



"What's Up?" Your Napa Sunrise Rotary Bulletin

<http://www.rotary5130.org>

Events

December 2014
12/12 - Christmas Social
January 2015
01/06 - The Table
01/07 - Board Meeting

Upcoming Speakers

12-11-14
Patricia Lawrence - Craft Talk
12-18-14
Family Christmas Gathering
12-25-14
Merry Christmas - WE ARE DARK
1-1-15
Happy New Year - WE ARE DARK
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Happy Birthday!

December 08
Jim Nord
December 14
Mark A. Diekroetger
December 16

Club Leaders

[Mark Foxworthy](#)
President
[Hugh Linn](#)
President-Elect
[Frank Thomas Feutz](#)
Secretary
[Dean Lumbert](#)
Endowment Chair
[Kenneth M. Lydon](#)
Treasurer
[Debby Wheeler](#)
Webmaster
[Brian J. Kelly](#)
Attendance Secretary, Rotary Foundation Chair
[Donald J. Andrich](#)
Attendance Secretary, Membership Chair
[Bradley Woodland](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms
[Jose Rossi](#)
Club Service Chair
[Larry Sharp](#)
Community Service Chair
[Patricia Lawrence](#)
International Service Chair

December 4 2014

Submitted by Charlie Bogue

Welcome: President Mark welcomed a rowdy group of Sunrise Rotarians and guests to a post-Thanksgiving breakfast in the Vintner's Court at the Silverado Resort. Morning rain did not stop the full house with all seats occupied.

Pledge & Thought: The pledge was led by Mark Willey and followed by his thought for the day around the word "meaning". Summarized to say that our values, our past, our future, our understanding, our compassion are the ingredients that create "meaning" in our lives.

Song: Tuning the group for the upcoming Holidays, Song master Tom lead the crowd in a vibrant rendition of Christmas favorite "Deck the Halls". Fortunately we have more weeks to prepare.

Visiting Rotarians: We were honored by the presence of 3 day old Napa California State Assemblyman Bill Dodd from Napa Noon.

Guests of Rotarians: Rob Hampton introduced our guest speaker for the day James Alexandre Mike Basayne introduced his first born son Ryan Basayne and his business partner Adam Zubi who works with startup company Synclin. Mitch Johnson brought his son Ryan who is a Marine currently on leave from duty. Patty Lawrence introduced Liz Alessio from "Operation With Love from Home".

Announcements: Colleen Clark announced that **Sing Napa Valley** will have a performance featuring music of Africa and honoring Nelson Mandela December 7th at 3 PM at the Napa Valley College. A "Dine and Donate" at Firewood Café on Tuesday December 9th where a portion of your purchase will be donated to the group..... Barry the **Ding A Ling** Leader reported all going well with the Bell Ringing and that there were 6 spots open for the closing dates if you have not had your turn..... Chris reported that **The Table** served 126 meals and the direction of President Mark and the team from Keller Williams. Lucky diners as according Mark the menu was spiral ham, buttered beans and pumpkin pie..... George Nielson gave a follow up on the car and donations for "**Historical George**" noting that he had tears and was uncharacteristically speechless when receiving his 1999 Cadillac donated by Kent Imrie. The \$1925 raised from the club hat passing helped with insurance, gas and licensing the car with some left over for a future need.....President Mark reminded that the **Christmas Social will December 12th** at Mike Murray's home at no cost to the attendees and asking all to bring a bottle of wine.....also that the Board authorized **\$5,000 to Junior Achievement** increasing our last year's contribution.....and that our Christmas **Family Breakfast will be Thursday December 18th** and for all to bring an unwrapped toy to give away.....a reminder that we will be dark on December 25th and January 1st and the most exciting news of all that you can now contact Ken Lydon to arrange **direct payment of your dues**.

Student of the Month: Derek Poteet, Napa High School

Linda Glass, filling in for Cathy Dickey, introduced Derek's teacher of his Fire Technology Class Dave Robertson who had glowing words about Derek's attitude, participation, dedication and ability to work with others. Derek spoke briefly thanking his family, Sunrise Rotary and particularly his teacher who gives him motivation and inspiration. He has always wanted to be Fire Service and that is his goal and dream after graduation. Sponsor Kent Imrie keenly pointed out that there are many in the room who had never received such accreditation as student of the month. Derek received his just rewards and an ovation from the group.

Special Presentation: Liz Alessio, head of "Operation with love from Home", came forward and received \$1,000 very happy dollars from Sunrise Rotary as a donation for the packages her group puts together to send to forces overseas. 40 Tons of love in 1,000 packages will be sent this 7th year of their operation.



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Happy Dollars: **Alfredo Pedroza** was \$100 happy that he attended Bill Dodd's swearing in at Sacramento and that his wife filled in for him at Bell Ringing. Though he is still paying for that one at home.....**Mark Willey** toured much of Eastern Europe and missed a few meetings causing a donation of \$150 to his Paul Harris and \$150 to the Foundation.

Rotary Joker: As it should be, visiting Marine Ryan Johnson, had the winning ticket to draw for \$610. Unfortunately not so lucky the second time around. We could not have had a more worthy winner.

Speaker Program: **James Alexander, Sonoma Drug Counselor**



James was introduced by his friend and fellow recipient of the Dalai Lama humanitarian award our own Rob Hampton. You could hear a pin drop in the room during the 30 minutes that James recounted his life story as first a young Marine and then of the grit and gratitude after spending 28 years of his life in 13 different prisons before being released in 2011. He is quoted as saying "It may be surprising, but that is where I found the opportunity to change my life". While behind bars in 1996 he joined the "Alternatives to Violence Project" and continued to this day instill his belief that "all you need is someone to tell you that you matter, that you care and by doing so you can light a flame in their heart". All of the pain and frustration he experienced in failed appeals for release taught him gratitude for the family and friends that stood by him and those that believed that anyone can change who they are at any time. To learn more about this remarkable man check this site:

<http://newunsungheroes.org/2014-event/2014-unsung-heroes-of-compassion/james-alexander>

It was a special morning in which he lit the heart of everyone in the room. Congratulations to James for turning life's struggle into an opportunity for himself and others.

Concluding Breakfast: President Mark thanked James Alexander for his gift to the group and sent everyone out with wishes for a great week.

Submitted By: Charlie Bogue, Broker - Coldwell Banker Real Estate, cbnapa@napanet.net

Disclosure as to accuracy: No responsibility taken for the accuracy of the content within this bulletin or for the reliability for what may or may not have occurred at this gathering.

Design and Layout Provided by Debby Wheeler

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