

The Napa Rotagram

May 19, 2010



Thought for the Day



A Most Interesting Story told by Pres Bruce

President Bruce told a story he heard from his sociology major daughter in Washington, D.C. At the Metro station there, Joshua Bell played the Violin. He was passed by 2,000 people as he was playing six wonderful Bach pieces on his antique Violin valued at \$3.5 million.

Visiting Rotarians



Ed Oviatt from Tiburon. He will move to the Napa Valley this year.
Karl Mackie, North Napa, and
Don Stall, visiting from Sarasota, who will be in Napa for a few months on a job assignment.

Children who wanted to linger were urged on by their parents. After 45 minutes, Violinist Joshua Bell stopped playing. He performed the following night at the fully sold out Symphony Hall where the seat cost \$100. **Moral of the story:** in a common place, at an inappropriate time, you may not be looking for extraordinary beauty.

The URL for this story is found at:
<http://www.snopes.com/music/artists/bell.asp>

David Wildhagen headed the Pledge of Allegiance

Student of the Year Awards

Ann Cash introduced three students who received **Student of the Year** awards. The students received a Certificate, their name will be engraved on a plaque, and, quite importantly, a check for \$200 to be spent any way they please. What a special moment for the students, teachers, and proud parents!



Andrew Decoteau was recognized for his community service. Andrew has excelled in cross country events, his work with the sea scouts and his interest in the the Napa River. He has also been involved with the Angel Flights program. Andrew has collected 1,000 tooth brushes, tooth paste and dental floss for the homeless. Andrew has a great interest in flying and he sees a future as an aeronautical engineer. His next step will be joining the U.S. Air Force!



Rebecca Bruna is enrolled in the ROP program at Vintage High. Her presence in the class room makes teaching a rewarding profession. She is a serious student who has shown great promise and excellent leadership skills. Rebecca is headed for Sonoma State.

Student of the Year Awards



Edgar Gutierrez was described as a reliable, passionate student. Apart from his high school curriculum, Edgar has taken College classes. Edgar was grateful for his award and reminisced about starting at New Tech High as a scared little freshman with a grade point average of 1.9. Through the support of his teachers and friends, his GPA has now reached 4.0.



The Raffle:

The Raffle suspense is finally over. **Juliana Inman** walked away with the Grand Prize. She won half of the \$6,000 pot and she graciously returned 50% of her net winnings to Rotary. **Gary Rose** found that most convenient because the net proceeds from the Cycle for Sight event were \$1,100 shy of the \$100,000 mark and Juliana's contribution is bringing us up to that nice round number.

Announcements:



John Woodbury had an announcement about Teacher Appreciation Day in Yountville on Friday,

May 21. This event is jointly sponsored by Rotary and the **Napa Valley Education Foundation**. It starts at 6 PM. Ticket price is \$35.00 and there will be wine and great hors d'oeuvres.

Mark your Calendars: On June 14, there will be a great party at the Napa Valley Marriott to honor **John Glaser** as he retires from his position as Superintendent of the Napa Valley School District at the end of the school term

Please contact **Dorothy Lind** if you wish to get involved in the SC-21 high school program. This innovative teaching method is growing throughout the country. Tours can be arranged for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 AM. Inform yourself about what is happening in our educational system.

“Education is the key to success in American life”.

Rotarians have a chance to be judges at a speech contest by Seniors. Get more details next week.

Gary Rose reported on the allocation of the Cycle for Sight proceeds: \$42,000 to Pathway Home's slush fund to be used throughout the next calendar year. \$30,000 will go to the Encampment for the Blind and \$22,000 will go to Rotary to support all of our other good causes.

If you are harboring any items from Cycle for Sight in your car or your garage, please return it to **Tim Cooney**.

Bruce Ketron publicized “Grandparents Day” at the Connolly Ranch on Saturday, May 22, from 11 AM to 2 PM.



Bruce Ketron talked about the new Napa Valley College President, **Edna Baehre** who will assume her position later this summer. **Dr. Baehre** started her career in Buffalo, New York. She has worked in Community Colleges in three states. She is currently a Rotary member in Pennsylvania and is looking to be a Rotarian in Napa.

Announcements:

Jason Luross was pleased to point out the Green Project in Yountville. Rotarians are invited tomorrow, Thursday, May 20, at 6:30 PM at the Town Center. The Platinum Award will be presented.

Dave Wildhagen is inviting Rotarians to his Payroll Masters offices tomorrow from 5:30 – 7:00. Feel free to visit, enjoy wine and food and see how David makes a living!

Mark your Calendars: Kick-Out will be on June 17 at the Napa Valley Country Club.

Today's Program



Our Speaker was **Rich Findley**, of **VOICES** - the acronym for **“Voice Our Independent Choices for Emancipation Support”**.

This is an advocacy program for Foster kids. At age 18, most foster children are on their own and the majority is not quite ready to start living independently. They can wind up homeless. The VOICES center is not only run for the Youths, but BY the Youths. How can you serve youths better than letting them help themselves? Youths in the foster care program typically are placed with up to five families. They change schools when a foster home becomes available in another county. Napa is doing a lot to combat the bad statistics after foster care ends. The VOICE Center helps youths continue their education, find employment, and they support their physical, mental and spiritual health. VOICE also provides hard necessities, such as laundry facilities, computers, job search assistance, and food. VOICE also facilitates visits to Clinic Ole. It is very important to teach life skills. In Napa, 317 youths have found

employment, housing and access to secondary education. VOICE has a building on Lincoln Avenue that was purchased by the **Gasser Foundation**. There is a big remodeling and landscaping project going on. Youngsters become members of the VOICE Center. They receive help and they understand that they are also expected to contribute to the success of the program.

It was brought to everyone's attention that our own **David Wildhagen** was recently honored as the **2009 Foster Parent of the Year**.

Final Thought:

President Bruce recalled a story about **Bill Walton**, who showed up on the first day of practice sporting a goatee:



One day, All-America center **Bill Walton** showed up with a full beard. "It's my right," he insisted. **Wooden** asked if he believed that strongly. Walton said he did. "That's good, Bill," Coach said. "I admire people who have strong beliefs and stick by them, I really do. We're going to miss you." Walton shaved it right then and there. Now Walton calls once a week to tell Coach he loves him.

Quote by John Wooden:

You *can't* live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to *repay* you.



Monday Evenings - Napa Bowl with the Pathway Warriors (6:30 to 8:30 pm).

Pathway Veterans are available for weekend work (labor, truck away, pressure washing, etc.)

Contact Christiana at 707.774.5646; Julie at 707.290.4225; or Program Desk at 707.948.3031 - (Cathy) for details. Please call before weekend.