

Rotations

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President's Message: This Last

week we did not have the best turn out, but we did have a very dynamic speaker, and I am sorry so many of you missed the program. David Mammola, our ambassadorial scholar, spent forty-five minutes bringing us all the details of his trip to Italy. David showed us pictures and told us stories that had us sitting on the edge of our chairs.

Studying Italian in Florence was the best thing that could have happened to David as he is very interested in the arts and spent all his free time visiting the many museums and art galleries that make up Florence. There are fifty museums there, in an area the size of Oakland which he either traveled to on foot, or by bicycle, soaking up a wealth of knowledge about the arts and the architecture of the last 1000 years. David told us that the one hundred year period from 1450-1550 were the most important time in Florence, which at that time, was the art and cultural capital of the world. He also studied Italian everyday with two hours of grammar and two hours of verbal studies. He admits he is not fluent yet but he plans to return to Italy and continue his studies. David always had an interest in Italian culture and history. His college thesis was on the fall of fascism, the end of Hitler's control of Italy! His family has roots in Italy and he even had a chance to spend some time with his cousin who lives there. He boarded with an elderly Italian lady who was not a Rotarian. He went to Rotary Meetings in a castle and a museum! September 11 proved to be both a politically conflicting time with everyone questioning him about his feeling about America, and his obvious loss of not being with his

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fiancée at such an important moment in American history. Many Italians we not sympathetic to the American cause and today feel we were the aggressors in the affairs of the middle east and view the terrorist acts, retaliation to our acts of aggression. We can thank Ron Wake for working to get David into the program and representing The Rotary Club of Lafayette so admirably. We in Rotary have helped David grow in ways he never new and through Rotary have gained a worthy ambassador of our program.

Editors Note: The only reason I exist today is because my father survived the many bombing missions he piloted out of Italy in his B-17 Flying Fortress! Many of his fellow Americans did not survive. I am not a historian, but I believe more American and British blood was shed, and lives were lost, to liberate the Italian people than any others!

Visiting Rotarians;

Tom Henry - Senior Active - San Francisco #2

Guests of Rotarians:

Paulette Duson - The better half of Larry Duson, Branch Manager of United California Bank, which as of April 1 is Bank of the West!

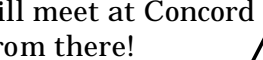
By the way Paulette won a free lunch next time she comes and Tom Henry won a huge Easter Bunny donated by Peggy Harbarth. Charlie Vitalie won a BMW hat from Prez Michael which he need for his golf games during this beautiful warm spell.

We did not have a greeter so your President filled in and gave the message of the day!

Dan Hoffman, Lafayette Police Department and Chris Lane, Contra Costa Stationary present the flyer for the Easter Egg scramble and assembled the volunteers to staff the event Saturday March 30. I hope someone took pictures and will email me a story for the newsletter because I was not there and will not be at the April 4 meeting!

Dick Holt, brought us up to speed on what he has done with committee assignments for the Concert on the Rez and it looks like we are on schedule to have a great program!!! Thanks everyone.

A.C. Webb and Bud Moulthrop are arranging transportation to the District Leadership Conference in Vacaville April 4th. Everyone will meet at Concord BMW on Market Street 7:00 a.m. and we will caravan up from there!



Bill McCabe has all our Russian Bakers assigned to home hosts for the third week in April. Wow, that is coming up soon. Thanks Bill for you help! I kind of put Bill on the spot and I want to apologize because I was not getting the job done therefore I passed on my responsibilities to Bill. Saturday April 6th the home hosts and committee will be attending a party in Danville and meeting our Russians guests. Our week will be from April 16th to April 23rd with a going away party April 20th at Sammons Barn in Lafayette.

Alina did not attend our meeting because she was with the other foreign students in our District attending a special program for spring break. Your President participated by hosting three student for three days while they were in San Francisco and Lamorinda; Ivan from Slovakia, Supree from Thailand, and AJ from The Netherlands. The Orinda Club chaired the week for the students.

Calendar of Upcoming Events!

April 6th. The District Leadership Training in Vacaville. New Members and the New Board of Directors are encouraged to go. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at Concord BMW, caravan up and back, and will return to Lafayette by about 1:30 p.m.

April 16th - 23rd. The Russians are coming!

April 20th. The Farewell Event with a Western theme at John Sammans Barn with our club hosting the event. If you have not gone to a BBQ at the Barn you will really be impressed! Larry our caterer will do the honors and Sandi Mitchell is working on the program. The Russian Bakers and every one involved in the program will be there along with all the other clubs involved. Cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00 and our club and the Clayton Valley club will be picking up the costs! Save the Date!

May 17-19 The Rotary District Conference in Ashland, Oregon. There is still time to sign up for some great theater tours and some special Rotary programs.

June 1st. CONCERT ON THE REZ - Dick Holt and A.C. Webb are the program chairs. This is our big fundraiser. Lets support them and our club and our community!!!!!!

July 1st The New Prez; A.C. Webb and his team take over!!!

**Rotary Club of Lafayette
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SCHEDULED GREETERS:

APRIL 4	BARRY TOOMAGIAN - REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
APRIL 11	DALE TURNER - ARCHITECT
APRIL 18	BOB UNDERWOOD - SENIOR ACTIVE
APRIL 25	GREG VAISNOR - CPA / TAXATION

Birthdays

April 16	Tom Courtright	◆
April 18	Steve Davis	◆
April 12	Dan Hoffman	◆
April 13	Mike Kearney	◆
April 2	Indu Paul	◆
April 10	Warren Rupf	◆
April 17	Dale Turner	◆
April 1	Ron Wake	◆

Anniversaries Wedding & Club

April 18	Jack Clarkson
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