



Crow's Call



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Past President

Rotary Meeting - April 16th by Hermann Welm

The "Aviator" called the meeting to order. He welcomed all present and reminded us that the RI President is D.K. Lee; his theme is "Rotary Makes Dreams Real!"

Dennis Harvey, our Greeter, gave us a Thought for the Day, something about being thankful for what we have. He then led us in the Flag Salute, and Songmeister **Gary Daniel** led us in the singing of "America the Beautiful."

Dennis then introduced the two Visiting Rotarians, **Ira Hillyer**, from the Walnut Creek club, and **Mary Kay Foss**, from Danville.

Dennis then went on to tell us all a little about himself (because there is so little to tell!).

Visitors: **Paul Kang** and **Jasmine Sifi**, Venture High School students who will be competing in the Four-Way Test Speech Contest later; their Principal, **Janet Tinanova**; parents **Antoinette** and **Alex Sifi**; **David Quick** and **Ron Houston**, affiliations unknown to this Scribe, but likely part of the Venture School team; **Darlene** and **Chris Gayler**, **George Gayler's** family; and a **Carolyn Degnan** guest, **Pam Bickford**. Also, not to be forgotten, just because she is small, is **Sarah Myers**, daughter of **Susan Myers**.



The long version of the Welcome Song was sung in honor of our guests.

Good Times/Good News/Fine Free:



Glen Weber announced that he had a birthday, and somehow connected it to Measure C, in an effort to avoid the usual fine.

Kathy Gailey announced that she has been asked to lead a two-week GSE Team to Kenya and Ethiopia, leaving this coming Sunday! She is really looking forward to this experience.

Announcements:

Dennis Harvey reminded members that the Sunny Glen Smoke Alarm Project will be held the morning of April 24; arrive at 8:45 am! This is the annual three-hour effort to replace alarms and/or batteries for the seniors living in this community.

The **Aviator** reminded all that there will be a Day at the Races on May 2.

Kathy Gailey has started the sign-up sheet for the May 9 Bocce Ball Challenge; it will be at an outdoor venue, starting at noon, in Martinez' Waterfront Park. More team members are needed.

Service Above Self

Bill Clarkson announced that our Business Hall of Fame Luncheon will be on May 7; **Toyota** will be honored. Please plan on being there to thank them for their long support of Rotary.

PE Gary Daniel gave a report on the District Assembly, indicating that attendance was nearly twice of what was expected (247 people) and that a lot of good Rotary information was shared at the event.

Geoff Johnson announced that we are once again manning two Beer/Wine Booths at San Ramon's Wind Faire, on May 24 and 25. The sign-up sheet will be routed at upcoming meetings. This is one of our three "must" events!

Bill Clarkson reminded all that the Hall of Fame Luncheon will be held at our regularly-scheduled meeting on May 7th. This is a great event for inviting business guests!

Recognitions: The Aviator fined **PP Don Jones**, **PE Gary Daniel** and **Spike Jones** for coming in late to the meeting. (Please take note, **Garth Riopelle!**)

Pre-Program Program:

John Sims awarded **Darlene** and **George Gayler** each with Paul Harris Fellow certificates and pins ("3 rubies" or "PHF plus 8"). This is in recognition of their generous donation to the Rotary Foundation.



Fletcher Thames zine. The question -- **Steve** some even

proceeded to quiz Red-Badge **Steve Hart** about The Rotarian Magazines were very tough, but to everyone's surprise -- given his reputation -- actually answered each of them correctly. All were impressed, and started to re-evaluate their first impression of him (but not for long!).

Program:

Lucky Sandhu, who it was noticed had for the previous 15 minutes been chasing his tail all over clubhouse, explained that he had been attempting to hunt down two "missing" contestants for the Four Way Test Speech Contest. Apparently the Cal High students had a last-minute scheduling conflict. So, the two remaining contestants, from the Venture High School, took their turns at the podium to wow the audience.



Paul Kang started the proceedings by discussing how 9 million children die each year from preventable diseases and called upon Rotary to reassess the process of charitable giving to address this huge problem. His enthusiastic and impassioned speech left all impressed, in spite of there being some "technical errors" in his facts.

Jasmine Sifi, in a milder yet very effective way, then took stage-front to talk about long-range friendships and the role the Internet is playing in facilitating these.

Given the void left by not having the two other contestants present, **Lucky** proceeded to make his own speech about his "stumbling" at a required, graded speech while a student. He feared that he might not get his "green card" if he failed to achieve an "A" average.

Lucky may have been trying to steal the election, relying his superior experience, charm and good looks, but the audience could not be fooled! After all, it is well known that the electorate is not stupid! **Paul Kang** placed first, **Jasmine Sifi**, placed second, and **Lucky** came in a dismal third. We are not sure whether this will impact his citizenship status!

Raffles: The "Shame of San Ramon Rotary" continues in that this Scribe has not won the Raffle in three weeks! Instead, the Greeter's Gift went to **John Sims** and the Club Gift went to **Lucky Sandhu** (to be used for speech lessons).

Next Week: the Greeter will be **Geoff Johnson** and the Program will be **Mona Keady** educating us on Chocolate-making. It is also Key Employees Day so bring your favorite employee as your guest!



About Rotary!

An Excerpt from: A CENTURY OF SERVICE – The Story of Rotary International, by David C. Forward

The Man behind the Movement (cont'd)

(Continuing with the Paul Harris and his brother, Cecil, being raised by his grandparents in Vermont; learning the work ethic from grandfather Howard and compassion from grandmother Pamela, while Paul's mother, father and other siblings lived elsewhere.)

George (*the father*) and Cornelia (*the mother*) did reunite and moved Cecil, Paul, and Nina May to Fair Haven, about 25 miles from Wallingford. George tried his best to be a good provider (*but*) . . . after a few months of diminishing income and increasing marital tension, the family broke up for a last time. Paul and Cecil returned to Wallingford

Both parents spent their final years in Denver, Colorado, and despite Paul's embarrassment and frustration with his father's shortcomings, his actions expiated all those earlier failings. "Mother was sadly broken, totally blind and helpless and then came the transformation of your life," he wrote his father. "You waited on mother so tenderly all those latter years (*and*) . . . you fed her with a spoon . . . hung on her every word and became her abject slave." Cornelia passed away in her Denver home on 22 July 1919; George died in 1926.

Having seen his only son fail to succeed in his business and family life, Howard Harris was determined not to let Paul follow the same path. He saw education as the key to a good career, yet school was, to his teenage grandson, an annoyance that interfered with fishing and other boyhood pleasures.

(To be Continued)

Did you Know: *that Paul Harris, Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey founded their new "Rotary" club in Chicago in 1905?*

You would, if you read the earlier installments of this section!

(To be Continued)

Shared by Hermann Welm



San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



This week, April 23rd, 2009, you will be greeted by Geoff Johnson

Here are some things you should know about Geoff:

Geoff has been a member of our club since, April 1983

Classification: Auto Body and Paint

Having been born and raised in Berkeley, California, I have become appreciative of values I was exposed to in that community and am glad to be living in Danville today. I spent the first seventeen years growing up in Berkeley attending Berkeley High school, where many good years were enjoyed. After graduation My Uncle Sam invited me to join him at Fort Ord, Monterey, for additional training in survival and aggressive behavior in the Army. I was trained in medical first aid as a medical corpsman specializing in front line emergency response. After 4 years of exciting and endlessly repetitive training exercises I graduated to the exalted position of Private first class and began to explore advancing my education.

As I had become the neighborhood school mechanic during my early Berkeley years I first found myself involved with a neighbor with whom I built a car out of fiberglass from the ground up. Following that I then built one of a kind second car out of fiberglass which I sold to a fellow auto enthusiast. Realizing that I was not going to get rich doing this sort of development I returned back to school.

Seven years later I graduated from Armstrong business school with a BBS degree in business. Shortly after I went to work for a corporation to train mechanical repair called "Synanon Foundation" a company specializing in drug and alcohol behavior modification. After 8 years of work and being the director of transportation I left Synanon in search of other type of work in my field.

In 1977 I moved to Danville and established my business in 1980, the San Ramon Body and Detail Shop in San Ramon; where else. I have two grown children, Kimberly and Brian from my first marriage and 5 wonderful grandchildren aging from 17 to 1 year of age. I am married 17 years to the most wonderful redhead in the world, Penny, and we also share 2 adult children of hers, Sean and Breann.

In 1984 I joined this Rotary club and have spent these many years since [except for three years] involving myself in numerous ways with this club. I am actually the first inductee [red badge] of the club. Rotary has been a significant moving force in my life; everything from being a board member, receiving the Club's Hammer Award to interaction with many other members and friends.

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. wfm

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:

April 23rd - Mona Keady - Chocolate making

April 30th - George Luna - Day at the Races

May 7th - Bill Clarkson - Business Hall of Fame

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

April 23rd

Key Employee Day

April 25th

Smoke Alarm Project for Sr Citizens

May 2nd

Day at the Races

May 9th

Bocce Ball Challenge

July 11th

District 5160 Awards Banquet, Corning

October 1-4

District Conference Lake Tahoe NV

October 10th

Carboload 25

Schedule of Greeters:

April 23rd - Geoff Johnson

April 30th - Don Jones

