

Rotary Club of Auburn

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 Website—www.auburncarotary.org



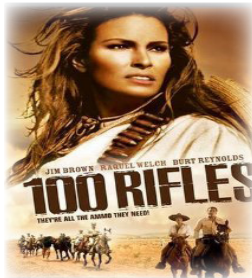
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THE ROTARY CLUB OF AUBURN BULLETIN

APRIL 2, 2013



Who would have known of an obscure 1969 film with Raquel Welch?



Cathy Bianchi's egg cake with a bunny inside was a hit!



Bridget's 50th birthday was on Tuesday. She got the egg-bunny as a gift!



Carolyn Metzker & Jeff Ambrosia scheming for a make-up in Cancun!



Suzi DeCamp is now a member, thanks to Barbara Besana!

THIS WEEK: STEVE LEIGHTY AMONG THE TROPICAL SUNSETS



AND THE SHIMMERING PALMS . . .



A tropical paradise surrounded the Rotarian volunteers, but the oral surgeon, the dentists, the hygienists, the assistants needed to gather, cleanse/sterilize, and return instruments to the clinicians; people to help screen, including interpreters, and administrators to help with patient supply, transportation, and funneling the patients to the docs in an efficient way, and countless other volunteers, all hardly noticed the enchanting panorama of swaying palms and sandy beaches.

They were not there to lounge in the sun and sip mai tais—they were there to provide much needed dental care for the children, students, adults—anyone who needed their expert care!

"We worked until after dark tonight and our team was definitely drained. Most people thought today was the hottest and sweatiest day yet. We probably saw the most (or next to the most) number of patients today. The shower at the guesthouse is a pleasure not to be missed."

Steve Leighty: "I am an oral surgeon who will work with five other dentists, two RNs, and a dozen other volunteers over a two week period in mid-October this year (2011). We will work in the villages of Ewasse and Nantabu. Not counting traveling, setup and tear down activities, we will spend three days in each village treating the inhabitants with basic dental treatment (fillings, extractions, and cleaning)."

"Bouncing in the back end of our Toyota Land Cruiser for 15 minutes brought us to our worksite. We spent about 4 hours yesterday setting up our stations, so we were able to start treating patients early. One hundred twenty kids in 7th/8th grade were screened today and 58 required treatment. I removed teeth for 17 kids while the other clinicians cleaned teeth, placed fillings, and also removed teeth."

Tuesday's program is Steve Leighty who has spent countless days and weeks volunteering his talents to the people of Papua NG, Nepal, and has been traveling to Mexico as a volunteer dentist since 2005. Dr. Leighty is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with offices in Auburn.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Ernie & Judy Strobel
8 years - March 26, 2005

Scott & Lynnel Queen
20 years - March 20, 1993

Nancy & Ken Nittler
28 years - March 9, 1985

Steve & Suzanne Wardwell
33 years - March 29, 1980

THE METZKER/SPOKELY CLAN & THE AMBROSIA'S ARE KICKING BACK DOWN IN CANCUN FOR EASTER BREAK



Carolyn has her Nature Noir book and Jeff his Kindle (loaded with Nature Noir we're led to believe); "Does this count as a make-up?" And, "Our dedication to the One Book, One Community effort is impressive! Just waiting for our coconut drink to go with it." BUT, will it work?

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

Thursday - April 18, 2013
Janet Kovacich Murder Cold Case Panel
Moderated by Radio & TV Personality
Beth Ruyak 7 - 9 PM
Placer High School Auditorium

Saturday - April 20, 2013
Auburn, CA, Auburn Dam Tour with State Parks
Ranger Mike Lynch & Author Jordan Fisher
Smith.* 10 AM.
*Please register by emailing
placereonebookonecommunity@gmail.com

Tuesday - April 23, 2013
Auburn, CA, 7 - 9 PM
Placer High School Auditorium
Author Book Signing

Thursday - April 25, 2013
Lyme Disease Film "Under Our Skin" with
Jordan Fisher Smith.
6:30 - 8:30 PM Placer County Office of
Education Annex Building, Nobili Room

Our goal is for every member of the Auburn Rotary Club to attend at least one of the five One Book, One Community events above.

HAVE YOU READ NATURE NOIR YET?

AUBURN ROTARY TRIVIA TEAM WAS THIRD OR TIED FOR THIRD IN THE AAUW WILD WEST TRIVIA CONTEST



Though they trailed the Holmes brothers, who came in second, our team composed of Bart O'Brien, Terry Cooney, and Rudy Rivero did fine, even without preparation. Who would have known that Raquel Welch was in an obscure film titled 100 Rifles in 1969? One thing we do know, Raquel (above) is not uttering, "Badges? We ain't got no badges. We don't need no badges! I don't have to show you any stinkin' badges!" We think that line could very well be adapted for use by Rotarians—just substitute "Rotary Pin" for "badges" and then, after you utter those words to President Bart in your best imitation of that bandido in the *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, hand your entire wallet over to the Sergeant-at-Arms! Oddly enough two teams knew the answer. Bart said, "Terry knew some really obscure TV and movie answers. We worked well as a team despite our lack of preparation. I think the Club should continue to participate."

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER? STAND UP PLACER CHRISTMAS GALA!



The Committee



Santa Litchfield



The youth volunteers



The choir entertained

A ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY FEATURE ARTICLE THE JANET KOVACICH MURDER CASE

By Art Campos

On Sept. 8, 1982, one of the greatest crimes in Placer County history occurred. Janet Kay Kovacich, a 27-year-old mother of two and an Auburn resident, completely vanished.

Auburn Police initiated widespread searches that lasted for weeks. But Janet couldn't be found. Police detectives quickly focused on one key suspect – Paul Ralph Kovacich, Jr., a Placer County sheriff's sergeant.

Paul Kovacich, then 32, was an unfriendly, temperamental and controlling person. Janet's many friends all seemed aware of the fear that she had of him. A number of them witnessed the verbal – and sometimes physical – abuse that he heaped upon his wife.

During interviews with detectives, Paul Kovacich acknowledged that he and his wife had argued during the morning of her disappearance. Janet had asked for a divorce. She had told him she wanted to take the two children out of Catholic school and place them in a Christian school. She told him she wanted to go back to college and study for a career.

All of these demands ran counter to what Paul Kovacich wanted. He told the detectives that he reacted calmly to this so-called argument and that he even offered to give Janet a ride to the Christian school so that she could talk to officials there about possibly transferring the children.

Janet was unable to drive because she had undergone breast surgery only one week before and she could barely lift her arms.

According to Paul, Janet told him she had managed to find another person to give her a ride. Paul said he then left the house to run errands for the next few hours. When he returned in the early afternoon, Janet was not there. She never returned at all.

As the days went by, Paul theorized to detectives and to his friends that his wife had run away and that perhaps Janet's mother, who disliked Paul, was hiding her out. He wondered aloud that perhaps someone had kidnapped her or that maybe she had committed suicide at a place where no one could find her.

Police didn't believe his stories and theories, nor did they believe she would abandon her two small children, whose ages were 5 and 7. They thought that Paul had done away with her and hidden the body. They saw gaps in Paul's story about his whereabouts during the time he was supposedly running errands. But they had no evidence that he had killed her. There were no eyewitnesses. There was no body. They could find no blood in the Kovacich house or in the automobiles.

And so the case became a mystery. Paul Kovacich walked around free for the next 24 years.

One significant incident occurred in 1995 when the top of a skull was found in the mud of a drained pond next to Rollins Lake in Colfax. The skull had a bullet hole near the right ear. However, new crime technology at that time had not yet advanced to the stage where DNA could be taken from dried bone.

In early 2002, a retired sheriff's officer, David Milam, who had been a neighbor of the Kovaciches when Janet disappeared, approached Auburn Police Chief Nick Willick and volunteered to reexamine the case. His partner would be Jerry Johnson, another retired officer. Willick granted the request. However, Milam died within the first year, leaving Johnson to carry on the investigation alone.

Johnson spent the next two years reading the boxes of documents produced in Janet's disappearance. He re-interviewed surviving witnesses and found new witnesses who could shed light on the old case.

In 2005, police collected DNA samples from the Kovacich children, initiated wiretaps and even dug up the front yard of the home belonging to Paul's elderly parents. They unearthed the broken bones of a Kovacich dog named Fuzz that had been allegedly kicked to death by an angry, violent Paul just two weeks before Janet's disappearance.

In 2006, the District Attorney's Office accepted the case and submitted its evidence to the Placer County Grand Jury, which indicted Paul Kovacich on a felony charge of murder. In early 2007, new advancements in DNA technology established that the partial skull found at Rollins Lake in 1995 was that of Janet Kovacich. Because of the bullet hole in the skull, the Grand Jury returned a new indictment against Paul Kovacich: Murder with the use of a firearm.

The case, which depended largely on circumstantial evidence, went to trial in October 2008 with David Tellman and Suzanne Gazzaniga as the prosecutors. Seventy-seven witnesses testified. In late January 2009, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty.

Despite his protestations of innocence, Paul Ralph Kovacich, Jr., at age 60, was sentenced to 27 years to life in state prison. He is currently incarcerated at Ironwood State Prison near Blythe in Riverside County.

Kovacich has lost appeals at state court levels and is now appealing his conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court.



**THE ROTARY DISTRICT 5190 CONFERENCE IS MAY 15-19
ENJOY MUSIC, FUN, DINNERS AT JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET IN SPARKS
OUR CLUB WILL OFFSET YOUR REGISTRATION COSTS
SEE BRIDGET POWERS FOR DETAILS**

**ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY
AT THE GOLD COUNTRY FAIRGROUNDS
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013**

- Projects include:
- Repairs to the outside of the bathrooms
 - Repairs and painting of picnic tables and benches
 - Painting of the shade trellis at the Placer Building
 - Pressure washing the Placer Building
 - Landscaping
 - Repairs and painting the bathroom/shower facilities at the ball fields

A clip board has been circulating to order Rotarian at Work Day t-shirts. The costs for the shirts are \$10.

**PRESIDENT BART AWARDS
PAUL ROSS THE
ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH**



**RYE STUDENT NATALLIA'S PARENTS
& SISTER VISITED WITH HOST FAMILIES
AT BETTY & DENNIS BENNETT'S HOME**



Front row (left to right) Eralise Spokely, Annika Spokely, Natallia & sister Leticia. Back: Dennis, Melanie, father Marcello Silveira, Carolyn, Michael & Valerie Harris, Matt Spokely, mother Michelle Silveira, and Betty.

**NEXT WEEK
APRIL 9, 2013
STUDENT-TEACHER
APPRECIATION AWARDS
PLACER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*"A knowledge of the path cannot
be substituted for putting one foot
in front of the other."*

—M. C. Richards

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- April 2: Steve Leighty: Papua New Guinea and Ensenada Dental Clinics
- April 9: Jarrod Anderson/Virgil Traynor Student-Teacher Appreciation (PUHSD)

COMING EVENTS

- Rotarians At Work Day - Gold Country Fair Saturday, April 27, 2013
- Auburn Rotary Poker for Polio Casino Night at Ceronix - May 11, 2013
- District Assembly at Atlantis Casino Reno April 20 (see President-elect Jeff Patton)
- Fireside Chat for New Members May 9, 2013 at Ambrosias 6 p.m.
- Rotary District Conference at John Ascuaga's Nugget: May 16-19, 2013
- Auburn Rotary Barbecue Friday, September 20, 2013

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**AUBURN ROTARY CASINO NIGHT
"POKER FOR POLIO"**

Saturday, May 11, 2013
6:30 pm Cocktails
Buffet Dinner & Music
Gaming Begins at 7:30 pm
at Ceronix, 13350 New Airport Road

SELL YOUR TICKETS \$30 EACH

Auburn Rotary has added a new exciting opportunity to win real money at this years Polio for Poker Casino Night. Rotary members have received raffle tickets to sell at \$50 each. When selling these tickets advise the person that they have a one in nine chance to win their money back. The top prize winner will win \$4,000. 22 ticket holders will win \$50 each 3 ticker holders will win \$200 each and 1 ticket holder will win \$500. This fund raiser will net the Auburn Rotary Club \$6,300 but only if all 250 tickets are sold. Please get out there and sell those raffle tickets!