

The Napa Rotagram

May 5, 2010



Thought for the Day



Nothing is more patriotic and awe-inspiring than a football game where the flyover occurs during the National Anthem. The passing patterns are complex. A precise fly over needs perfect timing and a solid game plan. Towers, birds, tall buildings, huge construction cranes have to be avoided. Fly over's can symbolize pride of a nation or a rallying call after a national tragedy.

Visiting Guests



Jim Tidgewell introduced **Laura Wents**, of Seiberlich.

Michael Johnston, Salvation Army, and **Mesdames Prescott** (the speaker's spouse) and **Peggy McCall** was introduced by **Jeff Erickson**.

To watch the NFL Pregame Flyover Press:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWSUAoYcH5c>

Larry Wolfe headed the Pledge of Allegiance.

While there were no visiting Rotarians, there were guests of Rotarians. **Mike Loughran** offered a flamboyant introduction of ... Nobody.



The Raffle:

John Cardinale had the winning Raffle number, but he failed to pick the Joker out of THREE cards! **Bruce McCall** expects really good attendance for the 50:50 chances next week.

President Bruce expressed his gratitude to **Dick Lonergan**, who presided over last week's meeting, as well as the creative "craft talkers." The graduation from **Pathway Home** was very special. Rotarians who attended this graduation reported that it was the most amazing and heartwarming event they had ever attended. Try to attend the next graduation!

Announcements:

Stay tuned for next week's announcement of the final amount we made in the **Cycle for Sight fundraiser**.

The next Board meeting will be on March 19 at 7:30 AM at the Gasser Building.



Howard Erickson was honored by the **Salvation Army**. He is now a lifetime member.

Howard had a picture of **Captains Darren and Courtney Stratton** and Green Bay Packers quarterback **Aaron Rodgers**. Darren and Courtney became Corps captains 10 years ago when they were in Napa. They went to Yuba City and are now in Chico. Rotary has supported the Salvation Army for at least 40 years with bell ringing at Christmas time. We have always enjoyed the friendly competition with the Kiwanis Club, most recently under **Jeff Erickson's** leadership. The proceeds from bell ringing have paid for meals, toys for children, the neighborhood feeding table, and meals for the homeless shelter. Several Rotarians have been on the Salvation Army Advisory Board: **Ed Barwick, Ann Cash, Phil Champlin, Dick Lonergan, Howard Erickson, and Tom Young**.



Scholarship Awards



Ann Cash is working on this year's scholarship awards. They will be presented by: **Gary Rose** (Justin Siena); **Wally Kempkey** (New Tech); **Bruce McCall** (Vintage); and **Kent Gardella** (Napa High School.)

More Announcements:

Tom Nelson, Tom Mills and Jerry Medlin are sponsoring quarterly awards students for the second time.

Ask **Ann Cash** about a fun fundraiser on May 22. Tickets are \$25.00!

John Woodbury is involved in **Teachers' Appreciation Day** in Yountville. Several Rotarians are helping him to review the nominations.

Please contact **Steve Orndorf** if you would like to participate in a scientific project measuring and weighing Steelhead and Bass in the Napa River.

Jill Barwick wants to see the results of **David Wildhagen's** professional facial make over! Apparently David outbid Jill on this item at the recent 4H fundraiser.

The **"If Given A Chance"** banquet is on Friday, May 7 at the Marriott Hotel. Please contact **Kent Gardella** for tickets.

Next Wednesday, May 12, Rotarians will present more quilts to the **Pathway Home** veterans. If you have contributed to the quilt project, please try to attend.

Robert Green put on a great party for the Indian delegation. Bravo!



Today's Program



Our speaker was **Tom Prescott**. For 34 years he has been a Napa teacher, coach, counselor, principal and dean.

Our speaker was **Tom Prescott**. For 34 years he has been a Napa teacher, coach, counselor, principal and dean. Tom has done much work reflecting on education reform and how we learn. For more information, or to share your comments, go to tprescott777@sbcglobal.net. **Peggy McCall**, President Bruce's wife, has been a great supporter of public education over the years.

Tom Prescott has recently returned to the classroom to answer some nagging questions. The question is: How can we help more students achieve success? Why have all the education reforms we have had not been successful? What can we learn about testing? What happens in the body, brain and mind when we learn? Can we teach that process to students?

The teacher presents information from the curriculum using instructional strategies. Hopefully, **the student** understands and uses this knowledge. Accountability comes in the form of testing. This process is part of the organizational governance, financed by the tax payer. Learning is a behavior.

There have been changes in the way education is viewed. The teacher presented the material and the student provided the effort. Behaviorist psychology has later suggested that discipline is harmful, making the teacher specifically responsible for the learning success. The behaviorist theory is that we can never understand what the mind and brain are doing. Learning occurs only when the right environment has been created.

Reform efforts should center on hiring better teachers and implementing a **21st century traditional curriculum**. Instruction should include lectures, discussions, and projects to promote students' creative expression. **Discipline** is

important along with accountability on the federal and state level, through class tests. Charter, public and private schools are difficult to compare because they operate in different ways. For students it has been shown that family income, ethnic background and race are factors in learning success. The following are traits of good students: ability to learn, ability to pay attention, emotional control, social intelligence, the ability to understand thinking. What happens in the brain when we learn? A molecular change occurs in the synapse of the receiving neuron. **To learn we need attention, perception, memory, emotion, thinking, and intention. “Bringing back a wondering attention is the very root of character and will.”**

Final Thought:

The Rotary Foundation’s **Group Study Exchange** (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers.



Jerry Medlin and the visiting GSE group from India enjoyed a day in Sacramento visiting a large computer facility, the Capital and Old Town. (shown visiting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger office).



Jerry Medlin is shown with Rotarian **Ravi Paul**, team leader, GSE from India. **Ravi Paul** is a physician, (pediatrician), member of the Rotary Club of Jullundur since 1980 and past president (1990-1991). He is married with 2 married children and 5 grandchildren The GSE team from India is from District 3070.

Harpreet Singh is the "media man" in the team. He lives in Jalandhar, a "small town" of 1 million people. He is a general manager in a leading newspaper. It prints the newspaper in 3 languages-Hindi, English and the local dialect.



Meenakshi Sood is an engineer. She strongly believes in "Have roots to grow and wings to fly." She is married and has 2 children. She is a lecturer in National Institute of Technology in Hamirpur.

Himan Mahajan, a microbiologist, does microbiological analysis of water, and is a lecturer in the Microbiology Indian medical Institute and Research Center in Amritsar.

Sveta Mahajan, a dentist, works at Jammu and Kashmir State health Department. Jammu is the capital city of J & K state. It is a city of temples and numerous shrines, of historic Ragunath Temple and Ranvieshwar Temple.

The following fine reporting was stolen from tomorrow’s edition of:

Rotary Club of North Napa - eBulletin
 Tuesday, May 11, 2010
 the Grapevine by Edgar Calvelo

With humble thanks!



Maren / Joe / Edgar / Dana