



Crow's Call



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((925)-457-6589

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Hermann Welm

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(925) 328-0343

Robin Stevens

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(925) 875-0156

Sam Parwiz

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(925) 855-4153

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Rotary Meeting — June 3rd by Art Kubal



Dr. Bill opened the meeting with his usual "I am still President of the Club, even though with Past DG Mark and current DG Earl in attendance today, I'm a bit worried". (Not to worry, Bard, only 3 more meetings to go).

Dr. Bill offered a huge Thank You to Don Jones and Geoff Johnson for the great job

of organizing and smoothly pulling off the beer and wine booth project at the Windfaire. And thank you to all the Rotarians and spouses who worked the weekend – net profit should be close to \$10,000.

Dr. Bill introduced our own Spike Stevens as having left her sick bed at the hospital (kidney stone attack) to be here today as moderator of this special event. Spike gave a big thanks to Gary Sloan and the S. R. Medical Center for getting her through her ordeal over the weekend.

Spike called upon today's greeter, Carolyn Degnan, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Thought for the Day. She quoted from Ann Lieberman, "Great teachers empathize with kids, respect them, and believe that each one has something special that can be built upon". Carolyn then introduced visiting Rotarians: Bill Clarkson, Rachel Hurd, and Terry Keohne from the Dougherty Valley Club; Jay Tontz from the Hayward Club, and Scott Singly from the Concord Club. Don Jones lead us all in a great round of 'God Bless America'.



Special Introductions: Spike noted that today is an exciting time in our community as we gather to recognize and show our appreciation for 17 outstanding educators in the San Ramon Unified School District. Spike acknowledged the following special guests who joined us for the event: Cheri Clasen, field Representative from U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney's office; Andrea Olson, field Representative from State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan's office; Lupe Schoenberger, District Director from State Senator Mark DeSaulnier's office, Jennifer Quallick, field Representative from Supervisor Mary Piepho's office; and from the City of

Service Above Self

San Ramon, Mayor Abram Wilson (to join us near the end of the program) and Council Members Carol Rowley and our own Jim Livingstone. Other special guests: Chief of S.R. Police Dept., Scott Holder, Character Counts Officer, Abe Medina, school Resource Officer Mark Gunning (son of Rotarian Mike Gunning), and school Resource Officer Rob Ransom; S.R. Fire District Board President Roxanne Lindsay and Chief Richard Price; Executive Director of the S.R. Valley Ed. Foundation, Christene Burr and the District Community Relations Director, Terry Koehne, who is also President of the Education Foundation; and President of the S.R. Valley Board of Education, Bill Clarkson. Also attending was our special Guest Speaker, Yau-Man Chan.

Other table introductions included Melonie O'Sullivan who works for Gates & Associates and Sarina Agiurre representing the Arthritis Foundation.

Opening Remarks: Spike welcomed everyone to the 2nd annual San Ramon Rotary "**Educator of the Year**" luncheon. She told us that the San Ramon Unified School District is full of outstanding school personnel, yet we are gathered here today because 17 extraordinary people have stood out as the best-of-the-best, the crem 'd la crem, the Top Gun of candidates. Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., she said "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."



The individuals that we are recognizing today know this formula; they live it every day. They not only exemplify this on a personal level, but they also instill this in our children, as well as all those around them. All 17 of the nominees are truly valuable assets to our schools and our community. In recognition and appreciation, each of our honorees will receive an honorarium of \$100, none of which has to be spent on school supplies! In addition, each will receive Certificates of Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives, the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, Contra Costa County, City of San Ramon, and the San Ramon Rotary Club. Finally, there is the nameplate. Each school's office has an Educator of the Year plaque and the 2010 honoree's name will be added to be remembered long after today's event is over. After they leave today here with everything that is being bestowed upon them, there will not be any person around that doesn't know just how important and special these people are!

Presentations: The presentation format was to have the **Educator of the Year** from a school and his/her school Principal stand while the presenter read what the Principal had written about the achievements of their nominee. These readings will not be recited here but they included detailed descriptions of the talents, initiative, dedication, strong work ethic, can do attitudes, team leadership abilities, genuine enthusiasm, and caring personalities of these individuals.

Steve Wilcox presented the following "Educators of the Year":

Holly Meyer from Bollinger Canyon Elementary, nominated by Principal Shawn Wells

Cindy Fischer from California High School, nominated by Principal Mark Corti

Wendy Haase from Country Club Elementary, nominated by Principal Michael Biondi

Brian Olkowski from Copyote Creek Elementary, nominated by Principal Marsha Tokuyoshi

Second presenter Chris Gaylor introduced the following "Educators of the Year":

Beth Bergen from Gale Ranch Middle School, nominated by Principal Lisa Ward
Patrice Norris from Golden View Elementary, nominated by Principal Nancy White
Nancy Raaum from Hidden Hills Elementary, nominated by Principal Hanna Ma
Alison Beggs from Iron Horse Middle School, nominated by Principal Michelle Cooper
Carolyn Dobel from Live Oak Elementary, nominated by Principal Don Loflin
 Third presenter Sam Parwiz offered the following “Educators of the Year”:
Susan Kellogg from Montevideo Elementary, nominated by Principal Sharon Keeton
Robert Paddock from Neil Armstrong Elementary, nominated by Principal Lorna Monteith
Sapna Nair from Pine Valley Middle School, nominated by Principal Jason Law
Joanne Chung from Quail Run Elementary, nominated by Carol Loflin
 And the final presenter, Dennis Garrison, introduced the following “Educators of the Year”:
Jane Bidinger from Twin Creeks Elementary, nominated by Principal Kathleen Crosthwait
Betty Bloeman from Venture School, nominated by Principal Janet Terranova
Shayne Downey from Walt Disney Elementary, nominated by Principal Joe Nguyen
Jeff Osborn from Windemere Ranch Middle School, nominated by Principal David Bolin

Guest Speaker: Dennis Garrison introduced the guest speaker, Yau-Man Chan. Yau-Man earned his BS degree in physics from MIT, an MS degree from UCSB, and is currently the Chief Technology Officer at the College of Chemistry from UC Berkely. He also gained fame by finishing 4th in the TV show Survivor: Fiji.



Mr. Chan began by “worrying out loud” that he believes there is a sad trend in education, especially during this bad economy. In California, specifically, education is looked upon as a “business”—just concern about the bottom line. In tough times, just cut off the bottom 1/3, like a corporation. He believes that education should have a “special space” – not private, not commercial and not run just by the numbers. The best Universities (Harvard, Yale, and other Ivy Leaguers) only educate about 60,000 persons while our Contra Costa DVC system tries to educate over 100,000 students on a comparative “shoestring” budget. Our teachers are tested for many parameters over which they have no control.

We need to treat education as a “necessity” and raise teachers status—like in his home country where they are next to motherhood and God, and their salaries are considerably higher than here. From a commercial sense, teachers are regarded as a repository of knowledge and their job is to pass it on to the next generation. Electronics can do that; but “performance in action”, the delivery to the student, is what makes the teacher a valuable asset.

Education in the U.S. is falling behind other countries. Mr. Chan compares it to the auto industry. In the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s we were the best in the world. We didn’t ask “Are we No. 1 because we are good or because others were so bad?” Other countries learned and caught up but we didn’t change. Now, we should ask the same questions about our education system.

Our Governor wants to shorten the school day so we can(save money) pay teachers less! We already have 15 to 20 days shorter school year than in Europe and Asia. We are down to 32 hours/week versus 44 in Germany, 53 in Denmark, and 60 in Sweden. We should be lengthening our

school year, not shortening it. Hong Kong had poor education and poor capitalism results. They poured money in their system, provided special teacher training, improved teacher salaries and as a result, Hong Kong now has stronger “commerce” than the U.S. Mr. Chan closed with a quote from a Harvard past President “If you think education is expensive, try ignorance”! Responding to a question of what would he do if we had unlimited education money, Mr. Chan said that he would start at the first grade—basically “write off ” the current generation; he would invest heavily in teachers and their support systems; and would change the school year to year around.

Recognition of Administrators: Spike called upon Mark Corti, Principal of Cal High, who wanted to say a few words about working with these great teachers. He said that the job of the administrators regarding these 17 fantastic teachers is to set the environment, then stay out of their way. He congratulated those school Principals here today for doing just that, thereby aiding to the greatness of these educators.



Final Remarks: Spike asked all of our 2010 “Educators of the Year” to stand one last time. She offered this quote from Andy Rooney: “Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.” Spike said that each of them would be such an individual and thanked them for not only what they do, but also for who they are as individuals and for demonstrating that intelligence plus character truly are the goal of education.

Closing: Dr. Bill asked Mayor Abram Wilson to come forward. He introduced a young boy from Iron Horse Middle School named Jake, who is Mayor-for-a-Day. He joked that after following him around all day, Jake now knows why he has the “easiest job” of all.



Ana Dominguez and Dr. Bill presented a Foundation Grant to The Arthritis Foundation which was accepted by Sarina Agiurre, community development manager of the Arthritis Foundation. The raffle prizes went to two Principals (\$20 each), and to George Gaylor (\$20). The meeting was adjourned and all honorees assembled for a group picture before going through the receiving line to accept their certificates.







San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



This week, June 10th, you will be greeted by Ana Dominguez

Here are some things you should know about Ana:

Ana has been a member of our club since: August 2008

Classification: Graphic Designer

I live in San Ramon and work in San Ramon at Gates + Associates, a landscape architectural firm and also Creative Direction, an environmental graphics firm. I have two children, Rob and Cristie. I celebrated both their marriages last year and had a wonderful time being mother-of-the-bride and groom. My son and his wife are expecting their first-born in July which means I'm going to be a grandmother!

My son is designing a new "Tower Defense Game" as an independent video game developer which is due to be released in September of this year, for the iphone and ipad. I am currently having a fantastic time working with him to prepare all the 3-D art for this new game.

I still have a residence in Santa Rosa, which I hope to sell very soon to permanently relocate here in this area.

My Professional Bio:

Ana Dominguez is an illustrator, graphic designer and fine artist. A graduate of the acclaimed Academy of Art in San Francisco, her breadth of experience includes architectural drafting and illustration, environmental graphic design, and visual communications for landscape architecture and urban design. Ana's artistic gifts combined with this range of expertise provide her with the exceptional versatility to envision a project's particular design potential, while also understanding and anticipating technical constraints.

Ana specializes in project theming, storytelling and the celebration of site history through a variety of design elements, including logo design, signage and wayfinding programs, sculpture and mural. Her artistic contributions bring life to retail and mixed-use properties, master planned communities, corporate campuses and upscale hospitality projects throughout the continental United States, as well as Hawaii, China and Dubai U.A.E.

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. etc

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:

June 10th Safari in Kenya - Horace Crawford & Kathy Gailey
June 17th Dr. Bill - State of the Club
June 24th Dr. Bill’s Farewell Meeting

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

June 30th - Dr. Bill’s Demotion

July 1st - “DARK” No Meeting

Schedule of Greeters

June 10th	Ana Dominguez
June 17th	Ed Duarte
June 24th	Chuck Fletcher

