

The Napa Rotagram May 8, 2008



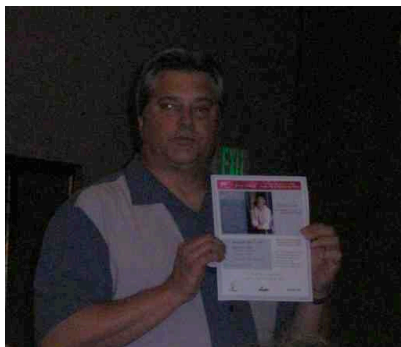
Thought for the Day

Elisabeth Frater had the thought of the day. A priceless observation: "behind every successful man is an amazed Mother-in-Law!"



Brenda Speth led the Pledge.

Our Visiting Rotarians were **Carolyn Bender**, Executive Secretary, Maplewood, Minnesota, and **Gayland Bender**, Electrical Engineer, Roseville Club, Minnesota.; **Cap Lyons**, Construction, Oakland; and **Gil Labrie**, Architect, Walnut Grove..
Welcome.



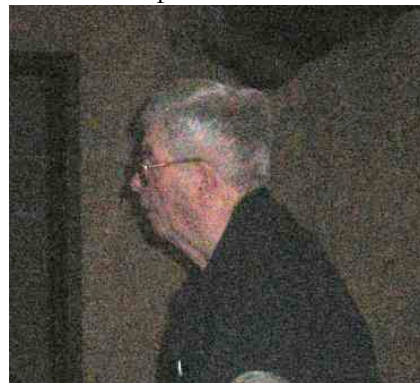
Guests of Rotarians: It was a privilege to welcome **Gary Rose's** assistant, **Theresa Johnson**, who has worked very hard to help with our Cycle for Sight event.

Announcements: **Rick Watley** has put together a traveling workshop so you can learn about new security guidelines for your next trip. Please contact Rick to make a reservation for the next AAA workshop.



As the meeting proceeded, the audience was able to experience the Cycle for Sight event through digital film on the Big Screen. Thank you, **Richards Lyon**, for putting this video together!

President Steve announced that the Rotary Club program for May 21st will be a discussion on Measure N, also known as the Responsible Growth Initiative. There will be 10 minutes allotted for each side, five minutes for rebuttal, plus a question and answer period. **President Steve** will be absent



for this presentation. **Bill Blanckenburg** added that he would certainly like to know who is behind all of this.

Elisabeth Frater brought Chinese haute couture items home from her latest trip. A beautiful child's outfit and a purse in pure silk; the purse containing (contraband?) Chinese spices. When Elisabeth returned from China, the little beagle at SFO airport must have been on vacation... **Kent Gardella** was the lucky bidder.

Did you know that we have the health care professional of the year in our midst? **Bruce McCall** acknowledged the fact and he made a contribution to his Son's Paul Harris. Bruce's son has just returned from Iraq and is now attending UC Davis.



Our Speaker...

President Steve introduced our speaker, **Tom Furrer**, a teacher at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma.



Tom was written up in *Reader's Digest* because of his work as a teacher and a wildlife biologist's interest which has lead him to inspire high school students to become

active in the preservation of wildlife in their vicinity.

In Petaluma these activities centered around the Adobe Creek restoration. As a teacher Tom had to meet the students' high level demands for entertainment and motivation. At that age youngsters are frightened and worried about what their future may bring, he says. But, he points out this is also a good time to get students interested in their environment so they understand the concept of the opportunity we have to intervene now, or small creeks can be so polluted that the fish that used to inhabit them are lost forever.



Tom inspired children to clean up Adobe Creek, raise money, throw their apathy overboard, and plan and construct a

steelhead salmon hatchery. The children removed litter from a stretch of 7.5 miles. The hatchery

provided a home for the fish during the summer months. In addition, the students raised \$510,000 for a state-of-the-art hatching facility.



They wrote grants and received one generous contribution from a couple in their neighborhood. ESPN did four documentaries on this project. All of this was done without a dime in contributions from the already financially strapped school district. They also had to overcome the bureaucratic roadblocks that can be expected for such an undertaking.



Not only did the fish in Adobe Creek prosper, but the project laid a solid foundation for careers in marine

biology and wildlife preservation for many of the students. Now, twenty years following the beginning of this project, it is truly heartwarming to see the return of former students who are showing their children how enabling nature to do what it is supposed to do can make a difference that will benefit generations to come.

Did you know that Japanese High School English instruction books have three subjects: Stevie Wonder, E.T. and the Adobe Creek restoration project?

