



**Andrea Card - Champion Axe Thrower**

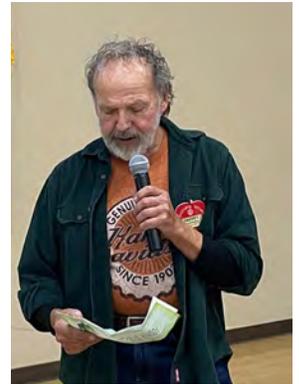
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|  | <b>Date:</b>                | <b>December 2, 2022</b>  |  |
|   | <b>Volume:</b>              | <b>2022/23 — Issue E21-21</b>  |   |
|   | <b>Scribe:</b>              | <b>David Still</b>   |   |
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|   | <b>President 2022-2023:</b> | <b>Hal Kwalwasser</b>  |   |

"All the News that Fits We Print"

**BEFORE THE BELL**

Lots of serious stuff today. Membership, Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation, Major Projects. Luckily we have someone with an axe to cut through it.

**AT THE BELL**



President **Hal Kwalwasser** rang the Rotary Bell to call to order the December 2, 2022 meeting of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol.

**Dorothy Rodella** led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Rick Wilson** led the group in the classic Otis Redding tune "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay." Pretty nice job too. Even without music.

**HH** brought us several Thoughts for the Day to digest.

"Man is man, the world over. A smile or a tear has no nationality." - Fredrick Douglas

"The only thing we never get enough of is love; and the only thing we never give enough of is love." - Henry Miller

"An artist is not paid for his labor, but for his vision." - Whistler

"Whiskey's for drinken, Water's for fighten." - Mark Twain.



## Future Programs

December 9, 2022

David Schreibman – Safari Adventures

December 16, 2022

Sebastopol World Friends

December 23, 2022

Dark for the Holidays

## Coming Events

December 17, 2022

Holiday Party

February 11, 2023

Crab Feed

## 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

## GUESTS



No visiting Rotarians today.

**Keller McDonald** introduced his friend Justin Vodell. Justin is a duck hunter and a banjo player. I imagine he has other skills too but those two are impressive.

**David Schriebman** introduced Lyn Gannon. Lyn has been with us many times and is a guest of the club.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Hal** opened the meeting with a mystery. Apparently the lost and found has something so special that **President Hal** can't even say what it is. So if you lost it, we have it. Just identify it. It's like the old joke – Did you lose a roll of hundreds tied in a rubber band? Good – we have the rubber band.

In other news, the Sergeant at Arms committee is still looking for new blood. They do a great job every week but its time to supplement the crew. So let's volunteer.

Mark your calendar for the Rotary Holiday Party December 17 at **John and Patti Blount's** house.. You don't want to miss this one. For a preview, check out the photo spread in the Press Democrat of the decorations in their house. Wow. More in After The Bell.



**Nao Noguchi** is hosting a Mochitsuki party at his place on December 17. This one begins at noon. This isn't your run of the mill XMAS thing. This is special. Be there.

## ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE



**Dorothy Rodella** and **Dan Rasmus** set up a huge raffle with the proceeds going to The Rotary Foundation. Lots of prizes and wine. Today is time to pick the winners.



Many prizes and many donations. **Dorothy** and **Dan** put a limit of two wins per person. And sure enough a bunch of people were called twice. **Paul Thielen**, **Tom Dilley**, **Patti Blount**, and **Lu Frazier** were all lucky enough to win twice. Many others were called once. Nice going. The club raised over \$15,000 for the Foundation.

**Jack Blasco** hit the jackpot with the ceramic bird tea lights. He politely declined them. Seems like a good fit for **Jack's** famous Bag-o-C... [That bag contains certified good stuff - certified as 100% GOOD by the National Bureau of Standards. -Ed.]

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Turns out to be **Linda Johnson's** birthday today. **Rick Wilson** led the group again in a Happy Birthday serenade.



## SEBASTOPOL ROTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**Scott Briggs** took the lectern for a quick moment on the SREF. **Scott** mused that many Rotarians aren't exactly clear on what SREF is and does. **Scott** explained that it was founded in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) fund where Rotarians and others could donate money and get tax benefits, knowing that their money would be handled by a board of trustees and spent on educational endeavors. He likened it to the Savings Account of the Club.

From a tiny acorn, the mighty SREF fund has grown to over 1.1 million dollars today. The Board carefully spends a certain small portion each year. The investment fund has generally done well but in recent times it hasn't grown like it should. So up step **Jim Pacatte** and **Frank Mayhew** with generous donations. SREF is also offering Paul Harris points for all donations over \$100 that are made this year.

More information can be found in After the Bell

## MAJOR PROJECT INITIATIVE

**Jack Blasco** took the microphone to discuss the vision the Club has for a Major Project. He pointed out that Learn to Swim, Financial Literacy Training, the Crab Feed, Overcoming Obstacles Scholarships, and Mark Sell Teacher Grants originated in this club and have become some of our signature projects. However, at one time we didn't do any of these things. A Rotarian saw an unmet need in the community and came up with an idea for how to meet that need.



The goal of the Major Projects Committee is to proactively identify unmet needs in the community and come up with new major project ideas, instead of just waiting for them to bubble up. Although we don't have funds to adopt a new project this year, the Committee is coming up with a menu of project ideas that could be adopted in the future. A major project has to meet a significant unmet community need and provide Rotarians an opportunity to work together. It should be attractive to non-Rotarians as well. So **Jack Blasco** and **Aleia Coate** are co-chairing the exploratory committee and ask for your input. Project idea forms were left on the tables, and a version you can complete on your computer will be emailed to all club members.

More information can be found in After the Bell.

## MEMBERSHIP



So, what's the best way to ask?



Tell **YOUR** story of what Rotary means to you.

**David Schreibman** is our Membership Committee Chair and took a few minutes to highlight the importance of growing the Club. He urges everyone to be on the lookout for potential members. Invite them to a meeting. He also went over the various steps to membership.

## THE PROGRAM



**Gene Nelson** introduced our speaker today, **Andrea Card**. **Gene** has known **Andrea** through the Community Church forever. He said that he counseled her and her fiancé before their wedding. It was the only time he ever asked the groom if he was okay with the fact that the bride was a world champion axe thrower.



That's right. A world champion. **Andrea** gave a terrific program about her avocation – logging sports. Some have seen the men compete on television or elsewhere but the women don't get much coverage. In 2006, **Andrea** bested all comers, including the men, in the axe throwing competition. She has since won other World Championship crowns.

**Andrea** lives in Santa Rosa and grew up in West County. She is currently the director of wine development at Coppola. She has done stints at other wineries as well. But how did she come to logging sports? Many years ago, as a freshman at Cal Poly SLO (Go Mustangs) she was encouraged to either take an academic section in forestry or try out for the logging sports team. Yes, the Team. She demonstrated her skill with a chain saw and quickly made the squad.



From there, the rest is history.

After graduation, she realized that she enjoyed the sports which include bow saw, log rolling, chopping stuff up, and throwing the axe, among others. She found that she could continue to compete, first as a novice,



and eventually as a professional. She traveled to various competitions and was often victorious. A high point was the World Champion Axe Throwing trophy that she won in 2006.

She can split a bottle cap at twenty paces. She showed her axe and her hatchet but didn't give a demonstration. **Gene Nelson** said that he brought an apple along in case she went looking for a volunteer but we had to be content with checking out her gear. It was a truly fantastic and entertaining program.

## THE FINAL BELL

**President Hal** closed our meeting at 1:30 with a resounding ring of the Rotary bell.

## AFTER THE BELL. - JOHN & PATTI'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND



**John and Patti Blount** have turned their home into a mini Christmas theme park, with a different concept in each room, as part of the Sebastopol Holiday Home Tour. Read about it in the December 2 Press Democrat.

**Harvey's** dog Amber

studies the photo with the attention that only a dog waiting for dinner can give as she thinks: are dogs allowed on the tour; will they have Milk Bones; can Watson come out and play?

## AFTER THE BELL - SREF UPDATE

After our meeting concluded SREF President Scott Briggs sent the following information to all club members by email.

For the benefit of those who could not make today's Club Meeting, here is a summary of my SREF presentation:

Our SREF Board of Trustees is actively pursuing ways to augment our SREF funding base, in part to offset financial losses experienced during these tough economic times, but mainly to increase SREF's ability to financially support both our Club's education-related programs and SREF's independent funding efforts. Current SREF programs include direct financial support of our Club's educational activities, and SREF's Teacher of the Year program, SREF's continued support of the Construction Corp's West County Chapter (which provides direct trade training and job placement to students attending Analy High School), and SREF's funding of a much-needed, second mental health wellness class at Analy High School.

For the benefit of newer Club members, SREF is a 501c3 non-profit foundation whose Board of Trustees (drawn from our Club membership) manage what one can roughly think of as Sebastopol Rotary Club's "savings account"...i.e., those monies given as tax-deductible gifts over the past three decades to an ever-growing, permanent fund to support our Club's educational activities. In contrast, using this same analogy our Club's Board of Directors effectively manages our Club's "checking account," an account which grows and wanes each year from Club fund raisers and Club operating expenses and programs. SREF's bylaws strictly limit SREF expenditures to a portion of interest earned on investment, thus protecting the fund's corpus. In practice this has translated to annual SREF expenditures equaling about 4-5% of SREF's current assets.

This year's SREF Board, impacted by the ongoing economic downturn that has reduced SREF's ability to fund programs, is now focused on increasing SREF's funding base. SREF Board Trustee Jim Pacatte spearheaded our efforts by making a \$5000 donation. Jim also appealed to Club Member Frank Mayhew for additional help, which has resulted a Mayhew stock donation worth about \$36,000. But importantly, both of these donors want their generous donations to inspire other Club members to donate. So these two gentleman have offered one additional and very significant incentive to potential donors. Specifically, financial donations to SREF do not traditionally count towards Rotary's Paul Harris Awards program. So Jim and Frank have agreed to donate Paul Harris credits they each have received, as a result of major previous donations to Rotary International, to any Club Member making a donation of \$100 or more to SREF this December, 2022. Each new donation will earn both dollar-for-dollar Paul Harris credit and the tax benefits that come with a donation!

By day's end today, members Van Gorder, Given, Rodella, Carter, and Briggs all agreed to follow Jim and Frank's example by making additional SREF donations. We sincerely hope that you too will consider making a SREF donation. Take this

unique opportunity to gain Paul Harris credit for your SREF donation, and help us to build SREF's, and our Club's, financial strength. Thank you very much,

Yours in Rotary Service,

Scott R Briggs

President (2022-2023)

Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation



## **AFTER THE BELL - MAJOR PROJECT INITIATIVE UPDATE**



After our meeting was concluded Major Project Committee Co-Chairs Aleia Coate and Jack Blasco sent the following information to all club members by email.

This summarizes the information about our major project initiative that was presented at our club meeting today. We hope you take a few minutes to read about the initiative and use the form attached to our email sent on Friday December 2 to send us your major project ideas.

What do learn to swim, financial literacy education for high school students, overcoming obstacles, teacher grants, the crab feed all have in common? They are all signature programs for our club, but at one time we didn't do any of those things. Then a Rotarian saw a need in the community, had a great idea how to address that need, and a new program was born for our club.

We know that there are a lot of unmet needs in our community, and we want our club to stay relevant and attract new members. So this year instead of just waiting for the next big idea to bubble to the surface we're actively trying to seek them out. We're actively looking for ideas for our next major project.

What do we mean by a major project?

- It meets a significant unmet community need
- A project that our club can "own", increasing our visibility in the community
- Provides an opportunity for Rotarians to work together
- Is explicable to donors: when we tell them what we are doing, they immediately get why we need their money, and why it is a good use of that money
- Attracts non-Rotarians to participate and potentially become members.

Unfortunately we don't have enough money to do another major project this year, but we're developing a menu of major project ideas that will hopefully inspire future presidents and their boards to do something great.

Our Major Project Committee has been working hard coming up with some great major project ideas, which you will be hearing more about later this year. The following folks serve on the committee.

Aleia Coate – Co-Chair

Jack Blasco - Co-Chair

Hal Kwalwasser

Jim Pacatte

JT Martin

Cindy Carter

Harry Polley

Tom Boag

Jeff Boal

Steve Beck

Keller McDonald

John Blount

We're also in the process of reaching out to some of our community partners to get their input on the unmet needs they see in our community and how our club might help to address those needs. Committee members are taking the lead in reaching out to the following organizations.

| <b>Organization</b>            | <b>Outreach Rotarian</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Sebastopol             | JT Martin                |
| Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce | Aleia Coate              |
| Sonoma County Regional Parks   | Steve Beck               |
| Sebastopol Center for the Arts | Jack Blasco              |
| School Districts               | Hal Kwalwasser           |
| Fire Department                | Tom Boag                 |
| Police Department              | Harry Polley             |
| Ministers                      | Jeff Boal                |
| West County Community Services | Hal Kwalwasser           |
| West County Health Centers     | Harry Polley             |
| Supervisor Lynda Hopkins       | Hal Kwalwasser           |

All this is great, but we need **your** ideas. So we're asking - what unmet needs do you see? What are your ideas for this club's next major project for meeting those needs? Which of our community partners are you plugged in with? Put on your thinking caps, reach out to your friends in the community, and give us your ideas for what our next major project could be.

To make it easy we've got a simple form you can fill out to capture those ideas, which is attached to our December 2 email message. Download the form, save a copy, use Adobe Reader to fill it out, and return the completed form to Aleia Coate or Jack Blasco. Open a bottle of your favorite beverage, sit back, and let those ideas flow. We can't wait to hear from you.

Jack & Aleia

Major Project Committee Co-Chairs