



"When life shuts a door, open it, again. It's a door. That's how they work."

—ANONYMOUS



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

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

—DR. TED SCHULZ

Bob Bard, Ed.



I just want to be your Rotary Bear

We soundly defeated Lions at Wednesday's annual Poker Grudge Match, so Jim Mac leads rehearsal to serenade the losers when they pay \$500 to our favorite charity. Winner, Lee, and your runner-up editor relate details of gruesome match, while 3rd place winner, Jack, listens. Lion Frank Reid came in 4th.

Play that Funky Music (White Boy)

Pres. Greg reads Wild Cherry obscure lyrics and Cub sort of gets it right.

Visiting Rotarians

We greet former Rio Vista Rotary President, Bill Bowen, and Concord Rotarian Michael Barrington, Ph.D.



Michael Barrington tells of missionary work in Africa.

at the foot of Main St. Jim Mac says they need more gifts for boys, ages 10--12.

Christmas Party--Friday, Dec. 4

Evelyn passes signup sheet around for the last time--cocktails 6:00 p.m., dinner 7:15 p. m. at the Point.

Food for needy

Joe says please bring by nonperishable donations to his office at 327 Main St.

Program Chair Signup List

Linda passes list around. Please select a date and bring a speaker for our club's edification, entertainment and enjoyment.

Celebrations

November birthdays: Jim Larsen, Evelyn Wilson, Molly Coito, Linda Lannon.



Packing heat and a stun gavel to keep us all safe!

Guests

Dave greets Dennis Elliot, and Jack greets our friend, Raul Rodriguez, from the Striper.

Golden Gate Fields

Cub has conflict; so we have 2 extra tickets...see Gary. No limo, this time. Gary Boldly asks to "borrow" Gavel for event, claiming "tradition" and spills guts revealing accomplices.

Annual Toy Drive

Delta Drifters car club accepts gifts 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5,

Third year Rotary Anniversaries: Don Beno and Jim McCracken.

Student Rotarians, a. k. a. Interactors, report

Seven students show up! with deadline for college applications approaching, Alyssa hopes Dad will help, but all Dad's thinking about are plans for her room. Pres. Greg waxes nostalgic of his plans for the room of his Coast Guard-bound son. Yearbook's looking good, makes first deadline. Please support it by purchasing ad; see Brian Fonseca.

Confessions

Wayne took Connie on romantic "work" adventure to New Orleans, where he was amazed to discover that government contractors aren't wasteful; they actually "stimulate" the economy. He reports his radar detector is working quite well, thank you. However, while setting his iPhone thumb print he almost rear ended Ken, who had inexplicably made a legal stop. He pays hefty \$5 fine



Interactors give RVHS report, from left, Peiro Tello, Alyssa De La Rosa, Casie Mortimore, Karina Mandujano, Cheyanne Bastedo, Josie Hamilton and Christopher Galeno.

to general fund on editor's behalf. *Am I really that cheap?*

Walt visited Michigan for a week and stayed with his mom, so he thinks we should pay him. He gives \$39 (one-way air fare) to Xmas 94571.

Gene and Pat take trip to Tahoe, where Pat hits royal flush on slots. They enjoy the snow coming back. He gives \$30 to Xmas 94571.

Lee honors Neil Hamilton by describing latest hangup with the Real McCoy ferry. It's hydraulic system blew, but it'll somehow be in service, anyway, for Thanksgiving. Then it will undergo 3 months of repairs. Wayne says same company supplied parts for bay bridge project.

Program

Linda introduces Michael Barrington, who, besides being a Concord Rotarian for the past 18 years, has a great humanitarian heart. He speaks of being a priest in Africa as a young man from 1970-80. When he was born, his grandmother dictated that he was going to be the first priest in the family. He's written a book called, *The Bishop Wears No Drawers*.

Michael presents slide show and explains that he was a priest until he married a French wife 20 years ago. When he trained for the priesthood in the 60's there was a political upheaval of old Vs. new, which carried over to the Church. Michael was one of the new guys. They would go and stick around where no one else would.

They did not preach. Their job was to go to an underdeveloped country, find out what they could do to help, set up shop to tackle and solve the problem, and teach the native priests by showing them what to do so that they could train their people.

These priests all had a specialty field of expertise, be it surgery, construction, architecture, teaching, agricul-

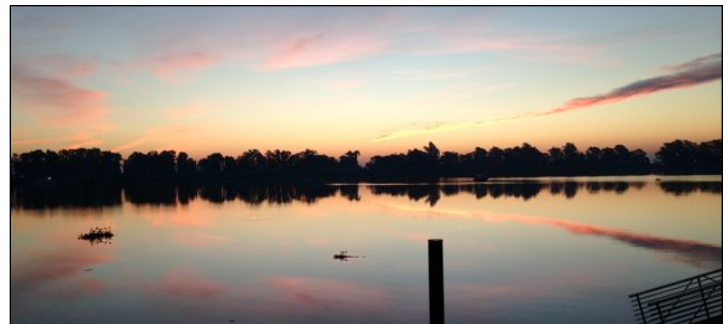
ture, linguistics, or psychology. Michael was a diesel mechanic. They did bridge and road building, well drilling, and worked with people.

He mentions that since he joined the priesthood, the total number of priests and nuns has diminished markedly. His first assignment was in Biafra, which had declared itself independent from Nigeria, where 5 million died of starvation, and churches became warehouses for food. He speaks of troops, there, who were undertrained, undisciplined, poorly educated and extremely dangerous. He tells us many stories of his adventures and misadventures in Mali, where he was almost executed while on a trip, and had no idea how anyone would ever know what happened to him.

Then, he relates how a native who had befriended him was so impressed that he offered him one of his



Rotary Christmas Party
Friday Evening, December 4
The Point



Sunrise view of Sacramento River, Rotary meeting place.

newest, youngest wives for a night. He tells us tales of young, irresponsible, well-armed troops who were habitually drunk with prodigious quantities of beer.

Michael describes what it's like to have malaria fever, which is generally followed by one year of severe depression. He also describes public executions after a war, followed by the sentiment, "Every man has a weakness, and God understands."

The war went on for 3 years, and they estimate that 100,000 troops died; they know from the International Red Cross that 5M kids died from starvation.

He talks about church headquarters in McCurdy, where the guy in charge was a legendary leader.

Medallion Auction

Joe gets Al to bid \$55, as Dave gracefully backs out. 50/50 Raffle

Your lucky editor has the ticket, but not the marble. There can't be more than 1 clear marble left...can there?



REGISTRATION OPENS
OCTOBER 18
 for an incredible evening with
 2015-2016 Rotary International
 President
K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran
Sunday, January 3, 2016
 San Jose, California
All Rotarians
Families and Friends
INVITED

| COMING ATTRACTIONS | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| DATE | SPEAKER/EVENT | PROGRAM CHAIR |
| Friday, November 21 | Rotary Foundation Day at Golden Gate Fields | Gary Lazdowski |
| Friday, November 27 | Thanksgiving--No Meeting | Tom Turkey |
| Friday, December 4 | Christmas Dinner Party at the Point (no morning meeting) | Evelyn Wilson |
| Friday, December 11 | Chris Mingay & Greg Lucas: Youth Summer League Basketball | Hector De La Rosa |
| Friday, December 18 | Jean Herschede--Rotary Program, "Amigos de Guatemala" | Linda Lannon |