



Listening In

August 2, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

After a very successful first month in office, **President Diane** called today's meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

PLEDGE AND QUOTE OF THE DAY

Judy Denning led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and treated us to a quote from an unidentified source: "You know you're into middle age when the only thing you want to exercise is caution."

VISITORS AND GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Secretary **Jeffrey Ehlenbach** made a costly faux pas when he announced to the surprise of **Laura Bertolli** that the number of guests and visitors (zero) equaled the number of Italians at the Italian table—a table which was enjoying Laura's company.

CLUB BUSINESS

President Di called on **Mayor Al Boro** to explain his recent absences. He blamed them on numerous SMART meetings and a 75th birthday—a birthday for which Al generously donated a bell-ringer to scholarships. Al also announced that the Pickleweed Center is selling raffle tickets for a new Scion in order to raise much needed funds.

Our two birthday boys, **Joe Ayoob** and **Maury Green**, rubbed shoulders with celebrities back in the day. Joe shook hands with JFK at the White House and Maury helped Magic Johnson secure a loan for a new, luxurious ride.

Don Labbe donated a bell-ringer for a terrific fishing trip to Montana.

On August 4, **Terry Mason** will celebrate his 37th wedding anniversary and his daughter's 26th birthday—a generous bell-ringer was given.

John Feldmann just sold his home in San Rafael and will celebrate his 38th wedding anniversary this week. Thank you, John, for the bell-ringer donation to Rotary Manor scholarships.

Joe Ayoob reported he spoke to **Gary Notti** last week for an hour. Joe was delighted to be able to visit with Gary and said Gary expects a full and complete recovery. Gary will

start chemotherapy in the next week or two and will complete the regimen in six months. We can't wait to see you here Gary!

Bill Goodwin reported that two young women from the Utsunomiya program will be visiting Marin from Japan for 10 days starting this weekend. Please see the enclosed calendar of events for their stay. Bill reminded us to attend a welcoming party for the two girls at the Marin Historic Society to be held on August 6 between 4:30 and 6:30.

Rotary Manor will have the monthly spaghetti feed this Friday August 6 at 5:30. Please come and help serve and visit with the delightful residents.

Mike Kadel reported that \$884 was in the bag for the marble game. **Judy Denning** drew the right ticket but not the right marble. Thank you to **Joe Shekou** for the nice bottle of white wine as a consolation gift.

GUEST SPEAKER



President Diane asked **Lou Bartolini** to introduce our guest speakers today. **Cicely Muldoon** is the new superintendent of the Point Reyes National Seashore and **Mark Bartolini** (yes there is a relation) is the Executive Director of the Point Reyes National Seashore Association.

Cicely started her presentation with a brief overview of the National Park Service. The NPS was established in 1916 largely due to the energy and vision of Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir and the political backlash of the approval of the Hetch Hetchy Dam just north of Yosemite Valley. Today the NPS has 21,000 employees, 145,000 volunteers and an annual budget of \$3 billion.

Cicely pointed out that the Point Reyes National Seashore boasts 150 miles of trails, 80 miles of coast line, more than 900 species of flowering plants, and 27 threatened or endangered species. Species from 45% of all the bird species in North America have been recorded at the PRNS.

Mark Bartolini mentioned the education program for under-privileged kids is one of the most important and successful programs at the Point Reyes National Seashore Association.

Q&A: Cicely reported that the 'oyster farm' controversy will be coming to resolution in the next couple of months. Years ago a non-native deer eradication program was part of the NPS mission to sustain the native habitat for plants and animals. Twenty working ranches exist in the park and are not off limits to hikers.

The PRNS has a great relationship with the local native Coast Miwok tribe. Growing marijuana in the NPS lands is a very serious and dangerous problem, frequently conducted by Mexican drug cartels. Limantour Beach and the trail to Tomales Point were reported as two spectacular and relatively seldom visited 'hot spots'.

Cicely said her (and our) greatest challenge is to make the park lands relevant and accessible to the next generations. Thank you to Cicely and Mark for reminding us of the spectacular Point Reyes National Seashore resource that is right here in our back yard.

President Diane thanked Cicely and Mark for their presentation and graciously thanked all of the donors for their generosity today. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.

Brian Powell

NOTE: Please check the website for Utsunomiya information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 9 – Utsunomiya Exchange Program

Aug. 16 – Matt Hymel, Marin County Administrator