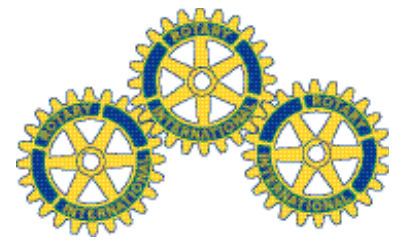




Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# Santa Rosarian



LOCAL • DISTRICT • INTERNATIONAL

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EDITOR: Don McMillan

## OUR PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 8TH:

### GIRO BELLO: THIS SUMMER'S BEAUTIFUL RIDE

*BE PART OF THE FUN WITH THE GREAT ADVENTURE ACROSS SONOMA COUNTY  
LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE ABOVE SELF: THAT'S OUR ROTARY CLUB AT WORK!*

FLAMINGO RESORT HOTEL, WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON



Next Wednesday's program will highlight Giro Bello—this summer's "Beautiful Ride". The charming Matt Everson will be your MC with the spotlight on President Marnie, Carmen Sinigiani, Doug Johnson, and Jock McNeill to introduce you to the first of our club's two major fund-raisers for the year and describe how all of us can help make it the great success that it is destined to be. Mark your calendar—early July, right after the 4th of July. Do not miss next Wednesday's Rotary meeting at the Flamingo. We need your help now to make this great event even bigger and better than ever before.

[www.santarosarotary.com](http://www.santarosarotary.com)

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS....

- Feb. 15th: What makes people tick—and why?
- Feb. 22nd: Mike Doyle's inside scoop on NASA
- Feb. 29th: Author Ed Anderson's Benjamin Franklin

#### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS

- Visit our website at [www.santarosarotary.com](http://www.santarosarotary.com)
- Check out photo galleries of recent events at [www.rotarymeansbusiness.org/photos.php](http://www.rotarymeansbusiness.org/photos.php)
- Visit Rotary's [Foundation](#) page
- Go to Giro Bello Classic: [girobello.com](http://girobello.com)

## OPENING CEREMONIES

Our Rotary Club's Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Kiska Icard**, but when the assigned invocator failed to answer the call from **President Marnie**, **Dan Schell** filled in and entertained the crowd with a lengthy rap ditty about "Sarah



**Dan Schell answers the call of duty**

Cynthia Stout Who Refused to Take the G a r b a g e Out!" After Dan finished to rousing appreciation by the groundlings, M a r n i e

concluded the meeting and sent everyone back to their businesses to make more money to donate to the club.

## TODAY'S GREETERS

Past President Yale Abrams and Keven Brown cordially welcomed fellow Rotarians and guests.

## VISITING ROTARIANS

**Nona Lucas** introduced two special Visiting Rotarians: District Governor Maureen Merrill—one of the charter members of the Rotary Club in Windsor that we sponsored 25 years ago—dropped in for a surprise inspection to make three announcements. And Tom Croft, visiting from Santa Rosa East Rotary next door, was even more welcome after he announced that he was returning our club's \$200 advance payment—our club's support and commitment for last November's Veteran's Day Memorial Luncheon last November. This date this year is Thursday, November 8, 2012, at the Veterans Auditorium.

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

**Past President Steve Olson** introduced former member of our Rotary Club, Judy Glenn, and remarked that Judy continues her ties to Santa Rosa Rotary by volunteering her expert financial services for our club's local foundation. **Keven Brown** introduced Dr. Steve Gospe, since Steve's host (and son) **Jeff Gospe** was late... as usual. **Jack Abercrombie** introduced his recurring guest, Keith Gentry. And program chair **Matt Everson** introduced today's speaker, Ted Robinson, and his wife Lynn.

## SUNSHINE REPORT

Good news reporter **Nancy Shepherd** told us that **Mel Herman** (who joined our club 40 years ago this year) will

undergo major surgery next week. A complete recovery is expected, according to Nancy.

## RAFFLE

Today's Raffle Jackpot is building again as the number of evil marbles declines. **Dan Wright** did the honors and the ever-intrepid (and Past President 1987-88) **Rich**



**Rich DeLambert appreciates his consolation prize**

**DeLambert** got his ticket pulled, but walked away with the \$10 booby prize. Probably a good return for the one ticket he bought!

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Vickie Hardcastle** announced the nominees for the officers of the Santa Rosa Rotary Foundation's officers and board of directors for the next year:

President: **Eileen Carlisle**

Vice President: **Norm Owen**

Secretary: **Jeanne Levin**

Treasurer: **Wally Lowery**

Directors for 2012 -2015: **Steve Olson, Eileen Carlisle, Wally Lowery, Sam McMillan, and Bob Stone.**

**Mark Burchill** will finish **Joy Parker's** current term on the Foundation board and a new one-year director's term was authorized by the Foundation's Board. Bill Hatcher will fill that position for the upcoming year.

All nominees were duly elected by our club.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Now that our law enforcement guests are back on the beat, **Past President David Brown** used the "G Word", pimping the annual Super Bowl gamble one more time, yet again.

**Doug Johnson** threw down the gauntlet, spouting off on how the Patriots would spank the New York Football Giants this Sunday afternoon. Outraged over such an insult (and since **Past President Ray Dorman** was not present to rectify such a baseless claim), **Past President Don McMillan** rose to accept the challenge (seeing that Doug must have a bad case of amnesia over their last title game

four years ago) and match Doug's bet of a \$100 donation to our club's Foundation in the event of a Patriot loss and "in the unlikely event that his beloved Giants did not send pretty boy Tom Brady and the rest of the New England punks back to Boston to live another 4 years in infamy and disappointment", that is a direct quote from last year's leader.

**Mark Burchill**, our President Elect Nominee for 2014-2015, made two announcements: a Rotary Means Business gathering on this Thursday evening February 2nd at Keller Williams' new real estate offices on Round Barn Circle and that on Saturday, April 28th, our club will participate in an annual hands-on service project with Rebuilding Together.

**Greg Johnston** announced the upcoming field trip to the Shark Tank in San Jose on the first Saturday in March—that's the 3rd—for the 7:30 pm game. Tickets are \$38 and bus transport is available for around the same amount.

**Past President Yale Abrams**, chair of the Red Badge committee, requested status updates from our Red Badgers on their progress towards their Blue Badges.

**Ted Wilmsen**, perennial chair of our club's 3rd Grade Dictionary Project, requested that our members turn in their extra Dictionaries. ASAP!

District 5130 Governor Maureen's Big Three Announcements:

1. A new Rotary Club has been formed in Sonoma to include the Kenwood and Glen Ellen area.

2. On April 18, 2012, Lacy J. Dalton—not Lucy Dalton (who performed with her band at the New Orleans International Convention)—will be donating her time and talents to perform in Rohnert Park at a district-wide fundraiser for PolioPlus.



**District Governor Maureen Merrill had three exciting announcements, one of which involves "Lemon Drops"!**

3. Finally, Maureen announced a luncheon celebrating the 25 years that women have been in Rotary—Friday March 16h at Vintners Inn from 11 am to 2 pm. Editor's comment: "I guess it takes extra time for the gals to slurp down the Lemon Drops".

*This week's photographer:*  
**Nicole Le**

## RECOGNITIONS

Way **Past President Wally Lowery** was recognized for the running accomplishments of his grand-daughter, Julie Naucozzi, who was invited to run in England at pre-Olympics trial race in England. Julie was recognized as being 7th in the Press Democrat's "Sports People of the Year", and will be a "Bear Cub" next year vs. being a "California Golden Bear". Wally—after reeling from lack of sugar (from lack of cookies) coughed up \$25 for her achievements as a runner.

**Past President Don McMillan** was recognized for re-entering the Flamingo ballroom after a lengthy absence of four month or so.

**President Marnie**, believing that his absences were caused by a lengthy litigation matter recently settled also believed that attorney Don must have a lot of "Gelt" in his pockets. After offering a measly \$5 as his Marnie-settlement, the



formerly-frugal P.P. agreed to buy a case of Pinot for Polio in light of his upcoming Mexico vacation with wife and club member, **Jackie McMillan**. **That Don McMillan, he had some "splainin" to do!**

**Past President Fred Levin** was given a booby prize by **President Marnie**: a bumper sticker for the Smart Train. **Queen Jeanne Levin**, his wife and club member (who preceded him as Rotary President) ratted him out for having re-tired as President of the Sonoma County Taxpayers Association after 11 years. Fred miserly agreed to donate \$25 to the Club's Foundation.

## PROGRAM

**Program chair Matt Everson** introduced Ted Robinson, retired Lt. US Navy (and another New York Football Giants fan). In the early days of World War II, Robinson was chief radar officer for a squadron of P.T. (Patrol Torpedo) Boats, operating 30 to 50 miles behind Japanese lines in the remote South Pacific and bunking for 2½ months—in separate cots—with a future U.S. president during their 365 days on a series of suicide missions (but who was counting?). "Robby" Robinson was in our neighborhood (visiting his Bear Cub grandson), and regaled us with recollections of his time in the Navy with Lt. John F. Kennedy.

Given their mission—to attack the battleships, destroyers, and cruisers of the Japanese Navy with plowing through the waves in small plywood speedboats, armed only with machine guns, torpedoes, and high-powered engines (but

no heavy armament or heavy weapons). Their base was a small scrap of semi-dry land hundreds of miles from allied support, with Japan's modern fighters and bombers in complete control of the skies—they hid during daytime and ventured out only in complete darkness. No wonder Ted Robinson called it "suicide work".

Early in the war, Jack Kennedy had been assigned heavy duty in Newport, Rhode Island, to an LMD—"Large Mahogany Desk"—until he volunteered for the experimental P.T. Boats in the remote Pacific. Kennedy and Robinson were not assigned to the same boat, but Ted was the officer who was given the coconut that JFK carved (after a Japanese cruiser sliced his PT boat in half) saying: "11 still alive -send help" brought to their base by a native islander. Ted commanded the PT boat that went 70 miles behind enemy lines to rescue JFK and the survivors of his crew.

In addition to President Kennedy, another auspicious squadron officer was college football star and future



**Jack Tolin and speaker Ted Robinson**

Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Whizzer White. The Navy officers in the squadron were mainly Ivy League college graduates. Not so the enlisted swabbies who kept the boats

operational. Ted recalled that the mechanics probably graduated from D.H.C, which stood for Detroit House of Corrections!

Given the lack of attractiveness and appeal of even the island's scantily-clad native women, Ted recounted he and JFK spent much of their time discussing their mothers, Rose Kennedy in particular and JFK's developmentally-disabled sister. Later however, after watching movie star Veronica Lake in a film aboard a US battleship Jack commented,

"wouldn't it be wonderful to have a date with a star like that!" Ted recalled that JFK was particularly religious and he asked JFK to put in a good word for a Protestant when JFK did his daily prayers on his rosary. Not too surprising, considering the dangerous work they were doing and where they were based—of the squadron's 15 boats, only three were still operational at the end of their year's tour of duty.

According to Robinson, Jack Kennedy did not exhibit any future Presidential aspirations or qualities except that when he piloted his boat to the base, 190 Japanese planes welcomed him and escorted him in. The display of Japanese air power that day was in honor of the arrival at the island that day of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto: the same day that U.S. fighters ambushed the admiral's transport plane and he was shot and killed. JFK did have a knack of making friends with anybody however, especially the chief of the village on Florida Island. According to Robinson, Kennedy was very smart and curious. When not attacking Japanese ships, JFK whiled away his time wondering why the ingredients of Baby Ruth bars were different than Hershey bars.

The native islanders had no access to medical care at that time, not even a PPO or a HMO! Ted heard JFK remark that "Some day, some day a rich country like America should help people like this". Ted thinks that that was seed for the Peace Corps, President Kennedy's first major project after his inauguration in 1961.

Ted expressed nothing but admiration for Kennedy's courage and bravery, recounting that even though their P.T. boats never ventured out of hiding at their swamp base in daylight, JFK was the only officer who volunteered to take his boat 30 miles across open water in the daytime to rescue Marines survivors who had attacked the Japanese airbase on a nearby island. (PT boats never ventured out of their swamp base in daytime because of their vulnerability to attack from the air by Japanese airplanes.)



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- Bill Rousseau, President Elect
- Jack Abercrombie, Secretary
- Cecil G. Humes, Treasurer
- Jack Geary, Sergeant at Arms

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- Kaylan Banerjee
- Rotary Club of Vapi , Gujarat

**GOVERNOR, DISTRICT 5130**

- Maureen Merrill
- Rotary Club of Windsor

**ATTENDANCE SECRETARY**

- Jack Abercrombie
- P.O. Box 505
- Santa Rosa, CA
- 538-4770

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Rick Allen
- Layne Bowen
- Mark Burchill
- Casey D'Angelo
- Paul Hamilton
- Craig Meltzner
- Diane Moresi
- Vinay Patel
- Robert Pierce
- Carmen Sinigiani