

# Flywheel



**SERVICE Above Self**

February 24, 2006

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

**Program for Friday February 24, 2006**

Mergers & Acquisitions and Real Estate

John Troughton



John has been a featured speaker on this and related topics at Private Equity events across the USA. Three weeks ago he participated at The Private Equity Round Up in Scottsdale AZ with Dan Quayle ( the chairman of the board of Ceribus part owner of Albertsons). Two weeks ago he was the moderator of a Real Estate and Private Equity Panel at ACG New Jersey, and last week he participated in ACG San Francisco at the St. Francis

**Door Duty:** Mike Winter and Rich Alexander

**Program for Friday March 3, 2006**

**Mahatma Gandhi Live!**

**Gandhi's Message in Gandhi's Character**

***Peace, Nonviolence, Social Justice, Equality, Human Rights, Courage, Compassion, Commitment, Integrity***



Shall Sinha

*Presented by Dr. Shall Sinha*

This Presentation has no parallel in North America!!!

**Inspirational, Thought-provoking,  
Entertaining, Unforgettable!!**

**Door Duty:** Charles Wong and Ted Abreu



**Richmond Rotary  
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2005-2006**

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Ren Partridge

**Rotary**

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**District 5160**

**Governor**

Brian D. Thiessen

*Richmond Rotary  
meets every Friday  
12:15 at the  
beautiful Mira  
Vista Golf and  
Country Club*

## Door Duty

2/24

Mike Winter  
Rich Alexander

3/3

Charlie Wong  
Ted Abreu

3/10

Jim Young

3/17

Erle Brown  
Russ Shultze

3/24

Jan Brown  
Dan Sanders

3/31

Tom Butt  
Nick Reina

4/7

Thomas Cameron  
Troy Pewitt

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## Where to Make Up

**Mon** 12:15 Seafood  
Peddler, San Rafael

**Tue** 12:30 Solano Grill  
Albany

**Tue** 12:15 Elks Club  
El Sobrante

**Wed** 12:15 His  
Lordships  
Berkeley

**Wed** 7:15am Hercules  
Senior Center, Hercules

**Wed** 12:15 La Strada  
San Pablo

**Thu** 12:15 Mira Vista  
G&CC, El Cerrito

**Thu** 12:30 Outback  
Steak House, Pinole

**Thu** 12:15 World  
Holiday Inn, Vallejo

## Meeting of February 17, 2006

**Prez Jon Lawlis** back from his short break, clam bake, golf ball, pub crawl opened the meeting asking **Cory Lawrence** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Markku Pelanne** lead the group in a short invocation. Prez-In Waiting **George Egan** quoted Mahatma Gandhi.

### Visiting Rotarians

None Today

### Rotarians With Guests

- **Tom Butt** introduced his son Andrew who is an architect and has joined the Interactive Resources team.
- **Charlie Wong** introduced his guest Capt. Frank Desplanke from the Salvation Army, West County.

### Sunshine Report

**David K** reports that all Rotarians are in relative good health, a sunny report on an otherwise cold and blustery day, (with snow in the weather forecast!)

### Announcements

**Prez Jon** once again announced the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Treasure Island. Cost is \$75 per person and \$150 for couples. **Peres School** annual **Read Across America** event will take place on Wed., March 1st from 1:00-2:00. As always, they hope to have Richmond Rotary Club members present to read to the students, representing their various professions. There will be books available for readers. However, volunteers may bring their own books, provided they are at an appropriate level. Refreshments will be served. Please let Prez Jon know if you can participate.

### Recognitions

Jim "**The Beav**" Beaver recognized **Richie Brandes** for his birthday and anniversary. There were also many club anniversaries as noted in the Flywheel margin.

### Happy/Sad \$\$\$

The **Beav** then launched into H&S \$\$\$ . The unusually cold weather seemed to dampen the normally enthusiastic H&S \$\$\$ with only **Prez. John** happy for the good time he had at Pebble Beach and **Jim Young** sad because he screwed up the Flywheel notes last week for the great Polio Plus program and update.

## Upcoming Programs

**Mar 3**

**Dr. Shall Sinha**

'Nonviolent Peaceforce'

### Raffle

Guest Speaker David pulled the ticket of Ralph "Oh no not again" Hill for another chance at the orange ball. This time Ralph got a free lunch.



## Rotary News

1 February 2006  
The Global Polio Eradication Initiative announced today that Egypt and Niger are no longer polio endemic since the indigenous form of the virus that causes the disease has not circulated in either country for over 12 months.

This is the first time in three years that the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan as the only countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.

## Important Dates

**03/16**

Board Meeting. Noon at the Richmond CC

**4/02**

90<sup>th</sup> District 5160 Birthday Bash at Treasure Island. See Prez Jon for Details

**4/08**

90<sup>th</sup> District 5160 Birthday Bash Northern edition on the train starting in McCloud. See Prez Jon for Details

**6/11-6/14**

Rotary International Convention in Malmo/Copenhagen

## 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.

## Who Am I

**Nabil "Bill" Wahbeh** came up to the podium to give his second "Who Am I" for the benefit of the members that weren't in the club when he was a member in the '80s. Bill was born in Jerusalem and while living in the same house all his early years lived in three different countries; born in Palestine, then living in Jordan after Jerusalem was partitioned after the war for Israeli independence; then Israel after the 1967 War. Bill was educated as a chemical engineer, but after the 1967 war he decided to find an address that didn't change counties so often. That journey took him to Egypt, the Persian Gulf, Canada and finally the USA. Bill settled in the Bay Area, and worked many years in West County in environmental testing and remediation. He is now retired but does environmental consulting. Bill has two adult children and three grand children. Bill's passion is peace, especially promotion of the elusive, dream of a real peace between Israel and Palestine. He uses his personal knowledge of Palestine and Israel to promote dialogue and peace between Israelis and Palestinians in the US. Welcome back to Richmond Rotary Nabil "Bill" Wahbeh.

## New Member

**Prez Jon** asked **PDG Werner Schwarz, Charlie Wong and Capt. Frank Desplancke** to step up to the podium. Werner in his normally shy and self effacing manner dominated the presentation of a Red Badge to new member Capt. Frank noting that the Salvation Army is such a great organization that it makes his annual contribution list. Werner remembered well his military service during the Korean War when the Salvation Army was always there with help for the GIs and the Red Cross was always there with something for sale. Charlie got the mike away from Werner long enough to note that he too is a big supporter of the salvation Army and that he used to play the trumpet in the SA marching band. Capt. Frank thanked the club for his new membership and another chance to serve the community. *Given the strong testimonials for the Salvation Army, the writer wonders why we didn't also hear from Nathan Detroit.*

## Program

Jim Young introduced today's guest and speaker **David Hawkins** who made the trip to Richmond from the California Intersystem Operations Office in Roseville to discuss the growth of Wind Power in the state's electrical energy budget. David is an electrical engineer, graduating from Kalamazoo College in Michigan with a degree in physics, but nobody asked him if, "He got a gal...". David showed us pictures of the current 4<sup>th</sup> generation of wind turbine electrical generating noting that they are a lot bigger, more dependable operationally and bird/bat friendly than the original crop of tax incented wind turbines that sprang up in the Altamont Pass in the 1980s. Turbine blades are now 150'+ in diameter and drive generators that are one to two megawatts



## Birthdays

**2/11** Rich Brandes

**2/23** Erle Brown

## Anniversaries

**2/03** Rich and Lisa Brandes

**2/07** George and Liz Alvarez

**2/14** John and Debra Troughton

**2/18** Don and Shelley Lau

## Club Anniversaries

John Troughton **2years**

Judy Morgan **17 years**

Norm Foley **38 Years**

Bart Wallace **20 Years**

George Alvarez **4 Years**

Joe Bagley **15 Year**

Joanne Blum **4 Years**

Jan Brown **4 Years**

Josh Genser **4 Years**

Mark Howe **4 Years**

Bob Dabney **2 Years**

Dan Tanita **22 Years**

Don Lau **22 Years**

John Wilson **1 Year**

Archived versions of the Flywheel can be seen at

<http://www.richmondclarotary.org/newletter/archive>

## Our New Members!

**Gary Bell**



Classification  
Finances-Mortgages

**Cory Lawrence**



Classification  
Real Estate-Commercial

**Luz Gomez**



Classification  
County Government

**Barbara  
Medwadowski**



Classification  
Winemaker

**Nabil "Bill" Wahbeh**



Classification  
Industrial Waste  
Management

each. They have internal computer controls that measure and modify the blade pitch and turbine orientation that allow them to take full advantage of the prevailing winds up to wind speeds of 50 mph. Modern machines are more environmentally friendly, i.e. the kill less raptors and bats because their larger size and white color allow them to have slower blade speeds that make them more visible to wildlife. Most importantly, modern wind turbines produce electricity at a capitalized cost virtually identical to the current (expensive) cost of gas fired two-step electric turbines. Wind turbines have a lot of future potential because their cost is virtually all fixed capital cost with the "fuel" being free. Fossil fuel thermal power sources have 80%+ of their cost in the ever increasing price of fuel.

David noted the biggest problems facing the expansion of wind energy are locating windy locations and the related problem of connecting the windy generation site to the power grid, and, better weather prediction. David described the newly developing wind farms on the hills between Fairfield and Rio Vista and the reconstruction of wind turbines at the Altamont Pass. These two locations are summer fog driven and fundamentally different from California's two other major wind farms in the Tehachapi Pass and San Grigorio Pass both of which are driven by desert winds. The Bay Area wind farms produce electricity in the hot afternoon. The desert wind farms produce electricity at night. This is where better weather prediction comes in because it would allow CAISO planners to also better use wind energy from for generating AND better plan the mix of energy that will be needed by energy consumers.

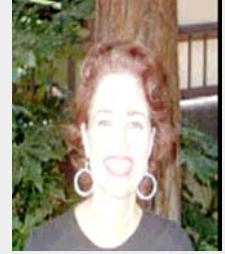
Energy planning is CAISO's daily headache as the monitor, transfer and start & stop electrical generation at thousands of generating facilities from British Columbia to Mexico. Better weather prediction would allow CAISO to better manage the summer air conditioner demand which is the biggest consumer of electric power in the state. For every one degree of error in maximum summer temperature prediction, CAISO gains or losses 35,000 megawatts of electricity. Weaving wind power into this demand equation is no less difficult than firing up large base load thermal electric steam plants that take three days to build up a full head of steam. To make his point, David showed us a demand/source management graph that looked like a pencil sketch by Jackson Pollack, showing the swings in energy production from all sources throughout the system on a typical summer day. That is a tough job and it's good that we've got smart guys like David Hawkins out there working to make it work for us.

Thank you David on behalf of the Richmond Rotary.

Rotating Flywheel Editor,  
Jim Young

## Our New Members!

**Catharine Hay**



Classification  
Mortgage-Lending

## Rotary Programs Polio Plus

Rotarians have mobilized by the hundreds of thousands to insure that children are immunized against this crippling disease and that surveillance is strong, despite the poor infrastructure, extreme poverty and civil strife of many countries. Since the PolioPlus program's inception in 19985, more than 2 billion children have received oral polio vaccine. To date 210 countries, territories and areas around the world are polio-free. As of June 2005, Rotary has committed more than \$581 to global polio eradication.

## Matching Grants

provide funds for international service projects of Rotary clubs and districts. Since 1965, 22000 Matching Grant projects in 166 countries have been funded at a cost of more than \$ 224 million.