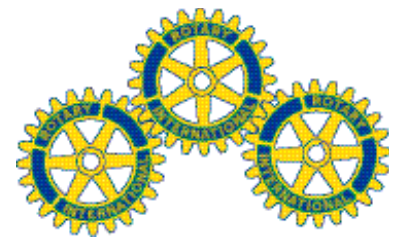




Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# Santa Rosarian



LOCAL • DISTRICT • INTERNATIONAL

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EDITOR: Suzanne Drace

## OUR PROGRAM FOR APRIL 25TH:

# SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT GETS UNDERWAY

*COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR TO VISIT ROTARY AND ANSWER QUESTIONS*

FLAMINGO RESORT HOTEL, WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON



Construction on the railroad right-of-way now owned by the SMART Passenger Train District is scheduled to begin late next week near Third Street in Old Railroad Square. Work crews will remove existing rails, rebuild track beds, put in concrete ties and weld the new rails together and move south. Matt Stevens, who has been working on the highly-controversial SMART since 2001, will give us the latest information and answer as many questions as possible about the highly-controversial, taxpayer-supported rail transit system and bike trail. In 2008, Marin & Sonoma voters approved a one-quarter cent sales

tax to fund 70 miles of passenger rail service from Larkspur Landing north to Cloverdale. Due to accelerating cost estimates, the project has been cut in half, to be completed when funding becomes available.



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

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS....

**May 2:** Alfred Masy—traveling the world on a bicycle!

**May 9:** Dr. Barry Silberg's latest medical innovations

**May 16:** Patty Tucker gives us "A good night's sleep"

### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS

Visit our website at [www.santarosarotary.com](http://www.santarosarotary.com)

Find out more about the [SMART Train](#)

Go to Giro Bello Classic: [girobello.com](http://girobello.com)

## OPENING CEREMONIES

**Call to order: President Marnie Goldschlag**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Creed Wood**

**Invocation: John Breazeale**

## VISITING ROTARIANS

Visiting from Brive-Malmont, France, with a Rotary banner from his home club, fellow Rotarians welcomed research engineer John Pierre Teyssier and, closer to home, from the Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club, education consultant Vickie Lockner

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

**Craig Meltzner** introduced three enthusiastic members of Santa Rosa High's RotarAct Club—



**Santa Rosa High RotarAct students auction delectable desserts**

Jinny Tran, Michael Kennedy, and David Tran, who brought sweet desserts for another successful auction. Great job, Rotarians!

**Karen Ball's** guest was Santa Rosa attorney Chad Wyatt, who practices business & real estate law, Adam Brown was **Jack Geary's** guest, and **Past President Will Haymaker** hosted Chico Burmania, a retired pipeline contractor.

## RAFFLE

Presiding over the raffle today was new member **Keith Gentry**, eager to swap Red for Blue...badges that is. The growing jack pot had climbed back to a whopping \$172!

**Jack Atkin** was the double-lucky winner—once on the lucky ticket and again selecting the only orange marble. He transferred \$50 to Eva's Paul Harris



**New member Keith Gentry proves lucky for Jack Atkin**

Fellowship and \$50 to the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa. Modern math calculates Jack's remaining winnings to be around 70 bucks, give or take a few.

## SUNSHINE REPORT

**President Marnie** asked that our thoughts and prayers be with **Kerrie Chambers'** grandfather, who is ill.

## IN MEMORIAM

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of **Jim Benefield** on Thursday, April 12, 2012. Jim was an active member of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa from 1983 until his retirement in 1995. A memorial service is scheduled for 1 pm next Tuesday afternoon, April 24, at First Presbyterian Church, 1550 Pacific Avenue, immediately followed by a reception at the Wild Oak Saddle Club, 550 White Oak Drive in Oakmont.

## FINAL SURVEY CALL

**President Marnie** and **District Governor Maureen Merrill** need us to complete our District-wide Member Survey that gives you a chance to say what's important with Rotary for you, what in Rotary works **for you**, and **how satisfied you are** with Rotary. The responses to the survey have been interesting but—due to initial technical problems—the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa is one of only six clubs with less than a 10 percent response. Do not get left out: **the final date to compete the survey is Monday, April 23rd.** It's fast, it's easy, and informative and helpful. Everyone will get overall results but only clubs with 15 percent of total members responding will also receive your anonymous responses for our club. Click on this link by this Monday, April 23: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e5riecijh0d815t3/start>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jack Geary**, chair of the Disability Awareness Committee, announced that the **Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities** is accepting nominations for the

2012 Employer Best Practices Awards. The Santa Rosa Rotary Club, the Disability Services & Legal Center, and the Department of Rehabilitation support the Mayors' Committee Best Practices Awards event this fall on Wednesday, October 17th.

The next **Rebuilding Together Hands-on Project** is next Saturday, April 28th, only one week away. **President elect-elect-elect-etc. Mark Burchill** asked that anyone interested in getting involved and working with other Rotarians complete the sign-up sheet at next Wednesday's Rotary meeting. This will help aka Social Advocates for Youth and their work with homeless youth.

**President Marnie** announced that June 14 thru 17 is our **District Conference** to be held in Humboldt County. Marnie strongly suggests that all committee chairs use the club's website to post all of our club events. We do have a Facebook page. If you don't understand or know how...ask a fellow Rotarian!

**Social Chair (and Past President) Debi Zaft** reminded us that our **club social** will be tomorrow evening at 5:30—Thursday, April 19th—at Kunde Family Estate & Winery.

*Editor's note:* If you paid attention to Deb and attended April's monthly social, you know how many Rotarians, guests, husbands, wives, & grandchildren turned out. And what a grand selection of Kunde's best wines and a huge spread of chips, sandwiches, finger food, killer guacamole & corn chips.

All of us in the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa owe lots of gratitude to the staff at Kunde, especially former Rotarian & long-time friend of Rotary, tasting room manager Dick Perman, who has hosted our Rotary social several times in recent years. What beautiful Rotarian hospitality in such a lovely setting! If you have wine-loving guests, favorite relatives, or simply find yourself toodling down Sonoma Highway, turn north at 9825 Sonoma Highway, drive toward the mountain, stop in to taste and say thanks to our old friends at Kunde.

## SCHOLAR AWARDS

**Bill Hatcher** introduced the Principal of Maria Carrillo High School Rand Van Dyke, who introduced us to Student of the Month Richard Yang, and his community involvement as student representative for the city council and the Sonoma County School Board.



**Bill Hatcher with Principal Rand Van Dyke and outstanding scholar Richard Yang**

## RECOGNITIONS

**President Marnie** is doing it again...picking on **Past President and all-time Nice Guy Ray Dorfman**. Vacation after vacation! Must be nice! Marnie put on the pressure to confirm club rumors that Ray had gone to Las Vegas to get hitched to **Debra Smith**. Ray squelched the rumors, swearing that he went only to "March Madness", "Spring Training", and the happiest place on earth—Disneyland!

**President Marnie's** next target was **Gesine Franchetti**, who completely forgot that she had graced Gesine's presence at the Farm Bureau Crab Feed, where **Dan Schell** won some sort of "Forest Contest". What indeed is a Forest Contest anyway? Dan contributed to his Paul Harris Fellowship and remarked that he wished that his friend Gary Smith was still alive to share the day with him.

**Past President Steve Olson** did not really get into hot water with **President Marnie** but announced our local foundations' **Legends Fund** for the late **Jim Benefield**, who passed away on Thursday, April 12th. Contact Steve for more information about the Legends Fund. In conclusion Steve announced that **Davina's Walk-a-thon** raised \$26,000 for Davina's Helping Hands to assist Davina during her cancer treatment.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**Debi Zaft, Juan Hernandez, Ginny Cannon and Gesine Franchetti** where all born in April on some date in the dark distant past. Things got brighter as they were serenaded by our harmonic well-wishers.



**Lovely birthday honorees Ginny Cannon, Debi Zaft and Gesine Franchetti. Juan Hernandez was apparently camera shy**

## PROGRAM

Before the Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Department enlightened us with the outlook and opportunities for the future of the Sonoma County economy, Ben Stone thanked Rotary for “A great experience—the opportunity to be an exchange student in a very small town in England”.

Job Growth in Sonoma County increased from 8 % to 12% from 2008 to 2011. The county population is expected to hit 500,000 within the next five years. Even with a shortage of grapes, our wine industry is still vital to the local economy. Retail sales reported a 6 percent drop, but income is coming back. Housing permits are increasing and county government claims to be working on

becoming easier to work with and more efficient. Ben quoted an optimistic “Business Confidence Survey” about people buying homes and investing in capital equipment. Businesses seem to be happy to stay and grow in the county, with two-thirds forecasting more jobs for new hires and an increase in demand for Sonoma County products and services.

Mr. Stone forecasts that economic recovery will be gradual, unemployment will stabilize and follow the U.S. path, and our areas of opportunity are export- oriented and tourism-related industries. Moody’s considers the cost of doing business in Sonoma County to be still low, offering many opportunities: The basic local industries need to build on its comparative advantage. Viticulture will thrive, the retiring Baby Boomers (median age



**Happy speaker Ben Stone**

in the county over 40) will start to travel and recreate in Sonoma County, the airport expansion will bring more tourism, our specialty food products such as cheeses, olive oils, wine, and tourism will expand, and the automation of businesses will increase.

***This week's photographer:***  
**Kris Anderson**

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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

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