



# *The Appleknocker*

## *Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin*

**J. Blount & G. Nelson - How I Got Into Business**



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

**Date:** March 25, 2022  
**Volume:** 2021/22—Issue E20-34  
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"All the News that Fits We Print"



### **AT THE BELL**



Our fearless leader, AKA **Prez Ellen**, brought the hammer down on the Roto Bell to start the March 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 meeting of the Rotary Club Sebastopol at 12:15 exactly. **Katy Spyрка** started things off by leading us in honoring Old Glory. **Nancy**



**Dwyer** followed this up by providing us with the thought for the day: "Conquer the angry one by not getting angry, conquer the wicked by goodness, conquer the stingy by generosity, and the liar by speaking the truth" - Buddha. **Kathy Hicks** then led us in singing "God Bless America."



### **VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS**



After enjoying our fine meal **Prez Ellen** called the meeting back to order. **Richard Power** introduced Brian Bower from the Sebastopol Sunrise Club. **Aleia Coate** introduced Mario Balistreri, an agent at Caldwell Banker. **Frank Mayhew** introduced **Kathy's** care giver Jane Mugwe.

**Harvey Henningsen** introduced Sheila Johnson, a local photographer. **Tom Dilley** introduced his lovely wife **Pat**.



**Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234**

## Future Programs

April 1, 2022

**Richard Ogg - Thoughts  
From A Bodega Bay  
Fisherman**

April 8, 2022

**PDG Barb Spangler -  
Public Health Policy in  
2022**

## Coming Events

April 25, 2022

**Learn To Swim**

May 7, 2022

**Out of Africa  
Our Big Fundraiser!**

## Miscellany

**MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS:** [scottbriggs50@yahoo.com](mailto:scottbriggs50@yahoo.com)

**On-line Make-Ups:**  
[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)

**Domestic Violence Hotline:**  
**707-546-1234**

**[sebastopolrotary.com](http://sebastopolrotary.com)**

## BIRTHDAYS



**Nao Noguchi** celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 23 when he enjoyed the company and companionship of his kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews. Wow, what a day! It could not have happened to a nicer guy. **Nao** will be recognizing his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his late wife **Kathy** on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Everybody remembers **Kathy**. What a gal - a truly lovely lady!

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Michele** and **Dave Kimble** celebrated their 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Meredeth Bertacco** celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> year as a Sebastopol Rotarian.

## THE WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE

**Jerry Warren** drew the unlucky number of 165 and won a whopping \$5. Such a deal!



## OUT OF AFRICA FUNDRAISER

**Hal Kwalwasser**, our Out of Africa fundraiser raffle chair, introduced our Raffle Team Leaders: **Mia Del Prete** (Team Lion) (ably represented by Jack Blasco in Mia's absence), **Myriah Volk** (Team Tiger), **Kathy Hicks** (Team Elephant), **Richard Petersen**, (Team Zebra) and **Harry Polley** (Team Giraffe ). **Prez-Elect Hal** feels that the phenomenal raffle prizes of (1) The African Safari, (2) Montana's Big Ski Vacation. (3) The Progressive Dinner For Eight, (4) The Instant Wine Cellar, and







The \$1000 Sebastopol Hardware Shopping Spree should gross \$100K. So everybody get out there and sell, sell, sell raffle tickets! We'll see you May 7th.



## APPLE BLOSSOM PARADE



The parade is being held on April 23 this year and **Prez-Elect Hal** is looking for club members to work on the float and march in the parade.



## THE PROGRAM



**Gene Nelson** stepped to the podium to introduce our first speaker, our very own Past President, Past District 5130 Governor and Past Rotary International Board Member **John Blount**.

**John** stepped to the podium and started off by mentioning that he came from a home where both parents worked at professional careers. His father was an old fashioned house call doc, and his mother taught English and raised 3 kids. **John** was the third, born in 1949. **John** has always had a passion for sports, with a heavy focus on baseball, football, and basketball. Through the first 12 years of his



education **John** did not have the slightest idea of what he wanted to do outside of sports. All he knew is that he did not want to go into medicine after watching his father working 75 hour weeks. Of all the high school subjects, History and English



were his favorites, so **John** entered college as a history major. **John's** dorm roommate noticed **John** and felt that he had the ability to take more challenging subjects so suggested that **John** take more science. This was a significant moment in **John's** life as it provided him with opportunities. **John's** family dentist, a member of his church, a youth leader and a great racket ball player, suggested that **John** should consider a career in dentistry. Over the course of three college years **John** decided that dentistry



would afford him the opportunity to (a) do something that made a living, (b) own his own business, (c) would be beneficial to people, and (d) provide him with a balanced life of work and play. At this time **John** was now involved not only in sports but also some music with a small folk group.

So after three years of college **John** applied and was accepted into dental school. At one of the social events that colleges offer, **John** met this cute little nurse named **Patti**. They eventually got married and have lived happily ever after. **John** explored different opportunities that dentistry offered, and was considering a career in oral surgery, but something happened that changed his life. **John's** oldest sibling and her husband moved a company they owned to Santa Rosa while **John** was still in college and he spent summers with them and worked in their small factory. **John** loved the area and the small town atmosphere, and looked at a general practice that was for sale in Sebastopol. During one of the visits he met a guy named **Harry Polley** who was in the process of starting a real estate company with his dad and a guy named **Dave Madsen**. They



suggested that he join them in a building they planned on constructing on a vacant lot on the corner of Burnett and Petaluma Ave. The rest is history.

Next, our very own **Rev. Gene Nelson** took over the microphone to tell his story. **Gene** was born and raised in Phoenix Arizona where he attended church regularly and worked with different youth groups. He considered getting into the ministry starting in 1967. He enrolled at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. The Pacific School of Religion is a private Protestant seminary in Berkeley, California. It maintains relationships with The United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and The

Disciples of Christ, ensuring the school provides the necessary requirements for candidates to seek ordination within these denominations. These three denominations account for approximately half of the student population of PSR. The school also has relationships with The Universalist Fellowship and other denominations. **Gene** served as Senior Pastor at the Community Church of Sebastopol starting in 1978, and retired in 2017.



## THIS WEEK'S PONDERING



*This Week's Pondering...*



## THE FINAL BELL



**Prez Ellen** sent us home a few minutes after 1:30, hankering to sell those raffle tickets.



## AFTER THE BELL



[Robin Maybury, our esteemed webmaster, Cool Kids Camp champion, and purveyor of humor from across the pond, was unexpectedly taken ill during our Friday meeting, and was transported by ambulance to Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital. Fortunately, initial fears of a heart attack were not realized as he detailed in his recent email to the club, and he is resting comfortably at home. Robin wishes to thank everyone who came to his aid, and wishes to remind us that if we see someone in distress, don't be afraid to offer a helping hand. After all, isn't that what Rotary is all about? Get well soon, Robin. -Ed.]



## FUTURE PROGRAMS



### **April 1, 2022 - Richard Ogg - Thoughts From A Bodega Bay Fisherman**



Richard Ogg, a well-known veteran fisherman from Bodega Bay will speak to us about the current state of our local fishing industry. Richard serves on various Ocean and Fishing Boards and is frequently quoted in our local news on fishing related topics. Richard docks his 54-foot boat named *Karen Jeanne* in Bodega Bay. We are fortunate to have him share his viewpoints on his decades experience fishing our local waters.





**Saturday, May 7, 2022**

**5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Balletto Event Center  
5700 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

***An Evening with Sit Down Dinner, Drinks, and Festivities!***

***Big Five Raffle, Live and Silent Auctions!***

***SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT***

**Dressy casual**



**Menu – Catered by Bianchi Catering Co.**

- Caesar Salad, Penne Pasta w/Marinara Sauce, Grilled Chicken Breast, Dutch Crunch Rolls & Butter; Vegetarian entrée upon request
- Vanilla Bean Ice Cream & Warmed Brownie
- Balletto Red & White Wines, Beer, Wine & Non-alcoholic Appleknockers

**Event Tickets \$100**

Contact: Katy Spyрка (707) 328-5535 or  
Jackie Moreira (707) 696-6523

**Raffle Tickets: \$50 for 1, \$200 for 5, \$1,000 for 30**

Contact: Hal (202) 262-2139 or Kelly at Exchange Bank (707) 823-4087

For more information, go to <https://sebastopolrotary.com/>