

Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon

Number one Mid-size Club in District 5130 - FY 2008-09

6572 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Volume XII Issue No. 16 Frank Sites, President November 4, 2011

www.valleyofthemoonrotary.org



The **Four-Way Test** of things we think, say or do:

Is it the **Truth**?

Is it **Fair** to all concerned?

Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

OPENING

President **Frank Sites** rang the opening bell at 7:30 a.m.

The flag salute was led by **Arnie Lamb**. As we're nearing Veteran's Day, enthusiastic versions of our military songs were led by **Lois Kelly**, **Fred Adair** with **Jack Monahan** at piano. As each branch's song was being sung, members of our club who were in that particular branch stood to be acknowledged.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Ron Nicholson had us chuckling with his WalMart Wine List:

WalMart announced that, on December 1st, it will begin offering customers a new discount item –



their own discount wines.

Customer surveys were conducted to determine the most attractive name for the WalMart wine brand. The top surveyed names are:

1. Chateau Traileur Parc
2. White Trashfindel
3. Big Red Gulp
4. World Championship Riesling
5. NASCARbernet
6. Chef Boyardeaux
7. Peanut Noir
8. I Can't Believe It's Not Vinegar
9. Grape Expectations
10. Nasti Spumante

The beauty of WalMart wine is that it can be served with either white meat ('Possum) or red meat (Squirrel). Bon Apetit.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Sgt-at-Arms **Jerry Dion** introduced visiting Rotarians **Dale Knight** (right) of Rohnert Park/Cotati, **Don Johnson** of Windsor and **Jim Allen** of Santa Rosa East. **Randy Ruark** introduced her



guests Bob Jackson, a fourth-time visitor and Mimi Jones, a third-time visitor and new resident of Oakmont. Bob and Mimi are both considering joining our club. Also present was our guest speaker Retired Brigadier General Keith Kerr.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President **Frank** announced Halloween prizes of one free breakfast each to **Barb Lowell** as a pregnant bride and **Lois Kelly** as a wicked witch.



Lois added to **REMEMBER THESE DATES:**
12/8/11 - District Governor's reception at Wild Oak Saddle Club. No Host cocktails at 5:30. Contact **Karen Sites**.

12/16/11 – VOM Rotary Holiday Dinner at the Quail Inn. Forms will be e-mailed to all.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

New Generations:

Caroline Keller reported that we are now supplying books for the Flowery School Library.



Sierra Youth Center is getting ready to make their holiday wreaths on December 3, 4, & 5. Volunteer to help the girls put these wreaths together. Also, order yours early as they go fast and they only make what is ordered. They're \$20 each and a sign-up sheet is being passed around. Also available for \$15 is a calendar the girls had made with photographs of their garden products.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

John Heilbronner asked for more volunteers to go to Flowery School on Thursdays from 9 – 11 a.m. He'll drive you to an enjoyable morning.



Not only are we reading, but teaching the children simple punctuation.

Val Hulse announced that the next SCARC dinner is Thursday, November 17th at Sally Tomatoes Convention Center in Rohnert Park. It'll be a turkey dinner and the

topic will be Rohnert Park/Cotati Rotary's Helping Hands Senior Citizens Project, similar to what our club is attempting to do with our Friendship Alliance Project.



For new members, SCARC stands for Sonoma County Association of Rotary Clubs. Monthly dinner meetings are hosted by each of our local clubs. It's an excellent way to socialize and find out what each of our clubs is doing.

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

Don't forget to attend the Veteran's Luncheon on Tuesday, November 8th at the Vet's Memorial. The time is 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The most tickets we've sold in previous years is 41, but this year we sold 57, with 12 going to Veteran's Connection. Excellent!

Also, remember there is **no meeting** on November 11th due to our participation in the Veteran's Day Luncheon.

OTHER REPORTS

Paul Harris Assistant Governor **Gordon Freedman** called **Dale Knight**, District Rotary Foundation Chair, to the podium. He



explained that receiving a Paul Harris is a big honor and Dale has contributed over \$100,000 to the Foundation during her 14 years in Rotary.

Dale gave our club rave reviews for all we do for the community, plus our generous contributions to the Foundation. The Foundation's top 3 priorities are polio eradication, changing lives and we make it possible. Over 25 years ago, we went to the World Health Organization announcing our plan to wipe out polio. Back then, over 1000 children a day contracted the disease. Now we're down to only 5 countries with polio victims. There were only 4, but recently a child with polio traveled to China and 271 cases were contracted. China is now re-immunizing. As of October 31, India reported 1 case, Nigeria 43, Afghanistan at 23 and Pakistan is still reporting the highest number of cases.



The Bill Gates Foundation has contributed \$355,000,000 and our goal is to match it with \$200,000,000. We're now at \$192,000,000. We're not the only ones joining in with Gates. Nigeria has contributed \$30,000,000 along with other countries at \$100,000,000.

Dale is proud of our work with Sierra Youth Center and Flowery School, changing lives. She just got back from Mexico where she witnessed many new projects where Rotary contributions are making this all possible.



She has donated one of her retirement plans to the Foundation. Thanks, **Dale**, for all you do.

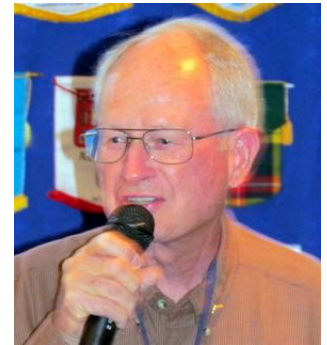


Dale gave Paul Harris pins to **Ron Nicholson** (+4) and **Rich Irwin** (+2).

Anniversary

& Birthday Recognition

Ken Young and **Helen** celebrated their 51st Anniversary with dinner out in Glen Ellen, plus some fishing in Dunsmuir, which is almost a ghost town.



Rich Irwin had a birthday dinner at Roberto's with his friend Arliss. He gave dollars to Polio Plus.

Val Hulsey celebrated her birthday with her sister at Santa Rosa Symphony's

Pops Concert hearing "Ode to Gershwin and Ella".

HAPPY DOLLARS

Star Power won \$12 whole bucks on Superlotto and put \$10 of it in the pot. She also just got back from a



restful vacation with friends at their ranch in the high desert near Kingman, AZ.

shamans.

Les Holve learned current thoughts in shamanism at a West Los Angeles conference of elderly



Dave Noorthoek returned from a recent trip to So Africa, Botswana and Victoria Falls. He brought back a \$50,000,000,000,000 Botswanian bill, which is worth absolutely nothing here!

Mimi Jones (below) told us a story about a Washington woman coming out of a grocery store loaded with bags. She saw 4 young men in her car, so dropped the bags, pulled a gun from her purse and threatened them. They ran. As she put her groceries in the back seat, she noticed football helmets and gear. Realizing she was in the wrong car, she went to the police station to report what she had done. As the police were laughing hysterically, she turned around to see the 4 boys walk in behind her.



RAFFLE



Paula Schnelle had **Dale Knight** draw the ticket for the \$109.50 pot. **Ron Motta** didn't draw the Joker, but gets a free

breakfast.

GUEST SPEAKER

Randy Ruark introduced our guest speaker, Retired Brigadier General Keith H. Kerr. General Kerr entered the U.S. Army as a Private in 1953 and retired as a General in 1996. He is a graduate of the Intelligence Orientation Course, the Imagery Interpretation Course, the Army Intelligence Advance Course, the Special Forces Officer Course, the Civil Affairs Advance Course, the Inspector General Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the U. S. Army War College. He is a graduate of U.C.

Berkeley and has a Master's Degree from SF State U. He is highly decorated by the U.S. Army and, in civilian life was



employed by the San Francisco Community College District where he was a faculty member of City College, Chair of the Business Dept, Dean of Instruction, Dean of Instructional Support and Assistant to the President. He now lives in Santa Rosa and is Chairman of General Rail Corporation.



The General spoke to us about the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT).

He came out as a gay man in an article in the New York Times in 2003 to protest of the 10th Anniversary of the discriminatory policy, which was finally repealed just this year. He testified before Congressional Committees on the issue. In 18 years, over 14,000 men and women were discharged for being gay, lesbian or transgender. All of these personnel had been trained at great expense and included doctors, linguists, etc., not to mention the new personnel needing to be trained. The proponents of this bill argued that military readiness was threatened by their presence. Times have changed since then and polls now show that 75% of the public support gays in the military and 90% of younger Americans between the ages of 18 – 28 are in support.



Gen. Kerr gave us some examples of exemplary military personnel that were caused

great grief by DADT. Most of the targets of this discrimination were women, as they were labeled for simply refusing a date or sexual favor from male personnel.

Today there are over 65,000 lesbian, gay and transgenders on active duty in the Armed Forces.

Closing

Frank thanked General Kerr for his presentation. A book for the Whited Elementary School library will be donated in his name.

Frank added that his daughter, who has 25 years in the Air Force tells him the Air Force has the highest ratio of women serving.

Remember, there is **no meeting next Friday**, but come back on November 18th to hear the fabulous George MacLeod.

The closing bell was rung at 8:45 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP

Share Rotary with your friends. We should invite business friends and neighbors to a meeting. Who do we do business with, what neighbors do we know, what former Rotarians could be asked to join us? **Clip and save the invitation below to give to a friend, neighbor, or business associate. Please tell or email Todd VanDenburg if you are bringing a guest.**

Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club's expense.

MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE JOINED ROTARY HAD SOMEONE ASKED THEM!

Cut and put in your wallet

You are invited as a guest of _____ to attend a breakfast meeting of Valley of the Moon Rotary. The Club meets Friday mornings at

7:00 a.m. at the Quail Inn Restaurant 7035 Oakmont Drive in Oakmont.

Anyone interested in joining Rotary is encouraged to contact our Membership Director, Todd VanDenburg at todd@thevandenburgs.com for information

FUTURE CALENDAR EVENTS

11/11 – DARK due to 11/8 Veterans Day luncheon

11/18 – George MacLeod – “Final Report on 2011 Grape Harvest”

11/25 – DARK due to Thanksgiving

12/8 – District Governor's Reception, Saddle Club

12/9 – District Governor Maureen Merrill's Official Visit

12/16 – Club Holiday Dinner at Quail Inn

12/23 – DARK – Happy Holidays

12/30 – DARK – Happy Holidays

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Please submit any corrections or omissions to Jack Monahan or Star Power for insertion in the next bulletin.

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