


The Appleknocker


Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Greg Jacobs - The Polly Klaas Murder Trial

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“All the News that Fits We Print”



BEFORE THE BELL




Everything looks ready. **Robin Maybury** has his camera. **Paul Thielen** is on the AV desk. **Ken Jacobs** and **Lu Frazier** are all set to take money. **Nao Noguchi** and the Sergeant at Arms crew are looking like their tasks are completed. It's almost ROTARY TIME.



AT THE BELL





...Thought for today...

From Larry Ford

...any matter?

“If black boxes are designed to survive crashes why don't they make the entire airplane out of that stuff?” Indisputable logic!

~ George Carlin



President Ellen Harrington rang the bell to kick off the Rotary Club of Sebastopol's October 1 meeting at precisely 12:15 pm. And she did it with authority.

She called on **Nao Noguchi** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry Ford took the microphone and offered a Thought for the Day from the late, great George Carlin.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234



Future Programs



October 8, 2021
Dark for Virtual District Conference

October 15, 2021
Estelle Rogers - Voting Rights and Recent New Voting Laws

October 22, 2021
Bob Rogers - Celebrating World Polio Day

Coming Events

October 7, 2021
International Walk To School Day



Miscellany



MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS: scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

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

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com



VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS



The hall is brimming today with guests, visitors, spouses, and Friends of Rotary.



First introduced are Jim and Kathy Flamson, Past District Governors both.



Bob Rogers introduced Kathy Hicks as a guest of the club for the final time. **Greg Jacobs** introduced his wife Kathy who came to hear him give the program later. Nice to add a little pressure, right?

Larry Ford introduced his wife Gerry Reilly-Ford.



More wives in attendance, **Steve Prandini's** better half Roseanne came.

Past Club President Brad Benedetti and wife Kathy also came for a visit.



Not forgetting **Keller McDonald's** wife Marcia.

Jeff Boal introduced his wife Jean.

Pauline Pellini brought two guests, Cheri Marcucci and Suzi Kaido. And **Tom Lambert's** wife Sally came also.

So many guests – A great turnout.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



President Ellen looked over the crowd for a sign of birthday celebrators **Tim Moore**, **Bill Daniels** and **Edwin Wilson**. But they weren't in the house.

Jack Blasco was in the house and was called upon to report on his recent birthday. **Jack** always enjoys a new explore on his birthday and he reported that this one was no exception. It seems that Graton has its very own sewage treatment plant and **Jack** decided to take a picnic and go over there and have a look at the process. All that methane may have gotten to **Jack** but we wouldn't know. I wonder how that extra product from Occidental is going over there. Anyway, a Happy Birthday it must have been.

Also not in the house was **Mark Stevens** who recently celebrated an Anniversary of 43 years.



NEW MEMBER



David Schreiber took the lectern to welcome the newest member of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol. **Kathy Hicks** was inducted as a member. Kathy was sponsored by **Bob Rogers**. Her mentors will be **Ruthie Dunlap** and **Harry Simms**. They will guide her through the process of full membership. But not that she hasn't had challenges – she has already raised five kids. **Kathy** is both a personal trainer and a civil engineer. Welcome **Kathy**.





RECOGNITIONS



Jerry Warren recently took a fishing trip with two of his sons and eldest grandson. He said that they caught lots of trout up on the Sacramento River but the photos didn't include any pictures of fish. That's okay, we would rather see pix of the family than some trophy-sized fish anyway.

Ellen offered **Jerry** the chance to levy a fine on himself. He looked in his wallet and found a one and a ten. We are sure he made the right choice on which one to drop in the fine box.



Larry Ford took a trip as well. This one took him and wife Gerry on a three and half week meander through Oregon. At first, he was unable to come up with photos but, pressed by **President Ellen**, he provided a few. It turns out that his cousins whom he was visiting are avid golfers. **Larry** is not so avid but gave it a try anyway. Seems that **Larry** is a left hander and they provided him with right hand clubs which he used to such good effect that they asked him to play a second time. (Are these guys hard up for golf partners or what?) So the moral of the story is that you should go ahead and golf with wrong handed clubs. It might improve your game.

Another highlight was attending a Rodeo. Yeah, I know, not that much going on in Oregon.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Birdwatching on The Laguna Watershed



Black Phoebe - Jerry Meshulam



Cedar Waxwing - Jerry Meshulam



Richard Power

Richard Power

Keller McDonald was asked to give an update on the recent Club bird watching event. **Keller** and **Greg Jacobs** led a hardy band of Rotarian bird watchers into the Laguna and looked all over for birds. **Keller** was proud to report that the coffee and donuts at the beginning of the trek were a huge success. He then claimed that he was so focused on looking for birds that he lost track of his group. The next bird watching event may be down in Bodega Bay which is quite a bit more dangerous if you believe the movies.

The Ives Park Playground Rehab Project was also a huge

success as led by **Jim Pacatte** and Michael McGlothlin of the Sunrise Club. Two massive redwood 8 x 8 x 18 beams were installed in the ground at the park. You can only imagine the cost of those things. Wow. Great job, team.

Past District Governor Kathy Flamson was called to the lectern. Turns out she had some leftover business from her year as DG. Believe it or not, COVID managed to throw off her plans and one of her plans was to award The Rotary Club of Sebastopol and its then **President Keller McDonald** a Presidential Citation Award. Never too late to get an award, right?



Keller was honored to accept a Presidential Citation Award from Rotary International and a citation for taking the Close Knit Community Challenge. These awards singled out the club for its work on Overcoming Obstacles, its work with the North Bay Construction Corp and other projects. **Keller** truly made this Club a shining star during a chaotic year. He thanked Kathy and the Club for the hard work.

GOODBYE TO BOB AND JULIE



Frank Mayhew took the microphone (always a risky proposition) to say goodbye to Club member **Bob Cugini** and his wife, Friend of Rotary **Julie Cugini**. **Bob** and **Julie** are moving to the Fresno area. They will be greatly missed by all who know them. **Bob** has been a long time member of the club, best known for his yearly work in putting on the club picnic, always a great event. **Frank** said

that **Bob** can be considered a party animal. **Bob** also took part in the Overcoming Obstacles program, serving as a mentor to the scholarship winners. Although **Bob** suffered some physical setbacks a few years back, his spirit and good attitude never dimmed and he was always seen with a smile and greeting at the door.

Julie, a talented landscaper, designed the Peace Garden that the Club installed at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. It is a fine piece of design and still looks terrific.

We also said goodbye to **Willie**, **Bob's** caregiver and a friend to many of us. We wish you the best of luck **Willie**, **Julie** and **Bob**.



THE WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE



Mario Ramos sat at the lucky number and gave the Wheel of Misfortune a spin. Slowly, slowly, the wheel eventually came to rest on **Dorothy Rodella**. Not literally. Just a picture of **Dorothy**. The good news is that that won **Mario** ten bucks.

Raffle – Wheel of Misfortune



THE PROGRAM



Dan Rasmus introduced Club Member **Greg Jacobs**. **Greg** was raised in Sebastopol. His dad was a local dentist, musician, and Rotarian. **Greg** grew up to be a local District Attorney, musician, and Rotarian. **Greg** got his education at Stanford and Berkeley. No wonder he is so conflicted.

Greg spoke to us about his time as lead prosecutor on one of the most notorious murder cases of our time, the Polly Klaas case. Everyone in the country followed the case of the abduction and murder of this young girl, including most everyone in the news media. **Greg** was picked to lead the prosecution of the killer, Richard Allen Davis.





Greg gave a behind-the-scenes look at what it is like to be in the middle of a major murder case and a major press case. **Greg** knew he had a lot going for him. The evidence was on his side, circumstantial but easily understood by the jury. He also appreciated the judge in the case who was always fair.

Greg's team had its problems. It was not simple to keep the arguments within the team. The second chair wanted to be first chair. The clerk thought maybe she knew better than everyone else. And maybe the lead investigator was going to write a book. The defendant had confessed. There was good evidence. The trial venue had been changed. And yet the challenges were intense.

Greg knew that he could not lose this case and yet there were opportunities to do so. The media was hounding him several times a day and he realized that most of them had no idea of how murder trials worked. Fortunately, the judge did the things necessary to keep things on an even keel. The trial ended in conviction and a death penalty sentence. The whole country was watching.



THE FINAL BELL



[**Greg's** closing arguments were halted when President Ellen brought the gavel down at 1:40 PM. -Ed.]



FUTURE PROGRAMS



October 15, 2021 - Estelle Rogers - Voting Rights and Recent New Voting Laws

Estelle was a voting rights lawyer in Washington for 11 years before her retirement in 2015. Since then, she has done extensive voter protection work for campaigns in several states and currently chairs the American Bar Association's bipartisan Standing Committee on Election Law. Her talk will focus on state efforts to curtail the right to vote, both before and since the 2020 election, and what Congress can do to push back.