



# Crow's Call



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### Don Jones

Past President

## Rotary Meeting - April 30th 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!"

PP Don Jones, our Greeter, gave us a Thought for the Day by Saint Francis of Assisi, which ended with:

*"For it is in giving that we receive; in serving others that we find the deepest fulfillment; in setting aside our focus on self that we find true meaning in life."*

(Only he said it in Italian, I believe!)

He then led us in the Flag Salute, followed by the singing of "God Bless America."

Don then introduced the two Visiting Rotarians, Michael Roberts and George Luna, both from the Berkeley Club, who will be our speakers today.

Visitors: Shane Borchert, a teacher at Cal High, and Student of the Month, Alex Moussavi, accompanied by his proud mother; former Rotarian, Rob Blatecky; Kathleen Larsen, PP Dave Larsen's better half; Mona Kendy; David Quick, Paula Silva and Karin Alexander. Sarah Myers, daughter of Susan Myers, once again joined us as well.



The long version of the Welcome Song was led by Lucky Sandhu's table; apparently he needed the extra training due to a dismal performance on the 23<sup>rd</sup>!

### Good Times/Good News/Fine Free:

George Gayler told his harrowing tale of practicing an emergency, power-off landing and suddenly finding himself with the real thing on his hands. His plane went off the end of the runway and was totaled! He was not hurt, but his passenger suffered a non-life-threatening injury.

### Announcements:

Dennis Harvey reported on the outcome of the Sunny Glen Smoke Alarm Project, held the morning of April 24. Twenty-five participants worked for 2 hours to visit 240 homes, replace 260 batteries (provided by Randy Perkins) and install 35 new smoke alarms; a very successful event!

PP Dave Larsen reminded all that Golden Gate Fields will open at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 2 for our Day at the Races; the races will begin a little earlier than usual because the Kentucky Derby will be run later in the afternoon.



Service Above Self

**Geoff Johnson** passed around sign-up sheets for manning two Beer/Wine Booths at San Ramon's Wind Faire, on May 24 and 25. "**Spike**" **Stevens** indicated that we will also need volunteers to supervise the Candied Apple Booth that the Interact Club is manning.

**PP Guy Greco** indicated that there is room for more at the May 9 Bocce Ball Challenge; it will be at an outdoor venue, starting at noon, in Martinez' Waterfront Park. There is no charge for this event.

**PE Gary Daniel** asked that those who have not yet completed the On-Line Member Survey for San Ramon Rotary should do so by May 5; this is our members' chance to express an opinion as to the operation of the Club.

**Gary Sloan** gave all present some advice about dealing with the Swine Flu: cover your mouth/face while coughing and sneezing, frequently wash your hands (thoroughly) and "don't kiss any pigs."

**Captain John (Sims)** reminded all that time to make your annual contribution to The Rotary Foundation is quickly running out; the Rotary Year ends on June 30. Each member is expected to make a minimum contribution of \$100, however, our Club is actually seeking 100% participation at the "double sustainer" level (\$200).

**Captain John** then awarded **Steve Wilcox** with his Paul Harris Pin (with 2 Sapphires) after achieving this status using the "TRF Direct" method for making contributions. (See Captain John if you are interested in using the "painless" installment plan.)

**Recognitions:** The **Aviator** "recognized" **John Tatum**, for his recent April 13 birthday. He also indicated that he is far behind on recognitions and that "drastic steps will be taken" to correct these accumulating deficiencies!

#### **Pre-Program Program:**

**Dr. Bill** put passed his Blue Badge.



**Lucky Sandhu** thru his paces on with flying colors (much to every-Badge! **Cho Tang**, who is return-hiatus was also bestowed with



the Four-Way Test and he one's surprise); he was handed ing to the Club after an ex-his Blue

**Kristin Parsons** then joined **Dr. Bill** and introduced **Cristin McConnell** to the members as our newest Red Badge. She grew up in Concord and has been working for Wells Fargo Bank for 6 years. She is currently a Branch Manager in San Ramon. All stepped forward to welcome her into the club.



**Karin Alexander**, a teacher at Iron Horse Middle School, took a few minutes to appeal for lobbying assistance with HR 235 and SB 484, the repeal of legislation that penalizes those "double dipping" with both public employee retirement benefits and Social Security. It is discouraging private sector employees from a career change to teaching or public service, and vice versa.

**Mike Prilutsky** introduced **Shane Borchert**, Athletic Trainer and teacher in Sports Medicine at Cal High; he in turn introduced **Alex Moussavi**, a student of his who is Student of the Month. Alex has been his Assistant Trainer for two years and has a "Can-Do" spirit in his work. He is also an accomplished horseman in Western riding.



**Program:**

**Michael Roberts**, of Golden Gate Fields, and **George Luna**, retired jockey -- both members of the Berkeley Rotary Club -- spoke about the uncertain future of GGF and the Kentucky Derby. According to **Michael**, GGF's owners are in Chapter 11 bankruptcy and have put the park up for sale. He expects it to be sold this summer but is unsure as to whether it will continue to be run as a race track or will be purchased for future re-development.

**George** spoke a little about his career as a jockey, reminding all that winning races "is 90% the horse and 10% the rider, but sometimes it's that 10% that makes the difference!" As for the Kentucky Derby, it is in its 135 year (inaugurated in 1875) after Col. Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr, grandson of William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, returned from a European trip and wanted to replicate a high-end horse race event such as were held in England and France. The Churchill family, of Louisville, donated the land and "the rest is history!"

**George** called the Kentucky Derby "the most exciting two minutes in sports." The signature song of this event is Stephen Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home" and the adult beverage *de jour* is Mint Juleps. The race is for three-year-olds and only one has won by a horse not running as a two-year-old. In addition, only 3 fillies have won in these many years.



Secretariat is probably the most famous of the winners (in 1973), and its 1:59.40 time has never been beaten. The most remarkable fact is that in each of the five ¼-mile segments, Secretariat ran it faster than the one preceding! That too has never been replicated

**George** plans on being at this Saturday's Day at the Races to assist us newcomers in how best to lose money at the track!

**Raffles:** The Greeter's Gift, of tickets to The Blackhawk Chorus' May 17 performance of "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra" at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek (you can get your own tickets, and hear the wonderful voice of **PP Don Jones** and the so-so voice of this Scribe, at <http://www.lesherartscenter.org/>), was won by **Stan Smalley**. The Club Gift went to **PE Gary Daniel**.

(I'm sure none of you noticed the subtle bit of shameless promotion in the preceding bit, but if you re-read it carefully, you'll find it!)

**Next Week:** the Greeter will be **Nancy Vinson** and the Program will be the **Business Hall of Fame**; bring you guest to this great event!

# 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 being booted out of one prep school, doing well at Vermont Military Academy, getting expelled from the University of Vermont (for misconduct he was not guilty of), and going on to attend Princeton University)*

. . . . one winter day in 1889, he (Paul Harris) received a telegram from his uncle George, a doctor in Rutland, Vermont, which read: COME HOME AT ONCE IF YOU WANT TO SEE GRANDPA ALIVE. Paul rushed . . . (home) . . . but he was too late. The only positive role model in his life had not made it through the night. It was Paul whom his grandmother asked to sit by her side at the funeral, and it was Paul who felt the need, after returning to Princeton, to complete the year and then go back to be with her in Wallingford. His life suddenly had no direction. He took a menial job sweeping floors . . . at Sheldon Marble Company . . . and the work ethic he had inherited from his grandfather caused his boss to quickly promote him to more important duties.

One day . . . his grandmother, now frail and elderly, asked him to come sit with her. She reminisced about the 60 years she had been married to Howard and the three children they had lost. The subject changed to Paul . . . "Paul, I wonder at times if you realize how much you meant to Pa," she said. "At times, it used to seem to him that his life was a failure. He had high hopes for your father. He spent money freely on his education, and his disappointment almost broke his heart. And then you came to us quite providentially, and Pa fastened all his hopes on you. Paul, you must not fail him. Work hard and live honorably for your grandfather's sake."

*(To be Continued)*

***Did you Know:*** that \$1,000 in cumulative contributions to The Rotary Foundation earn you a Paul Harris Fellowship, with a pin. When each of the next five \$1,000 thresholds are achieved, you get a sapphire for that pin. Therefore, after reaching \$6,000, you have a pin with five (5) sapphires.

Continuing on, you give up your sapphires and switch to one ruby (at the \$7,000 level). At \$9,000 you'll have a pin with three (3) rubies, but that's it for pins with stones!

At the \$10,000 cumulative contribution level you'll continue to wear the pin with three rubies, but you'll get an inscribed piece of decorative crystal to recognize your generosity.

**Shared by Hermann Welm**



# San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



**This week, May 7th, 2009, you will be greeted by Nancy Vinson**

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

**Nancy has been a member of our club since, October 2008**

## **Classification: Travel**

Growing up in beautiful Orinda, California and living in the Bay Area all my life, is one of the many blessings I count each day. I studied Business and English at DVC and Armstrong Business College and worked with in grandfathers business, Benner-Nawman, Inc. – the largest manufacturer of aluminum telephone booths.

My husband Neal is “Mr. Wonderful” and our blended families include seven children. My two children, Jill and Robert are my pride and joy. Jill and her husband Don, have blessed our family with 3 adorable grandchildren and live close by in San Jose. Robert is an internet entrepreneur and owns his own company in website design and online marketing techniques.

Having been in the travel industry for 30 years, I guess you could say I’m a true travel industry veteran. Over these many years, I’ve witnessed the evolution of the travel industry and the role of the travel professional. I have earned the Travel Institute’s CTC certification and proud to be a member of this professional organization. My career has always been focused in the leisure portion of the travel industry, as I specialize in selling Hawaii, Alaska and cruises. Besides meeting with individual clients, I have planned, promoted and escorted a number of cruise groups.

My travel career has includes many years in the retail travel agency world and three years working for Seven Seas Cruise Line in San Francisco. As the “lead” Passenger Services representative, I was involved with the both the start-up of the U.S. corporate office and day to day operations. In 1999, my husband Neal and I established Vacation Discounters, Inc., initially focusing on online marketing of Hawaii vacations. Through our 20 + websites, we have expanded to online marketing of various travel destinations and types of travel such as: Tahiti, cruises, Alaska, honeymoons, Africa and Mexico. Most of our staff consists of Independent Contractors, each specializing in one or more of our featured destinations.

I enjoy serving on the Advisory Board for Los Medanos College’s travel program. Vacation Discounters, Inc. is a proud member of Signature Travel Network and has received top-producer awards from various vendors; Pleasant Holidays, Tahiti Legends, Princess Cruises, Hawaii World, Cruise West and Seabourn Cruises.

Meeting: Thursday, 12:15  
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## 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. swt

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:

May 7th	Bill Clarkson - Business Person of the Year
May 14th	Nola Woods - CCC Vector Control-West Nile Virus
May 28th	Mike Prilutsky - SR Educators of the Year
June 4th	Dave Lambert - African School Project

### Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

May 9th	Bocce Ball Challenge
May 24th & 25th	San Ramon Art & Wind Festival
July 11th	District 5160 Awards Banquet, Corning
September 22nd	SRRC's 25th Anniversary Gala
October 1-4	District Conference Lake Tahoe NV
October 10th	Carboload 25

### Schedule of Greeters:

May 7th	Nancy Vinson
May 14th	Art Kubal

