



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Rick Wilson – Witness to History



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President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"

🍎 BEFORE THE BELL 🍎

This is the-day-before Halloween meeting and can you say "SCARY?" President **Dan Rasmus** has assuredly planned all manner of pranks, hijinks and generalized terror. As usual.

As the set up began, Rotarians began to log on to Zoom and behold **Kelly Back** in a fright wig. Or is that a Covid hairstyle? **Chris O'Neil** ran by in a moose costume, we think. Maybe a hazmat suit?

Kelly Back gave a quick tour of the new *Exchange Bank* but **Ken Jacobs** was left disappointed when **Kelly** failed to show us the money. Come on **Kelly**, we know it's in there.

🍎 AT THE BELL 🍎

President **Dan Rasmus** rang the bell at 12:15 kicking off another hybrid meeting at *Russian River Vineyards*. Some Rotarians at the venue; distanced and tipping. Most Rotarians at home via Zoom. Tipping?



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

November 6

Chris Smith
My Life with Obituaries at
The Press Democrat

November 13

Mitcho Thompson
Cannabis

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

Tim Moore led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



HH provided the two thoughts for the day-

In 3 words I can sum up everything I have learned in life: It goes on.

Robert Frost

And

Social distancing during the Covid 19 pandemic... it's a tricky game to play...and how we play it will help predict if we'll be around when it's over.

HH

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

President Dan sadly announced the passing of Daryl Raimondo, **Pauline Pellini's** brother and well-known local.

President Dan then turned the meeting over via Zoom to Laura Hagar Rush. Laura is past editor of Sonoma Times West and was here to announce an exciting new venture. Partnering with Sonoma Times West, Laura has launched a new community App for Sebastopol. It is called TOWNSYApp.com. It will be a one stop place for all things Sebastopol.



It is up and running but will eventually be expanded to include all sorts of needed and necessary information about your own community ; Sebastopol. Want to shop local? Townsy. Want to search for volunteers? Townsy. Events? Job Board? Announcements? All Townsy. This will revolutionize information exchange in Sebastopol and will be on your phone soon if it is not already. So get modern, get in the now, get TownsyApp.



Past District Governor and Past President Bob Rogers took over the screen to bring us up to speed on the recent Foundation Celebration. No Foundation Dinner this year, circumstances being what they are, but still Rotarians got together to celebrate. The big news was the announcement of the Number One Club in per capita giving in District 5130.

The Number One Club was Sebastopol Sunrise????? Can that be right? We thought all they did was eat pancakes and drink coffee. But no – they came through for the Foundation Big Time. Nice job Sunrise.



But wait – Rotary Club of Sebastopol came in second in per capita but Number One in total giving. We're Number One.



Thanks to generosity of club members like **Bob Hirsch** and **Jim Paquette** and others, District 5130 raised huge totals for the cause. 15 Sebastopol Rotarians signed up for the *Polio Plus Society* also.

🍎 VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS 🍎

David Mark Raymond from the above mentioned Sebastopol Sunrise Club signed on.

So did Michael McGlothlin. Also taking a Foundation Giving victory lap



And welcome Kathy Schwartz from Santa Rosa Main.



🍎 MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

Robin Maybury and a crew worked hard on 10/24 to fix up and spruce up Cloverleaf Ranch where Cool Kids Camp happens. Cloverleaf took a hit during the fires and is coming back strong. Also pitching in were Petaluma Valley and Santa Rosa East.



Cindy Carter and a different crew worked hard at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Bagging carrots all morning. **Cindy** is planning another workday soon. Stay tuned.

Don't forget the Veteran's Day celebration coming November 13. Not too late to send your photos to **Tom Boag**. Include the branch of service and dates please.

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎

No October birthdays this week.

The elusive **Chris O'Neil** managed to be MIA for his 10/25 anniversary recognition. Someone saw a moose or a bear walk by but no fine was levied.

Lots of people have Rotary anniversaries this week.

Norm Stupfel – eighteen years

Amee Sass – two years

Patti Blount – twenty five years.

Keller McDonald – fifteen years – all of which happened last year when he was President.

Pumpkin Carving Contest



No one brought a carved pumpkin via Zoom but **Paul Theilen** brought three personally carved masterpieces. **President Dan** brought one with him also.

How come the pumpkins carved by a retired Dentist were toothless?

Costume Contest

No one wore a costume either.

Well – actually **President Dan** did a quick change and became an entirely new person before our very eyes.

A few others looked fairly normal for Rotarians.





Where did **Chris O'Neil** go in the Bear suit?



So no winner was announced and no prizes awarded. Next year we better step it up. There may be an extra large Rotary sweatshirt out there with your name on it.

PROGRAM

President Dan introduced **Past President Rick Wilson** as today's featured speaker. It seems that **Rick** has been working on a memoir for as long as he can remember and he treated us to a few vignettes from his extraordinary life. The memoir, when published, will be called "*Lies I Told Before Breakfast.*"

Vignette one involved **Rick** as a college student in Charlottesville Va. and his adventures with his best friend. After being introduced to Chief Justice Earl Warren and having a nice chat up at the Supreme Court building, **Rick** and friend became infected with Potomac fever, a malady that makes you want to spend all your time in Washington DC among the power brokers. **Rick's** friend went to work in D.C. after college and **Rick** was able to enjoy the joys of lobbying and its pleasures. **Rick** managed to attend three martini lunches, Super Bowls and even sat in on the Watergate hearings.



Rick then proceeded to regale us with the story of his hosting President Gerald Ford at a convention he was running in San Francisco. **Rick**, President Ford and eight Secret Service agents riding the elevator the wrong direction. And this is where someone had taken a shot at Mr. Ford on his last visit. Much more nerve wracking than it sounds.

Rick moved on to his endeavor as proprietor of *Cache Creek River Rafting Company*. **Rick** was a community stalwart in Rumsey California, school board, mayor, and organizer. He also did enough research to put the kabosh on a dam that would have backed up his beloved Cache Creek and made for a much less interested raft trip.



Rick ended with a vignette about his adventure as a circus promoter and performer. Growing up in San Francisco, he was close friends with a young man whose father ran the Cow Palace which offered many opportunities for adventure. He also brought the circus to town. That's right, Rumsey had never had a circus until **Rick** came along. He also did a one night stand as a clown with Ringling Brothers. You can't make this stuff up.

Rick closed with the words of Robert Hunter: "*What a long strange trip its been.*"

 THE FINAL BELL 

After a fascinating presentation, **Dan** struck the Roto-Bell at 1:15pm sharp.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 6, 2020 Chris Smith



Chris Smith was a bit over a year out of journalism school when he began writing for The Press Democrat in 1977. He was 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. He and his wife, fellow PD reporter Diane Peterson, have one child, Max, who's proud to be a native of Sonoma County.

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.