



THE ACORN

December 5, 2011

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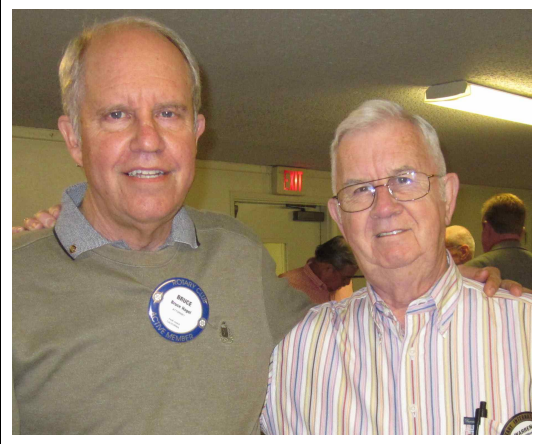
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UKRAINE: A GLIMPSE THROUGH THREE AMERICANS' EYES



Prez-elect
Beth
Wilcoxen
introduced
two of our
own, world
traveler
(since
retirement)
Warren
McWilliams
and Peace
Corps Papa
Bruce

Hagel, who

had both recently visited Ukraine, though separately and for different reasons. Bruce and Debra had obviously wanted to visit son Chris, and Warren... does this surprise anyone... said it was the cheapest tour/river cruise he could find for Janet and him.

Each speaker provided some factual background about Ukraine: 75% Ukranian, living in 241,000 square miles of what used to be the bread-basket of Europe till Stalin took over. What wars didn't do to the country, the history of forced collectivization of agriculture and a centrally-planned economy did do. Although Ukraine boasts a high literacy rate and a belief in education, and is hosting the upcoming 2012 European soccer championship, rampant government corruption and the poor economy have led to a lack of joy in the country and the desire of many young people to emigrate to somewhere they could make a better life, whether it be Poland, the USA, or elsewhere. When Chris Hagel was doing his needs assessment in the village of 6,000 where he is working, the response from the villagers

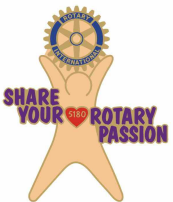
was, "We need everything." That's what the 280 Peace Corps volunteers in the Ukraine try to do.

Both Warren and Bruce took the same cruise on the Dnieper River, and they commented on the different things they noted along the way. Warren was on the Black Sea in a storm in a shallow-draft, flat-bottom boat, and he commented that Janet spent most of that time in bed... he didn't say where he was. He was impressed with Yalta and the relatively recent history that occurred there, and by the site of the 1854 Charge of the Light Brigade immortalized by Tennyson, who was one of Warren's frat brothers. He complained that his attempts to handle priceless objects in the museums were thwarted by female guards with robust physiques, and that his search for a statue of Stalin to pose by was in vain.

Bruce kept pronouncing Kiev as Keev, and said that two noteworthy sites in Keev were a monastery in a cave with bodies of mummified monks, and the subway. (editorial comment: Keev is the correct pronunciation) He was impressed by the decommissioned submarine base in Sebastopol, built to withstand a direct hit by a nuclear device, and by the fact that Russia still has a lease on the base till sometime in the relatively distant future.

During their talk, a bottle of pepper vodka was circulated in the room, and we enjoyed a traditional Ukrainian toast of "My soul to your soul" at the conclusion of their talk. Many questions were posed and they were generally handled by asking their wives for the answers or by some equally inept maneuver, but after the vodka, no one cared and overall, they were given a rousing ovation for an interesting presentation.

VISITORS



Jerry Smuts of Rancho Cordova (aka Fair Oaks South) was introduced as the only visiting Rotarian. It was spouse/partner night, so the following were introduced by their spouse/partner: Karen Romines, Jim Wilcoxen, Janet McWilliams, Ruth Elliott, Debra Price, Bonnie McClain, Allison Brothers and Betsy Alberts. Honorary member Virginia Grabbe showed up long enough to get two more Crab Feed tickets and pay for the 16 she had already sold! We were also graced by the presence of the Bella Vista Interact President, Maddy Wells, and our RYE student, Nicolai Nissen.



**Rotary Club of Fair
Oaks**

**Chartered January 1946 Club
Number 0525**

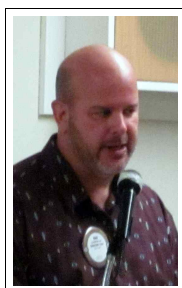
VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT:
www.rotaryfairoaks.org

We meet Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at
the Fair Oaks Clubhouse.
7997 California (at Temescal)
[here](#) for a map.

MEETING NOTES

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:01 pm after a social (half) hour of grazing on deviled eggs, salami & cheese roll-ups, and puff pastries. Jim Cralle led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Bill Stapelfeld presented a thought for the day regarding charity, concluding with a quote from Bob Hope. Alice Rowe attempted to lead the group in singing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, but she was abandoned when we got to the part about the foggy Christmas Eve.

We then settled down to a dinner of BBQ chicken & ribs, with beans and salad, and rainbow sherbet for dessert.



Vocational Speaker

Dan Smallhouse described the last 2½ years of his professional life, when he went to work for “the man” at the Small Business Administration, which was founded during the Eisenhower administration in 1953. He detailed the SBA’s role in helping small business, and his job as an interface between lenders and businesses. Karen Romines thanked Dan for the quick action that helped their podiatry practice obtain a much-needed loan on good terms. Dan offered literature for anyone who was interested.

CLUB BUSINESS

• Sunshine Report: Howard Papworth had spoken with Lloyd Hinkelman, who is recovering from back surgery. He said that Lloyd sounded like the Hink we all know. A card for Lloyd was circulated among the members. Ted Darrow had spoken with Duane Day, who is doing well, but worries about driving at night to meetings; several members offered to provide needed transportation. Howard Papworth and Tyler Janes are taking Bev Mark to lunch later this week.

• Crab Feed: Bill Wagner reported that two items are needed to help supplement prizes in the MegaDraw: 1) funds to pay for food in the suite that the River Cats are donating - \$500 was donated last year; and 2) a limousine to provide transportation to the yacht for the “Day on the Delta”.

• Children’s Receiving Home Presents: Maggie Hoy said that there are still names available if anyone wants to buy presents for these children.



• Holiday Baskets at Northridge School: Tom Rains reported that all is going well for this project, scheduled for Thursday, December 15, though we could use a few more drivers at 2:00 pm for possible off-site delivery. Although it appears that donated food and the budget are adequate, donations to the club to defray expenses would not be refused. Cost of one family’s basket: about \$50.

• Christmas Meeting/Party: Peter announced the annual Christmas party at his house on Saturday, December 17, at 6 pm. It will be a catered event with an open bar, and the cost is \$40 per person. There will be an ornament exchange, though details about this were limited. Since there will be the required three announcements, this gathering will substitute for the weekly meeting normally scheduled for December 19, and the usual attendance and makeup rules apply. Beth Wilcoxon is collecting the money and RSVP’s.

• Wheelchair Project: Things are going smoothly so far. Our partner club in Peru is now the Rotary Club of Iquitos (founded in 1932, by the way) in the Amazon Basin area. Individual donors in the club (Bruce Hagel, Bill Wagner and Beth Wilcoxon) were thanked for their donations, and Maddy Wells and the Bella Vista Interact Club were congratulated for their contribution of \$500.

• Village Christmas Tree: John Brothers was recognized for his work in getting the Christmas lights up for last Saturday’s Christmas in the Village. He stated that he finally achieved his goal of over 10,000 lights on the tree!

• Blood Drive at Divine Savior: Sunday, January 15, from 8 am to noon. Donate blood and eat pancakes. More later.

• STRS Training: Prez Peter announced that, for the remainder of this Rotary year, the

CALENDAR

This color means: Spouses/S.O. Night
Underlined means: Attend or make up

| December | |
|----------|---|
| 12 Mon | <u>Club Assembly- Election of new Officers</u> |
| 15 Thur | Holiday Basket Shopping and Distribution @ Northridge |
| 17 Sat | <u>Christmas Party @ Romines</u> |
| 19 Mon | No Meeting January |
| 26 Mon | No meeting |
| | |
| 2 Mon | No Meeting |
| 9 Mon | <u>Ivan Schwabe- Evolution's witness: How eyes evolved.</u> |



club would be able to pay the \$50 tuition for these classes only for those who need the training for club positions. Our attendance so far this year has been so wonderful that the training budget has been depleted. Next session will be Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Drawings

- Free Dinner: Howard Papworth... will he try to use it for the Christmas Party?
- Ace of Spades: with \$240 on the line, Jim Cralle couldn't even pull the correct color card, but at least no one has to worry about the four of diamonds anymore.

FINES AND SHOUT OUTS

Bill Wagner's first of two sessions this month began with a weakly executed plate spin and went downhill from there. He began with \$1-2 fines for sucking up (Ralph), bent ticket (Jim C.), forgetting his badge (Ted D.), not carrying the "membership" card with club meeting time (many), talking during the announcements (many), and then, stating that she probably wouldn't fine herself enough for her recent vacation to see her daughter in Sweden, he fined Shelley a dollar a week for her four weeks there. Finally, he levied penalties for lack of knowledge regarding obscure facts in this month's Rotarian magazine, like the exact number of Rotary clubs in the world. Steve Hoverman did evade this tactic by knowing that the next RI Convention in the USA would be in 2017, but many wallets were lightened in what appeared to be a blatant attempt to establish some sort of personal fining record.

Happy fines were paid by Tom Alberts for the thrill of escorting his daughter to a father-daughter dance at St. Francis High School recently, by Buzz for seeing his 7 yo grand-daughter... or was that your daughter, Buzz... appear in the Nutcracker in SF, by John Brothers for finally getting over 10,000 lights on the tree this year, by Cliff for his 90 yo parents new lap dog, by Don Reed for a new dog, by Shelley... with what she had left after LG got done with her... for her trip, and by Prez Peter for his son making it another week in Afghanistan.

At this point, Peter Wick took the microphone and proceeded with an exercise which no one appeared to understand, but which concluded with our wallets being lightened by over \$100, which went to next year's tree lighting project, because no one was able to guess the exact number of lights on the tree... it was 10,294.



*Blaine and Howard are honored
for their contributions to the
club.*



10,294

Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

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Club email: fredrowe@gmail.com

Rotary District 5180

www.rotary5180.net

Rotary International www.rotary.org

Did you miss a meeting? Go to www.rotary5180.net and click on club locator for make up locations. **Can't physically make it? Make up on-line at www.rotaryclubone.org**

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1. Is it the *TRUTH*?**
- 2. Is it *FAIR* to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build *GOODWILL* and *BETTER FRIENDSHIPS*?**
- 4. Will it be *BENEFICIAL* to all concerned?**

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

*Rotary International
President Kalyan
Banerjee*



*District 5180 Governor,
Jack Taylor*



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