

The Napa Rotagram

August 26, 2009



Thought for the Day

Pres Bruce used his weekly three-minute video as fodder for the thought ...



... we learned that Johnny, the check-out boy who had Down Syndrome, offered a daily thought to his customers and transformed his workplace -- Make a Difference!



Visiting Rotarians



Rocky Loftus, Napa Sunrise; **Kevin Eisenberg**, Calistoga;



Ellen and **DG Kirk Brown**, Del Norte.



Tim Cooney reports the Dictionary Project for 2009 is about to get underway. Volunteers are needed on several fronts, including distribution at various elementary schools.



Bill Blanckenburg, who just turned 94, is the club's oldest member. He was among this month's celebrants -- many of whom celebrated in absentia.

Mistress of Birthday Ceremonies, **Jill Barwick**, was able to query **Debby Hight**, **Tom Mills**, her dad, **Bob Barwick** and **James Barrett**. Turns out most don't know enough about their club colleagues to identify them with Jill's clues.

Another group of Rotarians was singled out by **Pres Bruce** in a brief fining session. **Tom Mills** and **Phil Champlin** are grandfathers (again); **Stewart Slipiec** learned the father of the groom also pays dearly; **Juliana Inman** celebrated Napa County Landmarks' move to new digs in the Goodman Library and **Steve Omdorf** was again "recognized" (again) for fishing on the Napa River -- on TV.



For the Sunshine Report, Jill noted **Margaret Pranger**, **Charlie Harper** and **Bob Barwick**, who was in attendance, are all on the mend. **Rod Wiessner** is back at work after being in a recuperative mode.



John Woodbury needs volunteers for setup and cleanup at Teacher Appreciation Day, September 11, 4-6:30.



Mr. "O" invites all Rotarians to join the Pathway Home members and others on October 8 for a ferry ride to Angel Island and cycling while there. Also in the planning stages, a District 5130-wide day at the races at Golden Gate Fields.



Besides the new grandchild, **Tom Mills** shelled out for his bargain stay at Silverado while the insurance company evaluates damage done by a major pipe burst at his home.

Tom was also reporting back from San Diego where he heard former President George W. Bush say "some cute things."

Our Speaker ...

Before hearing from the district governor, the assistant DG, **Kevin Eisenberg**, delivered a stirring introduction.



Complete with musical background, Kevin bought in "Captain Kirk" as the head of the Starship 5130. Brown, a former Eagle Scout and business major is a founding member of the Del Norte club.

Kirk Brown told a tale of a carpenter who took it upon himself to build bridges -- bringing people closer together. He recalled Rotary's "old days" when funds were raised strictly through fines (fund-raisers were from Kiwanis and the Lions). Only one member was allowed per occupational category, and attendance rules were much stricter.

AND ... there were no women! "It was a good ol' boys' club," he said. That was until Rotary lost before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987. Since then, the distaff membership has climbed to ten-percent worldwide and more than 25-percent here in District 5130.



Brown said he was ready to abandon Rotary at one point, then the Polio Plus program came along, and he saw what pursuing a really great cause could do. "The end is near," he noted as just a handful of cases are now reported, mostly in Africa and the Middle East.



Knit one ... purl two ... Now, let's be fair,. **Kirk Brown's** wife, **Ellen**, his sweetheart since college days, has heard the speech before.

He urged participation -- on an international level if possible. The next two international conferences are both in North America: 2010 in Montreal; 2011 in New Orleans.

Of course, the local district gatherings are important too. Next year's is in Rohnert Park, May 13-16.

District Governor Brown closed with the following:

The Paradoxical Commandments by **Dr. Kent M. Keith**

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.
Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.
Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.

© Copyright Kent M. Keith 1968, renewed 2001

