



THE Rio Rotarian

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

—Winston Churchill

Plagiarized without permission from the "Rio Vista Lion's Pride"



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

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

-Dr. Ted Schulz

Election of Rotary Club Officers

Welcome

- Meeting is called to order at 7 a.m. by Pres. Dave. We pledge, pray, and Student Rotarians gamely attempt to lead us in "Jingle Bells."

Treasurer's report

- Jay gives a great report, but Gary chimes in that he has not yet credited our account with the Golden Gate Fields refund. We may reschedule our trip there for this spring.

Milestone

- Leon proudly recognizes Eddie's 31st anniversary, but gets his wife's name wrong. Oops! Sorry, Betsy; our bad.

Confessions

- Abel Chevrolet wins this year's Spirit of Solano award for business excellence and community support. Derek, "Cub," explains complex Dissolution Theory, donates \$100 and adds another \$40 (\$1 per birthday) while confessing to a planned ski trip/missed Rotary Xmas party.
- We didn't recognize Molly's birthday, this year, so she slept in, missed our meeting, and enjoyed lunch & movie, "Instant Family," at Delta Shores Center. (Confessions cont'd. pg. 2)

...Announcements, cont'd.

Then, Patty asked Lions to give to Toys for Tots. She also attended Yacht Club meeting and will attend Gun Club meeting in Concord on behalf of Toys program. Derek discovers that Patty's not old enough to remember Red Ryder BB Guns. Patty & Jay will deliver toys to Travis.

Gil proudly announces that his grandson, a grad student at William & Mary completing his studies in May, accepted a job offer from J. P. Morgan Chase. Gil gleefully parts with \$100.

Annual Election

In accordance with our official bylaws we all vote via secret ballot for club officers 2018–2019.

Interact Report

We hear from dedicated student Rotarians Gabriel De La Rosa, Jesús Rivas, Destanie Rendon and Can Yilmazer. They discuss school scheduling: extended third period for reading-writing, open lunch, strict enforcement of attendance rules, grades lower than C not acceptable; they note that people helping at local trailer park fire follow Derek's dissolution theory; KRVH radio will produce program heard all across U. S. from 3:00-4:00 p. m.; wrestling team placed well at away events; soccer teams: girls Vs. Delta & Vintage, boys Vs. Dixon cancelled, both teams lost to Delta; basketball tournament in progress: varsity girls won Vs. St Helena.

Jim Mac says when our school's radio station was getting started and he was a student, there was only one other such station in CA. The call letters "KRAM" (Rams are the school's mascot) were considered, but they preferred a more proper KRVH. Compliance with FCC regulations has been problematic (*but educational, we're sure,*) and off site broadcasts are now being undertaken.

Merry Christmas, Ireland!

We pass the hat for Ireland, who has loyally served us early morning breakfasts with aplomb during the past year, and we present her with an \$800 Xmas bonus. Thank you for your service, Ireland!

Program

This is your life, Tom Donnelly! Raconteur extraordinaire, Tom relates to us his rare and exciting experiences as a lifetime resident of our fair city, starting with his birth in 1957. Tom's Dad (and your editor's loyal associate) Dr. Raymond Donnelly, was also a lifetime resident. Tom's granddad led the dredging of the deep water channel

Confessions, Cont'd.

She does NOT give \$1 per year, and she will NOT disclose her age, although she does have a 2-year-old grandson, Brady. She fines herself \$25.

- J. Mac receives call from J. Lira asking to give \$50 tip from him to our waitress, Ireland, for her attentive service this year. Jim Mac adds another \$50, to a rousing applause.

Announcements

- Molly passes around signup list for Xmas party, Dec. 15, 5:30 social, 6:30 dinner: salad, prime rib, chicken or vegetarian, Brussels sprouts, mashed potatoes, special dessert from local bakery, \$38; bring Toys for Tots.
- Cub thanks donors for 1,028 toys, \$3,100 cash, plus many gift cards brought to his dealership for Toys for Tots.
- Patty attended Lions meeting, where, after being booted, she reminded them she's from the same Rotary Club that whipped their butts at Poker Tourney.

(See Announcements, Pg.1, top)



Newsletter Team

Editor: Edwin Okamura,

Editor-in-Chief

Star Reporter: Jon Blegen

Editor Emeritus: Bob Bard

many years ago. Roxanne Donnelly, Tom's cousin Kevin's widow, currently lives on a portion of the original Donnelly family property, up by the high school. The property extended into what is currently the school's football field and the plot affectionately known as "death hill." Tom's dad was attending Sacramento City College till he started flying B-25's in the Philippines during WWII at age 19.

Tom's mom, the former Kathrine Larkin, is now 99 years old and lives in a residence here in town. Her family came from Ireland in the 1860's to farm in Watsonville. Tom's brother, John, 2½ years his elder, writes computer software in Walnut Creek. John spent 20 years playing bass in New York.

Tom discusses the early days of KRVH, its founding prime mover, Jerry Rubier, and making music videos. Tom was editor of the school newspaper. He attended Cal Poly and the Calif. College of Arts and Crafts for 6 years studying Graphic Design. He landed his first job in Walnut Creek.

He met future wife, Sarah, at a U C Davis dinner party, where they danced in muddy beer and bonded. They were married in 1986. They raised 3 kids; their first born, a daughter, Gillian, studied Accounting in Seattle and landed a job working for Tesla; she's now working for Google. The middle child, a boy named Parker, graduated Cal Poly in Environmental Engineering. He's had summer jobs with a company doing drone-based field scanning for agriculture. He married Tina 2 years ago, and they reside in San Luis Obispo. Collin, the youngest, graduated 1½ years ago with a degree in English Lit. from S. F. State, and he's now a happy hippy living in Portland, OR.

Growing up in Rio Vista, Tom once pitched a no hitter in Babe Ruth baseball. One unimpressed Rotarian asks, "Is that bragging?" to which Tom replies, "No, it's the truth." Tom, an 18-year Rotarian is asked if he was a Student Rotarian. Tom says, "No, but Gillian and Parker were." Parker also attended Camp Royal. Tom reminisces with Jim Mac about Rix Tillman's music program at RVHS.

Tom discusses his graphic design occupation; he founded his firm in 1997, and it now employs 5 persons. They design wayfaring signage for airports and industrial complexes world-wide. Sarah owns and operates a flower shop here in town.

Tom notes that he served as our club president in 2003, and he praises us for having developed the Interact Club, giving youngsters the opportunity to see how it's possible to have fun and help others.

Parting words

50/50 Raffle: Ken has the right ticket, but can't find the right marble. Ed Kingen says we have a quorum here, so today's voting is legit.

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
December 14	No Meeting-Christmas Party on 12/15	
December 15	Rotary/Lions Xmas Party 5:30 Social, 6:30 Dinner Please Bring Toys for Tots Gift	Molly Coito
December 21	Diving Trip	Danny Schindler
December 28	No meeting—Holiday time	Santa Claus
January 4	(No program yet announced)	Eddie Woodruff