

Rotary Club of Brentwood, CA

Serving our Community since 1949



[BRENTWOOD ROTARY ROUNDUP](#)

[CLUB CALENDAR](#)

[OUR CLUB](#)

[PHOTO GALLERY](#)

[ABOUT ROTARY](#)



Past Meeting Review

What's Happening Week of 3-31-14

Our very own Alex Greenwood, Economic Development Director for the city of Brentwood gave us an update on the state of the city. In a nutshell, things are looking up. While we still have challenges, sales tax revenue is increasing, a positive sign. Also on the upswing is housing starts. When families buy new homes they need other things to spruce up those homes, which is good for our local retailers.

The Economic Development Department is working hard to attract non retail employers to the city and is having success there as well. We've acquired a few firms, some have expanded and new ones are being "courted". All in all, it was a good report, here's hoping that next year will be even better!



What's Happening Week of 3-24-14

This week we had one of our own speak to our club. Bill Horn, owner of Terra Care & Associates talked about how gardening can be easy, healthy, inexpensive, and best of all, in

MEMBER SPOT LIGHT



ROGER STRAUSS, SDG ARCHITECTS

Leading Brentwood Rotarian cyclists into shattering our fundraising goal is Roger Strauss, retired military, Membership Chairperson and a Paul Harris sustaining member.

Roger has successfully motivated dedicated road bike members every year into increasing our donation to the Rotary Ride for Veteran's. This year, we shattered our goal by 30%, but this would not have happened without the leadership of Roger.

can be done just about anywhere. He taught us that we can plant edible gardens that feed us and our neighbors, save water and help the environment instead of having lots of grass that generally requires a lot of water (not in this super drought!) as well as quite a number of chemicals to keep it pretty.

With the reasonably mild winters we have here in Brentwood there are plenty of winter crops you can plant, like lettuces, broccoli and other delights. We all know how great home grown vegetables taste, why not save yourself some money by replacing some or all of your lawn with a vegetable garden. Bill's neighbors know they can harvest whatever they need from his front yard garden which is beautiful all year long. Don't you wish you had him for a neighbor? I'm glad he's close to me, but I also plan on taking his advice despite my nearly 100 square feet of planting boxes plus my mini orchard.

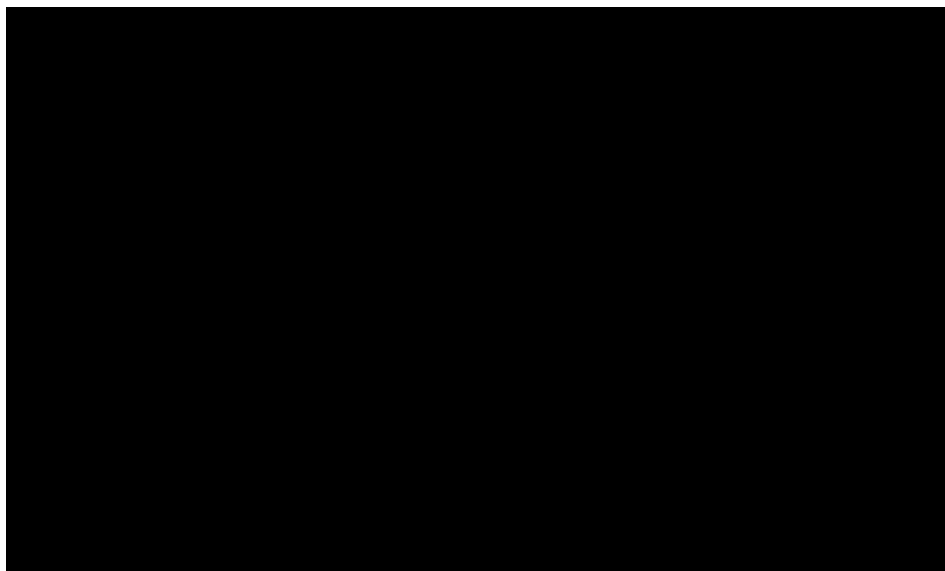
If you are interested in learning more about edible landscaping, check out this website that Bill recommended. <http://www.rosalindcreasy.com> You can also ask Bill Horn,

Terra Care & Associates. Happy gardening!



What's Happening Week of 3-17-14

We had a great speaker at today's meeting, Brad Howard, a past District Governor and the Rotarian responsible for all Rotary clubs in the western US (in 2015), spoke on "Why Rotary?" Watch the video for the answer. (This video is from a previous talk. Our camera battery went dead just at the most important part of the talk!)



FOLLOW US!



WHERE WE MEET

The Rotary Club of Brentwood meets almost every Monday at noon at the Wedgewood Banquet center.

100 Summerset Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513

Contact us for more info:
1-888-556-0083

RESOURCES

Related Rotary Sites

- [Rotary District 5160](#)
- [Rotary International](#)
- [Rotary Zones 23 and 24](#)
- [LMC Rotaract](#)

Members Only
[Database Login](#)

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SEARCH

Asking yourself what you get out of Rotary, how it benefits you, your family and your business is a great way to help others understand why choosing to join can be so beneficial. You definitely get out as much or more than you put in!

What's Happening Week of 3-10-14



March is literacy month for Rotarians and in keeping with that theme we had speakers from the Antioch and Brentwood libraries.

In the category of "who knew" I think we were all surprised about the myriad of services our local libraries provide.

There's the obvious, borrowing of books, magazines and movies, but there is also

Second Chance tutoring for adults who are illiterate or have low literacy. They are paired with a tutor who works with them every week to improve their reading skills which also dramatically improves their lives.

For those of us who are readers, there are still many things we can do at the local library. For example, they have monthly programs that include Magic with Alex Ramon, Chabot AstroBlas Program, Jer's Traveling Bees, Jeremy the Juggler, Crafts, Author talks, Stamps and Veterans.

The Brentwood branch has homework help for students. Local high school students have made themselves available to answer math, English, history and science homework questions.

This program is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 PM. This is a first come, first served basis and is completely free!

Not surprisingly, the book club meets monthly to discuss award-winning books from various genres. Some of the recent books read and discussed are Ender's Game, Middlesex, Treasure Island, The Virginian, and The Glass Castle.

And, if you must have something more, they've got it. There is a monthly beading group, a gardening program with the Delta Informal Gardeners, a Writer's Workshop, Annual CityRead, Affordable Care Act information and enrollment sessions and even help downloading the libraries ebooks to your device.

Who knew the public library was such a busy place with so much to offer? Well, now you do.

If someone ever asks if public libraries are still relevant in this digital age, you have more than enough information to answer that question with a resounding YES!

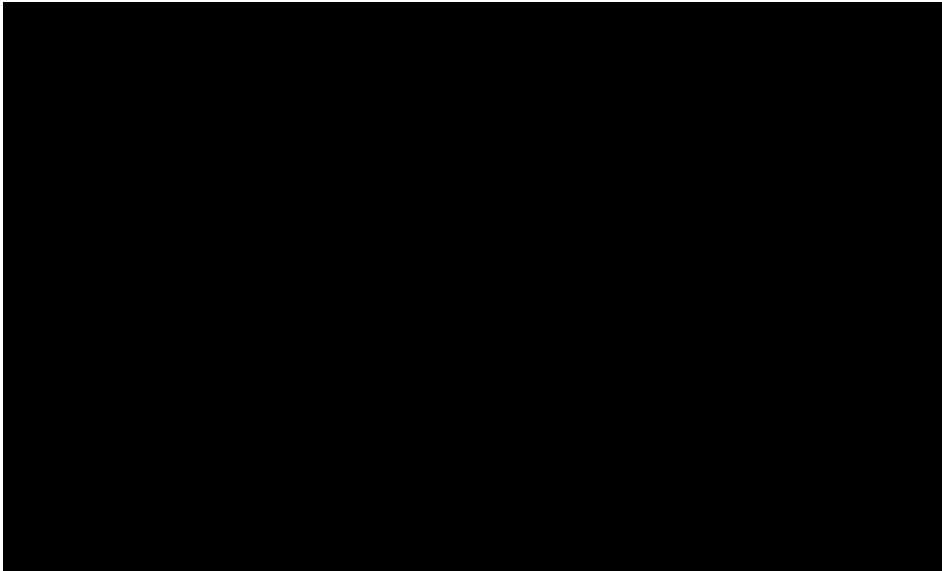
What's Happening Week of 2-24-14

Napa Valley Rotary Members & The Pathway Home, Ltd.

Three members of the Napa Valley Rotary Club, the club that puts on the Rotary Ride for Veteran's/Cycle for Sight, came today to share stories from veteran's who have gone to The Pathway Home for treatment. One member has a son who is a graduate of the program and he shared with us his story and how The Pathway Home, Ltd saved his sons life.



Here is a video from the most recent graduation.



This drawing was shared with us, it is a pen and ink drawing portraying what a veteran with PTSD is feeling "in their head". It's beautiful in its stark nature.



Many of our members will be participating in the Rotary Ride for Veteran's on April 26. This is a fundraising ride for The Pathway Home. We're challenging ourselves to outdo our past efforts and raise \$10,000 this year. This is a great cause and a lot of fun. Many of our members have come up with unique ways to get us to our goal. First up is a garage sale at the home of Olga Vidriales on 3/8/14. All proceeds will go to the Pathway Home.

Stay tuned for other unique fundraising opportunities. You can also check out [our Facebook page](#) for more immediate updates.

What's Happening Week of 2-10-14

Asquel Teferi — The Value of Freedom — Love from Ethiopia



Asquel was a very moving speaker. She told us a bit about her country of Ethiopia which is the only African nation that was never colonized by a foreign power. It is also the source of the Blue Nile and the The Ark of the Covenant is reportedly stored in the country. Ethiopia is a country with a rich biblical history.

Due to the ethnic cleansing Asquel's family was made homeless and they migrated to the United States where they attended college and became a part of the interesting fabric of American culture.

The most important message that Asquel wanted to get across to everyone is to remember how truly blessed and fortunate we are as American's (or even foreign nationals living here). We don't have ethnic cleansing and bodies in the streets to remind us of a dictators rule.

In keeping with Asquel's message I wanted to remind everyone on this President's Day to remember how truly fortunate we are to live in this country. Even those amongst us who aren't as fortunate as many of us have it far better than many people across the globe. As Rotarians we constantly give of our time, treasures and talents to lift others up in times of trouble and that is something we can only do when we remember how truly blessed we are.

Spread the blessings this week and remember, even when it seems like the world is against you, it's just a temporary set back until something better comes along. As Rotarians, we'll be there to help our community and our globe in the best ways we can.

Asquel was truly honored that we purchased 2 cinder blocks in her name for our build a school project in Burkina Faso, Africa.



Who Wants to Win \$500? (You know you do!)

Join us for our 5th Annual Poker tournament for your chance to win one of many prizes, first place being \$500. You know you need it and want it!



What's Happening Week of 2-3-14



First up, we heard from Dave Roche on his defining Rotary Moment. That moment when you go from being a Rotary member to being an actual Rotarian. His moment came when he was able to present his daughter with her Paul Harris medal. As is tradition for our club, whenever a member has a baby born we pass the hat and contribute to their Paul Harris fund. Hers was started in 1996. Dave felt like presenting her with that medal was a way of remembering Rotarians who were no longer with us, thus creating a bit of a legacy. Donations to the Paul Harris foundation are generally returned three-fold to the club in terms of grants, etc.

Continued giving to this foundation is how Rotary International is able to do all the good works we do locally and world wide.

Supervisor, Mary Piepho on Water Woes



Mary spoke about the problems with the Delta tunnels project that is being put forward by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The plan is sponsored by State & Federal agencies and a group of California water districts. Two tunnels will take Sacramento River water before it reaches the Delta and pump it beneath the Delta to the export pumps. Delta counties, which will be most impacted by the tunnels

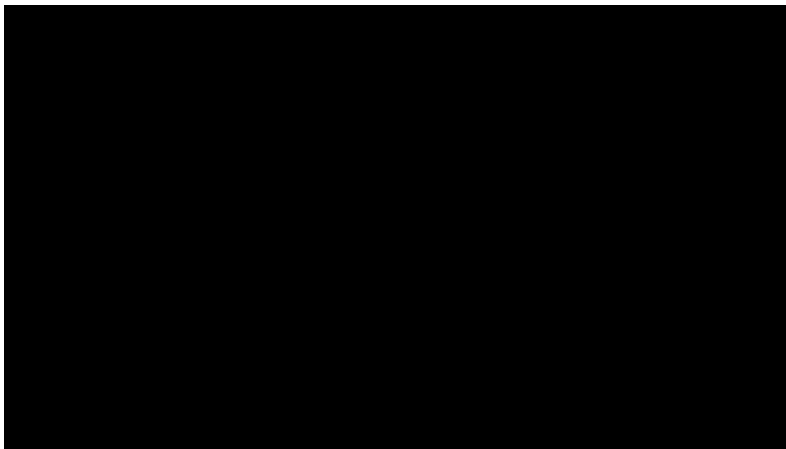
are being excluded from the process. "If we aren't at the table, we'll be on the menu."

Some of the problems include disposing of the mountains of toxic muck that will be left from the excavation, which is of toothpaste consistency and made up of soil and conditioning agents (e.g., bentonite, foaming agents, and of polymers/biopolymers). The sludge will cover 1,600 acres, which is approximately the size of two Central Parks, to a height of 25-feet tall.

Another problem is that diverting Sacramento River water will lower the quality of water and threaten local fish populations. Other problems include a lack of any financial plan to pay for all the costs and no consideration of other alternatives.

Supervisor Piepho's talk was very beneficial in helping us to understand what is going on in Sacramento where "our" water and the delta are concerned. It gave us information that help us make better decisions and we appreciate her speaking to us in a forthright manner.

A Great Video From Rotary International



[Rotary's Vision for a Better World](#) from [Rotary International](#) on [Vimeo](#).

What's Happening Week of 1-27-14

In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday last week, we had Mitch Hardin who spoke to our club about diversity. As a kid Mitch grew up in Berkeley amongst a variety of people. At 17 his mother moved to East Oakland and he refused to go with her because he was among "his" people and he didn't want to leave. It wasn't easy being on his own at 17, but he's done very well for himself as a business owner. One of the most powerful statements he made was "diversity is more than just ethnicity, it's about surrounding yourself with people from all walks of life..." This is very true, and it speaks to the diversity we have in our Rotary club. We have

members who have travelled varied paths in their lives, some harder than others, but this allows us to learn a lot from each other and in turn allows us to give even more to our community.

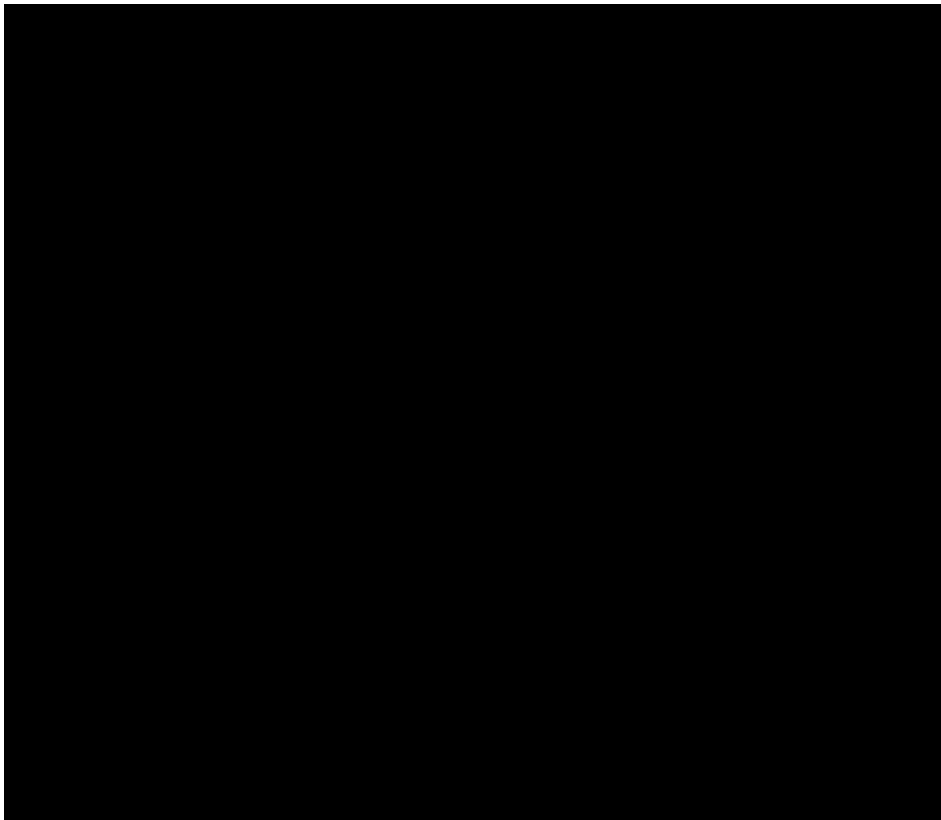
As the Brentwood Rotary club moves forward it is our goal to expand our diversity even further, do more for our community and in turn, get more out of our Rotary experience. Join us for lunch soon and see for yourself how we are "having fun, working together to make a difference". This is our brand new mission statement.

Have a great week!



What's Happening Week of 1-6-14

A singing flash mob broke out at our first meeting of the year...watch



A Visit From Rotary International Past President Rick King



Richard King, Rotary International President 2001-2002 spoke at the January 6, 2014 meeting of the Brentwood Rotary Club. His topic is "Why Rotary?". Rick King is also known as the Singing Rotarian. He serenaded us as part

of his presentation. Also in attendance at this meeting was District 5160 Governor/Guide Steve Lack.

Mr. King tells the emotional story of a fellow Rotarian and how he was touched through his charitable giving. This Rotarians first grandchild was not expected to live. During his first visit to the hospital he got the "shock of his life. There on the corner of the machine keeping his first grandchild alive was the Rotary wheel." Underneath the logo as a plaque that stated his Rotary club had donated that machine to the Children's Wing of the County Hospital. His mind raced back three years earlier when the club president stood up and said "the county hospital needs a new machine. It's not going to be cheap, it's going to cost a million dollars, but we are Rotarians and I think we can do it." So this Rotarian and new grandfather wrote a check. He said "Rick, I'm a past District Governor I thought I needed to set an example because you know, Rotary is always asking for a little bit of our money. I also sold beer and hot dogs at the county fair as a club fundraiser, because Rotary is always asking for a little bit of our time. Then I forgot all about it. I've been in Rotary for over 30 years, how many checks, how many projects? I forgot all about it until that Sunday afternoon when that machine was keeping my first grandchild alive." "How did we get so lucky? The club is always asking us to give because you can't give it away. Sooner or later, one way or another, it comes back."

A Christmas Message To All Rotarians

The annual holiday season is a time for sharing. We share gifts and exchange gifts; we enjoy gathering with family and friends; we offer greetings and good wishes to all. We hang colored lights in our home and on the streets and their glow radiates out to friends and strangers alike. It is the season when we talk of peace and goodwill. We reach out to those less fortunate and share our gifts and blessings.

To a large extent this is the same message and mission of Rotary. Just as we cannot be in Rotary without friends around us, it's difficult to enter this season alone. We want to share the holidays with others. Rotarians want to share the experiences with our friends-those we know and enjoy each week-as well as with those we may have never met.

It's too bad the spirit of the season goes by so rapidly. We spends weeks preparing, stacks of greeting cards to send and receive. The Christmas tree goes up and all the lights and ornaments are hung with such care. Families gather to open presents and attend church

services.

And the amazing thing is – it will all be gone soon.

Fortunately, Christmas and the holiday spirit can be a part of our life as Rotarians every day if we really try. We can feed hungry people every day; we can provide clothes, health care and education for someone every day. We can extend our circle of friends and build goodwill every day.

As we enjoy the holiday season I hope all of us realize how fortunate we are to be a part of this wonderful world of Rotary. We have the opportunity to keep the spirit all year long through our many activities of giving and sharing.

May your Christmas and holiday season be a merry one. Enjoy these same days with the same enthusiasm you did as a child and I promise you that the spirit and happiness of this wonderful season will slip into your heart and stay forever.

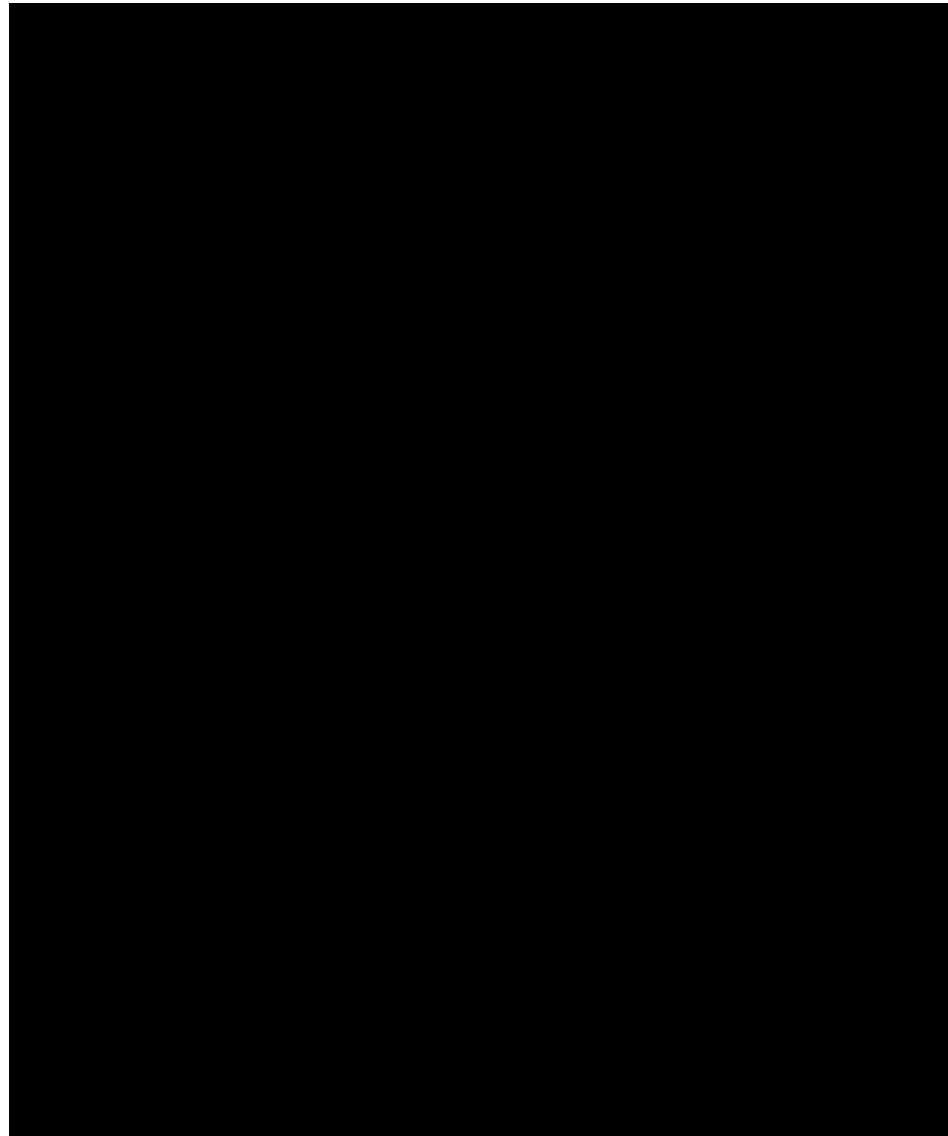
What's Happening Week of 12-16-13

Brentwood Rotarians have been as busy as Santa's Elves (especially your web/PR gal!) so here's a quick video update of what's been going on.

COMMUNITY CHEST TOY SORT



JOHN D. FINK, IPP ROTARY MINUTE



What's Happening Week of 11-18-13

Busy as usual, the Brentwood Rotarians spent the latter half of last week in service to the community, socializing with each other and more. On November 14th, The Brentwood Rotary Club helped support the Brentwood Unified School District Foundation Fundraiser at Hannah Nicole Vineyards. Eleven Rotarians were there to help the Foundation raise funds. The Foundation provides, among other things, a way to help school teachers receive supplies that are not in the budget.

Friday, 11/15 we had a TGIF event at the Wishing Crab where nearly half of our members and their significant others enjoyed an evening of socializing.

Saturday, 11/16 the 50 kids from the Interact Clubs and the Rotaract Club participated in the first annual bowling for polio event. They raised over \$750 towards Rotary International's efforts to rid the world of this horrible disease. The kids had so much fun they wanted to know

when the next bowling event will take place. Thanks so much to Jim Wageman from the Brentwood Family Fun Center for donating 12 lanes to help this fundraising effort.

Here is a link to an article about this event. <http://eastcountytoday.net/brentwood-rotary-and-high-school-interact-clubs-raise-700-to-fight-polio/>

If that weren't enough, Saturday was also Rotary Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields, Albany, CA. Over 500 Rotarians and their guests were there to have fun while raising funds for the Paul Harris Foundation. Three members of our club attended: Pres Mike, PP Greg and PP (And ADG) Fred.

At our regular Monday meeting, in honor of this past Veteran's Day, we had a very special veteran as our speaker.

Dick Lamb — Patriot Sentinel Riders



During the Vietnam war, Dick spent 4 years aboard a Forrestal class aircraft carrier called the U.S.S. Ranger. He had requested to be on a small ship, but we all know how government requests go! He was assigned to the Combat Information Center working with secret publications, radios, plotting mechanisms and all the communications used in the ships air operations. He then became a forward strike controller who guided the fighters and bombers to their targets.

After an honorary discharge, Dick had many of the personal challenges that our Vietnam veterans faced. He was in a very dark place when his parochial school upbringing made him realize he was a better person than the way he was living. This dark past propelled him to be

of service to veterans from that point forward.

Dick started the Patriot Sentinel Riders to help focus on such things as visiting veterans who are confined for lengthy periods of time, perhaps permanently, in one of the area's medical facilities in Palo Alto, Martinez, Yountville plus Mather and Travis Air Force Base.

The PATRIOT SENTINEL RIDERS VMC are a diverse group of individuals that are true patriots. They are people that honor and respect all military veterans for their sacrifice, their duty to God and country, and protection of our freedom. They have one goal: to give back and make a difference.

In addition to visiting veterans the Patriot Sentinel Riders raise funds so they may send care packages to current deployed military and to help when they return home. In short, they are veterans serving veterans. Dick suggested that if we could do just one thing, it would be to visit a veteran in a medical facility. Many of them have been abandoned by their families because their injuries are so traumatic that they just can't cope with them. This is not why these men and women went to fight for us.

To learn more about Dick, [check out this article](#) in the 110 Magazine.

What's Happening Week of 11-04-13

As we enter the season of giving, Brentwood Rotarians reflected back on all that we do in our community and around the world. Here is a snapshot of how our donations are used here at home and around the world.

First a bit of history; At the 1917 Rotary International convention, outgoing Rotary International president, Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment "for the purpose of doing good in the world." This is what we call our Rotary Foundation.

The foundation is money from Rotarians for projects designed by Rotarians.

Rotary's areas of focus are; Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water & Sanitation ([Brentwood Rotary has participated in a clean water project in Tanzania](#)), Maternal & Child Health, Basic education & literacy ([Our annual dictionary distribution is part of this area of focus](#)) and Economic & Community Development. The money that Rotarians donate today is put into this endowment and three years later half comes back to our area District. \$480,270 contributed in 2010-11, grew to over \$1 million! Brentwood Rotarians just received over \$3,000 for one of our local projects (school maps).

District grants are block grants that enable clubs and districts to address immediate needs in their communities and abroad. Districts may request up to 50% of their District Designated Funds (*) for one grant annually. Districts manage and disburse these funds to support district and club sponsored activities.

Here is a small list of what area Rotary clubs do with their District Grant money.

RC Alamo: School Music Programs, * DDF \$14,500

RC Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise: Ultrasound equipment, DDF \$15,000

RC Berkeley: RotaCare Richmond Free Medical Clinic at Brighter Beginnings, DDF \$15,000

RC Danville/Sycamore Valley: 21st Century Learning Center for at risk students, DDF \$14,500

RC Delta Antioch: 100 backpacks with school supplies to 100 foster children in East Contra Costa County, DDF \$2,700.

RC Fairfield-Suisun: Saint Georges Medical Clinic in Haiti, DDF \$9,000

RC Hayfork: Trinity County with backup emergency radio communications, DDF \$9,350

RC Mt. Shasta: Enhancement of the Mt. Shasta Sisson Historical Museum, DDF \$4,600

[RC Brentwood: Huge painted Maps of United States on playgrounds, DDF \\$3,787](#)

RC Concord: RotaCare Concord Free Medical Mobile Clinic, DDF \$14,000

That's some of the local giving back. Brentwood Rotary (with others) also participates in the District Global Grant process. We are in the process of having our first global grant approved and we are very excited about being able to continue the good work started by one of our own members. That project along with some others from area clubs are;

[RC Brentwood: Learning to Hope, Haiti – DDF \\$14,000.](#)

RC Pleasant Hill: Burkina Faso School building – DDF \$24,000 (all of Brentwood speaker gifts go to this project!)

RC Davis Sunrise: Rajiv Naragan Scholarship – DDF \$15,000

RC Alamo, Improving Basic education & literacy in India – DDF \$30,000

Where does this money come from? Your local Rotarians. Here's a breakdown of the different levels of giving;

- Sustaining Member (\$100 per year)
- Double Sustaining Member (\$200 per year)
- Paul Harris Fellow (\$1,000)
- Certificate of Achievement (\$1,000 by a business)
- Paul Harris Society (\$1,000 in a year)
- Major Donor — \$10,000
- Arch C. Klumph Society — \$250,000
- Benefactor — \$1,000 estate
- Bequest Society — \$10,000
- Annual per capita — \$150 in district.

Every day a Rotarian is “Doing good in the community, Doing good in the world.” We appreciate everyone that makes this possible for us!

What's Happening Week of 10-28-13

This is another week that Rotarians are “in the know”. We had Susan Miller & Jack Hall from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority speak to us about “Bringing Mobility to East County”. Here are some highlights of their talk.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority was established by 2004 half-cent sales tax. Partners with Caltrans for approval. Freeway projects down to local projects — Complete new State Route 4 (former Bypass Road)

Transportation needs — Highway 4, carpool lanes, bringing jobs, improved quality-of-life.

Measure C & Measure J

- Willow Pass Grade lowering (DONE)
- New eBART system with stations in Pittsburg and Antioch (Completion date in 2017)
- Complete new State Route 4 (Completion in 2015)
- eBART Leverage to Hillcrest service to Brentwood (Completion date in 2017, fully funded)
- completed in early 2014. Freeway to be finished by January. Summersville Road/Auto Center Drive — Construction began in March 2011 and will be completed late this year. Contra Loma Blvd/L Street — began March 2012 finished 2015. Lone Tree ay/A Street. Hillcrest Avenue — Begun 2013 completed

late 2015.

- S\$4 Widening/Sand Creek — begun in 2012 complete 2014
- Connectors SR4/SR160 Connectors — Start January 2014, last 18 months.
- Balfour Road Interchange — Start June 2015, 18 months project. (Fully funded project)

Future

- Mokelumne Trail Bike/Ped Overcrossing
- EBART Extension
- TriLink — State Route 239
- (Sand Creek Bypass to Deer Valley)

Highway 4 Funding

Funding (\$ Millions)	
CCTA	377
MTC/Bridge Toll	457
State	246
Federal	34
Other Local	185
TBD	45
Total	1344

Project partners: BART, Caltrans, MTC, FHWA

Mokelumne Trail Bike/Ped Overcrossing



- Estimated Construction Cost - \$3.4 Million
- Planned Construction Start Date - TBD
- Planned Construction Duration - 12 months

While it may not seem like sometimes, it appears we're getting quite a lot of transportation improvements from our half cent sales tax. Keep up the good work CCTA! We're looking forward to 2015 and a newly improved highway 4!

Balfour Road Interchange



- Estimated Construction Cost - \$37.3 Million
- Planned Construction Start Date - June 2015
- Planned Construction Duration - 18 months

SR4/SR160 Connectors



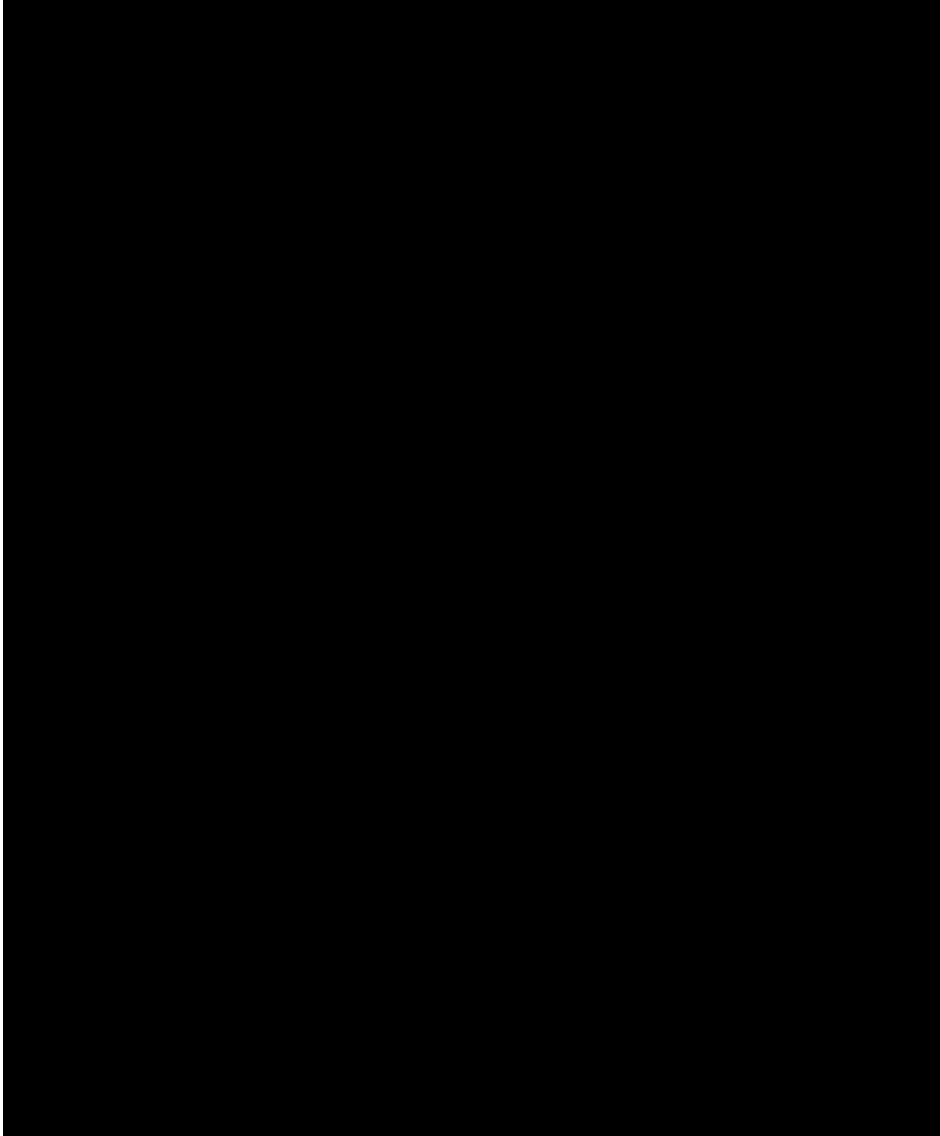
- Estimated Construction Cost - \$38.8 Million
- Planned Construction Start Date - January 2014
- Planned Construction Duration - 18 months

Susan Miller & Jack Hall receiving their commemorative cinder blocks from President Mike Crosby. The Brentwood Rotary Club donates 2 cinder blocks in each speakers name in our continued effort to help build a school in Burkina Fasa Africa. Four blocks were donated this week since we had two speakers. Thanks Susan & Jack!



World Polio Day 10-24-13

Watch how many Rotarians spent this day around the world.



Brentwood Rotarians raise money every year that is directly donated to the efforts to end Polio worldwide. We even have a member (Dave Wahl) who has participated in an immunization effort. Let's give a big shout out to all of us who are actively working to making Polio history worldwide.

What's Happening Week of 10-21-13

There are a lot of options to become a Rotarian. You've been introduced to the high school

group (Interact) but did you know that there is also a college level group? This week we had a joint meeting with our Rotaract group at Los Medanos college. This group is co-sponsored by Brentwood Rotary and both Antioch clubs.

The LMC Rotaract group is especially proud of one of their main service projects, which is tutoring 3rd graders. They've put in dozens of hours and continue to help as many 3rd graders as possible. Educational support is one of Rotary's core service foundation projects. As you recall Brentwood Rotary gives dictionaries to all local 3rd graders, so having our Rotaract group take on tutoring is a great addition to that effort.

For more information on the LMC Rotaract group, go to their Facebook page here.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/479336605431959/>



What's Happening Week of 10-14-13

Do you ever wonder where all your donation dollars truly go? Well, today, we got nearly \$4,000 of our donation dollars back thanks to the diligent work of our District Grant committee, Dirk Zeigler & David Wahl. For nearly the past 2 years we've been painting huge United States maps at all the elementary schools in Brentwood. We wanted to extend this project to Knightsen, Oakley & Discovery Bay. We got a District 5160 grant for the Brentwood schools and today we received the money from our second grant which will allow us to expand the project to these two other school districts. It also allows us to purchase very large world wall maps for the fifth grade classes in all three school districts!

So, if you've ever donated money to a Brentwood Rotary cause, donated money to the Paul Harris fund, today you can see for yourself that this money truly does come back to our community. Brentwood Rotarians are committed to helping the youth of our community by helping their educators. Third graders get dictionaries, entire schools get brightly painted maps and fifth graders will get world wall maps. I'm sure we'll come up with projects for other grades as well!

Congratulations Brentwood Rotarians on earning a District Grant, and congratulations to our community on helping to educate our children!



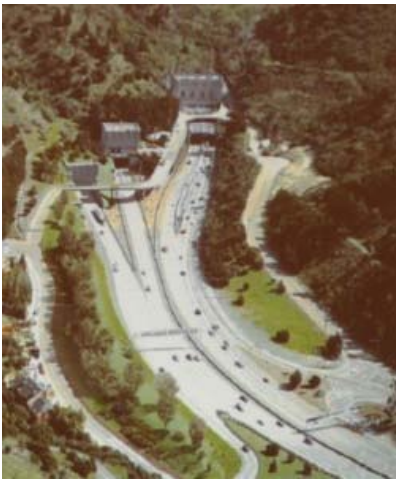
What's Happening Week of 10-7-13

Want to know what's going on in our community? Ask a Rotarian! As business owners and leaders in our community, Rotarians frequently have "inside knowledge" (or at least, learn about stuff sooner rather than later) about events that effect our community.

For example, we had Ross Chittenden, Deputy Executive Director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority give us an update on the fourth bore of the Caldecott tunnel. As of today, the fourth bore is ready for traffic, but there is still safety systems testing that is currently being undertaken.

For many of us, the fourth bore isn't a daily need but there have been some significant cost savings on that project that have been transferred to the Highway 4 bypass widening project, and THAT is something that does effect us all. Much of the current construction on our part of highway 4 will be completed before Thanksgiving and there has been work started on the Balfour end already.

Hopefully, a Rotarian near you has shared this exciting news, but if not, just remember, if you want to know what's happening in our community, Ask A Rotarian!



On the left, the tunnel as it will look when completed. On the right, an overview of the safety systems installed in the new bore.

What's Happening Week of 9-30-13

Today we had Michele Keady of the Brentwood PD talk to us about all the ways she and the rest of the department keep Brentwood safe. Her bio reads;



*Michele Keady
Married with 2 children
Attended San Joaquin Delta
College and Sacramento
State
Left Sacramento State to
attend the Police Academy
Graduated from the Police
Academy and was a
reserve officer for Lodi PD
Became a mom and stayed
home for 5 years until Aug,
1999
*Hired with the Brentwood
Police Dept. (14yrs)*

Job duties I have been assigned to during my career:

Parking enforcement

patrol

Car seat inspections

Oversee the Registrants (sex, gang, arson and drug)

Oversee the Fleet (purchasing vehicles, outfitting with equipment and vehicle maintenance)

Building maintenance (old facility on Chestnut St.)- a lot of duck tape!

Crime scene processing

Crime analysis

Crime Prevention/ Neighborhood Watch / Family Safety/ Business Watch

Special Olympics

Volunteer Coordinator

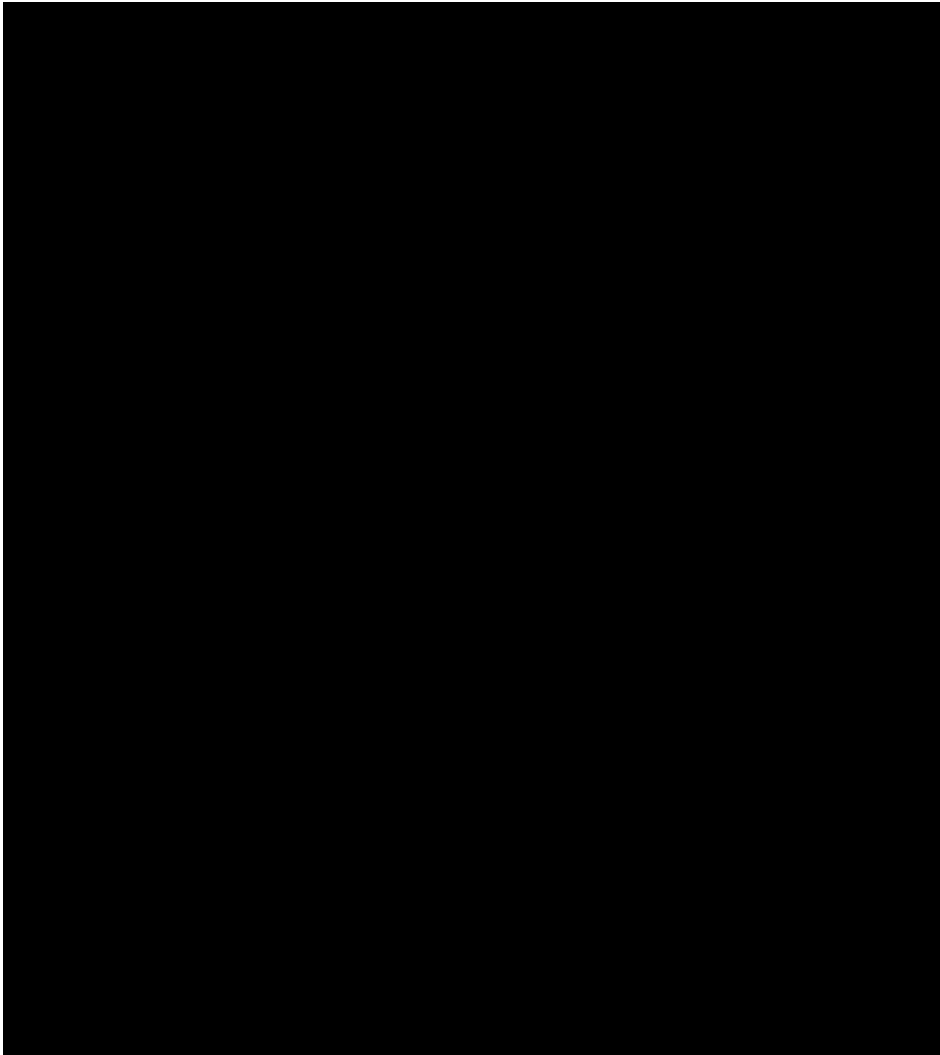
BANC Liaison (Brentwood Advisory Neighborhood Committee)

CERT instructor (Community Emergency Response Training)

Brentwood is lucky to have such a caring officer as well as member of our community.

What's Happening Week of 9-23-13

This week we heard a Rotary Minute from Ron Reagan (Reagan Management Services) on why he joined Rotary. It was a very easy and personal decision, but he tells it best...



Since Rotary launched the fight against polio in 1985, the number of polio cases has dropped by more than 99%. Over 2 billion children worldwide have been immunized against this crippling, but easily preventable, disease.

Rotary club members have contributed more than \$1 billion and countless volunteer hours to stop polio. Joined by the world's leading health and philanthropic organizations in the largest global health endeavor ever undertaken, Rotary is now "this close" to achieving history by making polio only the second human disease since smallpox to be eradicated worldwide.

A polio-free world will be one of humanity's greatest achievements.

Lend your voice to the fight to end polio.

Help us make history.

What's Happening Week of 9-16-13

Today was our official visit from the District 5160 "Guide" Steve Lack. He calls himself the District Guide because he feels that he's a guide to the 70 Rotary clubs in our district, not someone who governs the clubs. He also helped us recognize a new Paul Harris Fellow and two new members!

Our newest Paul Harris Fellow, Sonya North (daughter of member Jim Spann) was recognized, but Steve also made sure that all the members understood exactly what it means to be a Paul Harris Fellow. For a \$1,000 you become a PH Fellow. This money is used for many things, the biggest one is the continued fight to eradicate Polio from the world. Rotary International and the World Health Organization have been working on this project for 27 years and can project that we will be able to declare the world free of Polio in late 2014 or early 2015!



Steve Lack as District 5160 Guide

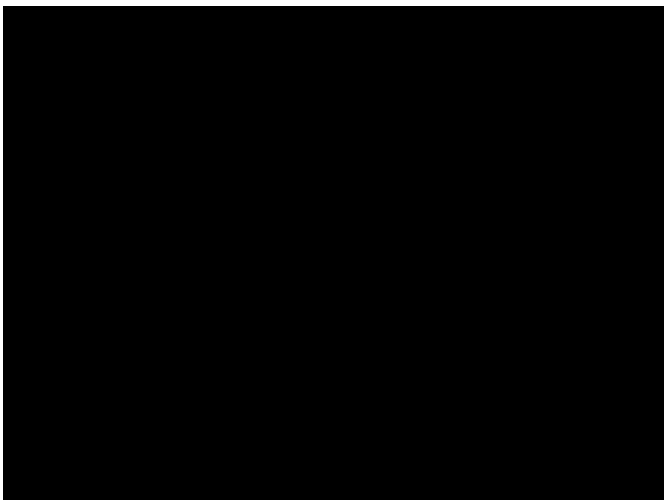


Newest member Dana Eaton, Brentwood Unified Superintendent receiving his membership pin.



What's Happening Week of 8-26-13

This week we focused on service, what we do and why. This video of Steve Walker Rotary Service Director discusses many of the projects the club has undertaken in the last couple of years.



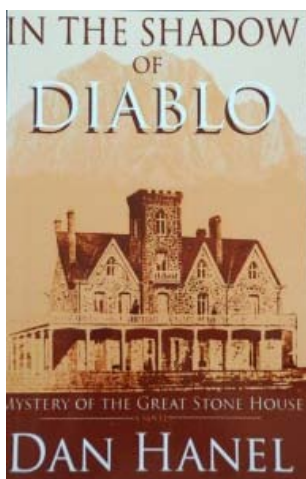
What's Happening Week of 8-19-13

It was another jam packed meeting following a busy weekend. Here are the highlights!

Another new member was inducted. Please welcome Ruth Morrissey, sponsored by Robin Brockman of LEBEC. We also got to recognize Past President Paul Kelly of Brentwood Party Rentals on the occasion of his birthday. He celebrated it with a family reunion in Iowa with his 47 first cousins and other assorted family members!



Our speaker today was Dan Hanel, local educator and new author. His book, "In The Shadow of Diablo: Mystery of the Great Stone House." was chosen for this year's CitiRead project. He gave us some details behind the story of the book which is based on John Marsh's life. It's where Fact meets Fiction and History Meets Romance. If you don't want to buy the book, you may pick up a copy at the Brentwood Library (starting 9/9) read it then pass it on to someone else to enjoy. CitiRead is a project designed to get people reading and talking about books. This sounds like a great one and a very interesting story to get this going!



Our Interact Group was busy this past weekend; first they helped out with the Edna Hill Back-to-school BBQ on Friday night, then bright and early Saturday morning 30+ of them helped paint the last map in Brentwood (we have a district grant request to expand this project into Oakley & Knightsen). They did a great job! I think they really enjoy tapping into

their inner artists for this project!





We've got another super busy weekend of service coming up. Check the calendar and see where you can help out!!

What's Happening Week of 8-11-13

Another busy week for the Brentwood Rotarians. We ended the previous week with one of our biggest charity projects our Kohl's Shopping Spree for needy kids. 25 kids got new clothes for school, some even got shoes and backpacks! This is one event that we raise funds for all year long and the gratitude from the kids and their families makes it worth all the effort. Thank you to the following people for getting up early on a Saturday to shop with a local child in need;



We also inducted a new member, Stan Lee, owner of Shirisoni and the Wishing Crab. He started off his journey in Rotary by donating \$500 to our community fund as a thank you to the community that has supported his businesses and family. His sponsor is Joey Nardone, General Manager of the AMC Brentwood 14 theaters. Thank you Joey for brining in someone who is going to be a great member!



Lastly, there is a lot coming up so check the calendar to make sure you don't miss anything. Rhonda is doing a great job adding all our events and meetings to the calendar so it's easy

for everyone to keep involved!

What's Happening Week of 8-5-13

Gene Claire started off our meeting by leading us in our best attempts at "Let Me Call You Sweetheart". Singing is an old Rotary tradition that some members like to revisit while some of us worry our less than ideal singing voices will scare off potential members!



Members John & Jennifer Fink brought back a banner from the Telluride Colorado club, a club they made a special effort to visit while on vacation in that town. Telluride Rotary Clubs motto is "No Rules" and they are 67 years old. That is amazing when you learn that from 1930-mid 1970s, Telluride CO was listed as an official ghost town. Now it's a thriving vacation spot!



Our speaker this week was Jo Loss from the Volunteer Center of the East Bay. This organization is dedicated to connecting volunteers with the many non-profit organizations in both Alameda and Contra Costa County. They have many programs you can devote your time to and when you sign up online (www.volunteereastbay.org) you can be very specific on what and where you want to volunteer your time. This is a worthy organization that the Brentwood Rotary club will be working with to further expand our service projects into the community.



This is Jo receiving her speaker gift from club president Mike Crosby. Each speaker has a

cinder block purchased in their name for our District 5160 global project to build a school in Burkina Faso, one of the most poor nations in Africa. The Brentwood Rotary Club was the first club in our district to start giving our speakers these “bricks”. Everyone has loved the idea to date.

What’s Happening Week of 7-22-13

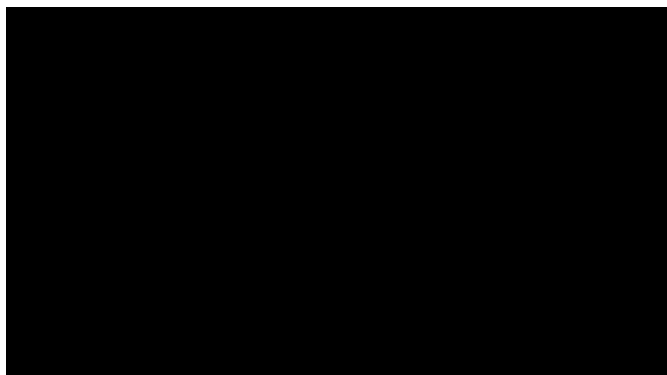
Today we had an unofficial visit from Steven M. Lack, District Governor who led us in a game of Who Wants To Be A Rotary Millionaire, a fun trivia game about Rotary. In addition we honored David Wahl, inducted 2 new members and recognized 3 members birthday & anniversaries;

- Roger Strauss — 50 year birthday
- Jeff Schults — 27 years anniversary
- Dan O'Brien — 40 years anniversary



What’s Happening Week of 7-15-13

Today we had one of our own speak on the current Rotary years theme, Engage Rotary, Change Lives. Dr. Don Huntington. About 18 minutes but well worth watching!





What's Happening Week of 7-8-13

Today was a very busy first meeting for new President Mike Crosby. He swore in his new board,



inducted a new member and even left time for a musical presentation from three actresses performing in Fiddler on the Roof with Broadway under the stars. (Rotary is a major sponsor of this production!)





Here are our new presidents words of wisdom for the coming year;

"I always dreamed about performing some great and noble tasks. But I am destined to perform just small and humble tasks, as if they were great and noble."

- Helen Keller

Being a Rotarian gives you the opportunity to build a better Brentwood where we live, touch the lives of people we may never know, or even reach out to those around the world that we may never meet or see.

So, what do we stand for, what do we do:

- we are a service club
- we meet and eat, have fun and enjoy the fellowship of others
- all of these aspects lead to our purpose:
 - – Placing service above self, serving our community and reaching out to others around the world.

Our greatest responsibility is to be what we say we are and then work to reach our potential.

Our greatest goal is to help those who are unable to help themselves.

That's the amazing thing about Rotary International: We can change someone's life for the better. Together, we have the global power and influence to change the world for everyone.

Want to learn more? Explore our web site, ask questions and think about doing an act of kindness that no one expected. There is so much to be done.

Won't you join us?

What's Happening Week of 6-24-13

We've come to the end of another Rotary year. We had a great Murder Mystery Demotion party and a lot of "stuff" happening at the meeting today. Originally, John planned a BBQ for the beautiful patio at Nines/Wedgewood but Mother Nature had other ideas. Not only was the weather cool (71) but it RAINED!! It's supposed to be over 100 by the end of the week, go figure.

The meeting was begun with the presentation of a video by Jennifer with pictures the people and activities at Saturday's Demotion Party.

[animoto_360p](#)

A fire captain spoke movingly of Ben Wightner (sp?), who had become a firefighter when he was only 18 years old. Following a disability, he came a teacher and inspired Public Safety career choices for his students. He recently passed away and, as a final act, he donated his organs. On July 15 his fellow firefighters are a sponsoring a golf tournament to raise money in support of his family.

Vicki is celebrating her anniversary. She had been in Alaska on the actual date of the celebration. Fred Ehler's birthday was yesterday. He is 62.

Candy led the Paul Harris ceremony. We learned that \$20,500 was donated by the club this year; \$.5M was raised in the district. Twelve members were awarded with Paul Harris (Get list from John).

An announcement about the Rotary Beer Booth was made with emphasis on the need for sign-ups and a special announcement that we need to be more careful with spillage and free drink giveaways.

July 8 will be the first meeting of the our new Rotary year followed by the first Trade Club committee meeting.

John closed with a short moving comment about his year and his acknowledgment of the club's excellence and commitment to service.

What's Happening Week of 6-17-13

Jim Young, Richmond Rotary — The Iron Triangle

(zyoungs@comcast.net)



Jim talked about how the Richmond Rotary club created a project last year — staging a play to illustrate the history of the Iron Triangle area. They partnered with the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. Had six performances.

The club did it on a \$55,000 budget. The play presented the information in a book called "Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle," based upon a plot that told of kids from the '80s traveling through

time. They initially traveled back to Richmond in 1924, during which residents were commuting to the City on streetcars. In 1924 Richmond hosted an infamous Fourth of July Parade that included 720 clan members.

Thanks to its growing industrial economy, Richmond was relatively well off, even during the Great Depression. The Ford Motor Assembly Plant was built in the 1930s, which elevated it far above the standards in the rest of America where people were suffering because of the poverty brought about through the market collapse coupled with the Dust Bowl drought. An American migration was moving masses of people. The direction it was moving was West.

Everything changed on December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked and America went to war. It was a boom time for Richmond, which became the major ship-constructing port in the world with 29 shipyard docks that worked around the clock seven days a week, launching a ship every day. The Ford Assembly Plant began making tanks. Able bodied men were off fighting in the war and, as a result, women and non-European Americans entered the US workforce at record levels. They participated in what came to be called, "The second California Gold Rush." People came flooding in to get jobs in the shipyards that were paying \$1.50 an hour, which seemed a shining magnet to people, many of whom had been working for \$1.50 each day. Hairdressers closed their salons, storeowners left their shops, waitresses left their restaurants — everyone flocked to the jobs at the shipyards. Thirty percent of the employees were women. In a few years the population swelled from 23,000 to 105,000, which was only the official number, but might possibly have been as many as 130,000. Nobody could tell how many because untold thousands were living in cars, fields, and beneath bridge abutments.

The boom times continued until August 13, 1945 when Last Victory Ship from Richmond was launched (two days before VJ Day). During the subsequent 11 months, the shipyards closed down, 180,000 people lost their jobs. By 1955 the shipyards were abandoned and by 1970 downtown Richmond was a ghost town. Residents who could resettle left town leaving behind indigent people, many of whom were African-American.

The impoverished conditions were never really addressed until the current times. A City Walk has been built and new housing is beginning to appear.

The whole story was told in the plays that the Richmond Rotary organized providing volunteer support for the activities associated with Rehearsals, Ticket sales, and Publicity.

What's Happening Week of 6-3-13

Today we inducted two new members; Fran Bowman, a long time volunteer in the Brentwood Community. She stated that "when I learned that Rotary's motto was Service Above Self I knew I had to join!". Today she became an official member who can proudly serve her community as a Rotarian. We're lucky to have her.

Our second new member, Brian Crockett was introduced to Rotary through his wife's father. (That should be familiar since that's how our current president came to Rotary!) Community service is more important to him than his job, although he is very proud to live and work in our community. Brian brings a youthful vitality that will be a benefit to our group.



In other exciting news; Brentwood Rotarians raised over \$6300 for Relay for Life!

We also cooked hundreds of pancakes for all the hungry walkers who made it through the night. Brentwood Rotary has 2 Relay teams, Save the Ta-Ta's headed by Past President David Wahl and a team organized & headed by Shellie Sayer. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2013 Relay for Life. This is an amazing cause.

What's Happening Week of 5-6-2013

This weeks meeting got a little crazy with a handful of guests including District Governor Laura Day. We had 3 birthday & 3 anniversary recognitions and a presentation to the principal of Krey Elementary Brain Jones. Our club donated \$500 to his Odyssey of The Mind students who will be traveling to Missouri to compete on a national level.

We're in the home stretch headed towards next weeks golf tournament. We have new corporate sponsors and many returning ones (including TLCakes who provided us some very yummy cupcakes last year!).

