

## ROTAGRAM 6-3-09

Jim Tidgwell led Rotarians in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim Cooney's uplifting Thought of the Day: An update on economic trends: Sales are up for running shoes, fishing equipment, spam, macaroni and cheese; double digit growth for the following products: Pepto Bismol, chocolate, wine, lipstick and condoms!

Visiting Rotarians; Jim McKeever, Telecommunications, Napa Sunrise; Ed Oviatt, Retired, Tiburon, Gene Walken, Nice Guy, Napa Sunrise, Debra Matteri, Banking, Petaluma Valley.

Bruce Ketron introduced his Daughter, Aura, who is an acupuncturist.

The 50:50 Raffle didn't even have a chance to take off into the big money league. Just as Phil Champlin had uttered words to the effect that "judges never win" he had the winning ticket, and followed up picking the joker out of the deck.

Kevin Lucky, Dean of Athletics, Napa Valley College, promoted a Golf Tournament that is coming up very soon.

Phil Champlin met an interesting young man downtown Napa. Ted Wall, a second year law student, is a past Rotary ambassadorial scholar. He received his Master's Degree in Philosophy from St. Andrews University. He is presently enrolled at Notre Dame. (That's the one with ayyy or aaaahhh pronunciation dispute). Ted expressed his gratitude for all that Rotary scholarships have contributed to his education. Ted wants to settle in Napa. We can always use a lawyer with a philosophy degree!

President Gary was full of praise for all he learned and experienced at the District Conference in Petaluma. We were blessed with five awards for public relations, community service, vocational service, the bike event, fundraising, etc.

Ed Oviatt promoted a fun event. The Tiburon car classic will take place on June 20. Buy a \$100 raffle ticket to win a mini cooper. You can drive it up and down the aisles at Safeway!

We bid the Brazilian team a fond good by. They were a lovely group of young people. Hosts and guests had a great time together. Hosting these young people and sending

people from here to foreign lands – this is how we promote world peace and understanding. Next year we will welcome a GSE team from India.

Deb Wallace and Mary-Ann Lyon presented an orphanage project in the town of Goma, Congo. The children there are victims of the genocidal war with Rwanda. We have an opportunity to give financial support to the “Be a Hero” project. So far, the world music concerts have raised enough money to provide necessities for the orphanage: a water well, electricity, a school, and a safety wall enclosure. Unfortunately, the wall is not enough to keep the children safe. They need an additional \$3,000 for razor wire to keep dangerous insurgents out. We saw a video showing the children sleeping on blankets on the concrete floor.

Gene Waker spoke about the serious methamphetamine epidemic that is all around us. The Napa Sunrise Rotary Club has formed a task force to study this addiction disease. Rotary is devising a plan to eradicate “meth” use locally.

Numerous treatment approaches exist. The addiction starts with a euphoric experience and progresses to the addict ignoring human necessities, like eating, and sleeping. High Tech executive, Tom Siebel, has taken huge steps to educate the community on addiction. Meth addiction can be found in all levels of society and invariably leads to criminal activity and enormous health problems. Seven out of ten who try meth become severely addicted. It is a huge problem in Indian reservations. Meth is the prevalent drug of choice – it is inhaled or injected. The gateway drugs leading to meth use are marijuana and alcohol. Observe the children in your extended family, question any unusual behavior and trust your instincts. Something may be very wrong. We heard from Gene’s Daughter, Jennifer, how easily you can buy Meth, and how easy it is to manufacture. Kent Gardella, added a few comments related to meth use in the families of scholarship recipients in the “If given a Chance” program. The consequences of meth use are truly tragic.