



# The Acorn

## In Remembrance



### Tom Alberts

1955 - 2012

Father, husband, son, and long-time Fair Oaks Rotarian, Tom passed away unexpectedly on November 23rd.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy and two children, Brian and Erin as well as by his parents, six sisters and a brother.

Good friend and fellow Rotarian Bruce Hagel's touching remarks from Tom's funeral can be found on page 4.

We miss Tom and our thoughts are with his family.

### Club Events

#### Rotary Night at the Kings

Sleep Train Arena  
Nov 30, 2012 07:00 PM - 10:00 PM

#### Christmas Party

Smallhouse Abode  
Dec 15, 2012 06:00 PM - 10:00 PM

#### Holiday Food Baskets

Northridge School  
Dec 20, 2012 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM

#### Board Meeting

Romines Residence  
Jan 16, 2013 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

### Club Meeting Info

We meet Mondays at 6:45 PM  
Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave.  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628 USA

[Venue Map](#)

[Club Site](#)

[Facebook Page](#)



[District Site](#)



District Governor Bob Deering

## Welcome

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We had such a good turnout this evening that for a moment it looked like we would need to add a table to accommodate everyone.

Being the holiday season, members and guests were generally of good cheer, however for most of us, the shock of losing Tom so unexpectedly created a more somber feeling as we reflected on our loss.

President Beth asked that we dedicate tonight's meeting to Tom's memory.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Carson, making the mistake of sitting directly in Beth's line of sight at the front of the room, was asked, and graciously agreed to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Thought for the Day

Charlie Blatchford led us in our thought for the day; clearly thinking about Tom, he shared the following from Kahlil Gibran...

*For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?*

*And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?*

*Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.*

*And when you reach the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.*

*And when the earth shall reap claim your limbs then shall you truly dance.*



Charlie then asked everyone who remembered it, to join him in reciting the 23rd Psalm.

### Tonight's Dinner

New Fair Oaks Rotary Paul Harris Fellows Mary Elizabeth McCall and Roberta Orr provided comfort food for our somber mood serving up meatloaf and potatoes with salad and ice cream sundaes for dessert.

### Energizer Award

After dinner, Beth invited Bill Wagner to the front of the room telling us "Bill you have helped all of us be energized about making donations to the Foundation", before awarding him the Energizer Bunny for his outstanding work on the fine Foundation dinner last Monday evening.

## Vocational Director's Report

Every club has the opportunity to utilize Vocational Services to enhance the Rotary experience. Rotarians can draw upon the expertise of fellow members to benefit the community at large as well as other club members. In Fair Oaks, what we've done thus far is to initiate a monthly Business Networking Luncheon. There is, of course, an open invitation for all Fair Oaks Rotarians to attend any luncheon. They have proven to be interesting, valuable and exactly what they are intended to be - a rich addition to the club's agenda.

We have intentionally staggered the format of each luncheon into a cycle of 3: a presentation of a particular business skill (led by a member), an outside speaker (presenting a pre-determined business topic), and "table-top" networking (whereby groups of 4 share in-depth ideas as to how they may support one another).

Lunch is ordered at the start of the meeting, and served during the later stages. We finish promptly at 1:00, expressing what each will "take away" to apply in their work. We are experimenting with a variety of venues, from established restaurants to catered conference rooms.

In Fair Oaks Rotary, we are blessed with a nice variety of "experts" in many vocations. These luncheons will prove to be a fine way to familiarize members with these experts. As this is a process, suggestions are welcome.

...Pete



Hi folks,  
Our December networking luncheon will be on **TUESDAY, Dec. 11th at noon.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

It promises to be a great meeting - the format will be "table-top networking." That is, each table, with 3, 4 or 5 attendees (depending on the size of our group) will discuss year-end planning strategies, goal-setting techniques, etc. amongst their table-mates.

You'll be able to share and pick up valuable tips for starting 2013 on the right foot. I'll hand out some "take-home" tips I've used with my clients over the years, too.

Please let me know if you can make it or not.

Thanks...Pete  
928-202-2007 cell



## Remembering Tom Alberts

*Remarks of Bruce Hagel at the Funeral Service for Tom Alberts on November 30, 2012*

My name is Bruce Hagel. It was a privilege having Tom Alberts as my friend. Tom was many things: a loving husband, father and son, an avid fan of the Cal Bears and Denver Bronco football teams, a world traveler in his work for Intel and with his family, a college instructor, and a life-long learner with degrees in economics, engineering and business. Three college degrees! How many people have three degrees? Most families don't have three degrees.

I want to talk about just one part of Tom's well-lived life. He was a member of the Fair Oaks Rotary Club and sponsored my membership in the Club. I had never joined a service club and didn't know anyone who was in a service club. Tom – always a good salesman – knew how to hook my interest. He told me that Rotary was involved in getting the United Nations started in 1945. This is true. 49 Rotarians went to the San Francisco conference that year and helped get the organization going. It convinced me that Rotary truly ran the world and was (and is) a great organization. Tom also told me to bring a hearty appetite to the weekly dinner meetings of the Club. I must confess he forgot to tell me that dollar bills would flow out of my wallet like a mighty river at those same meetings, which was O.K. because those dollars fund so many good works.



Tom only gave me one bit of advice after I joined the Club. He was the sergeant at arms at that time and told me I should aspire to that position for two reasons: you didn't have to go to extra meetings and you were exempt from being fined for transgressions real and imaginary.

That advice was typical tongue in cheek Tom, because the truth is that his many actions over the years exemplified "service above self". Just a few examples will tell the real story: he went to Africa - Ghana, to be more precise - with Betsy to administer polio vaccines; helped make the club's fund raising efforts like Fair Oaks Uncorked successful; and served as a board member. However, I have to admit that the thing that impressed me the most was his repair of the antique Rotary clock in the Fair Oaks village. Not that important in the big picture, I suppose, but that clicking clock is a public reminder of Tom's engineering brains, his persistence, and commitment to service.

Tom will be missed by all of us for so many reasons. I was always happy to be in the company of Tom, his family and his friends. I could use more words but I think the best way of putting it is to paraphrase the blues song sung by George Thourgood with the title "bad to the bone". Tom Alberts, my dear friend, was "good to the bone."







## Announcements

### Kings Game / Bus / Party

Maggie announced that the Kings bus was leaving from the parking lots this Friday at 5:30, but the parking lot party will start at 4:45. If you can't make the bus, but want to join the parking lot party, Maggie would welcome you with the payment of only eight dollars, noting however there are no refunds.

### Children's Receiving Home Gifts

Maggie also shared that it's time for the Children's Receiving Home Gift list again. She passed a list where all you need to do is pull the tag off the list and give her back the sheet. The Home is on the corner of Watt and Auburn Avenue and each year we have provided gifts for children there. They would prefer we start with the 10- to 18-year-olds as they often have lots of gifts for the younger children. Everything needs to be turned in by December 20 or you will need to take them down there yourself.

Gifts should be unwrapped so they're able to verify that the gifts are appropriate to each child.

### Toys For Tots

Following Maggie, Ben had an answer for everyone who really loves giving gifts to really young children. Before

the meeting he distributed a few flyers to each table explaining that he has a box at his office to collect Toys for Tots. This program is targeted at younger kids, usually ages 10 or under, and the box will be at his office for a couple more weeks before it needs to be picked up.

### Food Baskets

Tom Rains talked about this year's food basket program, and everyone should have received an e-mail on Tuesday with the details.



Tom is still in need of volunteers to help in putting the baskets together as he anticipates needing around 80 baskets this year, about a 10% increase over last year.

Our normal source for meat is no longer available, so we have a special need for turkeys. If anyone has a contact where we could get them at about \$0.50 a pound, contact Tom.

Beth asked everyone to think about whether you have a neighbor who works for a food distribution company, as a few years ago she realized that one of her neighbors provided fresh produce, and that neighbor has supplied for free the fresh produce for the last few years



## More Announcements



Ralph Briefs the Club on the Crab

Ralph asked if everyone knew what February 9 was - it's the day of our Crab Feed, the big moneymaker for our Rotary Club and Foundation.

Before tonight's general meeting we had a meeting of the Crab Feed Committee and determined while we have many areas that we need to work on, the critical short-term need is to finalize the Mega Draw prizes so we can get the tickets printed.

The good news is we already have the Duck Hunt, thanks to the Romines, the TV, thanks to the Rowes, and we have the thousand dollar

prize contributed by the club, but we need a total of five prizes for Mega Draw, and we really want to get something that's special and will really help sell tickets.

People also need to start collecting prizes for the fun raffle and you should talk with Ralph to get a donation form or if you have any questions.

Joining Ralph, Bob Walters, in his unique style that only he can deliver, implored everyone to think outside of the box, telling us we all know someone who can help deliver that special prize, the one that everyone will talk about, like the America's Cup tickets we had last year. He asked us not to leave it to the same people who get the same prizes every year, explaining we are already a little late doing this, and and we really need everyone to think who they can approach who can help us with this.

Ralph closed by explaining that the answer may be by piecing some of these smaller prizes together to form a really large and spectacular prize people will talk about!



And Then Bob Walters Briefs Ralph on:  
How to Correctly Organize a Crab Feed

## Crab Feed Tickets

Each Member is being given 10 tickets to sell. If you haven't already received your tickets they will be available at the front door when you check-in at next weeks meeting.

Once you have talked with your family, friends, and neighbors, if you have tickets you know you aren't going to be able to sell, return them to Keith as we members who are already asking for more.

New this year, we are also selling tickets online, talk with Keith or see our website page for more information.

## Sunshine Report

Ted and his family are in Iran this week to be with his father who is very ill. They're due back next weekend, so please keep them in your thoughts.

Beth talked with Duane Day today and while he's feeling better, he still doesn't feel up to attending the meetings, but is hoping to make Tom's service later this week.

Todd Gaston explained that his dad likes to take walks, and last Saturday he took quite a spill. Todd shared a photo with us showing Charlie a little bruised and worse for wear, but now resting safe at home and healing.

Howard Papworth met with Betsy and Brian late this afternoon and said that she

wanted us to tell you how much Tom loved Rotary and loved this group.

Tom's services will begin with a visitation this coming Thursday at the Russ Monroe funeral home from 4 to 7 with a Rosary at 7 PM

The service will be Friday morning, originally planned for 10 but had to be changed to 11 AM due to another commitment at the Newman Center, followed by his internment and then a reception will be held at their home

Betsy said Tom would want any donations to go to our local Rotary Foundation.

Howard said she's hanging in there, really tired, but her children and family are rallying around her.

## Tonight's Guests

Certainly not a guest, none the less we are happy to welcome **Don Hicks** back after his extended holiday and recent surgery.

Likewise, **John Chavez** joined us this evening for the first time in a while - welcome back.

**Dave Claugus**, visiting as a repeat guest and soon to be new member - please make him feel welcome.

We are happy to

joining us again this evening.

Ron explained he is running out of new ways to introduce **Leilani Beach**, but however he does it we are happy to have her join us.

**David McKie** is a visiting Rotarian



have **Molly Gilmore**, our Interact Vice President, and David Chen, our RYE student



joining us this evening from the Sacramento club.

Blaine introduced his wife and repeat visitor **Rosemary Lamb**.

Peter R. introduced frequent, guest/wife/mother **Pat Gaston**.



## Agnes Kwenda

Alice enjoyed the opportunity to introduce a special guest and visiting Rotarian **Agnes Kwenda**, from the Bulawayo club in Zimbabwe.

Agnes is a President-elect of her club in Zimbabwe and was asked to say a few words to our club this evening.

Agnes displayed her wonderful personality and command of the English language saying she loves meeting Rotarians because we are like finding family 14,000 miles from home.

She continued telling us "I feel at home in this place. I am President-elect for my club that was born in 1931, so we are over 80 years old. At one time we had 132 Rotarians, although with everything going on there, the club membership is down, but we're hanging in there. We sponsor four Interact clubs and what brought me here is the state government, that brings non-profit leaders from all over the world, and I feel privileged that I've been picked to come here and work at St. John's shelter, where I met your Rotary volunteers working there."

She said when we choose to do an international project, please consider doing a project with us. We've done projects with Sausalito and other California clubs and we would like to increase our friends.



Today someone asked me what I would take back from this trip? I will forget about your beautiful ocean, Yosemite, and lots of other wonderful places and things that I've seen here; but I will not forget the good people of America. You people have got a beautiful warm heart and I have felt that for the last four months that I've been here, and this Rotary club has got something special and I like it! Thank you very much for inviting me this evening.



## Red Ribbon Ceremony

Alice asking Trish to stay behind after Nita's induction ceremony and explained this is a special evening for her as well, because after tonight she will no longer be wearing the new member red ribbon.

Before being inducted, Trish attended Peter's demotion dinner and worked a service event, and was Beth's first new member inducted. While she's done many special things already, the one that stands out tonight, is that she is a new member, who has already brought in a new member to our club - thank you Trish!

## Nita Castro - Our Newest Member

Beth, inviting Alice, Trish, and Nita to the front of the room, explained that she once again had the special pleasure of inducting a new member to the club

Beth administered the Rotary induction, explaining that Nita had been proposed by Trish and approved by the club's members

Trish presented Nita her Rotary pin,



certificate, and a packet of information.

Beth suggested she take the time to look at the Four-Way Test which forms the basis for our everyday lives before saying, "now by the power vested in me as the President of Fair Oaks Rotary Club, I declare you to be an active member of the Fair Oaks Rotary Club, at which point Nita received a standing ovation from the members and guests in attendance.

Locating two hats, we passed them to gather donations to help get her fund in the Rotary Foundation started.

Speaking to us for the first time as a new member, Nita wanted to thank everybody, because this is such a delightful club from the first time she came here, she felt so welcome and so privileged to be a member.

She shared how she was raised in a military family, so she's what you call a military brat, and by the time she finished high school she'd been to 18 schools.



Her family consists of three brothers, so she's been well protected. She's lived in the Sacramento area for about 40 years and her immediate family consists of her and two cute little dogs.

After working in the dental field for a number of years and owning a gift shop, she's been in real estate for the last several years. She says, "But that is enough about me. I just feel really privileged to be a member of this club."

### Club Accolades

Hello Keith,

*Thank you so much for sending me the Acorn newsletter. Bill did show it to me and I would love to be able to be put on your "friends" mailing list to see what is happening in and with your Fair Oaks Rotary Club. I feel like you are all family now -- since everyone was so gracious to me when I attended your meeting/dinner this past week.*

*I so enjoyed the evening and hope everyone else did too. Thanks again so much for your kindness and how well I was received. Please keep up the good efforts with your members' generosity and interest in the Ambassadorial Scholarship as well as other outreach efforts you are making.*

*I look forward to keeping in touch with your activities and members!*

*Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!*

*Warm regards,*

*Cindy Shain*



## Little Genius

Once again our Little Genius was greeted by a round of “boos”, and while Warren was making his way to the front front of the room, Blaine’s ticket was selected as the winner of next week’s free dinner.



We weren’t quite ready for the Ace of spades drawing ...and never did make it back so the pot grows yet again!

Beth asked if we should keep Warren on as Little Genius for December since we didn’t give him much chance in November and by unanimous acclaim (sort of) Warren will once again be Little Genius in December.

Saying that tonight he wanted to only fine people who fine him, or who only show up once in a while, he got the pot growing by fining John Chavez “at least 10 bucks”.

Next was was Bob Walters, because he always finds me when he’s Little Genius.

And to nobody’s surprise, he suggested Bill Wagner “put in a couple of bucks, the same way you fine people, especially me.”

Showing a picture from the Bee of Joe and Joyce H at a Kings game, Joe was fined for not enjoying the game (which Warren agreed was a terrible game).

Not having anything else, he asked everyone to put in a dollar just because.

## Happy Fines

Bill Wagner put in a check for \$30 to celebrate his 30 years of marriage.

Bruce Vincent paid a happy fine for the pleasure of watching three Bella Vista soccer wins saying he is now a soccer fan and BV is number three in the state.

Don paid a happy fine because he was happy just to be back.

Maggie paid a fine for survived her Thanksgiving dinner for 46 people, saying and it turned out fabulous, they roasted a 60 pound pig for dinner.

Bob Vogel paid a \$100 happy fine to celebrate his recent 78th birthday, and Warren volunteered that he didn’t look a day over 78.

Bill paid one more happy fine because he is happy that Warren is going to be Little Genius again, however Warren explained that that wouldn’t prevent him from being fined next time.

## Credits

Special thanks to Bruce Vincent for providing most of this week’s photos and captions!



Maggie Says:  
Guilt With an Expanation, Your Honor

## Featured Speaker

Rick Chang introduced our speaker, “a good friend of mine, Mickey O’Brien, who is a native of Sacramento and has lived in Fair Oaks for six years now. Tonight he is going to talk to us about his passion-business, he is actually a licensed real estate broker, but that’s not what is going to be talking about today. Mickey also happens to be a neighbor of Fred and Alice Rowe...”

Taking the mike, Mickey explained that he came all the way from Bodega Bay tonight leaving his family behind to be with us this evening.

Saying, he was having having the better time here with all of us - when you can get free food, why not?

“I’m here today to talk about is the recumbent trike which I sell at Laid Back Cycles over by Dr. Chang’s office. They’re made for comfort, stability, fitness, and fun, but that’s not where it all started.

It all began 35 years ago when I used to have my own “bike shop” as a kid. Since then I’ve had three children with my lovely wife Jennifer, and what I discovered is that I love people, but also still love bikes.

About 17 years ago my life changed. My daughter was diagnosed with cancer and my world turned upside down. I lost my job because of the time I was spending with my

daughter and that started me down a new path as a small business owner. Fortunately my daughter survived and is now 19 years old.

Another life-changing event happened a



few years ago when I developed a bad back, which prevented me from riding my bicycle.

Sitting behind the desk with no exercise, I started to gain weight. About that time I looked for another option and found that recombinant tricycles allowed me to regain my freedom, and that has been the story of my success, working with primarily individuals who have physical limitations of one kind or another, and giving them the freedom to ride again.

I encourage each of you to come visit me at the shop to take a test ride in the large parking lot we have, if you are ready to get more active.



## Speakers & Meetings

Dec 03, 2012

[Lana Adlawan](#)

Fair Oaks Library

Dec 10, 2012

[Club Assembly](#)

Election of Officers for 2013-14

Dec 17, 2012

[NO MEETING](#)

It was two days ago!

Dec 24, 2012

[NO MEETING](#)

You should be waiting for Santa.

Dec 31, 2012

[NO MEETING](#)

Except maybe at The Stockman.

Jan 07, 2013

[Scott Jones and John McGinness](#)

Current and former Sacramento  
County Sheriff's

## Officers & Directors

President

[Beth Wilcoxon](#)

Vocational

Service Director

[Pete Schroeder](#)

Vice President

[Howard](#)

[Papworth](#)

Youth Service

Director

[Tom Alberts](#)

President Elect

[Mike Maddox](#)

Rotary

Foundation

Immediate Past

President

[Peter Romines,](#)

[DPM](#)

Director

[William Wagner](#)

Public Relations

Director

[Bruce Vincent](#)

Secretary

[Stephen](#)

[Hoverman](#)

Membership

Director

[Alice Rowe](#)

Treasurer

[Dan Smallhouse](#)

Webmaster

[Fred Rowe](#)

Club Service

Director

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Program Chair

[Mike Maddox](#)

Community

Service Director

[Jim Cralle](#)

Acorn Editor

[Keith Walter](#)

International

Service Director

[Fred Vaske](#)



### The FOUR WAY TEST

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

WILL it build GOOD WILL  
and FRIENDSHIPS?

WILL it be BENEFICIAL  
to all concerned?

## Newsletter

[Send me your name and email address to  
receive future issues of the Acorn](#)

## Website

[Click here for the latest and most  
complete information!](#)