

Flywheel

"Service
Above
Self"

A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California

Program for Friday February 11, 2005

"St. Valentine's Day & ...all that Jazz"

The Portola Middle School Jazz Band will entertain us. Bring your sweetheart!

Door Duty: Rhonda Harris and Leslie Levy

Program for Friday February 18, 2005

"The Russians R Here, The Russians R Here"

The 2005 Russian Dentist Exchange Program, organized by the Center for Citizen Initiatives (CCI) as part of their Productivity Enhancement Program with Russia. The Exchange is sponsored by the Richmond, El Cerrito and San Pablo Rotary Clubs in conjunction with the Contra Costa Dental Association.

Door Duty: Ralph Hill and Jon Lawlis

Program of Friday February 4, 2005

Alien Invasion



Jim Young introduced our speaker, **Jorge Vargas**, an

Last Week

With his usual zeal **Prez Herb Cole** rang the bell for Rotary's first February meeting of the year. Former Prez **Stoney** led us in a prayer for peace. **Pam Jones** led the pledge of allegiance, and **Sid Chauvin** had a classic quote from Walt Whitman that he can use again since this writer failed to write it down.

Visiting Rotarians

None today

Rotarians with Guests

Prez Herb introduced once again **John Rocha** of Wilson and Kratzer. The introduction inspired Former Prez **Stoney** to reveal his son-of-a-mortician side with a series of lively dead jokes that left even master-of-one-liners Schwartz stunned, but definitely still in the ring. Meanwhile, the community fund grows with good humor, and we hope Mr. Rocha is willing to return again as our guest. As Stoney pointed out, many of us are dying to get to see him.

Sunshine Report

David K. reports that former Rotarian Bill Reid has had heart surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Recognitions

Sixteen years ago today, **Judy Morgan** joined our illustrious club. **Richard Brandes** and wife Lisa celebrate their 21st anniversary. (Congratulations Judy! And Congratulations Rich and Lisa. Thank you for your generosity to Rotary.)

Happy/Sad \$\$\$

David Kutchenal happily announced that Super Bowl Sturgeon Derby is well underway with the salmon curring as we speak. **Bob Dabney** sadly reports the fading health of his dear mother-in-law. **Judy Kafka** also reports the good/sad news of her step daughter's successful recovery from brain tumor surgery with a long road yet ahead. Bob and Judy, our thoughts are with you and your families. PaPa **Herb Cole** reflects on how his youngest son served in war-torn Iraq only to come home and be tackled by his staircase and end up with a broken foot! **Judy Morgan** announces the 5th Annual Chamber Crab

agricultural biologist with the Department of Agriculture for Contra Costa County. His topic was the invasion of exotic weed species - many that are still available through your local plant nursery - that are sucking life out of California's agriculture economy and natural habitat. Planted unwittingly by professional and amateur landscapers, many of these plants have now become common nuisances that are tough and costly to get rid of. The harm that they cause usually hides behind beautiful formations and an ability to thrive unchecked by natural predators. This equates to 'ease of maintenance' for us weekend gardeners. Periwinkle and English Ivy are examples of Riparian-type weeds. Thistles and stickers can harm cattle or horses, not to mention house pets. There is a huge cost to be paid environmentally and economically. Plant nutrients are robbed, valuable wildlife die, harbor channels are choked, crop yields diminish, and the list (backed by Mr. Vargas's slide show) goes on.

Mr. Varas explained that weeds are ranked A (known in a few sites), B (known in 5 + sites) and C (common). Most of the weeds he reviewed were B-rated in Contra Costa County, including the Kangaroo Thorn (see photo), a B-rated Australian native weed whose only known County location is right here at the Richmond Country Club.

Eradication efforts can be costly. The most effective solutions are community awareness and personal involvement in weeding efforts sponsored by local organizations (i.e. the Watershed Project and Friends of Baxter Creek). Mr. Vargas encouraged us to get involved.

Perhaps we can start by pointing out to the Richmond Country Club Management that the exotic Kangaroo Thorn needs to be replaced -quickly. Thank you Mr. Vargas for your visit and information on a critical topic.

Feed is coming up this Friday February 11th for just \$35. See Judy or call the Chamber for tickets. **Dan Tanita** reminds us that the Russian dentists are coming and encourages everyone to attend a FREE cocktail party in their honor - perfect timing before the Chamber Crab feed. The festivities start at 6 pm on Friday at the Mechanics Bank. Two spare bedrooms are also still needed for our Russian guests for the last two weeks of their stay (Feb.19-first week of March)! **David Brown** admits to being a sexist when he has to share his only bathroom. Fortunately the Russian visit is temporary, but if anyone wants to trade Russian guests, contact David.

Announcements

Prez Herb announced that the Rotary Foundation has requested that checks for the Centennial Foundation Family Fun Day (which will be contributed to the **Tsunami Relief**) be written directly to the Rotary Foundation WITHOUT designation. Please fill out coupons as provided by George Egan.

Charlie Wong has proposed John Wilson for membership with the classification of Mechanical Design Engineer. Any objection to this nominee should be forwarded to Secretary Ercolini on or before 2/12/05.

Raffle

Sid Chauvin wins a FREE lunch.

Time Flies Wheel (from Don H's archives):**Fifteen years ago this week . . .** *Mr. Walter Koenig, Consul General from West Germany, reported on recent developments in Germany and Europe to Richmond Rotary. He believes recent events will be recognized as one of the greatest peaceful revolutions ever as East Germans look forward to elections, multiple political parties, and a more independent press. And* **Twenty years ago this week . . .** *Prez Joe Nusbaum spoke about his company, Wesflex, which manufactures plastic pipe and fittings. Joe has been manufacturing plastic pipe since 1953 and is about ready to retire if he can find a buyer.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jan B. Nimble



Come Celebrate Rotary's 100th Birthday

On February 25th our guest speaker will be Ron Sekkel, District Governor, 5170.



This will be a great event so make plans to bring your spouse or significant other. (or both!)

Where to Make Up

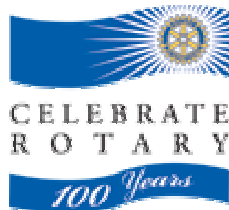
San Rafael	Mon	12:15	Seafood Peddler
Albany	Tue	12:30	Solano Grill
El Sobrante	Tue	12:15	Joe's of El Sobrante
Berkeley	Wed	12:15	His Lordships
Hercules	Wed	7:15 am	Hercules Sen. CTR
San Pablo	Wed	12:15	La Strada
El Cerrito	Thu	12:15	Mira Vista G&CC
Pinole	Thu	12:30	Outback Steak House
Vallejo	Thu	12:15	World Holiday Inn

Upcoming Programs

- 02/11/05 Valentines Day Program. The Portola Middle School Jazz Band will entertain us.
- 02/18/05 "The Russians R Here, The Russians R Here"
- 02/25/05 Rotary's 100th Birthday. Ron Sekkel, District Governor 5170
- 03/04/05 "Chicago, Chicago, ittzah one-er-full TOWNNN!"
- 03/11/05 "Boats, Trains, Cars & ???",

Important Dates

- 02/17/05 Board Meeting – 12 noon at the Country Club
- 03/17/05 Board Meeting – 12 noon at the Country Club
- 04/30/05 District Conference – Yin Ranch



Door Duty Reminder

02/11/05	Harris Rhonda	Levy Leslie
02/18/05	Hill Ralph	Lawlis Jon
02/25/05	Hiramoto Joni	Lau Don
03/04/05	Hodgen Paul	Kuchenthal David K
03/11/05	Howe Mark	
03/18/05	Johnston Gloria	Kelman Joe
03/25/05	Jones Pam	Kelman Henry