



# THE Rio Rotarian



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

*-Dr. Ted Schulz*

## Welcome

Interact Pres. Kiara and VP Mariko take command of the meeting, asking Ed. Edwin to lead the Pledge; Pres. Dan to lead grace; and Jimmy Mac to pick a song. Jim honors our friends from Lions by leading us in, "The Lion Sings Tonight."

## Guests of Rotarian

With no one stepping up to introduce our visiting Lions, Hale reluctantly welcomes Lions Ron Jones and Frank Reed. Dave introduces his son Travis.

## Guests of Rotarians

Molly and Evelyn celebrate birthdays, as does Hector's wife, Stefanie; Don celebrates a member anniversary.

## Announcements

- Patty is excited that the Toy drive is zinging along. Toys will be dropped at Abel Chevrolet on Saturday, and dozens of bags are ready at Rob's home.
- Christmas Party is at The Point is 12/7, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Rather than a gift exchange, Lions suggest we each bring an unwrapped \$15 toy for the Delta Drifters Car Club Toy Drive.
- Rio Vista Citizens for Seniors are having their Open House on 12/15, 1:30 p.m. at the Center. They are celebrating their 35th year!

## Treasurer's Report

Jay reiterates that if we send him to "school" in Vegas, he's confident he can double our money. He then asks his better half, Patty, to explain the ongoing finance book-cleaning project. Once again, she bales him out, explaining that each of us will receive a ledger of all payments and current balances. She requests that we don't, "shoot the messenger."



*Pres. Kiara and VP Mariko skillfully manage our Rotary meeting and their Student Report concurrently.*

## RVHS vs. Galileo, December 9!

In sports, Girls' and boys' soccer scrimmaged and lost, but only by a few points. Our football team has the week off after winning the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Championships. Their next game is at home on Saturday, December 9, against Galileo.

Thursday was the deadline for college applications—and now the students anxiously await responses. In the interim, parents participated in a cash-for-college event. Sac State representatives were in attendance to guide parents through the financial aid process. They have until March to finish applications.

## A Journey to the Center of the Universe

Fresh off a cruise to the Middle East, Hale provides a pictorial tour of Egypt and Jordan, in his first of a two-part series on the Middle East. From October 26 – November 18 Hale and Sue Conklin cruise across 1,400 miles of waterways, from the Suez Canal to the Persian Gulf—an area sometimes referred to as the center of civilization or the cradle of humanity.



*Speaker Hale poses with Molly, who recently celebrated a significant birthday.*

## Announcements

- RioVision is holding their Holiday Home Tour this Saturday (December 2), and Jimmy Mac will be the docent for the day at the Dutra Museum, a home that was built in 1907.

## Confessions

- Pres. Dan goes diving in Monterey. Visibility was 100 Feet, and the water was amazingly calm. He donates \$25 to Interact.
- Molly celebrates her birthday on Wednesday. Tony and Molly travel to Bodega Bay for a day of horseback riding on the beach. While Molly recognizes her limitations on a horse, Tony's confidence leads to an unorthodox dismount which results in a thud and bruised ego. They enjoy clam chowder and salt water taffy, ending their evening at The Point with friends. She offers \$25.
- This past Monday, Jack's #3 granddaughter, delivered her 2<sup>nd</sup> child, and his 5th great grandchild. He generously donates \$100.

## Marble Draw Wins

Jimmy Mac has the ticket, but fails to pull the marble.



### Newsletter Staff

**Co-Editors:** Edwin Okamura, Dick Burkhart

**Executive Editor:** Bob Bard

Realizing that it would be a long trip, they selected a stylish state room on their chosen 180-passenger ship.

They boarded their ship in the Mediterranean, and spent the next 18 hours traveling 119 miles through the Suez Canal. The Canal was funded by the French and built with Egyptian labor from 1859 – 1869. The fees generated from the canal represent Egypt's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry, with traffic of about 23,000 ships each year. Hale witnessed enormous 2500+ container ships navigating the canal. Interestingly, fees are based on the commercial value of the ship, with higher commercial value ships given priority. To ensure the safety of cargo and tourist ships, there are security points every 10K along the route. Also, because there are no bridges spanning the canal, the government has set up areas where pontoons can quickly be deployed to create bridges across the entire span within 25 minutes. Interesting fact: Turkey, Russia and Egypt are the only three countries in the world that span two continents.

From the Gulf of Suez, they turned into the Gulf of Aqaba, and docked in Jordan. At port, they learned the importance of wind energy in the region, taking photos of huge wind turbines being offloaded. While not sure of the significance, they were told that Jordan boasts the world's 5th tallest flag pole.

After their excursion in Jordan, they were back out to the Red Sea. Hale educates history-deprived Rotarians with some fascinating data—Cairo, Egypt was founded in 3400 B.C., making it 5,500 years old; the population of Egypt is 96 million people, and Religions are, Islam, Coptic Christian, and Judaism.

In Egypt, they visited Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, also known as the City of Peace, a reference to the large number of international peace conferences that have been held there. Here, they visited mosques, and witnessed how religion impacts commerce. For instance, since Muslims do not drink, there are no Arabic signs on liquor stores.

From here, they were off to the Valley of Kings and Temple of Karnak. Hale learns that all tombs lie on the west bank of the Nile where the sun sets. The west bank is considered the side of death, while the east bank represents the side of birth. They also learn, interestingly, that King Tut's tomb is famous primarily because it was one of the few tombs that was not robbed. It was discovered, recently, in 1930.

From here they boarded their ship and headed into the Gulf of Aden, between Somalia and Yemen, an area previously known for piracy.

*Lion Ron Jones and Lion Frank Reid, on behalf of Lions, donate \$500 for a charity of Rotary's choosing. Feeling the holiday spirit, Rotary then donates \$1,000 to be used for their Hwy 12 sign.*



COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
December 7	Xmas Party at the Point, 5:30 Social, 6:30 Dinner	Molly Coito
December 8	No Meeting	—
December 15	Tales of Arabian Nights Part II	Hale Conklin
December 22	Christmas	No Meeting
December 29	New Years	No Meeting