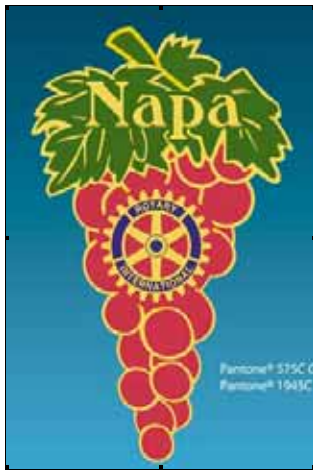


# The Napa Rotagram

## February 18, 2009



### *Thought for the Day*

**Kent Gardella**, quoting from famous anthropologist Margaret Mead, stated: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

**Chris McCarthy** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### *Visiting Rotarians*

**John Dumas**, orthodontist, Napa Sunrise; **Debra Matteri**, banking, Petaluma Valley; **Jim Nord**, trust and probate administration, Napa Sunrise.

### *Guest of Rotarians*

**Mike Loughran** introduced his guest, **Dick Barry**, a financial advisor.

### *Announcements*

The raffle is now well in excess of \$2,400. Keep buying those tickets!

It is not too late to join the Rotary ski challenge.

Cycle for Sight had a full-page ad in the Napa Valley Register. Everyone now has the packets to sell tickets for the event.



**Jeanne Christoffersen** auctioned off inaugural memorabilia. How can anyone live without a "Commander in Chief" coffee mug to match the "Hail to the Chief" BBQ apron? **Don Fretz** acquired these items for \$75, plus a "You don't know me" witness protection T-shirt! Way to go.

It was fleeing time again – a few Rotarians had to reach for their wallets because Cal beat Stanford in basketball.

**Dorothy Lind Salmon** introduced the "SC-21" program by inviting the audience to revisit what high school offered in the past, and to compare it to a program that was developed here in Napa to prepare students for the 21st century.



Since the establishment of New Tech High School in Napa, and the success of the concept, the program will be expanded. **Barry Schuler** and Napa Valley Vintners provided the seed money for expansion of the SC-21 program, the Student-Centered 21st century classroom.



**John Glaser** was recognized for being the first superintendent to direct the effort and bring it into the school district. Audacious people are changing the world, and we want to make sure we offer the best education possible to our students. As we change the way youngsters learn, we want to recognize that we have the tools in the Napa Valley that can position us for the next century and beyond.



The reality is that high school graduates are competing in an information and knowledge-based economy. Right here in the Napa Valley, they receive the passport to the American dream because we are at the forefront of a new way of teaching and learning. With the huge demand for people who are competent in the latest technology, schools are involved in project-based learning. In this manner of instruction, the controls are handed over to the kids and they are empowered to learn by themselves. Teachers are not just lecturers, they are facilitators. By encouraging their students to move forward and by fostering teamwork, the result is a higher level of motivation.

It is clear that this successful model needs to be exported to other high schools, but the cost is both a challenge and an opportunity. The two million dollars needed are out there in challenge grants. To access these grants, the sponsors want to see broad-based community support. We can give kids access to a great opportunity through community contributions. David Drinkwater, of the Wingspan Partnership, explained how the teaching process has changed. One example is when teachers team up and present complementary subjects to student teams or study groups. Students are responsible to each other, and they are contractually obligated to succeed.

In the case of non-performance, a student can be voted off the team. Under the SC-21 system, students are evaluated or graded in eight different dimensions. Rotarians participated in the process when they formed study groups to solve a problem. It is easy to see that the process involves identifying what we already know and what we need to know to reach the solution.

Project-based education focuses on using information effectively. Students are prepared for emerging careers such as green energy, agriculture and understanding what drives the regional economy like future transportation and water needs.

Vintage High School and Napa High School have adopted the SC-21 program and hope to expand it. The kids learn more as "We" than as "I". The project interaction creates leaders, co-leaders and contributors. Students connect on a better level and they understand the process of reaching goals as they rely on everyone's role to move the project ahead.

Another aspect of the program occurs prior to entry into the job market when there are extensive job interviews, and performance reviews. **Barbara Nemko** explained how teamwork also breaks down the fear barrier of public speaking. The basis of effective and clear verbal and written communication will lead to success with few detours. The Napa Valley is about to be known not only as the center of tourism and the wine industry, but also as an educational leader and innovator.

