

# Flywheel

"Service  
Above  
Self"

**A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California**

**Program for Friday April 1, 2005**

**"First Impressions"**



Bill Lindsay new Richmond City Manager tells us what he thinks, of Richmond and otherwise and maybe will answer the question, "Are you nuts?"

**Door Duty:** Judy Kafka and Sid Chauvin

**Program for Friday April 8, 2005**

**"Last Impressions"**



Chief Charles Bennett, RPD retired, tells us what he thinks of Richmond and the public safety & service organization we call the Richmond Police Department.

**Door Duty:** Ted Abreu and Jim Young

**Last Week**

**Prez Herb**, just returned from Grand Parenting duty in Manassas VA rang the meeting to order on a beautiful but sad spring day as the Richmond Rotary remembered Secretary **Dan Ercolini** who passed away Tuesday evening. That remembrance was lead by past Prez Stoney and the Pledge of Allegiance. *The Editor notes that the flag at Mira Vista CC was flying at half staff.*

**Visiting Rotarians**

None.

However, **Russ Schulze** tried to pass himself off as a visiting Rotarian but was shouted down because the check for his membership dues cleared. Russ used the opportunity to tell the club that his grandson has just had his Court of Honor and became an Eagle Scout.

**Rotarians with Guests**

**Ted Abreu** introduced his son Rick, who is visiting from Wisconsin and helping Ted with the remodeling project he is doing at home.

**Jim Young** introduced Steve Baker the Executive Director of the Berkeley Society for the Preservation of Traditional Music, more commonly know as the freight and Salvage Coffee House in Berkeley.

**Sunshine Report**

**David K.** told the tale of Pete Bray, who is now doing fine thank you, but who went through a series of health adventures that would have made a good plot for While E. Coyote in a Road Runner cartoon. The adventure started when Pete took three days to check himself into a hospital for chest pains while he told his wife, "not to worry about his gal stones." Well he had a heart attack and while at the hospital he found out he also had gall stones. See David K for the whole story.

**Announcements**

Past Secretary **Joe Nusbaum** encourages the members to pay attentions to David K's good efforts to get signed cards to members and family who have been caught in life's snares. Joe told how moved his wife Anne was by the recent card she received from the club. And it was clear that Joe was moved too. Do

1 good David K. and helpers.

## In Memory of Dan Ercolini



Continuing the remembrance of Dan Ercolini:

- Don Hardison spent an hour on the phone with Dan Tuesday evening working on Rotary classification issue so that the club could complete the membership process for its eight current member candidates, a task Dan was pursuing as club Secretary. Don described how good he felt about Dan's commitment and the future of the club as he hung up and went to work on the classifications. When Don called Dan back Wednesday morning he was stunned by the awful news that Dan had passed away. A loss of an outstanding Rotarian.
- David Brown said he had spoken with Dr. Janet Scot at Peres Elementary School. On behalf of the school Dr. Scott expressed their very sincere sadness on hearing of Dan's passing.
- Rhonda Harris had also spoken with Dr. Scott about Dan. Dr. Scott told Rhonda that the school intends to rename the computer lab in memory of Dan Ercolini.
- Hank Covell said he had just spoken with Dan regarding their interest in internet poker and that Dan was \$16,000 ahead.
- Father Chris sent his condolences via Joe Bagley.
- Jim Young invited his Guest Steve Baker partly to meet Dan because, h was such a big fan of traditional music and the Freight and Salvage Coffee House.
- Prez-In-Waiting Jon remembered Dan with four tickets to the A's last exhibition game at the Coliseum against the Giants. Jon said that Dan was a dedicated Giant's fan and would watch the game through a knot hole in the fence

## Recognitions

**Tom Butt** celebrated his birthday with a sincere apology to the members for all the meetings he missed recently and he underwrote his sincerity with a \$250 check to the Rotary Foundation. But not before chiding Prez Herb for not acknowledging that it is Architect's Day at Richmond Rotary, given the dual birthdays of the two most famous architects that have ever belonged to Richmond Rotary. Happy Birthday Tom



**Don Hardison**, noted it is his birthday too and that he is older than Tom Butt, but, who cares how much? Don said his check's in the mail and that he will be 90 next year. And Don, may your birthday be as happy as your kind thoughts remembered for Dan Ercolini.

**Happy/Sad \$\$\$**

## Raffle

Prez Herb asked Greg Prinsze to select a ticket and raffle winner for the \$189 prize. The winner was Ted Abreu and Ted won a free lunch.

And the meeting was adjourned.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your Acting Editor,  
Jim Young



[Richmond Rotary meets every Friday 12:30 at the beautiful Mira Vista Golf and Country Club](#)

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if that's all he could get. Jon was going to give the tickets to Dan, but now would like to auction them off for the benefit of Rotary in Dan's name. (Prez. Herb took the tickets for a paltry \$200.)

- Markku Pelanne. Noting that the Good Book says we will be resurrected to heaven asked the inspired question, "Where is Heaven?" Combining the thoughts of his father, the Christian Tenets, astrophysics and quantum mechanics, Markku suggested that Heaven is as close as one millimeter in front of our noses. And, invited the members to think about that.

It's a certainty that Dan's memory and maybe even Dan's spirit will remain that close to all of us at Rotary for some time to come.

Joey Bags armed with guitar and amp delivered a heart felt rendition of "In My Life" to commemorate Dan.



**More Eulogies To Dan Ercolini From E-Mail:**

Dan's warm heart, generous spirit and boundless energy was a source of inspiration to all who knew him. He was tireless in his efforts to make our community a better place. He raised the bar for what it means to be a Rotarian.

--Joni Hiramoto

**Where to Make Up**

San Rafael	Mon	12:15	Seafood Peddler
Albany	Tue	12:30	Solano Grill
El Sobrante	Tue	12:15	Elks Club
Berkeley	Wed	12:15	His Lordships
Hercules	Wed	7:15 am	Hercules Senior Center
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**

04/22/05 - "You Don't Know Me" (Ten.). Deborah Stevens, Contra Costa Marketplace.

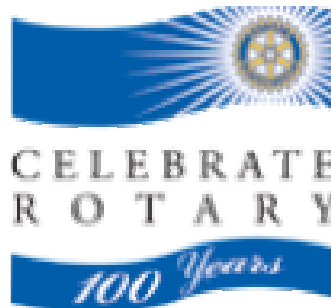
04/29/05 "School Lunch & Tour (don't forget your lunch money)", our own Gloria Johnston & friends hosts the club for an authentic school lunch and tour of the Lavonya DeJean Middle School. Meet at the school library at Noon. More details to follow.

**Important Dates**

04/30/05 District Family Fun Day - Fund Raiser at the Yin Ranch in Vacaville  
 06/18/05 – 06/ 22/05- Rotary Centennial International Convention in Chicago

**Door Duty Reminder**

04/01/05	Kafka Judy	Sid Chauvin
04/08/05	Abreu Ted	Young James
04/15/05	Alexander Richard	Wong Charlie
04/22/05	Allen Paul	Winter Mike
04/29/05	Alvarez George	Washington Paul



Dan was one nicest, most generous Rotarians I have had the privilege to know. His passion was Peres school and he was truly the Peres Santa Claus. He was an inspiration by his enthusiasm for whatever he did. I was looking forward to having his jolly face leading our club. I will miss his kind wonderful presence at our meetings.

Dan Tanita Past President 93-94

Dan had a deep commitment to the Peres Elementary School community, with particular emphasis on the computer literacy of the students. Dan obtained, rebuilt and gave away countless computers; Dan arranged for the purchase of new computers as prizes at Back to School night (in order to encourage parent participation and attendance) and he was involved in the Spirit of Excellence and other programs. Dan was the chef extraordinaire at the picnics given for the students annually, chillin' and grillin', and grinnin' all the while. Judy Kafka advises that the Peres community has determined to name the new computer lab in Dan's memory. I hope that Richmond Rotary takes a big position in making this happen and puts a few dollars that way.

DAB

My most memorable interaction with Dan was the tremendous enthusiasm he put into any activity for which he volunteered. He took on the picnic last spring with great joy and energy. He bought the supplies, carted everything to the picnic grounds, and cooked and entertained with flair all the while making sure everyone was well fed and felt welcome. He was a "picnic master". I'll miss the sunshine he brought to our club.

Gloria Johnston

Prez Herb invited all the members who are interested in doing something for Dan's family to mark their calendars for a short meeting after the regular meeting next Friday (04/01/05).

## Richmond Rotary Board of Directors 2004-2005

### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Herb Cole	Jonathon Lawlis	Dan Ercolini
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Past</b>
<b>President</b>		
David Brown	John Nicol	Stoney
Stonework		

### Directors

Jim Young	Gloria Johnston	Paul Hodgen
Jim Cannon	Judy Kafka	

### *Rotary International President*

Glenn Estes Sr.

### *District 5160 Governor*

Mike Garver



*Program of Friday March 25, 2005*



**Greg Prinsze, President of Earthquake Safety Inc.**

Program Director Jim Young introduced the members to Greg Prinsze, President of Earthquake Safety Inc. of Berkeley. Jim reminded the members that we are meeting on the Hayward Fault and live next to the Hayward fault and most of us have large equities in our homes that are no longer very well insured, given the post Loma Prieta earthquake insurance environment. Noting that Prinsze and his company have a realistic alternative to insurance, Jim gave the floor to Greg Prinsze.

Greg started with a brief introduction to his company, earthquake Safety Inc. They are general contractors specializing in residential earthquake retrofitting. They started in 1984 and to date have retrofitted 5,000 homes mostly in the East Bay but some in Marin and SF.

Greg's talk was divided into four parts which are summarised below.

**I. Hayward Fault Facts**

The two key qualities of the fault to all the residents of the East Bay are proximity and timing.

**Proximity** is important because the closer you are to a fault, the more severe the shaking will be during an earthquake. Our last big quake, Loma Prieta was 7.0 +/- on the Richter Scale, but the epicenter was 100 miles away and on the San Andreas fault. Orientation to the fault is also very important. Oakland and San Francisco are equal distance from Loma Prieta, but the shaking in SF was much more severe than Oakland because SF is on the San Andreas fault. A similar situation to SF will exist for Richmond if the Hayward fault generates a quake. What this means is that the Loma Prieta quake was not the "Big One" for the East Bay. Prinsze said it is estimated that the shaking in Santa Cruz, adjacent to the quake and fault was 20 times more intense than the shaking that was felt here. This 20x intensity is what can be expected from an earthquake on the Northern Hayward. In Santa Cruz entire neighborhoods were severely damaged by houses being moved off their foundations.

**Timing** is the time frame in which you can expect a major earthquake. Much of the geological investigation of the Hayward fault has been done right here at the Mira Vista CC. Going back two thousand years, geologists have determined that the fault produces, on average, a major earthquake every 130 years. The last major quake on the Hayward fault was 138 years ago. Noting that we might get lucky and not have another major quake for another 20 years, he said the average estimate suggests we could have one anytime.

## **!!. Structural Issues, What Does Your House Need To Survive A Quake?**

There are two primary structural issues to look for; wood frame construction, the wood frame securely anchored to the concrete foundation, and, lateral bracing;

**Wood frame anchoring** is an issue because prior to the late '40s building code did not require that the frame of a build be bolted to the foundation. Mudsills were laid on the top of the concrete foundation and the house was build on them. The building was held in place by gravity. A strong earthquake overcomes the gravitational friction that holds a house in place and shakes it off the foundation. In the late '40s, bolting was required as code, but, the bolts were so small and corrosion prone, that by the '80 many of them had rusted through, effective eliminating any benefit. Codes changed in 1980 requiring corrosion resistant bolts which is a benefit for newer houses. These historic problems are overcome by re-anchoring the wood frame to the concrete foundation with angle iron and steel strong ties that extend up the joists to the sub-flooring and for at least seven inches along the concrete foundation wall. Custom made steel is also used for special reinforcing in large garage spaces and around garage doors.

**Lateral bracing** which is always done on the house cripple wall which is the short wall between the foundation and the sub-floor Cripple wall reinforcement is essential because it is the place that always fail in a quake if it has not been reinforced. This is because the short cripple wall bears the entire weight of the house and receives 100% o the quake induced lateral force causing failure in unreinforced cripple walls. Lateral bracing is done by anchoring heavy plywood to all the cripple wall surfaces. Sometimes angled wood or steel beams are also used.

### **Other Structural Issues:**

**Brick Chimneys.** Very prone to quake failure and impossible to reinforce for quake survival. If you have a large chimney, i.e. with a wide cross section and height above your roof you may want to consider reinforcing to prevent a failed top piece from falling back on to the house. The height of a large chimney can also be reduced to prevent quake damage to the house. Brick chimneys almost always fail in a large or local quake and will need to be replaced with a modern steel box and flue chimney.

**Garage Doors** pose significant risk to living space above the garage. This is because the large space of the door is an inherent weakness in the wall and need to be compensated for with reinforcement most of the dramatic apartment failures in SF during the '89 quake resulted from ground floor garage failure. Most garage door reinforcements are don with engineered steel bracing designed specifically for the door and the house weight above it.

### **III. Soil Conditions**

There are three high risk soil types that deserve consideration; 1) On top of the fault including inside the Special Study Zone, 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile on either side of the fault; 2) Fill soil & liquefaction; 3) Landslide area.

**The Special Study Zone** runs the length of the East Bay on either side of the Hayward Fault. It is significant because quake induced fissures can happen anywhere within the zone. Properties inside the Special Study Zone have special State required real estate disclosure requirements. If a fissure develops beneath your house there will be severe property damage whether or not you have retrofitted the house. However, retrofitting can improve the safety of the structure in spite of the probable damage. While very serious, the percentage of quake damage caused by fissure induced failure is very small.

**Fill Soil & Liquefaction** is a problem in the flatlands and areas comprised of bay or unconsolidated fill. Liquefaction is considered a temporary rise in the water table which simultaneously increases the magnitude of ground shaking and decreases the structural strength of the soil, causing buildings to sink and shake more violently.

**Landslide** is the third soil risk and by far the worst. Structures involved in a landslide are usually completely destroyed with the potential for great loss of life. If your home is in a slide area you probably already know it because of foundation and wall cracking as well as uneven floors.

Unfortunately there is no way to mitigate soil related quake risks short of moving to another area. Soils risks though serious and real are not the end of the world. During a major quake, these special risks will impact a relatively small number of the homes in the special risk zones. But strong ground shaking will affect all structures in the East Bay. It is the ground shaking risk that all residential structures can be modified to survive and it makes sense to do the modifications.

Prinsze then talked about the effectiveness of earthquake retrofitting. The USGS, public and insurance engineering firms evaluate damaged and surviving structures after every quake and release finding about the specifics of the quake and the effect on buildings. Dramatic evidence for the effectiveness of retrofitting was found after the Northridge quake in the early '90s. There were several instances of severely damaged neighborhoods where on each side of a retrofitted home both houses were completely off their foundations while the retrofitted home had no damage. Because of this evidence many political subdivisions and insurance companies have begun to encourage or require earthquake retrofitting. An example is the City of Berkeley which refunds 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the real estate transfer tax to any new home owner that retrofits their property in the first year of ownership.

Prinsze then talked about earthquake insurance. He speculated that most of the members do not have quake insurance because most of his customers do not have it or are planning to drop it because of the high cost and high deductibles. Deductibles range between 15% and 30%. Prinsze said don't make the mistake of thinking the deductible is 15% of the damage or \$15,000 per \$100,000 damage. It is 15% of insured value, i.e. if your home is insured for \$300,000, the deductible is \$45,000. If you have \$100,000 in damage you would really have a 45% deductible. In addition there are all kinds of exclusions like brick construction. Damage to excluded items can not be used in calculating the deductible. If you have quake insurance through the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) and about 50% of the people with quake insurance do, the CEA makes no guarantee that they will be able to pay a claim. The problem is that the fund is not big enough to honor claims for two major quakes that might happen close together in time in Northern and Southern California. The precarious condition of the State Treasury will preclude any additions from the General Fund, smoothing that was taken for granted during the boom times of the '90s.

So, consider your options, costs and benefits. And thank you Gregory Prinsze for a thought provoking if not disquieting review of local earthquake threats and threat abatement options.

Editor's Note: Those interested in additional information about Earthquake Safety Inc or the USGS maps mentioned by Greg Prinsze can get that information via this hyper link,

<http://www.earthquakesafety.com/sitemap.htm>

Those interested in an excellent recent feature article about the next Big One on the Hayward Fault are directed to the East Bay Express article, "Its Everybody's Fault", <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/issues/2005-02-23/news/feature.html>