

ROTARY CLUB
OF SANTA ROSA WEST



Bulletin - 6/4/18 - NIKI RELLON

by Christine Schieberl - Monday, June 04, 2018

ROTARY BULLETIN, JUNE 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE, AND ROTARY MOMENT:

President CHRIS PARR, standing tall, grabbed the gavel and called the huddled masses to order at 12:30 P.M. She was in good form as usual, and called on MARV HYMAN to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked president elect-elect CHUCK BAKER to deliver the Rotary Moment, which CHUCK did with dispatch.



CLUB SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

President CHRIS expressed her gratitude to the members who performed the club service tasks that keep the meetings running smoothly: Cashier JANET CODDING, Setup BILL GUNTER, Photographer MILAGROS OTT, Program Committee member MIKE

MERRILL, Traveling Microphone Man GIL LUCAS, and Bulletin Editor JIM BENOIT.



VISITING ROTARIAN AND GUEST OF ROTARIAN:

Our diminutive leader recognized long-time fellow Rotarian and friend of the club DAVE DEL MONTE, who back in the day was a member of the downtown Rotary Club of Santa Rosa before emigrating to New York City and fame and fortune. DAVE was his usual friendly self. We had one guest of a Rotarian in the person of SUSAN SILVERMAN, a true lady, introduced by her husband NEIL.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our exchange student GIORDAN VILAMOSKI started the meeting with the announcement that he had brought with him a table that he made in wood shop, which he was raffling off. Members purchased tickets for \$5 each, so GIORDAN made some money to help support his activities here in the U.S. TARINA HALL was the lucky winner of the raffle.



CASEY WILLIAMS informed us that this month's club board meeting will take place at 11 :45 a.m. on Wednesday, June 20, at Worth Our Weight culinary school, 1021 Habman Drive in Santa Rosa. All members are invited. The cost is \$25 per person. Casey says the food is great. Please let him know if you plan to attend.

KRIS LEPORE reminded us that the debunking of our fearless chief, President CHRIS, will be at 5:00 p.m. on June 24 at Wikiup Swim and Tennis Club.

PRESIDENT CHRIS reminisced about her trip to Africa with a Rotary Group including our own Past District Governor MIKE MERRILL (and MIKE's wife MAUREEN, also a PDG), in which the locals stared at our president because she was wearing a green hat, soon after a visit by Queen Elizabeth, who had worn a green outfit. Then, with some prompting by MIKE, the Diminutive Dynamo regaled us with an account of OMAR, MIKE's and MAUREEN'S dog, who hangs out at CHRIS's office.

RECOGNITION:

Getting down to business, PRESIDENT CHRIS recognized some of the membership and collected some money for the club coffers. The contributors were:

GIL LUCAS, who is having a birthday next week. He doesn't look a day older. SCOTT BARTLEY, who has been in the club for 34 (or is it 35?) years. KEN DANSIE, who survived a vicious attack by a pack of ferocious gophers at his house in North Carolina, thanks to his trusty pellet gun. "KING LOUIE" CAPUANO, who has been busy with

work, traveling to Africa (including Djibouti and Kenya), Iceland, and Central America - welcome back, Louie, we have missed you.

RAFFLE DRAWING:

BILL GUNTER got the ticket to Spin & Win, and he spun the wheel to the tune of \$5. KING LOUIE got the drawing ticket, but the winner was still in the bag after he drew.

PROGRAM:

MIKE MERRILL introduced NIKI RELLON, an inspirational woman who personifies courage, grit and determination. She was an extreme athlete, with championships in boxing, kickboxing and martial arts. Her other accomplishments include being a trained chef, a paramedic, and a ski instructor, as well as a motivational speaker. She has also bicycled all over Europe and Australia. This is the package of attainments that she brought to a Utah canyon in 2013. She was rappelling down the side of the canyon when she suffered a 45 foot fall that left her with a broken pelvis, a broken spine, and a crushed left foot. She was helicoptered out of the remote location. It took 8 hours to get to the hospital, where her left leg had to be amputated. That is where this chapter of her story begins. Fourteen months after the amputation of her leg, she moved about by the use of a prosthetic leg (she actually took it off during her presentation). But she did not lose her determination. She decided to take the 2,000 mile hike along the full length of the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, on her prosthetic leg. And she completed it, becoming the first woman to hike the entire trail on a prosthetic leg! She showed us videos of some of the terrain and the challenges of negotiating it. She has written a book about her journey called Push On: My Walk to Recovery on the Appalachian Trail.



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