



1821 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
www.rotary-sanrafael.org

Please send your roster changes
to: ehlenbach@earthlink.net

Listening In

June 21, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

After being greeted by **Mac Cranford**, President **Maynard Willms** called the meeting of the Rotary Club of San Rafael to order at 12:14pm.

PLEDGE & THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Laura Bertoli led us in a pledge to our flag and presented the following thought of the day:

Today is the Summer Solstice, or mid-summer. Sol + Stice derives from a combination of Latin words meaning "sun" + "to stand still." As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky.

As a major celestial event, the Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, but the people on the South half of the earth have their longest day in December.

VISITING ROTARIANS

PP **Jeffrey Ehlenbach** introduced the visiting Rotarian.

Caron Schmierer with Mission San Rafael.

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

The following guest of a Rotarian was in attendance:

Ryan Dufficy, son of PP **Dan Dufficy**.

BELATED BIRTHDAY TABLE WISHES

PP **Peter Mitchell** celebrated his birthday on June 12, Flag Day. Peter gave a bell ringer in honor of his new grandson born on June 12. President **Maynard** also recognized Peter as a member of Paul Harris Society. It is unknown what that honor is but it is rumored to be a secret drinking society. It was also quietly mentioned around the room that one must be a member of the "bar" to be recognized with such an honor. Congratulations Peter!

Jim Placek will also be celebrating a birthday later this month on June 29. Jim was born in Ohio and that is all he had to say about that!

ITEMS OF NOTE

President **Maynard** kicked off the last official meeting of his Presidency by thanking all of us for supporting him and the board throughout this tough economic Rotary year. He gave a special shout out to numerous members of the club. A standing ovation for **Maynard** was given by the membership. **Maynard** also gave

a bell ringer in honor of his wife, **Helen**; it was her birthday last week and for his daughter for a speedy recovery from surgery. A special San Rafael Rotary Club thank you goes out to **Maynard** for leading us this past year.

A \$10 assessment was levied on all Rotarians without a Rotary pin.

Gary Notte had a successful surgery last week and is out of ICU. He sent his thanks to everyone for all the well wishes. He is still not accepting visitors and friends can keep track of his progress by going to the website "caringbridge.org".

Hank Edson gave us an update on the Fair Ice Cream Booth. It is not too late to sign up. There are evening shifts available as well as openings on July 4 & July 5. It really is a lot of fun, you meet interesting people and the four hours goes quickly. If you have availability at the last minute do not hesitate to contact the Ice Cream King, **David Smadbeck**, on his cell at 415-497-9604.

Mike Watt gave a bell ringer on the graduations of his daughter and son. His daughter graduated from college and his son graduated from high school.

The Italian table was noticeably empty today. Could it be the Italians were upset about the recent tie with New Zealand in World Cup play?

PP **Rick Reide** thanked all who returned the RSVP's for this weekend's Installation dinner. We have a great turnout but there is still room for more. If you have not returned your card, do so today. Remember, President Elect **Diane** will be recognizing those who did not respond.

Past District Governor **Lou Bartolini** reminded the membership to meet poolside next week for the Past President's BBQ.

MARBLE GAME

Jack Diego confirmed that there are 36 marbles and a pot of \$675.00. PDG **Lou Bartolini** won the raffle and a bottle of wine. Only 35 marbles for next week.

SPEAKER

PP **Chuck Stuckey** introduced our speaker **David Dodd**. David is the San Rafael City Librarian, a position he has held since 2004. David is also an expert on music of The Grateful Dead and has published a book about their music. We will need to invite him back



to hear more about that topic.

David was a speaker for our club in November 2006. At that time he talked about Library usage going up. Well it is still true today, usage continues to grow. With all the information available at our fingertips on-line, one would think that people would not use the library as much. The opposite is true. The general population comes to the library to be part of the greater community. Since 2006, there has been a 25% increase in circulation and the library now averages about 1,000 visitors a day compared to 800 in 2006. This is incredible growth considering there are now furlough days and shortened hours. It proves that our local libraries are a vital part of our communities.

David also gave a special recognition to a woman who is known to all by her first name, **Elisa**. He recognized **Elisa** and **Mayor Boro** and **Chief Odetto** for their support of the recent Measure.

A brief history of the San Rafael Library. It was founded in 1887 by a group of woman who wanted to steer people away from the wicked ways of drinking. In 1906 Andrew Carnegie gave money for construction of a library on the condition the community could raise funds to buy property. In January of 1909 the Library opened at its current location.

The library occupies approximately 15,000 square feet and is in desperate need of expansion. The Library Foundation goal is to triple its current size, a project with a 25 to 30 million dollar price tag.

David also reviewed the online services available at the library. One can download an e-book or an audio book. Music, especially Jazz and Blues is also available. On a limited basis, movies can be downloaded. For those of you who want the library available 24/7, an app is available for download at the I-tunes store to have the library at your fingertips.

David ended his presentation with an interesting Q & A session.

Carolyn Hoffman

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26 Installation Dinner at the Spinnaker
June 28 Past Presidents Day with a poolside BBQ
July 5 Holiday