



# Crow's Call



## District Governor

Earl Kilmer

## Board of Directors

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President

((925)-457-6589

### **Dennis Garrison**

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(925) 314-7878

### **Karen McNamara**

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(510) 888-9167

### **Jeff Disch**

Treasurer

(510) 410-4090

### **Barry Toby**

Sgt. At Arms

(925) 224-7780

### **Gary Sloan**

Club Administration

(925) 406-4459

### **Hermann Welm**

Membership

(925) 838-8261

### **Mike Prilutsky**

Intl Foundation

(925) 328-0343

### **Robin Stevens**

Service Projects

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### **Sam Parwiz**

Public Relations

(925) 855-4153

### **Tom Port**

Past President

## **Rotary Meeting - February 4th by Hermann Welm**



President "The Bard," not understanding the purpose of the (unpolished) bell, had great difficulty in getting control of the assemblage. He finally succeeded by using his "outdoor voice" and reminded all that the RI President is John Kenny, of Scotland; his theme is "The Future of Rotary is in your Hands!"

Our Greeter, **Fletcher Thames**, led us in the Flag Salute; his Thought for the Day was replaced by speaking to the virtues of The Rotarian Magazine.

The group sang "When the Saints Go Marching In" in lieu of a traditional Patriotic Song. One hopes that the New Orleans Saints perform better in the Superbowl!, or it will be a wasted Sunday afternoon!

One Rotarian visitor was introduced: **Travis Guse**, from the Dublin club.

Other visitors included our Speaker, **Kathleen Mero**, and her husband, **Bill**.

**Chris Gayler's** table led the group in the singing of the Welcome Song. It was so bad that this Scribe wanted to hide his head in shame!

### Announcements:

"**Spike**" **Stevens** reminded all that the Cal High Interact Club will have a fundraiser at the March 13 Warriors Game against the Raptors; an evening game.

**The Bard** announced that all who had not donated \$20 for a Haiti ShelterBox a couple of weeks ago will be assessed that amount. See him if this will cause a problem.

**Marco Bronzini** was thanked for donating \$500 toward the purchase of a second ShelterBox; we now have enough money to buy two (2). Future donations will be directed to RI's long-term Haiti Relief Effort.

**Steve Wilcox** asked for nominations for the Business Hall of Fame; that lunch will be held on May 6. He distributed nomination forms; return them to him by March 26.

**PP Chris Gallagher** reminded all that the San Ramon Rotary Foundation Grant Requests have to be submitted by March 1. The Grant Application can be found on the website.

**The Bard** announced that the newly-formed Dougherty Valley Rotary Club, which we are sponsoring, now has 52 members! They will meet 5:30 pm on Wednesdays, at the San Ramon Community Center, on Alcosta Blvd. **Bill Clarkson** is their first President.



**Service Above Self**

**John Sims** is in the process of passing out everyone's status regarding donations to The Rotary Foundation. **The Bard** reminded us that February 25 will be a "Big Day," with both the District Governor's Visit and the first annual Unsung Heroes Awards! A sign-up sheet is being routed to get a handle on how many will be in attendance.

**Kathy Gailey** can accept books for K thru 12 schools in Kenya for another two (2) weeks. Bring them to next week's meeting.

**The Bard** announced that **John Tatum** and the Christmas Tree Lot Fundraiser will be honored by The Ed Foundation at their annual dinner on April 26.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the Teen Job Fair at Cal High on Saturday, March 20. They need general help, as well as interviewers for a series of Mock Interviews for students. You'll be put to work for about 2 hours.

**Mark vonH** announced that the District is looking for candidates -- college grads or graduate students -- to apply for one-year Ambassadorial Scholarships to study overseas.

**PP Dave Larsen** announced that A Day at the Races will be May 1 this year; a sign-up sheet is being routed. For Newbies: this is a fun event for you and your spouse/best friend!

**PP Guy Greco** announced that there will be a Bocce Ball Tournament, in Martinez, on Saturday, May 15.



Good Times/Good News: **This Scribe** reported that son, **Prof. Bryan Welm, PhD**, received a 5-year NIH Grant for his Lab at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah. This \$1.5 million assures him secure funding for his ongoing breast cancer research.

**PP Guy Greco**, proudly announced that granddaughter, **Lauren Holden**, was selected as the Cal High's Varsity Soccer Team's Goalie; she is only a freshman! The team held two powerhouses, Carondelet and San Ramon Valley, to ties and beat Monte Vista 1 - 0 in the final minute!



**Judy Lewis** reported that she has retired from Kaiser and that her 1-year old grandson is coming for a visit (one can assume that her daughter is also coming, but that is obviously not as important)!

**Kathy Gailey** announced that she held a fundraiser, including Kenyan Presidential hopeful, **Ledama Olekina**, as guest speaker. She raised \$1,700 toward the \$4,000 needed to send a container of books and school supplies to Kenya.

**Dr. Bill** told us of a note he received from former 4-Way Test Speech winner, **Christine Mullen**, explaining how the award changed the path of her life.

**Fred Nevarez**, the high bidder on a CarboLoad Silent Auction item -- a dinner at the home of **Linda** and **John Tatum** -- raved that this was a most extraordinary experience! He suggested that it should have a minimum bid of \$1,000 for the next go-around!

Pre-Program: Rather than a "Pre-Program," **The Bard** took the opportunity to "recognize" several members to the tune of \$40.00 each: **Mike Rood** for failing to once again serve chicken for one lunch last year (it was on December 18); **PP Dave Larsen**, a Stanford man, for the "Big Game" results; **Chuck Fletcher** for helping clear inmates out of California prisons by putting them to work on his Chain Gangs; **Randy Perkins** for failing to remember that the Reno Train Trip was cancelled and sitting on the Martinez Amtrak platform for 5 hours waiting for that train; **Gary Sloan** for carefully listening to last week's Lindsay Wildlife Museum talk and dosing his out-of-control turkeys with Zolof. They have stopped reproducing and are now engaged in finding their inner selves!

Program: **Kathleen Mero**, of the John Marsh Historic Trust, was introduced, and spoke about the life of John Marsh, indicating that he had such a fascinating life that he deserved to be better known than he is. Only one, inadequate and inaccurate, biography has been written about him, and that in the 1930's.



Marsh was born in 1799, in Salem, Massachusetts, to a farm family. He studied hard as a young man in order to escape the hard and tedious work on the farm. He started at Harvard in 1819, got expelled along with most of his Freshman Class for a series of brawls with Sophomores. He was one of the very few to get reinstated some months later after making an appeal, and promises to behave, to Dean Kirkland.

He graduated in 1823, and was recommended by Kirkland for a teaching position at Fort St. Anthony (now Fort Snelling, Madison, Wisconsin) in the Northwest Frontier. He rapidly learned every language on the Frontier, including French and the Indian languages, thereby making himself very useful to the military commander, Colonel Snelling. He wrote the first grammar book in the Sioux language, and later became an Indian Agent for the Winnebago people.

He married a half-French, half-Sioux woman but had to send her to New Salem, Indiana, during the Black Hawk War, to keep her and their son safe. Upon joining her there, they lived in the same rooming house as the young Abe Lincoln.

Marsh arrived in Los Angeles (Mexico's Alta California) in 1836 and received permission to practice medicine. He applied for Mexican citizenship and proceeded to purchase a 50,000-acre Rancho in Contra Costa County (a Land Commission later reduced his ownership to 15,000 acres).

He was a major player in convincing Americans to come to California and settle, offering his home, in what is now Brentwood, to new arrivals to get them orientated to life in this new area. The California Trail, which began carrying immigrants from the mid-West in 1841, actually terminated at Marsh's ranch house.

Later, he advised the leaders of the Bear Flag Revolution, and became a driving force in getting California admitted into the Union. He was murdered in 1856 on the Pacheco Road to Martinez. He had \$4,000 in gold in his possession, with which he was travelling to San Francisco to pay some bills. His killer was not caught for 11 years, and then, as mitigation, claimed that Marsh owed him money and refused to pay him.

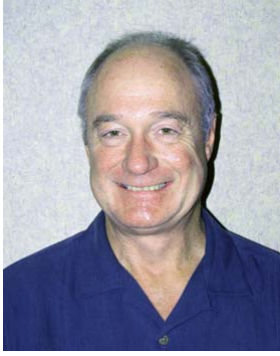
So why was this obviously colorful and interesting man "overlooked" in the writing of the California's history? Part of the explanation, according to Ms. Mero, was that his sudden death never allowed him to write his autobiography, therefore knowledge of him was limited to what others wrote about him. And that, it seems, was not very much! Sutter, Fremont, Bidwell, and others did not suffer from this problem and are therefore better recognized in today's history books.

Ms. Mero asked that we support the John Marsh Historic Trust's effort to have the 1856 Marsh House -- the first stone manor house built in California -- and the remaining 3,900 acres, recognized as the "John Marsh State Historic Park."



Raffle: The Greeter's Gift went to **John Sims**; the Club Gift went to **Lauren Schall**. This Scribe did NOT win anything, as he should have!

Next Week: The Greeter will be **John Tatum**; the Program will be with the 2010 Edition of the Valentines Day Festivities (organized by **Carolyn Degnan**).



# San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



**This week, February 4, 2010, you will be greeted by John Tatum**

**Here are some things you should know about John:**

**John has been a member of our club since April 1987.**

**Classification: Packaging**

I was born in Buffalo ,New York. I spent my early years outside of Philadelphia, Pa. I was an English Major at Princeton and received an MBA from The University of Virginia. I moved to Southern California in 1973 and worked for Continental Can Co in the corrugated box division. I raced a Islander 36 sailboat out of Newport Beach, and enjoyed being single. 1982 I bought a moving and storage distributor in Oakland named The Robert Stack Company and changed the name to Pioneer Packaging. 1989 I bought a small manufacturing plant in Livermore ,now called Heritage ,making corrugated boxes.

I married Linda in 1997. We have four children Ashley 29, Michael 27, Kim 29 and Kelly 24. Kim married Bill Brodie who is in sales for Pioneer and they live in our guest house. Ashley who works for Pioneer married Josh who works for Heritage. Michael and his significant other both work for Heritage. Kelly is trying to get into a nursing school.

Heritage and Pioneer keep me very busy. Heritage has added 20 Twenty marketing a marketing and web site company and Ebco which sells promotional products . Cal Sheets manufactures' our corrugated sheets needed to make boxes. And we now have a fulfillment company in Lathrop and a join venture in Reno. We also have recently added warehouses in Sacramento and Fresno. I'm pretty sure I won't be retiring anytime soon.

One of my most satisfying achievements is the Rotary tree lot that seems to keep making money year after year. I enjoy Rotary and all the people in this club.

Meeting: Thursday, 12:15  
Crow Canyon Country Club  
711 Silver Lake Dr, Danville

Jim Livingstone, Publisher  
(925) 216-1898 cell phone

e-mail: jwl459@comcast.net

## San Ramon Rotary

### Greeter Protocol

When you are blessed with the duty of being our greeter, you should remember the following: (1) You should be at the meeting by 11:45 am in order to greet everyone as they come to the meeting. (2) You should bring a "greeter's gift". The gift should be approximately \$20.00 in value. (3) You will be leading the flag salute, giving the inspiration, and introducing the visiting Rotarians. It is a good idea to watch the visiting Rotarians sign in, so that you can ask them about any complicated names or classifications, or just plain BAD handwriting. gwq

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### Future Programs:

Feb 11th Carolyn Degnan - Valentine Luncheon  
Feb 18th Club Assembly (NO NOON MEETING)  
Feb 25th District Governor Visit

### Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

February 11th Valentines Day Program - (Bring your Favorite Valentine)  
February 18th Club Assembly (NO NOON MEETING)  
February 25th District Governor Visit

### Schedule of Greeters

February 11th John Tatum  
February 25th Barry Toby  
March 4th Pam Bickford

