

Rotations

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President's Message: The "Community"

of Lafayette was showcased in the Contra Costa Times this past weekend and some of our favorite citizens were stars in the articles that gloated and proclaimed the best of our town. This past weekend Joan and I celebrated 28 years of marriage, 16 of which were in Lafayette, by staying in Lafayette at the Park Hotel. We also celebrated in our community and what a great time we had. On Sunday the Lafayette Schools and music programs performed at Stanley Middle School and gave us another gift to our community with Holiday Music and singing for everyone to enjoy. There is a Rotary connection with all that we saw this weekend from members listing their association with Rotary in their newspaper interviews to our recognition for setting up the concert at Stanley. We even had people walking up to me and asking about the BMW Raffle at the Park Hotel while Joan and I were having dinner Saturday evening. We in Lafayette are fortunate to have such a wonderful place to do business and raise our families, and I can say that Rotarians have helped make it all possible!

TODAYS SPEAKER : THE NOTABLES

"LOCAL SINGING GROUP HOSTED BY JERRY HOMAN"

Visiting Rotarians;

Tom Henry - Senior Active - San Francisco #2

Phil Eyring - Real Estate Exchange- Walnut Creek

Steve Paddock - Senior Active - Stock Broker - Orinda

Guests of Rotarians;

Sandi Mitchell - Realtor - Guest of Bob Aquilar

John Wynn - Financial Rep - Guest of Larry Blodgett

Dan Richard - Bart Director - Speaker

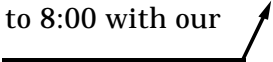
The tree lighting at Diablo Foods was a great success, although it was moved indoors to the auditorium at Stanley School with Bob Athayde directing. It is always something when Rotarians sign up for a project and every-one shows up on time, everyone except the leader!!! We had quite a crowd at 5:00 at Stanley School; Laura O'Donaghue, Bob Aquilar, Ron Wake, Ray Bland, Steve Falk, Bob Shusta, Sandi Mitchell, Pres. Michael with Chris and Amanda, and Jay Lifson with Hannah. At 5:30 the truck driver showed up to help us move everything to Diablo Foods. The driver the Honorable Dick Holt was right there with us to enjoy the great hot chocolate from the Park Hotel that Jay provided and everyone who stayed for the concert got a show to be remembered!!!

Alina gave us a story about her first Thanksgiving in America with two dinners to celebrate the holiday, one with her host family Bob Shusta on the Sunday after Thanksgiving and on with Masha and some friends. I believe she now knows what it is to eat and eat and eat!!!!

We had a few birthdays to celebrate this past week and a couple that were missed. Steve Falk, Paul Parkhurst, Charlie Vitale and Ed Stokes were serenaded by the club and Paul got to donate \$40.00 happy dollars and Charlie \$66.00. Steve and Ed have immunity! It pays to pay ahead. We heard a great story from A.C. Webb about how the television station was at Diablo Foods to do a story about the weather in Lafayette. Ed was recognized for the notoriety but was given a pass!!

There was another tree lighting at Bill McCabe's spot The Roundup for Hospice and it was attended by several hundred residents listening to music and honoring our police and fire departments. I am glad many of our members attended!! Maybe next year we can help with the sound system as you could hardly hear the choir!

The car raffle is officially sold out and we are now counting down to December 12 to thank all of those who contributed so generously to our club. The drawing will be next week at the Chamber of Commerce Mixer December 12, at Wells Fargo you all can attend. The party is from 5:30 to 8:00 with our



drawing at approximately 7:00!!! Please wear a Rotary hat or shirt or jacket so the community knows who you are!

Dan Richard gave us a fabulous speech outlining where Bart is now and what we might expect in the future. It was interesting hearing all about the behind the scenes negotiations it takes for Bart to finally come to a town near you!!! One vote in a coffee shop in Martinez with Governor Pat Brown in attendance was what finally got Bart started. It is now responsible for the transportation of over 350,000 people with new lines currently being negotiated to cover rail lines to Antioch and Brentwood and even beyond, rail lines to Livermore and beyond and Bart now in charge of the Sacramento - Oakland rail system. As you may know Bart will be going to San Jose with the San Jose system paid for by the city with the cooperation of transportation networks of the south bay. Bart's vision is to become the regional transportation management system for the Bay Area. There are some ideas to put second level parking at some stations such as Orinda and Lafayette. This is an area that some say is esthetically inappropriate for those stations. That remains to be seen how inappropriate those spaces will be as our need increase!

Judy Toomajian sent the club a thank you note for the plant we sent from her Orchard Nursery. She says she is doing great and I was very excited to read her card in her own handwriting. She writes beautifully. Keep up the good work.

EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

December 12, 2001 The Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Wells Fargo Bank from 5:30 to 8:00. The BMW Raffle ticket will be drawn at 7:00. Door admission is \$10.00 or bring four cans of food!

December 13, 2001 The District Governor, Susan Waite will be our Guest.

December 20, 2001 The Holiday Party is at the Lafayette Park Hotel starting at 11:30. Charlie Vitale is taking reservations. Tickets are \$25:00. Please bring your spouse or friend! We are looking for some special raffle prizes to auction off!

December 27, 2001 We will meet at 7:00 A.M for fizzes etc at the Lafayette Park Hotel with Jay Lifson as our host!!! There will be no lunch meeting!

January 3, 2002 We will meet at 7:00 A.M. for fizzes etc at the Roundup with Bill McCabe as our host!!! There will be no lunch meeting that day either!

January 13,14 2002 The Reno Train Trip. Charlie has turned in the money but I am sure if anyone would like to join us it can still be arranged!

**Rotary Club of Lafayette
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SCHEDULED GREETERS:

DECEMBER 6	MIKE KEARNEY - NUT ROASTING & SALES
DECEMBER 13	ALAN MAC - INSURANCE, PROPERTY
DECEMBER 27	JAY LIFSON - FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR

Birthdays

December 19	Michael Heller
December 24	Caesar Perales

Anniversaries Wedding & Club

December 18	Polly Bernson
December 13	Steve Davis
December 1	Michael Heller