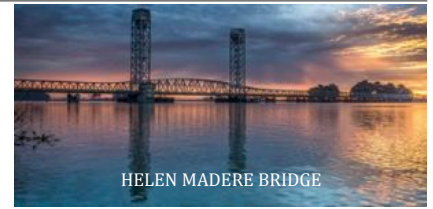




THE Rio Rotarian



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

"Having fun helping others...watering the rosebuds"

-Dr. Ted Schulz

Welcome

Jon Blegen proudly leads the pledge, with Gene following with Rotary Grace, and launching into a New Year's Eve classic, "Auld Lang Syne."

Guests of Rotarian

Hector unnecessarily introduces his daughter, and Student Rotarian Alyssa, and Interact member and son, Gabriel.

Announcements

- Patty proclaims the Toy Drive is a success. Jay notes that the only drawback with new toys is that they begin speaking and putting off sirens unexpectedly.
- Patty sends around the list for members to confirm their speakers for the year.
- Rotary has six areas of focus, of which promoting peace is one. A *Courageous Conversations Workshop* will be on Saturday, January 27 at Hs Lordships restaurant on the Berkeley marina. All interested Rotarians are encouraged to attend, and it's OK to invite a friend to join you. Email susancg@concordcarotary.org if you're interested.

Confessions

- Eddie takes a 10-day cruise to Mexico to celebrate 30 years of marriage bliss. Surprisingly, they run into Evelyn and Jamie, who were also traveling on the same

Celebrations Abound

Sec. Leon catches up on the past few weeks, announcing that Cub, Tom, Hector, and Jack's wife, Hask, each celebrated birthdays. As well, Pres. Dan, Ken, Neil and Bob all celebrated member anniversaries. With gusto, the Club sings Happy Celebrations. Gil proudly announces that as a member of Walnut Grove, he's had perfect attendance for 41 years. While not technically a member of Rio Vista, Dan declares Gil fine free for the month of February, and presents him a *Rotarian of the Month* pin.

Our Books Are Clean!

Jay (without his bride's typical support), informs the Club of our bank balances, and of upcoming expenses. Dave Mason will soon be participating in PETS, for which the Club will pick up expenses. Leon and Gary spend a few moments providing status on the consolidation and clean-up of bank accounts, including the marble draw balance.

Students to Lead 1/12 Meeting

While most schools are not in session, and most vacationing students are sleeping in, a few made the early morning journey to Rotary. Alyssa heads back to Santa Barbara

to wrap-up her finals, which were delayed because of the fires; Casie says that while the dorms open on the 20th, classes don't begin until the 24th; and Josie will drive back to Cal Poly in her new Malibu, having made the Dean's list. Gabe, the only High School student in attendance, says he will return to the Block B schedule. Interact will be conducting our January 12th meeting.



College students, Alyssa, Casie and Josie will be returning to their campuses shortly, while Gabe prepares for his next block beginning 1/8.

Confessions, Cont'd.

- ship. Eddie, then goes on a rant about why the Sergeant-at-Arms should hand down fines. Without missing a beat, Patrick, fines him \$10/day.
- Hector rambles on for 3 minutes with excuses why he missed the 12/15 meeting—finally concluding that his wife miscommunicated, and that his mom and dad won out over the Club. Alyssa suggests his fine be financing 2 years of her college. He settles on \$20.
- Leon has a fantastic dinner in Yountville with his sister-in-law, donating \$50; Gil raves about his trip to the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, offering \$20; Patrick celebrates the issuance of his State cannabis licenses, appropriately donating \$215 (After Prop 215); and Dan travels to Minnesota to inspect a fire truck, squeezing in a visit with family. He donates \$20. Lee recognizes Pres. Dan for his efforts in planning the thoughtful services for Stan Simi and Mark Dana, donating \$50 to the charity of his choice. Finally, Cub fines himself \$50 for the auto purchases of Patrick, Josie (and TBD Gary).



Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors: Edwin Okamura, Dick Burkhart

Executive Editor: Bob Bard

Rotary International: Service Above Self

Jack spends the morning educating the Club on our parent organization, Rotary International, and their worthy programs.

One of their most well recognized is the Paul Harris Fellow program. Every \$1,000 contribution supports Rotary International, which then typically uses the proceeds for matching-fund projects initiated by district clubs. The second use of the funds is to support ambassadorial scholarships. Rotary’s scholarship fund is the largest in the world. There are three scholarships, each focused on culture and/or academics. With each Paul Harris contribution, a pin is received, with different stones representing the level of participation. Further, each time a payment is made, participation points are accrued—which are matched dollar for dollar, and can be contributed toward future Paul Harris Fellowships in other people’s names.

Rio Vista Rotary has participated in several international programs. For instance, we contribute a \$1K scholarship each year to Mulegé, Mexico. This is a program that Hank and Judy Tussy began years ago, and continues to this day.

In 2007 Rio Vista took on, with a generous donation of \$150,000 from the Simonsen family, the development of a Mobile Eye Clinic in Thailand. The clinic has served thousands of people in need, with no cost to patients.

Jack, as the chairman of the International Committee, was personally involved in a Rotary project that began with Rotarians that were on a fishing trip in Chacala, Mexico. At the time, the village had no more than 250 residents. Children in town receive education through the 6th grade only. They recognized a need, and in 1996 they provided the resources to add a library to the town’s only school. In 1997, another Rotary club from Montana helped with repairs to the building; and in 2001, they returned to build a computer lab. Then in 2002, Jack’s late brother was also asked to support the village along with Rio Vista. Coincidentally, a group from Berkeley was also doing work in Chacala. In collaboration, a second floor was built, and Rio Vista supported the tiling of floors. Now, in addition to the library and computer lab, there is a language lab—all through the miracle of multiple Rotary clubs.

Jack joined the Wichita Rotary in 1959, always remembering the mandatory commitment for becoming a member. You were immediately placed on a committee, and the philosophy was that you would never answer “no,” if asked to be of service. His hope is that Rio Vista Rotary will become more involved in local and international projects.



Jack eloquently appeals for members to make a difference!

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
January 12	(Student-run Meeting) Camp Royal	Betty Davis
January 19	TBA	Dave Mason
January 26	Joe Scheimer	Gene Resler
February 2	TBA	Edwin Okamura