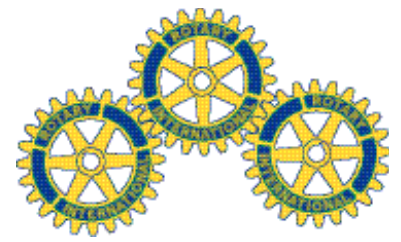




Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# Santa Rosarian



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EDITOR: Sam Saunders

## OUR PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 14TH:

# ROTARY'S NUTCRACKER CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

*FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, GIFT-WRAPPING, EGGNOG, & CHRISTMAS KARAOKE!*

FLAMINGO RESORT HOTEL, WEDNESDAY, 5:30PM  
DINNER: ADULTS \$20, CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$10



Our club's Children's Nutcracker Christmas Party may involve more eager Rotarians than any of our charity projects. Many of us have been preparing for the Rotary meeting on December 14th...an evening meeting in the Flamingo Ballroom starting with food & fellowship served from 5:30 to 6 pm. Families are welcome for one of our club's most popular holiday traditions that began so long ago that no one seems to remember when it began. Announcements and club business will be completed by 6:30 pm when we get down to the joyful, hands-on

wrapping of Christmas gifts for our special guests., fellowship, and Christmas gift wrapping for one of our clubs most popular holiday traditions. Don McMillan will bring his Christmas Karaoke machine to the meeting, so be thinking about what song you want to sing!

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

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS....

**Dec. 21, 2011:** No meeting—Christmas Holiday

**Dec. 28, 2011:** Dorfman hosts our annual Trivia competition

**Jan. 4, 2012:** 1915—the San Francisco Expo Organ Restoration

### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS

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

Check out [The Cohn Zone Blog](#)

Explore <http://www.rotarymeansbusiness.org>

Visit Rotary's [Foundation](#) page

## 40 YARD DASH IN 4.2 SECONDS

So, you thought “Fast and Furious” was an illegal gun-running scheme. Uh-uh. With a very full agenda, **President Marnie** turned up the heat and moved the meeting along in a New York minute. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Greg Johnston** and the Rotary Moment was a travelogue of places visited by Club Secretary **Jack Abercrombie** (places like In Suspense and In Sanity and In Complete, but not In Carcerated). Very In Teresting!

## VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

**Kerrie Chambers** introduced these visiting Rotarians: Emmanuel Serriere from France and member of the Rotary e-Club One. Emmanuel is an avid/professional stamp collector and his collection of 4,000 stamps was featured in the August 2011 issue of The Rotarian magazine. Richard Hyde from Washington DC and member of the e-Club One, Henry Alker from Sebastopol and Bill Hilledahl from the New Gen Club. Welcome one and all!

Our guests were Rob Sanville, hosted by **Chuck Reilly**, Tami Matthis, hosted by **Kerrie Chambers**, Jerome Walker hosted by **Dan Walker**, Mike Ott hosted by **Jack Abercrombie**, Tim Delaney and Richard Mordecai (former member) hosted by **Larry Miyano**. **President-elect Bill Rousseau** brought six members of the Cardinal Newman Interact Club on a mission to sell.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (HELP WANTED)

**Jack Atkin** is looking for more bell ding-dongers for the Salvation Army—please give him a “ring-a-dingie” today at 529-1867.

A burgeoning **Peggy Soberanis** thanked us for our deep-rooted support for the seniors at Vigil Light apartments by providing them with 50 poinsettia plants. See, there really is a Santa Claus!

Bookworm **Ted Wilmsen** urged more volunteers for delivering dictionaries to 3rd graders – there are sign-up sheets at each meeting.

**Past President Debi Zaft** thanked all the Rotary bakers for the Senior Party today.

A cheerful **Suzanne Drace** is hailing us for help with the Children’s Christmas Party on December 17. This is our annual hands-on Nutcracker Ballet event and the wrapped gifts we provide will be distributed to needy kids by a jolly and not-too-old surprise Santa. Call Suzanne today to

sign-up. Ho, Ho, Ho!

**President Marnie** reminds us that our December 14 meeting will be held at 5:30 pm and will be a sit-down meal. Price is \$20 per person with children age 12 and under at \$10. This is a family-oriented gathering. We will be the entertainment for the evening as we uncontrollably erupt into singing songs of the holiday season whilst we wrap and ribbon our way to a crescendo of Christmas bliss.

## GIVE IT UP!

**Sonaya Stevens** did her best to give it all away—all \$273 in the raffle pot. The winning ticket was held by Shawn Keiser, one of the Cardinal Newman High School Interact students. He took the \$10 consolation prize as the white marble eluded his grasp. He donated the money to the Interact Club.

## SECRET GREETER

**Karen Ball** was today’s secret greeter and she chose **Past Club Secretary Bob Higgs** as the recipient of a free lunch. The reason: Bob sported a green sweater vest today. Who said there’s no such thing as a “free lunch”? Did anyone tell Bob that it’s at the Flamingo?

## THE BIRTHDAY BABES

March was one busy month way back when, before our December-born Rotarians first saw the light of day. Birthday recognition was visited upon a dozen Rotarians, culminating with gifts for six of them, courtesy of **Nicole Le, Gesine Franchetti, Eileen Carlisle** and more. **Kerrie Chambers** led the celebration.



December Birthday Babes

## INFINITE FINES

One thing in Rotary is forever—fines! **President Marnie**, not wanting to be seen as unfashionable or as slacking off, threw one of those girlie penalty flags to these wayward Rotarians:

**Keven Brown**—\$100 (to his Paul Harris Fellowship) for his 16th wedding anniversary and his strange idea of romantic



togetherness—attending the Saturday morning Farmer’s Market with his spouse. Actually, he redeemed himself by also luxuriating at the Kenwood Inn & Spa.



**Kevin Brown seems awfully happy for being fined!**

**Nona Lucas** went incognito as a clown at some social event—something she rarely admits to doing. That’s no joke—she was clowning around to the tune of \$50 to her grandson’s Paul Harris Fellowship.

**Jack Atkin** was hammered (or nailed—you choose) for the North Bay Business Journal article he wrote about controlling the size of public sector pensions. Since **President Marnie’s** other half is a public servant, it seems likely Jack’s influence might be felt by her at the confluence of work and retirement. Jack removed the sting by giving \$50 to the Club and \$50 to our local Foundation. Even public servants pay taxes, but they would pay less tax if their pension benefits were less!

**President Marnie** gave kudos to all the Rotarians who helped make our Club’s 90th birthday bash last week a success. They were recognized but were declared safe from fines.

## ALL RISE!

All rose to applaud **Past President Wally Lowry** as he was named Rotarian-of-the-Month for November. No finer specimen could be found and well-deserved (and preserved), too, for all that Wally does for the Club and our local Foundation all year long (not just November). We had a chance to do a stadium wave, but too many of us aren’t in shape, I guess.



**President Marnie Honors Wally Lowry**

## AUCTION ACTION

The six Interact students from Cardinal Newman High School (now co-ed), hosted by **Bill Rousseau**, embarked on an audacious auction of assorted artisan ambrosia. Sixteen cakes, pies and plates of cookies were auctioned for about \$200 to fund activities of the Interact Club.



**Bill Rousseau and the Cardinal Newman Interact Club auctioned tasty treats**

## CHILDRENS NUTCRACKER CHRISTMAS

Every Holiday Season for more years than most of us have been Rotarians, more than a hundred students from local elementary schools attend our Rotary Club’s traditional Nutcracker Christmas party, sponsored by our Rotary Club and made possible by club volunteers, who shop for gifts, solicit donations, wrap presents, and pitch in to make this a special Christmas for appreciative kids for whom the evening is often a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Certainly

the first opportunity for most of these students to experience the enchantment, the wonder, and sensory overload of ballet, classical music, and fairy tales, brought to life before their eyes.

The Nutcracker is two-act Russian ballet that premiered almost two centuries ago in St. Petersburg the week before Christmas. The



**Santa gives the children a merry Christmas**

musical score by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky has become one of his most famous compositions. Since the mid-20th Century, the ballet has enjoyed enormous popularity, especially in the United States, and is as much Christmas tradition as colored lights, and presents, and that jolly old elf named Santa.

The children’s Christmas experience begins early Saturday afternoon, December 17th, when busses collect the kids and deliver them to the Spreckels Theatre. The dancers

are from the Santa Rosa Dance Theater, the choreography and music is classical and Russian, and the impact on the children is palpable as they gather after the performance for home-baked cookies, juice, and a visit from Old St. Nick. The presents are marked with individual names. Santa and his elves give each child their own gift, one-by-one. Some classes open their gifts on the spot; others take them back to school for their own class party.

## FEATURED PROGRAM

**Past President Ray Dorfman**, our ubiquitous Brooklyn transplant, introduced another Brooklyn transplant, Lowell Cohn, sports writer/columnist for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat for the last sixteen years, as our guest speaker. Lowell's 30-plus years of "hobnobbing with the intelligentsia" of the sports world has honed his insight into an array of sports associations, such as the San Francisco 49ers, the Oakland Raiders football teams and the San



**Press Democrat Sports Columnist  
Lowell Cohn**

Francisco Giants and Oakland A's baseball teams and the Warriors basketball team, to name a few. In a turnabout, Lowell was on the receiving end of a Q&A session with our Club. 30 years of insight was shared with us in a span of 30 minutes as we peppered him with questions on all things sports. We discovered Lowell to be a fan of boxing, a sport that harkens back to his early days in journalism. He named several Brooklyn Dodger players—such as Jackie Robinson—as his sports heroes. Today, Lowell doesn't see heroes in the younger generation of players, who seem to be more focused on self interests, i.e. money, money and maybe more money.

Lowell had good things to say about Jim Harbaugh, the new 49ers coach, and quarterback Alex Smith. His comments were objective, specific and detailed. Coach Harbaugh is somewhat of an enigma to Lowell (that may be an understatement based on how tough it is to glean useful information from the coach during interviews). Maybe the secrecy issue is meant to protect against giving other teams valuable information about perceived weaknesses—(editor's comment).

Lowell is not a fan of the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) of college football and the idea of scholar-athletes seems to be a joke, except for maybe Stanford or Cal players. At this point in his career, he does not favor the move of the SF 49ers to Santa Clara, though it still may be a convenience for the team and many fans. After all, they are the San Francisco 49ers, not the Santa Clara 49ers.

Lowell is opinionated (as he should be), has in-depth insight into sports and isn't afraid to state his case and back it up with examples. Whether you agree or not with his conclusions misses the point. The point is: Has he presented enough perspective and analysis for the reader to understand the issues and develop a personal opinion about them. Even the sports dudes among us today probably enjoyed this lively presentation.

Three cheers to **Past President Ray** for bringing an excellent program to Rotary!

## IN CLOSING

**President Marnie** closed today's meeting with a personal thank you to nearly everyone in the Club for their service to Rotary. And, all the people said 'Amen' (well, most of them).

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

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