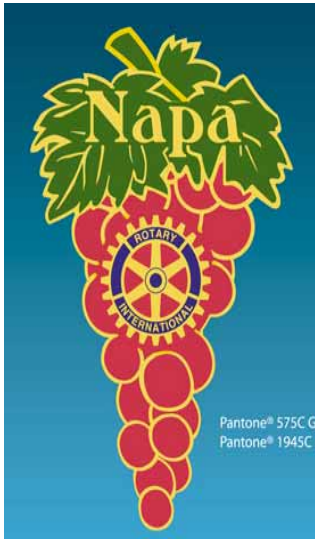


## The Napa Rotagram MARCH 25, 2009



**Elisabeth Frater** led Rotarians in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Thought for the Day:* Mike Loughran asked all attendees to bow their heads in memory of the four police officers who died in Oakland.

**Our Visiting Rotarians:** **John Dumars**, Orthodontist, Napa Sunrise; **Debra Matteri**, Banking, Petaluma Valley, **Jim Rossetti**, Finance/Real Estate, Belmont.

**Guests of Rotarians:** **Mike Loughran's** guest, **Dick Berry**.

**Announcements:** **Misty Tarver** updated us on the gala event at Hagafen Cellars, called "Night in Tuscany," which will be held on April 25, 2009. Tickets are \$65 per person, and the students of New Tech High School's Interact Club are preparing the tasty meal, and will feature an exciting silent auction.

Talk to **President Gary** about the Rotary meeting at Fortuna. If you want to attend and learn, your admission fee, gas and lodging will be paid.

**Steve Orndorf** shared thank-you notes to our club from the Special Olympics participants, and noted that one special thank-you was extended to **Ed Barwick**.

**Bruce Ketrone** stood in for **Chris McCarthy** and announced that Napa Valley College is offering an opportunity to join the Citizens Oversight Committee which meets four times per year. Please contact **Chris McCarthy** if you would like to help the College with this oversight.

**Jason Luross** tendered a Happy Ten: He was grateful to have missed the deadline to apply to the City Planning Commission since he suddenly realized that he is currently serving on enough committees.

Oh, and **Roger Billings** scored a par at No.16 at Cypress Point. Into the wind and all ... that rated a \$20 contribution to Rotary's coffers.

Once again, **Mike Bethard's** birthday extravaganza revealed interesting facts about some Rotarians. Two of our four birthday contestants were actually present. **Steve Orndorf** turned 62, and he was savvy enough to know the name of the clubs most often used on the fairways – yes, they are called (Tiger) woods.



**John Cardinale**, being much younger than Steve Orndorf, was well informed about disk (or Frisbee) Golf. He also knew that it is difficult to find a place to carry your tees if you play Golf in the nude.



**Stewart Slipic** returned from Mexico with wonderful contraband. He auctioned off pure vanilla, a pretty serving bowl and a bottle of excellent quality Tequila.

**Larry Wolfe** has just returned from a sailing tour of the West Indies. A crew of 23 serving 18 passengers – does that sound good? They sailed to Dutch, English and French islands. The water was warm and clear ... this kind of bliss rated a \$100 Paul Harris contribution.



What happened to **Wally Kempkey's** moustache? Wally took part in a moustache competition

and did not win! That certainly explains its swift removal.

Cycle for Sight: **Jason Luross** reported that 500 bicycle riders have already signed up to join the race, but we need a lot more bikers. Ask you neighbors, friends and family to join the race! The Early Registration discount will end on March 30th. Also needed are Miracle Mile sign purchases, as well as more ticket sales for those who will attend the event as “pedestrians.” If you have a silent auction item to contribute, please let **Jill Barwick** know. We have four wonderful silent auction items from “Auntie” **Dorothy** – and we need more! Please keep April 18 free so

you can volunteer all day to make sure everything runs smoothly.

**Our Speaker: Mike Bethard** introduced our speaker, **Nelson Braby**. Nelson is a native of Napa, plus a former classmate of President Gary.

Following a career in the fitness business in St. Helena, Nelson is making his mark in the solar electric power generating business.

Solar power is generated by photovoltaic cells in solar panels that convert sunlight to electricity. An inverter conditions electricity for use and then it provides power to the home. Surplus electricity is sold back to the utility company. Around here, PG&E has five tiers that determine the rate you are charged. The installation of a solar system does not increase your property taxes.

There are generous government rebate programs available. It also provides a good feeling for homeowners to use sustainable energy that leaves the environment unharmed. Nelson anticipated some questions: Anyone who waits for the price to come down will incur the cost of lost opportunity. The new building-integrated photovoltaics and individual shingles have great aesthetic appeal. Condominium owners can install solar panels without the approval of the homeowners' association. Steve Orndorf has been watching the solar system at the College. It is almost as exciting as fishing!

