



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Harry Polley, John Blount & Rick Wilson



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Date: December 10, 2021
Volume: 2021/22—Issue E20-21
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President 2021/2022: Ellen Harrington



"All the News that Fits We Print"

AT THE BELL

President Ellen Harrington called the meeting to order promptly at 12:15 pm.

Aleia Coate led us in the Pledge and **Myriah Volk** offered this thought for the day:

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again." Og Mandino. (such words sound dangerously radical in these divisive and angry days)

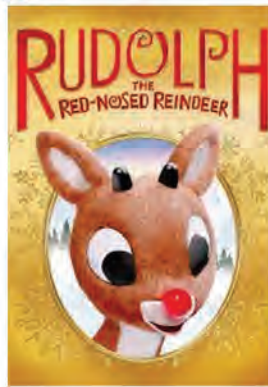
Rick Wilson then led an enthusiastic singing of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Song Time!

Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer

~ ~ ~Rick Wilson~ ~ ~

- You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows
- All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games
- Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
- Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
You'll go down in history"



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

December 17, 2021

Margaret Press – DNA Doe Project

December 24, 2021

Dark – No Meeting

December 31, 2021

Dark – No Meeting

Coming Events

December 18, 2021

Adopt A Family (9am-12pm)

December 23, 2021

Holiday Food Box Giveaway

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS: scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com



🍎 VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS 🍎

There were no visiting Rotarians today. **Aleia** introduced Laura Thurner, who was our exchange student from Austria in 2018-2019. She is visiting Sebastopol and Sonoma County and told **Aleia** she really wanted to come to a meeting of the Rotary Club that hosted her. Great to see her again.

Harvey Henningsen introduced Sheila Johnson of Studio J photography and indicated she is very interested in Rotary.



🍎 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES 🍎

Tom Lambert celebrated his big day on December 5th. For his birthday, **Tom** visited an old friend in Utah. They hiked in Zion and enjoyed birdwatching.



Two days later, **Jim Passage** celebrated his birthday on December 8th. Insisting he is no worse for wear, he celebrated with friends sharing a leisurely and enjoyable evening out. He is also celebrating his 7-year Rotary anniversary.



Paul and Yvonne Thielen – 45 years together on December 5th. They celebrated with their new neighbors down the road. He tried to bribe our president with a fishing license that will expire in two weeks, but as tempting as that offer was, she turned him down and fined him \$5.



REMEMBERING CLIFF DOCHTERMAN



The Rotary world recently lost a great leader, indeed a great man, Cliff Dochterman, who died at 95 years old. **John Blount**, who knew and worked with Cliff for many years, first heard him speak at a President Executive Training Conference. Cliff's speech at that conference. "If I Could be President Again", became quite famous in the Rotary world. John said that after hearing that speech – its wisdom, its brilliance, its humor – he felt like he had become a Dochterman groupie. Indeed, Cliff was the keynote speaker at **John's** District Conference in 1990-91, and he was the keynote for our club's 75th anniversary celebration.

Cliff served as the President of Rotary International in 1992 – 93. The theme for his year: "Real Happiness Is Helping Others.", words he lived out in his daily life. He was a tireless advocate for Rotary and Rotary's outreach, advocating and raising money for Polio Plus and other programs. It is universally agreed that he spoke to more Rotary clubs than anyone in the history of Rotary.

John was fortunate to work with Cliff on a number of projects, including a video celebrating his 75th birthday. Cliff's book, "The ABCs of Rotary" is still handed out to new members by many Rotary clubs.

John then concluded with a brief video of Cliff speaking at the Far West PETS Conference when he was only 92. Can't resist sharing one line: "Past district Governors are like a pair of old tennis shoes: all worn out except for the tongue!" I have heard that line at least a half dozen times and I still laugh out loud. Rest in Peace Cliff Dochterman.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The 2021-22 application period for Rotary Community Grants is open until January 15. See the club website for more information.

On December 9th, 14 of our club members and friends ventured to Shollenberger Park in Petaluma for a morning of bird watching, led by **Keller McDonald** and **Greg Jacobs**. About 20 species were identified. A trip is planned for Bodega Bay later this winter.

Cindy Carter shared some upcoming events and opportunities for service.





Holiday Party – December 11th. Hopefully a good time was had by all. Thanks again to **J.T.** and **Theresa** for their wonderful hospitality. More in the After the Bell section!

Workday at Redwood Empire Food Bank - December 16 from 2:00 – 4:00. We will be joined by the Sunrise Club. Contact **Cindy** or go to the Food Bank sign up page.

Holiday Food Box Give Away: On December 23rd, from 1:00 to 3:00, our club is joining the morning club and other organizations in a food box give away at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Visitors will drive through and receive a large box of food. Toys will also be given out. Volunteers are needed. Set up begins at 8:00, boxes are packed beginning at 9:00 and

drive through begins at 1:00. Michael McGlothlin from the morning club is coordinating this effort. His number: 707-217-3595. You can also contact **Cindy** or **David Still**. This event replaces the annual Christmas Day dinner which will not happen this year.

Yes there will be a Rotary Crab feed on Saturday, February 12. This will be a drive-thru event at Holy Ghost Hall. A boxed meal for two is \$150 which includes champagne. Oh yes, and crab tickets are available now. Perfect Christmas gifts. Remember this fund-raiser supports our Rotary Teacher Grant Program.



THE WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE



Mario Ramos was the lucky winner and took home a bottle of wine courtesy of **Dan Rasmus**. Can't get enough of that Two Buck Chuck!



THE PROGRAM



Harry Polley began our program, saying that sitting back and reflecting on his career was good therapy. And he didn't want to share his story without first paying tribute to his college roommate, business partner and long-time friend, **Dave Madsen**.

He attended San Jose State, where he met **Dave** and future wife, **Jean**. He received his Broker's License at age 21. After graduating in 1966, he discovered that job opportunities were few and far between, so he took his bride and real estate license and headed to Sebastopol where he joined his father at Polley Realty. He did well, but was haunted by the question, "Am I doing this or am I using my father and his contacts as a crutch?"

So in 1968 he, "broke his father's heart" and joined Cotter Health Centers. He eventually reached the position of Vice President in Charge of Operations. He even recruited **Dave Madsen** to join the company. But then **Dave** left for Sacramento where he became the assistant to Ed Meese in the Reagan administration.

The two stayed in touch and after Governor Reagan's term ended they decided it was time to work for themselves rather than others. So **Dave** got his Broker's License and he and wife, **Carleen**, moved to Sebastopol. On April 1, 1976, they opened Polley, Polley and Madsen, a real estate brokerage company. Father, George, came out of retirement and worked with them for couple of years, until health issues forced him to retire again. Their first office was the old PG&E building on Keating Avenue with 3 desks and 3 lawn chairs. Who made the first sale? Who else...**George**! So much for the rookies in their three piece suits!

The business grew quickly, adding additional sales force. More office space was needed. About that time, a new dentist came to town – **John T. Blount**. John also needed an office, so both a partnership and a lasting friendship were formed as construction commenced on a new building on Petaluma Ave.

PP&M grew to four real estate offices in Sonoma County with 175 sales agents and an administrative staff of 27. By January, 1998, when the business was sold to Coldwell Banker, they were handling over 2000 real estate transactions annually. **Harry** and **Dave** still have a small office in Oakmont.

Harry joined Rotary on January 9, 1970, and served as Club President in 1980-81. (some of us will never forget that first pancake breakfast. Five people are still waiting for their order!) The Four Way Test has always been displayed in his office for all to see, and he and **Dave** have been dedicated to instilling the ideals of Rotary in their business and in all the people who have worked with them.



Next up...**Rick Wilson**



Rick, like Harry a past President of our club, began by sharing some of his experiences in, excuse the oxymoron, Military Intelligence. Having received a rather low draft lottery number while at the University of Virginia – how many of us remember our number? **Rick**, after graduation, found himself at Fort Ord. Taking matters in his own hands, he managed to talk his way into the army's Advanced Individual Training program, essentially the army security agency. When he completed his training, there were a number of possible opening in great locations. But he found himself stationed on a Black Sea volcano island in Turkey as the company clerk, giving new meaning to the word, isolation. But he managed to survive, moving to San Francisco after his discharge.

In the City, he got involved with the medical group that provided coverage for Bill Graham productions. This led to back stage passes, cool posters and a number of great contacts. It seemed that Graham loved white water rafting and was a particular fan of the company, Cache River Trips in Lake County. Through a casual

conversation, it might have involved a bar and drinks, **Rick** became involved in planning some of those trips. Indeed he soon became that company's best customer.

Over time, the owner of Cache River Trips, began looking for someone to take over the rafting business. Enter **Rick Wilson**. He was able to put together financing and for 23 years owned and operated the company.

Along the way, he also continued to develop and nurture his contacts in the music world. He has had a long time friendship with Tommy Castro. In 1986, Castro played at a backyard party for **Rick**. From that modest beginning came the Rumsey Blues Festival, which over the years featured some of the great blues artists, such a Johnny Nltro, of the Bay area and beyond.

THE FINAL BELL

Thanks, **Harry** and **Rick**, for your sharing and for your dedication to Rotary over all these years.

President Ellen then shared her closing reflection for the day: "Why is it called rush hour when traffic moves at its slowest?"

With that reflection to ponder while standing still on 101 at 5:00pm, Ellen released the flock with the strike of the Roto-bell at 1:30pm sharp.

This Week's Pondering...

Why is it called 'Rush Hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?



AFTER THE BELL

Ham.....egg nog.....candy canes.....bad singing. Only means one thing....the annual Rotary Club of Sebastopol's annual Holiday Party! This year's party was held at the humble abode of **J.T.** and **Theresa Martin**. There was great food, great fellowship, and plenty of happy tidings!



Free!

Christmas Day Dinner Fixings

Gratis



We're unable to host our traditional Christmas Day dinner gathering this year, but we will be preparing dinner boxes that will be available on the **afternoon of Thursday, December 23.**

Each box will contain the fixings for a family of 4:
A whole frozen chicken, stuffing mix, gravy
seasoning, potatoes, other vegetables, and dessert
ready to thaw and cook on Christmas Day.

Holiday Food Box Drive-through Distribution

- Thursday, December 23
- 1:00 - 3:00
- Sebastopol Center for the Arts (282 S. High Street)
- One Food Box per car, as supply lasts



Donate \$25.00 to
sponsor a Holiday
Food Box



When picking up your Food Box, we ask that you & anyone accompanying you please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Remain in your vehicles and our volunteers will place things in your trunk.

This is for the safety of our volunteers, as well as your families.



Rotary
Club



of Sebastopol

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

SEBASTOPOL
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SEBASTOPOL ROTARY'S DRIVE-THRU CRAB FEED

This is the perfect holiday gift!

Enjoy the freshest crab
available in the North Bay
while supporting our teachers.



Tickets are available online
or in Sebastopol at the
Exchange Bank.

Saturday, February 12, 2022

Holy Ghost Hall, 7960 Mill Station Road, Sebastopol

The freshest home cooked crab in the county!

**Clam Chowder, Salad, Bread, Dessert &
Champagne**

Boxed Meal for Two \$150 Donation

Choose Your Pick-Up Time Online:

3-4pm, 4-5pm, or 5-6pm

50-50 Raffle: Buy one chance for \$25 (or 5 for \$100) to win half of the pot (other half goes to Teacher Grant Program).

For tickets or info, visit: sebastopolrotary.com or call
408-431-7820 (Cindy) or 707-823-4087 (Kelly at Exchange Bank)

Since 2003, all proceeds from this event have been used to fund
Sebastopol Rotary's Teacher Grant Programs

**18 years, 40 schools, 1,022 grants,
\$330,530 in grants, and counting!**



FUTURE PROGRAMS



December 17, 2021 – Margaret Press, PhD - DNA Doe Project



Margaret Press is CEO of The DNA Doe Project. Its simple humanitarian mission is to identify John and Jane Does using genetic genealogy. On April 11, 2018 at a press conference in Troy, Ohio when their identification of Buckskin Girl as Marcia L. King was announced – it marked the first time in history that the world learned of the power of genetic genealogy to solve cold case identifications.

The DNA Doe Project is an all-volunteer organization with over 60 experienced genetic genealogists giving their time and passion to this cause.

You'll learn about their techniques and some interesting Doe cases they have resolved!