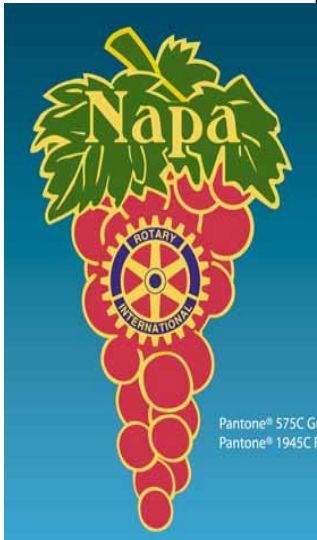


The Napa Rotagram December 3, 2008



Mike Loughran's Thought for the Day was a quote from Charles Dickens about the Christmas season and how we look at one another in a more compassionate way.

Bruce Ketron lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visiting Rotarians and guests were **Mike Wise** and **Ira Smith**, Sports director at KVON.

Announcements: Mike

Loughran introduced his Daughter, Erin, who was awarded her Paul Harris fellowship. "Yes," said Mike: "She is my daughter, and she got her good looks from Denise."



President Gary announced the activities for Wednesday, December 10th which starts at 7:30 a.m. with the Board Meeting at Charter Oak Bank. At 5:30 p.m. Rotarians are welcome to attend the joint meeting of the five clubs at Downtown Joe's. Enjoy a good dinner and learn what is going on in the Valley.

Bruce McCall thanked everyone who baked a pie for the Pathway Home Veterans' Thanksgiving dinner. They really appreciated it. Maybe we can do something similar for Christmas.

Tim Cooney asked Rotarians to sign up to distribute dictionaries to third graders. Tim

reminded us that for some children the dictionary is the only book they own. Interact students will put the labels in the dictionaries.

President Gary provided an update on next year's Cycle for Sight event. Sponsorships are already coming in. Sotheby and Trincherro are already on board. During these tough economic times **Jason Lueros** will take over the IT registration procedure. You might consider memorial mile signs or tickets to the event as a Christmas gift.

Showing no mercy, **President Gary** went after Rotarians whose *alma maters* boasted football wins. Stanford graduates had to cough up \$5--despite a vigorous protest from **Bob Mullikin**; Vintage \$5; Cal \$10; Stanford \$5; USC \$5; Oregon \$10; Ohio \$10; Wisconsin \$10; Minnesota ZERO (...a happy **Tom Young**); Tennessee \$10; Princeton \$5; Sac State \$5; San Diego State \$5. Needless to say this generated lots of money for the Rotary coffers. Speaking of lots of money, the lavish, multi-million-dollar Lake Tahoe lakeside estate of **Mary and Dick Lonergan** came into play. Dick graciously paid a \$10 fine despite the fact that he does not own the estate.

The 2008/9 slate of officers was announced. A new position on the Board of Directors has been created. The "Doughnut Boy" will bring the doughnuts and clean up after the Board meetings. A unanimous vote assigned **Tom Nelson** to this prestigious position. **John Cardinale**, Sergeant at Arms, will remain in his spot, and two new board members are **Jason Lueros** and **Tom LeMasters**. **Jeanne Christofferson** will remain on the Board to keep track of the Paul Harris contributions. The position of Treasurer is currently open. Secretary: **James Barrett**, Vice President: **Bruce McCall**, and President-Elect, **Tim Cooney**. The above were unanimously elected to their positions. Congratulations, new officers!

Our Speaker: Howard Ericson introduced **Mike Wise**, a Washington Post sports columnist with a breadth of experience

including the NBA, New York Knicks, Olympics coverage, World Series and Super bowl games. Mike has written a best seller, appeared on MSNBC, CNN, Charlie Rose, and Good Morning, America.



Mike spoke about his childhood in Napa where he attended Vichy Elementary and his path to becoming a sports journalist. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fresno, Mike began his sports casting career in Sanger, east of Fresno, where he covered high school sports, boxing, and the NBA, for the San Jose Mercury News. He found that his strength was that in interviews he managed to get his subjects to open up. Mike now lives in Washington, D.C.

A significant event in his young life was when his family purchased a Volkswagen bus and relocated to Hawaii. Besides spending much time on the beach, Mike played sports and grew to love this incredible melting pot.

His entry into sports writing started when he met David Halberstam at a health club and got him to play a game of basketball. Halberstam told him not to go into the business “because nobody is buying newspapers anymore.” Mike also met Magic Johnson who told him “to stay away from the punks.”

Mike’s career led him to live in many places and afforded him unbelievable opportunities

in his profession. His assignments have included covering yachting events like the New Zealand Cup.

One lucky telephone call resulted in a transition from a small apartment and no job prospects to employment with the New York Times, a Manhattan apartment and active salary negotiations. That job was a wonderful opportunity to cover the Mets and Knicks

Because the hours one works as a sports reporter there is not much time to start a family. So, Mike owns a dog – a Golden Retriever/Labrador mix. The dog loves to run and swim. If Mike could fit him with a bike, then he could participate in a triathlon. On a winter run, the dog fell into a canal and was trapped in the ice and could not get out. Mike tried to save the dog and both of them had to be pulled out of the icy waters by a third person. This was an emotional moment and Mike was specially honored by the Washington Animal Rescue League.



Let's Beat the Kiwanians!