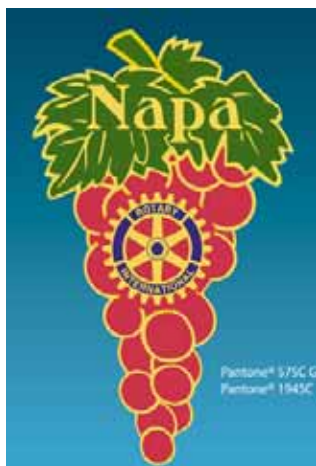


# The Napa Rotagram

July 22, 2009



**Thought for the Day**  
Always the heavy thinker, **Mike Bethard** presented a series of prayers from children, including ...



"Dear God: Thank you for the baby brother, but I was really praying for a puppy."

## Visiting Rotarians



Assistant District 5130 Governor **Kevin Eisenberg** of the Calistoga club was our lone



**Pres Bruce** started the meeting with a musical tribute to Bonanza.



After cooling down with a unique video presentation, it was raffle time. With three chances, nobody drew a winner, so next week's jackpot approaches \$500.

Guests of Rotarians included **Jim Riley's** colleague, Miguel Gonzales. Miguel's father was a Rotary president in Manila.

**Past Presidents Gary** and **Mr. "O"** were in Orinda attending a Rotary meeting letting them know about the Pathway Home Project, Cycle for Sight and other Napa activities. Remember another Pathway Home graduation is scheduled for October.

**Pres Bruce** noted the grads and veterans in the program are very appreciative of Rotary's efforts. "It doesn't go unnoticed," he said.

**Tyler Cokeley** attended the graduation and reported on the great successes the participants in the programs are having. **Dorothy Salmon** echoed that and called it a great example of courage.



## Sunshine Report



**Jill Barwick** reported **Rod Wiessner** is recuperating from valve replacement surgery; **Charlie Harper** is home following back problems; Past Pres **Auggie Carrion** is residing at Piner's Nursing Home.

Speaking of **Jill Barwick**, she was taken to task for comments on a conservative radio talk show for depicting a certain elected official as "an ignoramus."



Mark your calendars for a tour of Napa Valley College on September 17 at 5 p.m. The emphasis will be on the culinary and wine education programs.



**Bruce Ketron** -- who happens to be a college trustee -- got not one, but two, plugs in for those NVC programs which he noted are self-sustaining and providing excellent training for future chefs, winemakers and other jobs in these popular fields.

**Pres Bruce** said a trip to South Africa is being planned by Rotary International to help with the Polio Plus program. He pointed out it could be the last such journey since the once-pervasive disease is all but eradicated.



**Randy Bryant** helped swell the Rotary coffers by auctioning Darjeeling tea and other items from India and Nepal where he and his family visited.

Chuck Kosmerl returned with goodies from Fort Collins, Colorado and Rapid City, South Dakota (home of the Black Hills and the Crazy Horse monument).



**James Barrett** said quarterly statements have gone out. Please examine them closely because of a recent account change.

**Barbara Nemko** got in a plug for the Dreamweavers retrospective that takes place at the Opera House on July 31. It will feature scenes from past plays and look ahead at upcoming productions.

*Our Speaker ...*

Our own **Jim Riley** presented his perspective on the outlook for the market and the economy, noting that following last March's bottoming out, things are on the way up again -- although it could be a long, tough climb. Several cogent points affecting the turnaround include 1) Unemployment -- There will be no significant economic news until there is positive job growth; 2) Savings -- A good sign is people are saving at a level 6.9 percent higher than pre-recession. Savings was actually a negative number for some time; 3) Credit card debt -- it has decreased for the first time, although Jim doubts this will be a permanent trend.

Jim's firm, Napa Wealth Management, watches rail traffic as an indicator of the current state of the health of the economy.

Rail traffic -- the shipping of goods that have been manufactured and on their way to sale -- has been on a downward spiral.

Jim suggests that the best investments at this time are those dealing in "essential services" such as water, oil, telecommunications and -- cemeteries.



Look for inflation to rear its head once again, probably in 2010. Jim remains cautiously optimistic with a quote by the recently departed newsman, Walter Cronkite:



*Rotary Old Stuff ...*

*Thoughts from Rotagram editor, Karney Kenschlian - November 20, 1968 ...* If we are to get a better Rotary club, we must keep doing a better job as Rotarians. Just a few things we can do to improve: Be punctual, sing the opening song with gusto, engage visitors in lively conversation, accept or seek committee assignments enthusiastically. Of all these, the last is probably the hardest -- usually because executives are busy. But if you think you're busy, think how busy the other guy is, and, if we all put our shoulders to the wheel, wouldn't it be easy? Okay? Agree?

