



Crow's Call



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Past President

Rotary Meeting — May 6th by Garth Riopelle



us

The "Bard" called the meeting to order. He welcomed all present and reminded us that the RI President is John Kenny, of Scotland; his theme is "The Future of Rotary is in your Hands!"

Dr. Bill introduced our greater, **Pam Bickford**, who gave us the Thought for the Day which is to "Love life to the fullest and embrace it with no regrets". Pam then led in the Flag Salute.



Steve Wilcox led the group in a patriotic rendition of "America the Beautiful".

Visiting Rotarians:

Bill Clarkson, Past President of our very own San Ramon Rotary Club, and now President of the Dougherty Valley Rotary Club. **David Behring** from the Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary Club and **Brian Flaraghty** of the San Francisco Rotary Club were in attendance.

The long version of the Welcome Song was led by **Chris Gallagher**

Dr Bill informed us that there is now a plaque displayed at Cal High with each years Hall of Fame honoree from the San Ramon Valley Foundation.



Visitors:

Steve Wilcox introduced **Uri Eliahu** of Engeo and his wife, **Cindy Eliahu**. Also present were Uri's parents, **Shalom** and **Shoshanna Eliahu**. Steve also introduced past winners of the "Hall of Fame," **Chris Truebridge** and **Jeff Church**, as well as **Lea Castleberry**, representing Contra Costa County Supervisor **Mary Piepho**.

Also present and introduced were **Terry Church** from the San Ramon Chamber, **Stuart Bambino**, the Chamber's Executive Director, **Terry Koehne**, representing the San Ramon Valley School District, and **Dan Coleman**.

Service Above Self

Hermann Welm introduced two guests at his table, **Emily West** and **Mary Hantos** of the San Ramon Express, the online “newspaper.”

Dennis Garrison introduced **Eividas Petrusis** who is from Lithuania and living with the Garrison’s this year.



Dennis went on to introduce eight Rotarians from the **Sholet Rotary Club**. **Robertis Gaviloskis**, representing the Lithuanian Rotary group, presented the flag from his Rotary Club to **President Bill**. He also invited all Rotarians to attend the 2012 Amateur Games in Lithuania. A grant check of \$5,000 was presented to the contingent from the Rotary Club in Lithuania from the San Ramon Rotary Foundation.

Announcements:

Dr. Bill spoke about “Leadership San Ramon.” This is a business and community program developed to help our San Ramon businessmen be leaders in the community. Both **Chris Truebridge** and **Uri Eliahu** were graduates of Leadership San Ramon. Both attended 20 years ago as the leadership group was in its formative years.

David Behring announced the 20th Annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival hosted by the Danville/Sycamore Rotary Club. The event is **Thursday, May 13** and begins at **5:30pm** at the Blackhawk Museum. The featured show will be “The African Queen”. Tickets are \$45 per person.



Mark von Hoetendorff reminded us that Carboload this year is October 9th, at the Toyota facility in San Ramon. This year Carboload will be held in conjunction with the Primo’s Run. Sponsor letters will be e-mailed today. On Thursday, May 13th, **Lucky Sandu** will lead a Carboload planning group from 1-2 pm for those on the Carboload Committee.

Glen Weber announced that Key Employee Day is May 20th. One or more of your valued employees are invited to attend our lunch meeting and they will be honored with a special lunch and an entertaining program. Bring those smiles as pictures will be taken!

Guy Greco announced that the 13-Club Rotary Bocce Ball District Challenge is on Saturday, May 18th and four-player Rotarian teams are needed. The event is free and is sure to be fun with plenty of food, drink and camaraderie.

Wind Fair is Memorial Weekend, May 30 and 31. We will be manning two Wine and Beer Booths and volunteers for the Sunday shift are still needed.

On Tuesday June 8th, the Visioning Program will be held, led by **PDG Candy Peirce**. It is a no cost strategic planning session for the club. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Hall of Fame Award

Dr. Bill gave an overview of the Hall of Fame Award and its recipients. This is the fourth year that the award has been given to a San Ramon businessman that has excelled. The first recipient in 2007 was **Alex Mehran**, of the Sunset Development Company. In 2007, **Chris Truebridge**, of Shapell Homes, received the award. In 2009, **Don Carlson** (represented by **Jeff Church**), of the Toyota facility in San Ramon, won the honor. This year the recipient is **Uri Eliahu**, of Engeo.

Bill Clarkson, who was instrumental in the formation of the award, introduced **Scott Perkins** of the San Ramon City Council. Scott spoke of the role of the City Council and his view on how the award benefits business in San Ramon by making the city a more business friendly place to live. San Ramon has some large business, such as AT&T, Shapell, Sunset Development and Engeo. It houses many of the people who work at those businesses. The award demonstrates what a great place San Ramon and that it has a corporate friendly environment.



President Bill, introduced **Terry Church**, who is the current Chairman for the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce. Terry introduced **Stewart Bambino** who is the new Executive Director of the Chamber. Stuart and his wife **Nancy** set up the San Ramon-Danville calendar planner, and this summer looks to be an exciting one. The Chamber has taken over from City staff the management of the 4th of July Party at the San Ramon Central Park. They see the 4th growing to become a big Chamber event.

The Chamber also puts on "Pulse" which is a social networking group for younger professionals. This allows mentoring of the new professional by established businessmen in the community. New members are encouraged to attend. The Chamber continues to be a vital business hub for Trivalley with lunches and mixers.

The Chamber is happy to help induct **Uri Eliahu** into the Business Hall of Fame. He was honored by the Chamber two years ago as the "Business Member of the Year." Uri started his company Engeo in 1992 with 25 employees. It has employed as many as 300 people. In 2007, Engeo was named as the "#1 best Place to Work". The company places a great deal of emphasis on its employees and has the utmost integrity in its business dealings.



Steve Wilcox then introduced **Chris Truebridge** of Shapell Homes. Chris has been working in the community with Uri for close to 25 years. On behalf of the San Ramon Chamber and San Ramon Rotary, Chris presented **Uri Eliahu** with this years Business Hall of Fame Award.



Uri Eliahu thanked his colleagues and friends at Engeo who had helped make this award a possible. He also thanked his wife, **Cindy**, for her support over the years while building the engineering company. He is grateful to San Ramon and is very glad that his business is in this community.



Mayor Abram Wilson of San Ramon, on behalf of the City Council, came to the podium and presented Uri with the 2010 Rotary Hall of Fame plaque. The plaque will be proudly displayed in the City Hall with **Uri Eliahu's** name.



Lea Castleberry, acting on behalf of Mary Piepho, and Contra Costa County recognized Uri and Engeo as the Business hall of Fame Recipient. Lea was proud to bestow this honor on Uri. Lea added that Engeo was the Civil Engineering Firm of the Year for 2009, Uri was named Businessman of the Year in 2007 by the San Ramon Chamber and in 2007, Engeo was named #1 Best Place to Work by the Silicon Valley Times.

John Sims, on behalf of the Rotary Foundation, honored Uri for his achievements. John presented Uri with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Uri was given a Paul Harris Certificate which represents a donation of \$1,000 dollars in Uri Eliahu's name to the Rotary Foundation. This monetary contribution will go towards completing the eradication of polio from the world.



A Shakespeare Moment

The Bard then concluded the meeting with the "Shakespeare Moment": Shakespeare's father had a small shop specializing in leather and gloves and William worked there. There are several passages where he uses technical details about the trade. Unfortunately, one of the few passages in the play showing a businessperson in action is a wool merchant trying to add up his profits mentally while his pocket is being picked. Hmm, we will have to think on that one!!!

Raffles: The Greeter's Gift, which was a bottle of fine wine, was won by **Fletcher Thames**. The Club Gift went to **Walt Trembley**.

Next Week: the Greeter will be **Rob Blatecky** and the Program will be **Ed Duarte's** GSE trip to Mexico.



San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



This week, May 13th, you will be greeted by Rob Blatecky

Here are some things you should know about Rob:

Rob has been a member of our club since: December 2009

Classification: Solar Energy Consultant

Rob was born near Milwaukee Wis. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Wis. – Madtown. After graduation, left the frozen north and summertime Mosquito Reserve for Atlanta GA. Spent 14 years at headquarters of The Coca-Cola Company before starting his own International Products Sourcing company. Joined Rotary in 1997. Moved to the Bay Area in August 2001, choosing the area based the high ranking of Monte Vista's SAT scores, and San Ramon Rotary based on the caliber of the members and the club's Community projects.

After a self described exhilarating but disastrous product debut on QVC in 2005, Rob hung up his gloves and upon seeing a presentation on Solar at one of our club meetings, started down the Solar Electric Industry career path himself. Now almost 3 years selling for one of the largest/fastest growing solar companies, SolarCity, Rob is riding the wave of letting home and business owners know the new reality - solar electricity is now 10-30% less expensive than PG&E.

A testament to his wife's tenacity, Rob and Ann have been married for almost 22 years. They have a daughter, Katelyn living in San Luis Obispo, and their son Douglas, about to be in the first graduating class from DVHS this spring, has accepted a 4yr partial scholarship to study pre-law at St. John's University , New York NY.

When not talking about the advantages of solar or walking their dog, Macy, Rob enjoys the blend of food, presentations and camaraderie our club uniquely offers – participating in club activities like Carbo-load, the Tree lot and the WindFair to the extent possible.

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. lym

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 20th Key Employee Day

May 27th Rotary Scholarship Winners

June 3rd Teachers of the Year

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

May 20th - Key Employee Day

June 30th - Dr. Bill’s Demotion

Schedule of Greeters

May 13th	Rob Blatecky
May 20th	Marco Bronzini
May 27th	Horace Crawford

