



Crow's Call



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Rotary Meeting — January 12th by Hermann Welm



President "Trixie" Spike Stevens called the meeting to order and reminded us that the RI President is **Kalyan Banerjee**, of India, and that his theme for the year is "Reach within to embrace humanity."

Our Greeter, **Terry Koehne**, gave us her Thought for the Day, by James Freeman Clarke: "He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions." This was followed by the salute to the Flag.



The Patriotic Song, "The Star-Spangled Banner," was selected by the Greeter, he not knowing how difficult it is for a bunch of Rotarians to sing it. But then, he's a "newbie" and he'll no doubt begin to understand the limitations of his compatriots.

Visiting Rotarians: **John Myer**, from the Benecia Rotary Club, once again joined us.

Other Visitors: Our speaker, **Ivy Morrison**. And **Spike's** "Number 1 Son," **Brian**, and daughter, **Rachel**, joined us to keep mom from doing foolishness. Can one assume that **Rachel** would be known as her "Number 2 Daughter," even though she wasn't introduced that way?

Service Above Self

Announcements:

Madam Trixie bestowed on **Walt Trembley** and **Terry Koehne** a little crown/tiara that would have made even **Paula-Sue** wince at their “cuteness.” The occasion of their birthdays was thus “honored” (?); they were forced to wear these silly things for the balance of the meeting, and did so with aplomb!

a·plomb /ə'plɒm, ə'plʌm/ 

noun: imperturbable self-possession, poise, or assurance.

Origin: 1820–30; < French *à plomb* according to the plummet, i.e., straight up and down, vertical position

Synonyms: composure, equanimity, imperturbability.

Antonyms: confusion, discomposure; doubt, uncertainty.

Gary Sloan passed around sign-up sheet for the Valentine Day's Luncheon and promised that there would be no embarrassing questions of panelists, etc.; that this time around the club members would amaze their spouses by holding a decorous event.

dec·o·rous /'dek ə əs, dɪ'kɔr əs, [dek-er-uh s, dih-kawr-uh s, -kohr-]

adjective: characterized by dignified propriety in conduct, manners, appearance, character, etc.

Origin: 1655–65; < Latin *decōrus* seemly, becoming, derivative of *decus*; see decorate



PP Horace Crawford advised that **Jaap Switters**, our former Dutch exchange student in 1996-97, has been appointed to a university faculty position. After returning home he went on to receive a degree in Sports Medicine in Australia, and then managed a sports club in Vienna.

Horace also alerted the members to a “Peacemakers” event at the San Ramon Valley Methodist Church (between Danville and Alamo) on MLK Day, Monday, at 7:00 pm.

PP Dennis Harvey announced that this year’s Smoke Alarm Project will be held on Saturday, March 31. The Interact Club at California High will once again participate by canvassing all the homes in the Sunny Glen neighborhood for their needs. We’ll be adding a new service for those sixty, or so, seniors living in the small attached units. We will be installing a carbon monoxide detector in each home, but he needs sponsors for the discounted cost of the units, \$20.00 each (or \$1,200.00). See him if you can help.





PP Dr. Bill circulated some additional letters received from third graders thanking the club for distributing a personal dictionary to each student.

PP Dennis Garrison announced that the Las Vegas Trip will be a two-nighter, leaving March 2 and returning with their winnings on March 4. **Sally Garrison** has researched some shows that are available and that information is being distributed via email.

Lauren Holden, granddaughter of the very proud **PP Guy Greco**, and Cal High goalkeeper *extraordinaire*, AND recent recruit for the University of Oregon soccer team, last week scored a goal and assisted in the second of two goals in their 2-0 win over Amador Valley. She booted a free kick from 60 yards out and bounced it over the opposing goalkeeper's head! (Please feel free to ask who coached her mother back in 1978, thereby starting a family tradition of outstanding soccer players!)

ex·tra·or·di·naire /ɛks tra ɔr di 'nɛr/ [eks-TRA-AWR-dee-ner] *adjective: French . extraordinary; uncommon; remarkable.*

Origin: 1940, from Fr., lit. extraordinary, but used colloquially as a superlative

Program: **Gary Sloan** introduced **Ivy Morrison**, Public Information Officer for the Caldecott Fourth Bore Project. **Ms. Morrison** first brought us up-to-date on the history of the tunnel; or rather "tunnels."



In the 1870's the desire of Bay Area residents to visit Contra Costa County had increased to the point where a better route over the Oakland hills was desired rather than a circuitous road over the top which took up to three hours to

cir·cu·i·tous /sər'kyu ɪ təs/ [ser-kyoo-i-tuh s]

adjective: roundabout; not direct: *a circuitous route; a circuitous argument.*

Origin: 1655–65; < Medieval Latin *circuitōsus*, equivalent to *circuit* (*us*) circuit + *-ōsus -ous*

COLLAPSE

Synonyms: circular, winding, indirect, meandering.

Antonyms: straight, direct.

negotiate. So work began on the Kennedy Tunnel. It was not completed until 1903 and consisted of a one-way, wood-reinforced (as in mines) structure, located at a higher elevation than the current tunnels.

In 1937 the first two bores of the Caldecott Tunnel were completed, funded by the WPA, as a Depression-Era public works project. The third bore was opened in 1964, and almost immediately was recognized as being inadequate because of the need to constantly shift the direction of flow in the middle tunnel, based on demand. While two bores are dedicated to the assumed commute pattern into and out of Oakland/San Francisco, the "reverse commute" direction gets very badly backed up as four lanes of traffic attempt to squeeze down to two.

Construction of the fourth bore began in August, 2010, after many years of wrangling about environmental impacts, economic impacts, social impacts, and of course "who's going to pay for it." The Oakland political (and business?) community was opposed to making it easier for their residents and businesses to move into Contra Costa County thru the easing of their morning, east-bound, and the afternoon, west-bound, commutes. In the end they acquiesced, but only after being assured that they would not have to pay for the construction of this bore.

Ms. Morrison went on to describe the geological issues engineers faced with three old sandstone formations that had been folded into vertical alignment over the past 5 million years, and how that impacted the decision as to the type of equipment that would be needed to punch thru the hills. They ended up not using the tried-and-true European method/equipment that is typically used to tunnel thru the Alps. They used a machine that grabs at the more fragile sandstone -- about 2 to 6 feet at a time -- and then stops while reinforcing concrete is sprayed onto the newly-exposed tunnel sides and ceiling. This technique keeps the workers (and equipment) safe from collapses.

Funds for this \$391 million project came primarily from the Federal government and from Contra Costa's half-cent Sales Tax Program. The "break thru" of the two, east and west side, tunneling efforts occurred on November 29, 2011. It is expected that it will be open to traffic in the Fall of 2013.

The Fourth Bore will consist of two travel lanes and a 10-foot shoulder on which disabled vehicles can stop without unnecessarily disrupting traffic.

For her informative presentation, **Ms. Morrison** was given a "You Rock!" rock by **Madam Trixie** to add to her sedimentary rock collection (from the spoils of tunneling).

Recognitions: **Walt Trembley** and **Terry Koehne** for daring to have another birthday; **PP Guy Greco** for being too proud of his granddaughter; and **Chris Gayler** and **Mike Gunning** for their wives birthdays. This **Scribe** seems to recall that **Madam Trixie** was also fined, but cannot remember what the offense was (maybe it was for making grown men wear stupid hats?).

Raffle:

The Club Gift was won by **Jay Tontz**; the Greeter's Gift by **Dr. Bill** (who wins WAY too often!).

Next Week: **Dirk Rosen** will discuss "Marine Conservation."

Next Weeks Greeter: **Kathe Mitchell**

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

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

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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. lgt

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:

Jan. 19th - Dirk Rosen - Marine Conservation

Jan 26th - Adam Cipriano & Christene Burr - Ed Foundation

Feb. 2nd - Jim Hoekenga - Fire District Chaplain Program

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

Smoke Alarm Project - March 31st

Schedule of Greeters

January 19th Kathe Mitchell

January 26th Judy Lewis

February 2nd Ladd MacDonald

