BELL 🍎

Wait! Wait! Wasn't there supposed to be a Rotary Foundation Raffle drawing today? Why yes! Hundreds of raffle tickets were waiting in the fishbowl. **Lu Frazier's** grandson, Jack, drew the lucky tickets, and **Sue Engle** announced the winners.

And the winners are:



150 Paul Harris Points: **Bob Rogers** (twice), **Torrey Olson**, **Tom Dilley**, **Tony Given**

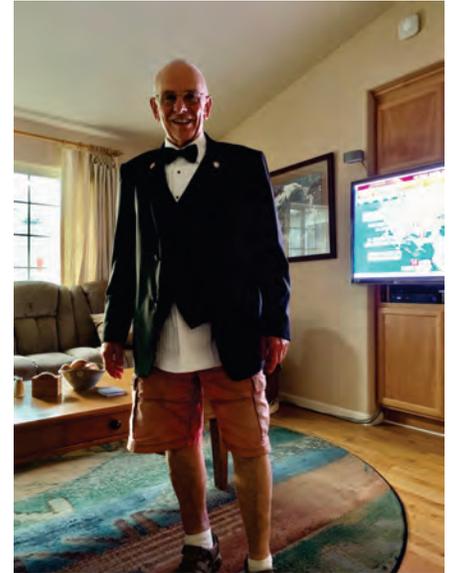
300 Paul Harris Points: **Harry Polley**, **Tom Dilley**, **Paul Thielen**

500 PH & Russian River Vineyards: **Laura Victor-van Gorder**, **Edwin Wilson**

Grand Prize (the gift basket and 500: **Ruthie Dunlap**)

Congratulations to everyone!

But wait, there's more! Saturday, October 24th, Rotarians from around District 5130, including your humble Scribe, gathered for the Virtual District 5130 Conference and Rotary Foundation Celebration. Sebastopol's own Mark David Raymond was the evening's emcee. Past District Governor Kathy Flamson gave a nice overview of her Rotary year. Elliot Dabill spoke about Rotary International's growing partnership with Toastmasters. Kathy announced that our Club received a Presidential Citation, and a Close-Knit Community Challenge award. We also learned that our Club was second in the District for Annual Giving, first for Polio Plus donations, and first for Total Giving. Additionally, our club has a new Major Donor, and a new member of the Arch Klumph Society. Watch this space for more details. The best part of the evening was seeing **Bob Rogers** sporting a tuxedo! Looking sharp, **Bob**!





FUTURE PROGRAMS



October 30: Rick Wilson – A Witness to History



Both of the men for who I am named grew up in the nation's capital. My father, Charles Frederic Wilson, Jr. waited until my Mother was wheeled into the delivery room in San Francisco when he said, "We will name him CFW, III, but we will call him Rickey from Frederic.

My father's father was Charles, Sr. Many of you have enjoyed his egg nog at our club's holiday parties. As I may have mentioned, this was his one appearance in the kitchen in a year, Christmas eve, when he made his delicious egg nog.

My grandfather believed that a gentleman should write his memoirs at three score and ten, which translates to 70 years old. I have a copy. It is four pages, single space, type written and as Joe Friday said, "Just the facts". There is no color and no nuance. Here is a guy that was Chief of Staff to Secretary of State, Philander Knox in the William Howard Taft administration, but he was not very good at relating stories.

My father's attempt was no better. Charlie, Jr. was the class of '39, joined the fight right after Pearl Harbor, spent five years in the South Pacific and was on the Missouri for the surrender. His effort was ten pages, hand-written on a legal pad and it was as dull as his father's attempt.

I am up to 350 pages, computer written stories in my memoir, "Lies I've Told At Breakfast", which I have been working on for ten years. In this program, I will share a handful of chapters in a story I think you might find interesting.

We will start with my opportunity to meet Chief Justice Earl Warren in his office at the Supreme Court, just across the street from the nation's capitol. You probably have a picture of this lovely building. For some reason, it has been in the news a lot lately.