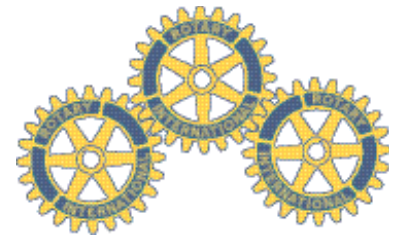




Santa Rosarian



LOCAL • DISTRICT • INTERNATIONAL

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EDITOR: Ryan Thomas

OUR PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 26TH: SANTA ROSA'S TOP POLICE OFFICER & FIREFIGHTER

THE LEE E. ABRAMSON SANTA ROSA ROTARY PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

FLAMINGO RESORT HOTEL, WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON



Acting Fire Chief McCormick

After 17 consecutive years the Santa Rosa Public Safety Awards have become an integral part of the in-ternal culture of the public safety organizations and personnel. Since 1994, our Rotary Club has recog-nizes and honors Santa Rosa's top law enforcement officers and firefighters who protect and serve the people of Santa Rosa.

Lee Abramson, the founder, organizer, and driving force of Rotary's Public Safety Awards, became a Ro-tarian 35 years ago when he retired to Santa Rosa. Lee and the late attorney and community leader Everett Shapiro recognized the need for acknowledging that service to our community and enlisted Santa Rosa's chief of police and fire chief to select the top officer of each department.



Police Chief Schwedhelm

2011 marks Tom Schwedhelm's second year as Santa Rosa's chief of police. Fire Chief Bruce Varner re-tired at the end of last year after eight years in Santa Rosa and veteran firefighter Mark McCormick is act-ing chief and will make the fire department's award.

www.santarosarotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS....

February 2, 2011: "At the Abyss" with author & diplomat Thomas Reed

February 9, 2011: Jill Stevens Kinney

February 16, 2011: Life Across America with Larry Frederick

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS

Visit our website at www.santarosarotary.com

Check out [United Way's Schools of Hope](#)

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issue of The Santa Rosarian

See Layne Bowen
to find out how!

OPENING CEREMONIES

Eddie Erslov led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Eileen Carlisle** pulled double duty by offering a thoughtful Invocation about the value of friendship.

CLUB GUESTS

Karen Daniels was visiting from the Sebastopol Rotary Club. Rotarians Linda Bonas and her husband, John Stratton, from the Salt Lake City Rotary Club #24 are visiting Sonoma County for a month, so we will surely see them at future meetings. FYI, the Salt Lake City Club was the 24th Rotary Club to be founded...something to always be proud of!

The following guests were also in attendance at this week's meeting: Joe Clendenon, Eric Tyler, Esthela Guillen, Cinda Martinez, Kerry Hurley, Laura Fong, Derrek Schunter, Peggy Clark, John Gnam, Sima Vaghti, Nicole Arnone, Doug Johnson, Matt Dethlefsen, and Sarah Dethlefsen. We hope to see you all again soon!

RAFFLE

This week's raffle was a double bill: \$369 in the pot plus **Rich de Lambert** kindly donated a bottle of Kunde Family red wine. Rotary guest Joe Clendenon had the winning ticket and took a shot at the marble. No luck; the pot's safe for another week, but we start all over—all the black marbles back in the bag. **Debbie Zaft** won the wine.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Good news! **Eileen Carlisle** had no report. Check back next week for an update on **John Brown**, who had a medical emergency during the meeting and was taken to Memorial Hospital for a brief visit. John is back home and doing well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Johnson, chair of the newly-christened Lee Abramson Santa Rosa Public Safety Awards, announced that the 17th annual recognition of the top firefighter and law enforcement officer of the year is next Wednesday noon at the Flamingo. This is always a great program, always

crowded with special guests; show up early to get a good seat. Don't miss it.

David Brown announced that squares for the Super Bowl football pool will go on sale at next week's meeting. \$25 per square or three for \$50.

Mark Burchill announced that the next Fireside & Networking meeting of Rotary Means Business will be held at **Kris Anderson's** home in Windsor, Friday, February 3rd at 5:30 pm. Contact Mark or Kris for more information.

Kim Murphy is getting married,,in Las Vegas. Her son is busy booking rock star accommodations for the event...on Kim's credit card.

Rotary International has announced a stepped up effort to promote youth protection. To that end, Rotary club members who volunteer in activities involving youth will have to clear a more in-depth background and vetting procedure. **Craig Meltzner** is working on implementation of this program. Contact Craig for more information if you are interested in getting involved in Rotary's effort to protect the youth of the world.

President Don announced that the board of directors has recommended forming a permanent fundraising committee. Open discussion and a vote by the membership are scheduled for next week's meeting.

HONORED STUDENT

Congratulations to **Bill Hatcher**, who let slip that he's been recognizing outstanding students at local high schools for 13 years! This week he introduced Matt Dethlefsen, the top-ranked senior at Montgomery High School with a 4.78 GPA. Matt is an Eagle Scout, played catcher on the Vikings' baseball team and has crammed five years of Latin studies into four years of high school. He has already been accepted to CalTech and is waiting to hear from Stanford and Cal. Rotary of Santa Rosa is pleased to have Matt as this week's honoree. Keep up the good work, Matt. We look forward to tracking your success!



Matt Dethlefsen

NEW GENERATIONS ROTARY

President Don announced that the board of directors voted to sponsor the formation of a new class of Rotary Club in Santa Rosa, approved unanimously by the membership.

“New Generations Rotary” is the theme for the Rotary International clubs designed to offer the Rotary experience for potential community leaders who are not engaged by the century-old traditions and habits of the Rotary traditions. Maybe they cannot afford the time for almost two hours’ meeting time for breakfast or lunch. Possibly the cost of a weekly meal, membership dues or financial obligations are obstacles to getting involved in a service club.

The focus of this New Generations Rotary Club sponsored by our 89-year-old Santa Rosa Rotary Club is to create something different while still providing “Service Above Self” and the networking appeal of the world’s largest service club. If you know co-workers, friends, family, and associates who have viable, legitimate excuses for not becoming a Rotarian, interested not only in maintaining high ethical standards in the careers but looking for an opportunity to serve their community and advance understanding and peace, tell them about New Generations Rotary—the first of its kind in the North Bay, and refer them to representatives of our sponsoring club for more information—**Rich deLambert** (8322-8648), **Mark Burchill** (575-8200), or **Jim Johnson** (571-0226). RichdeLambert@att.net, MarkB@AdventOffice.com, and Jim@JimJohnsonAssociates.info. Initially the new Rotary Club will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 pm during “Happy Hour” at Legends Bar and Grill at the Bennett Valley Golf Course.



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NORTHBAY ALLIANCE



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RECOGNITIONS

Gary Bondi and his company, now the George Petersen Insurance Agency, were recognized for their corporate sponsorship of the Children’s Nutcracker Christmas Party. The agency sponsored a bus to transport the children to and from the Spreckels Auditorium in Rohnert Park and George Petersen employees donated volunteered their time to shop for the party and assisted with wrapping of the gifts. Thank you to the newly reformed agency and to Gary for his efforts on behalf of their sponsorship of our club’s traditional project for disadvantaged kids.

PRESIDENT DON HAD SOME TIME SO HE OPENED THE FLOOR FOR “HAPPY DOLLARS”.

- **Paul Hamilton** was fined \$5 for being a “chick magnet”
- **Doug Chase** was back after a brief hiatus to deal with changes in at his practice. He announced that he had also just returned from a trip to Egypt to attend a conference and donated \$50 to the Club for his penance.
- Club guest Sima Vaghti graciously donated \$60 to our Rotary Club for each rug sold at her Montgomery Avenue Rugs of Persia emporium during their closing sale.
- For reasons yet to be determined, **Dan Schell** told a taste-free story about a hillbilly, a kick to the groin, and hunting. You’ll have to track him down if you want to hear the whole thing. Oh yeah, his son is getting married too. Priceless!
- **Bill Hatcher** went on a hunting trip where he bagged a mule deer. Is that like a donkey with horns?
- **Blaine Goodwin** announced that his son and daughter-in-law are expecting twins.
- **Stephen Passalacqua** made a cake with his daughter and she is also taking her first violin lesson today.



Proud father, **Stephen Passalacqua**

ROTARIAN QUIZ JANUARY, 2011

Seven topics have remained central to “The Rotarian” and the January 2011 issue is dedicated to these topics. Name three of them.

PROGRAM

This week’s program was truly special. Our club’s distinguished **Red Badger Jose Guillen** presented his “Testament to the American Dream”, themed “Lessons Learned”.

Jose’s mother and younger sister had already been living in Los Angeles for three years when Jose, his father and his older sister finally secured residency papers to come to the United States. In March 1969 Jose arrived in Los Angeles from Guatemala City ...by bus. Jose attended junior high school under the ESL program and, in fact, received his

first dictionary through that program, which he still carries to this day! Jose completed high school and graduated from Cal State Los Angeles with a degree in Administrative Management.

Jose's first big break came in the early seventies through the CETA (California Employment and Training Act) program. He worked as a library assistant; janitor; clerk at Juvenile Hall; Deputy Sheriff; and a courtroom clerk to Judge Ron George (who went on to later become Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court), just to name a few.



Jose Guillen today

These opportunities laid the foundation for the start of a career working in the California Courts. Since those early beginnings, Jose's achievements are quite impressive. He has worked in various administrative positions from Beverly Hills, Napa County, San Francisco, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. Jose even had the opportunity to travel overseas to, among other places, Afghanistan with USAID to work on judicial reform projects. In October 2009, Jose took the job as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sonoma County Superior Courts.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Court, Jose oversees all personnel, budget, records management, facilities management, labor and contract administration, develop strategic and operational plans, and acts as a liaison with other justice agencies. Jose is also the administrative liaison with Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge at the Court.

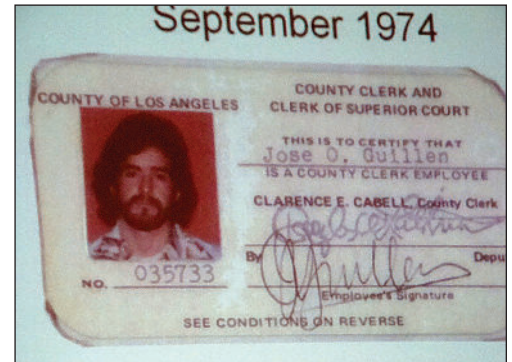
Unfortunately, like most state and government entities, the Sonoma County Courts face tough times ahead. Caseloads are increasing; there has been a 20% increase in filings over the last ten years and many of these include jury trials. Despite this increase, the Court budget decreased

by \$2 million last year. \$3 million will be cut this year. To deal with these cuts, the Courts have imposed a hiring freeze. For example, based on our size, Sonoma County should have 285 positions within the Courts; we only have 215. The Court have managed this reduction through reengineering, technology, volunteers, and outsourcing.

To deal with the challenges ahead, the Courts are going to continue to have to find

new and innovative ways to deal with the administration of justice. The Court are going to seek to implement alternative resolution programs, and other avenues of dispute resolution. Fortunately, Sonoma County has been approved for a new \$180 million dollar, 173,000 square foot facility, which also technology upgrades. Many sites are being considered for this new facility. Regardless of its location, we need to act fast before these funds are pulled off the table by Sacramento to pay for other programs.

Thanks for a fantastic presentation, Jose!



Jose Guillen in 1974

MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed with good thoughts for **John Brown**, who was probably checking into the Memorial Hospital ER. It worked! John is reported recovering nicely at home.

This week's photographer:
Kris Anderson

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