

# Flywheel



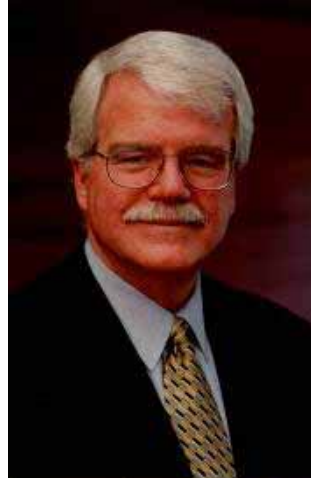
**SERVICE Above Self**

October 14, 2005

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

**Program for Friday October 14, 2005**

**Congressman George Miller**

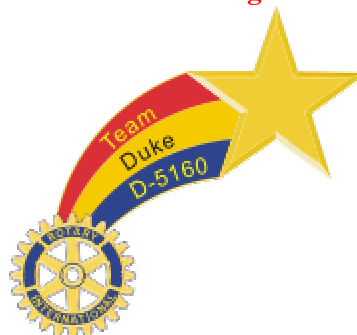


Congressman George Miller (D-CA), a leading spokesman in Congress on education, labor, the environment and Native Americans, has represented the 7th District of California in San Francisco's East Bay since 1975. His district includes portions of Contra Costa and Solano counties, including Richmond, Concord, Martinez, Pittsburg, Vallejo, Benicia and Vacaville

Door Duty: Don Hardison and EJ Shalaby

**Program for Friday October 21, 2005**

**No Meeting**



**Please attend the District Conference - One and Two Day Packages Available**

Registration forms at [http://www.rotary5160.org/docs/Concord\\_RegForm.pdf](http://www.rotary5160.org/docs/Concord_RegForm.pdf)  
Single day Reg fee - \$50, Dinner - \$45, Lunch or Breakfast - \$25



**Richmond Rotary  
Board Of Directors  
2005-2006**

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Jonathon Lawlis

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***Rotary***

***International***

***President***

Carl-Wilhelm

Stenhammer

***District 5160***

***Governor***

Brian D. Thiessen

*Richmond Rotary  
meets every Friday  
12:30 at the  
beautiful Mira  
Vista Golf and  
Country Club*

## Door Duty

10/14  
Don Hardison  
EJ Shalaby

10/21  
No Meeting

10/28  
Rhonda Harris  
David K

11/4  
Ralph Hill  
Joe Kelman

11/11  
Joni Hiramoto  
Henry Kelman

11/18  
Paul Hodgen  
Judy Kafka

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 October 7, 2005

**Jon Lawlis** opened the meeting today at our temporary La Strada headquarters. **Markku**, with his thick Finnish accent, loudly announced the invocation as though he was a man of the cloth, which he in fact is. For those of you that don't know Markku runs the Seaman's center on Harbor Way -- a place of refuge for wayward seafarers, mostly foreigners, a long way from home.

After the pledge, **George** was allowed to sit down while Jonathon gave us the thought for the day. "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them" Albert Einstein

### Rotarians with Guests

**Mark Howe** brought his lovely wife, Susan Howe, who lately has been coming to Rotary functions more than Mark. It is rumored that she is quite a fan of La Strada cuisine or conversely may not be such a fan of the food on the hill. Karen Fenton, a prominent member of the school board, was a guest of **Judy Morgan**. Contrary to popular opinion she did not attend the meeting to debate the merits of Prop J the subject of today's talk by Tom Lynden. Leslie Knight the respected Contra Costa County Human Resources Director recently jumped ship to the City of Richmond. She was guest of **Monique le Conge** another new and visible Bill Lindsey recruit to the City of Richmond executive staff. **Rhonda Harris** brought a friend of hers, Ernestine, the woman who owns the old Wells Fargo Building on the corner of Harbor and Macdonald, and one of the displaced hurricane families that Richmond Rotary is helping out.



### Sunshine Report

Nothin doin!

Please let David K. know of any Rotarian or someone in our Rotary Family that we should reach out to.

### Announcements

On Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Peres Elementary School is going to dedicate the **Dan Ercolini Memorial Library and Computer lab**. Please sponsor a Classroom at Peres ES". So far we have 26 Rotarians signed up Get your checks to **David Brown** ASAP! The **Holiday Auction and Party** will both be

## Upcoming Programs

**Oct 14**  
**Congressman George Miller**

**Oct 21**  
**No Meeting**

**Oct 28**  
Michael Mahoney, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee discusses the use of Measure M & D school bonds and the need for Measure "J" on the Nov. ballot.

**Nov 11**  
Honoring Rotary Vets, each veteran member gets 5 minutes to tell their most important memory/experience/insight from their military service.

### **Raffle**

With the raffle bag still at Mira Vista, President Jon decided to pocket this weeks proceeds! No, really we will have two raffle pulls next week.



## Important Dates

**10/20/05** Board Meeting  
at Richmond Country  
Club

**10/21- 10/22/05**  
District Conference in  
Concord

**12/02/05**  
Annual Holiday Party

**12/02/05**  
Holiday Party with El  
Cerrito Rotary

## 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.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, the auction will be at the Mira Vista CC per tradition, followed by the election of officers, and, the party will be in the evening with the El Cerrito and Richmond Rotaries coming together to celebrate at the Richmond CC.

**Rhonda Harris** has taken over the responsibilities of Paul Washington with regard to Peres school and she needs **HELP!** Please contact Rhonda or Jonathon if you can do a little. This is a good opportunity for our new members to really get a hands on experience.

## Recognitions

The ever popular, **Jim Beaver**, who hasn't been seen around the club recently, announced the recognitions today. Markku's 30 year marriage anniversary was recognized today. Check in mail he said. **Barry Gordon's** 25<sup>th</sup> birthday was recognized and this popular local banker responded with "the check is in the mail" – an appropriate response for a banker who has heard this a million times. **Jim Young** pitched in for a B'day and Anniversary and **Jim Beaver** announced his own 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which he celebrated at Balboa Island. A \$20 dollar contribution was donated to the club to celebrate the event.

## Happy & Sad Dollars

**Jim Beaver** was happy to return to the club after a long absence. He made a contribution to the club. **Past President Herb** gave us an update on Momma and announced that there was fishin to be done. **Prez Jon** was happy to hear that the fishing fanatic **David K.** would be catering the event as well as demonstrating his masterful baiting technique. **Glenn Daggs** was glad to be going on his first real vacation in three years. **Jim Young** made a contribution to the club recognize a large deal the he successfully completed last week. He also mentioned that Linda Young, his wife of course and Lisa Brandes where in the process of shipping 2000 surplus Vallejo textbooks to the hurricane ravaged areas. **Mark Howe** was happy about the Whirley-Crane Project **Leslie Knight** was happy to be part of such an exciting group. She also made a contribution.

## Program



**Tom Lynden**, a local CPA who publishes a Web Site called the "West County Forum" critical of the West County School District was introduced by Jim Young. Tom represents a group of folks who are opposed the latest school district bond measure.

After receiving strong voter support with their first series of



## Birthdays

**10/3** Joe Bagley  
**10/11** Jim Cannon  
**10/11** John Troughton  
**10/13** Tom Cameron  
**10/13** Ren Partridge  
**10/21** Troy Pewitt  
**10/23** Charlie Wong

## Anniversaries

**10/1** Dave and Betty Calfee  
**10/7** Margaret and Thomas Hanlon-Gradie  
**10/12** David and Mary Ruth Smith  
**10/22** Bart and Norma Wallace  
**10/24** Bud and Alice Martin  
**10/24** Ted and Carolyn Smith  
**10/30** Troy and Annell Grove

## Club Anniversaries

**10/6** Barry Gordon 7 yrs  
**10/7** Donna Bell 12 yrs  
**10/10** Rich Brandes 12 yrs  
**10/10** Tom Butt 25 yrs!!  
**10/16** Jim Beaver 16 yrs  
**10/20** Ted Abreu 10 yrs  
**10/21** Bud Martin 42 yrs!!!  
**10/25** Paul Allen 4 yrs

## Get To Know Our New Members!

**Monique Le Conge**  
Classification  
Libraries

**Margaret Morkowski**  
Classification  
Waste Management

**Margaret Hanlon-Gradie**  
Classification  
Consulting-Political

**Lance Jackson**  
Classification  
Engineering- Electrical

**Don Joseph**  
Classification  
Banking-Branch  
Management

**Jazzy Singh**  
Classification  
Banking – Account  
Executive

**Nick Despota**  
Classification  
Graphics-Web Design

**EJ Shalaby**  
Classification  
Wastewater  
Management

**Glenn Daggs**  
Classification  
Security Management

bond measures (measures D,M,N) the bond measure immediately prior to this one, also called measure J, also for \$400M, was soundly defeated. It is in this context that we see the latest reincarnated bond measure again called measure J, being proposed by the school district. The special election is November 8, 2005.

Tom makes a case against this bond issue with a litany of issues that concern him.

The district has a history of financial mismanagement. They have approved lifetime medical benefits for acting teachers and their families even during retirement, but have not funded the present value of this liability which is estimated at over \$1 billion and change. How will this be paid for he asks?

The district also has legendary ability to exceed budgets. Dejeon middle school was supposed to cost \$17M but ended up costing \$40M and same goes for nearly all project that have been undertaken with the \$500M in bonds that have already been approved. With every bond measure we hear that this will be the last one but every year we get a new bond measure with the same explanation – project costs exceeded our estimates. When will it stop he asks?

Project labor agreements are standard operating practice with the district. These agreements force the district to choose from a very short list of large expensive politically connected union approved contractors that eliminate opportunities for local non-union contractors that could save the district money.

State tax rules state that the district can only use 2.5% of annual property tax income for debt service. According to Tom's calculations the debt service payments on these bonds, assuming they are approved, would exceed the limit and thus would require a waiver from the state which he says the state is unlikely to grant. "The district could find itself in a situation where the bonds are approved but they cannot issue them. Since the property tax roles naturally increase every year due to a turnover of pre prop 13 properties this problem would eventually resolve itself but this could take, using current assessment growth rates, until the year 2014" He asserts.

Tom also asks the question why should we award this district all new schools when their academic performance has been stagnant. According to his analysis, while elementary schools have shown some relative improvement the secondary schools has shown none. It should be noted that STAR test scores published by the district come to a contrary conclusion. The real question of course is "do bricks and mortar lead to academic improvement or is it the quality of instruction?"

On October 28th we will have a speaker presenting an argument in favor of the bond issue

Rotating Editor  
Mark Howe

## Click Me



### Highlights of the District Meeting:

**Friday, October 21, 2005**  
8:00 - Golf – Diablo Creek  
8:00 - Hike Mt Diablo  
1:00 - Community Project – Markham Regional Arboretum, Concord  
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton  
7:00 - Dinner  
8:00 – Rain Man – Kim Peek  
9:00 - Club Entertainment – Fun, Food, Beverages – Suite Rooms – Concord Hilton

### Saturday, October 22, 2005

8:30 – Breakfast  
9:00 - Opening Ceremony  
9:30 - Cliff Dochterman, Past RI President  
10:30 - Special Session – Getting to know Rotary  
12:00 – Lunch.  
1:00 – RI President's Representative  
2:00 – Special Session – Getting to know Rotary  
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton  
6:30 - Dinner  
7:30 – Cave Man – Al Mathis  
8:30 - Conclusion of District Meeting  
9:00 – Club Entertainment – Fun, Food