

Rotagram March 25, 2008

Phil Champlin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rick Whatley entertained with the Thought of the Day. "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." "Be quick, but don't hurry!"

Three visiting Rotarians were introduced: Susan Cole, Windsor, who is heading the Nigerian GSE team, Elisabeth Webb, who is sending 20 Rotary flags to Nigeria, and Napa Sunrise's banker, Brian Kelly, as well as Sunrise educator / politician, Brad Wagenknecht.

Sunshine Report: Rotarians are stunned and sad to hear of Dr. Kash Rose's sudden passing. The tribute in the Napa Register was nice but, according to Gary, it did not capture all of his Father's accomplishments. Jim Riley's Mother, also a Rotarian, was injured in San Francisco last week when she walked by a construction site. She was hit by a falling 8 X 4 piece of heavy plywood!

Gary Rose auctioned off two tickets for Nights of Tuscany. Additional tickets are available. The Nights of Tuscany is a fabulous event at Hagafen Winery on Silverado Trail, where the New Tech students do all the cooking and serving. They put together a very enjoyable evening. The dinner will be served on Saturday, April 5. Please sign up ASAP with Paul Ahearn.

Barbara Nemko is offering you an entertaining day on May 22 from 8:30 Am to 2 PM on at the West Park School. You get the opportunity to teach youngsters about your business and free enterprise. Please use the sign-up sheet on all tables.

The Napa College musical "La Cage Aux Folles" is a great musical and a

wonderful performance. A group of Rotarians will go there on Friday, April 11. Please sign up if you would like to participate.

The Cycle for Sight event on April 26, will feature a silent auction. There will be a "Rotary Wine Cellar." Please bring a bottle of good wine from your collection. Remember: Two buck Chuck won't do it...

Jerry Medlin reported on the GSE team from Nigeria. They will be here on May 8 and 9. If you can offer a room in your home for one of the participants, please contact Jerry Medlin. The GSE team will be busy during the day. You will mostly have your house guests for dinner and breakfast.

Bruce McCall talked about the Cycle for Sight Memorial Mile. "Let your life speak." Rotary represents the meaning of these four words. Bruce has sent letters to friends asking them to invest in Memorial Mile signs. The following types of signs are available: "In Honor of _____", "In Memory of _____", and "In Support of our Troops." There is a chance to remember our family and friends who served in world wars, or perhaps the heroes who made great sacrifices and kept families together during the depression. Bruce reported that the response to his letters has been overwhelming. Let people know about our web site so they can inform themselves about the meaning of this event. Memorial Mile signs have to be purchased by April 14.

Vince Goetz introduced Charlotte Water, a student scholarship winner. We have given out scholarships for many years now. It is most refreshing to hear occasionally from a student and it is great to hear what has become of a particular student. Charlotte is now in

her second year at U.C. Santa Cruz, with a historical archeology major. This is the branch of archeology that studies societies with written systems, as opposed to prehistoric societies. Charlotte hopes to be admitted to the PhD program at U.C. Virginia. The money from Rotary has helped Carlotte do very well in school.

Mike Bethard started with President "O" on the birthday circuit. We were treated to an adventurous story about the trips to the Amazon. What fun it must have been to fly over the Andes in an non-pressurized plane! Fellow travelers were accompanied by animals, and all passengers were asked to convene in the front of the plane; there were bug and snake incidents; flea-bitten hotels, a flight where a person sat on an (occupied) casket; the jungle was on fire ... you just don't get this kind of action on the Napa River! Barbara Nemko served as a draftee with a January birthday. She went back to 1981, when she was featured on the TV show "Family Feud." The question was "Where would a man go without his wife?" Well, Barbara was the fourth contestant to be asked the question. Answers like "to a ball game, card game, X-rated movie" were already out there and she had to think of something else – and that was not easy. Marty was not happy with her answer.

Fines: Gina Stutchman had her picture taken while she was aiming a machine gun at some police event. We wish her well as she is adding a new Rotary member to this world in early April! Another photo showed Bruce Ketron in a rather strange costume. The Rotary coffers showed a nice addition from Gina and Bruce.

Elisabeth McKenzie introduced our speaker, Marty James, who writes the sports column for the Napa Valley Register. Marty turned 50 recently and from that point on everything went downhill. He spent time at Queen of the Valley Hospital and could not walk. Well, Bruce McCall got him back on his feet! Marty praised Julilana Inman for her efforts in presenting the Justin Siena basketball team with a key to the City. Starting April 7 we will receive the Napa Valley Register at 5 AM during the week, 6 AM on week-ends. So, the Napa Register will become a true morning paper. Leadership surveys, advertisers and customers were asking for an earlier newspaper. Marty started writing when he was 13 years old. At Wild Horse Valley Ranch Marty covered the equestrian achievements of the Murray children. Marty has a lot of respect for the Napa High Football team. He also interviewed the girls on the Justin Siena basketball team. They are big news. It is good to see that a cross section of the community shows up to see their games. The girls on the team have known Marty for a long time and he has interviewed them during stressful times. The girls are respectful, show character, quality and great camaraderie. Great things are happening at Justin Siena right now. They are building a \$2 million track right now. Also, the Memorial Stadium is breaking ground to install lights and a PA system. There will also be soccer games. It has been a great honor for Marty to provide content and information people expect to read. Go to the web site NapaValleyRegister.com for more details.