

THE VALLEY SUNRISE



8/19/2021

2021 - 2022

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IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

9/14/21 Board Meeting 7 AM
Zoom
9/13/21 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM
Zoom



WHAT ROTARY MEANS TO RICH LUECK

"...no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused! Yet such was I. Oh, such was I. Business. Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business."

This quote was taken from Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' and used by Rotarian Scott Mills in a talk he gave to his fellow Rotarians. He used this as a springboard to talk about his experience with and passion for Rotary. Scott stated that he was third generation Rotarian and a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in England in 1979 but explained that it wasn't until he had been a member for 4 years that he really began to understand what it meant to be a Rotarian.

(Continued on page 7)

“The 8th zoom meeting will now come to order.”



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: *Julia Dawson*

*“Those who remember the past with a clear conscience
need have no fear of the future”*

THE FOUR-WAY TEST:

Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



GUESTS



HERBERT MUYINGA
P.A.G
Rotary Club of Muyenga, Uganda



DEB LUYIIMA
Int'l Services



PETER MWANJA
Kampala Rotary



LOIS NELSON
Honorary Member



ERNA GRASZ
CEO & Co-founder
Asante Foundation

TODAY'S SPEAKER

***"Trust Your Instincts, Intuition and Intellect.
Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway." – Erna Gras***



Program Chair Miles Bell introduced us to, **Erna Gras**, the co-founder and CEO of the Asante Africa Foundation whose mission is to educate East Africa's youth to confidently address life's challenges, thrive in the global economy, catalyze positive change, and empower the next generation to transform the future for Africa and the world.

As an award-winning speaker and published author, Erna is frequently on global stages traversing the corporate and philanthropy divide, where she presents on executive leadership, innovative education programs, and sustainable philanthropy versus charity. Drawing upon her personal challenges in her younger years, coupled with a lifelong commitment to giving back, she laid the foundation for her work in the Asante Africa Foundation with two equally powerful African women: **Emily Moshi**, from Tanzania, and **Hellen Nkuraiya**, from Kenya. They met on Erna's visit to Africa in 2005. Inspired by their shared passion and vision of enhancing education in rural East Africa, they founded Asante Africa Foundation and were up and running by 2007. With a business world background, Erna left the corporate world to support the organization full-time.

Rooted in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Asante Africa achieves results through a set of interconnected programs designed to alleviate poverty by fostering the development of educated and resilient youth. Programs emphasize quality learning in the classroom, gender equity, work-life skills, and the power of technology. Students develop the cognitive skills, decision-making capacity and leadership qualities needed to succeed far beyond the classroom:

- Develop Africa's youth through leadership, entrepreneurship, and job readiness training
- Empower girls, provide hygiene knowledge, finance, Business skills, and social skills
- Ensure quality education, train teachers, and provide digital low-cost resources
- Award scholarships to gifted students
- Provide exposure to computers and digital literacy

To meet with Erna, contact her at: egrasz@asanteafrica.org

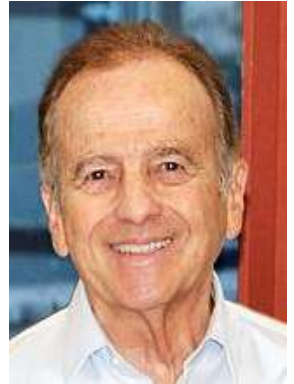
ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Erna Gras co-founded Asante Africa Foundation with two visionary African women from Kenya and Tanzania. She refers to herself as a Systems Engineer turned Systems Entrepreneur for Global Impact. Originally trained as an Electrical-System Engineer, she spent her early career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and then in Silicon Valley. While spending 25 years in the corporate world as a senior executive, she earned the reputation as a strategic leader, "organizer of chaos" and with demonstrated success in diverse industries, including medical device, defense research, and semiconductor capital equipment. In 2012 she left the corporate world to manage the organization full time. She completed her M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Engineering Management from Santa Clara University and earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Director Larry Hatchings reminded us that the Orinda Car Show will take place on September 11 from 10 am to 3 pm. This is the 17th Orinda Classic Car Show held at Orinda Motors and is a fun filled event displaying automotive classics of all models and years. The Orinda Classic Car Show was begun in 2005 by a local Orinda resident as a way to bring together the local classic car community and to raise money for charities including the "Seniors Around Town" transportation program and the Educational Foundation of Orinda. We hope everyone attends and will help manning the booth.



C2C

President-elect Mary Kemnitz told us that cars keep coming in. Larry encouraged **Erna Grasz**, today's speaker, to partner with the C2C telling her it was an easy and lucrative method to earn money for their organization.



DIXIE FIRE REQUEST

Our **District Governor Kathy Suvia** emailed us suggestion as to how we can help the victims of the Dixie Fire that has ravaged over 500,000 acres. The members of the Interact Club at Fall River High School in far Eastern Shasta County created a local effort to collect personal items and gift cards to deliver to the students impacted by the fire. She suggested we get on the GoFundMe site and make donations, or send gift cards to the Interact Club of Fall River High School, 44215 Walnut Street, McArthur CA 96056 or bring your cards to Monica, and she will see to it that they are sent en masse to the students.



WE ARE ALL INVITED: *Celebrate with Mathew on Sunday*



Remember the ticket booth built by Eagle Scout **Mathew Ware**? Well his mom is inviting us to the celebration of his project that our club supported financially and Mathew built. They will be having an **Eagle Scout Court of Honor** for Matthew on **Sunday, August 22**, at 4:30 p.m. at the Concord Salvation Army Church Hall, located at 3950 Clayton Road. Mathew said: "I will make me and my mom so happy if the Rotary Club members join us on this special day of celebration." The ceremonial event will commence at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception.

UGANDA: Pediatric Clinic Weekly Update

Herbert and Deb said they selected the stones that will adorn the outside walls and are happy that the floors were laid. Everyone is working around the clock with great pride. Thanks to the photos they are sending us, we feel so much a part of the creation of the clinic. It's almost like being there, and maybe one day we will.

As of August 9



As of August 16

Wow. Take a Look at what we accomplished just one week later.



STONE SAMPLES SELECTED



FRED, BRENDA, DEB



HERB SHOWING THE FLOOR PLANS TO JULIE, BRENDA, AND DEB LOOKIN ON



From the far left, Builder, Julie, Herbert, Brenda & Deb appreciating the tiling works.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

MILESTONE: *Length of Service*

In his own words, **Rich Lueck** tells us what Rotary means to him and his experiences over the past 26 years that he has been a member.

"My Rotary history started in the summer of 1995 when then Club President Chuck Graham emailed me as the result of my real estate newsletter, and invited me to a breakfast meeting at the Best Western just down the street from my office.

Rotary? 'What's that,' I thought. Perhaps it's a business opportunity. This was three years before you could Google it, so I put on a suit and tie and went to my first meeting as a guest where people were still smoking in meetings. As the years went by, the 'just a business opportunity' thought evolved into the realization that Rotary's impact, locally and worldwide, is a team, not an individual effort. From the impact of Polio Plus to the pretend dropping of a thousand pounds of frozen chickens on the Monument Crisis Center from an WKRP style imaginary helicopter, the 'Service above Self' concept became a give-back moment we all needed in our lives.

Our Club's International reach over the years, then and now, is also what **"Mankind is our Business"** is all about. From sponsoring exchange students, visiting Russian bakers, to projects in the Philippines, Peru, Columbia, Mexico, Haiti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia, it speaks to our theme the year I was President "Mankind is our Business" could actually be Rotary's permanent theme. Our club's helping to sponsor the San Felipe Rotary Cancer Center by donating the mammography machine in 2006, the member participation in painting playground equipment, ongoing wheelchair donations, providing a van to an orphanage for abused children, and matching scholarship program for high school students, again supports the "Service above Self" theme.

The fun of seeing on a weekly basis the progress being made halfway around the world by our friends with the Uganda project and Hugh Toloui stepping up to personally write checks to make this project possible. There are so many local projects aided by Cars2ndChance monies, plus fun fund raising events like the annual Pancake breakfast, wine tasting, fun walk/run are just a few fun Rotary team inspirations. There are so many local projects to list, but by now I suspect people have skipped to the jokes...Remember, my Rotary moments started with an email, so perhaps bringing in a new member by sending an email to your contacts to get them to join is the road to giving back."



Seen here with the 2001/2002 theme

Rich

(Joined April 17, 1995)

OUR TOWN

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU



Todos Santos Plaza on Thursdays is the place to be. Music & Market is a Concord tradition enjoyed by thousands of people each summer who come from all over the East Bay to experience live music by local bands and pick up farm-fresh produce at the farmers' market.

The Music & Market series runs every Thursday until September 30 at Todos Santos Plaza. The market opens at 4 p.m., and concerts begin at 6:30. Local health officials

recommend wearing a face-covering outdoors especially for those who are unvaccinated.

Thanks to Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery and its community partners, for supporting and sponsoring this event.



VOTING INFORMATION

The County is making voting by mail easy. They are sending every voter a mail-in ballot and paying for first-class return postage. In-person voting locations will follow health protocols, which may cause delays and lines due to social distancing, however, the easiest and fastest way to vote for this election is to cast the ballot you just received and drop it in any mailbox or into one of the official ballot boxes located throughout the County."



Those accessing in-person services will be required to wear face coverings that will be made available if you don't have one. All Elections staff and volunteers will be required to wear masks. Sanitizer will be available at in-person voting locations and equipment will be sanitized regularly. For more information on how or where to vote, visit the [Contra Costa County Elections website](https://www.contracosta.gov/elections).

CONCORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Listen to Vicki. She makes sure every member of our Rotary club receives the scheduled list of all business events being held throughout the county weekly and emails them to all of us. Thanks to Vicki we are all members of the Concord Chamber of Commerce.



HAPPY BUCKS

COMPILED BY BARBARA REIFSCHNEIDER



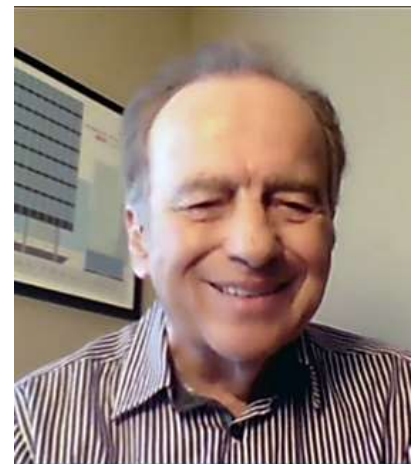
BILL SELB was five happy bucks because he won the raffle last week and was stunned that the bottle of red wine he chose as his prize was phantasmagorical. No Two Buck Chuck for sure. We are, after all, a Club with class.



MONICA FRAGA was really happy thanks to the talents of Dr. Tommy Wolf and donated 50 bucks to his Paul Harris. Seems her dad had a horrible time with his back, and even though he went to his doctor, he had to wait and never did get to see a specialist who was supposed to help him. Monica took the bull by the horns and called Dr. Tommy who saw him immediately. Dr. Tommy worked his magic and dad is now a happy camper—and so is Monica.



MILES BELL had a grumpy buck because he spent eight hours knee-deep in water trying to catch a fish. No such luck. All he caught was a sunburn. BUT alls well that ends well as he found out that his 3-year-old grandson finally likes him.



LARRY HUTCHINGS had a happy buck when he found out that Torsten Jacobsen's friend, Jorg, wants to help them at the cancer clinic in San Felipe. Welcome aboard, Jorg.

HUGH TOLOUI is ten bucks happy when he learned that his friends in Nepal reported that children they sponsor in an orphanage performed Service above Self and put together food boxes and distributed them to families who could not leave their homes due to the Covid situation.

THE NEW RAFFLE



SPIN THE WHEEL. WHERE IT LANDS NOBODY KNOWS.

Spin the wheel and watch your name go by. The winner this week is **Larry Hutchings**. However, Steve Weir and Torsten Jacobsen's name came up several times, but they weren't at the meeting. So on the fourth spin it landed on Larry's name and he got to select his prize of—what else—wine. He chose red.

Remember, you gotta
be in it to win it—and
at the meeting.

THE GALLERY



Clayton Worsdell found this male Tarantula roaming in Mt Diablo State Park looking for love.

"ALWAYS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING"

Compiled and Edited by Bill Selb



"Actually, I'm a litigator."

READY TO MARRY

A young man went to his father one day to tell him that he wanted to get married. His father was happy for him. He asked his son who the girl was, and he told him that it was Pamela, a girl from the neighborhood.

With a sad face the old man said to his son, "I'm sorry to say this, son, but I have to. The girl you want to marry is your sister, but please don't tell your mother."

The young man was upset, but then he brought up 3 more names to his father. Unfortunately, the response was always the same. So he decides to go to his mother.

"Mama, I want to get married, but according to dad, all the girls that I love, are my sisters. He said I mustn't tell you, but I don't know what to do."

His mother smiled and said to him, "Don't worry my son, you can marry any of those girls. They're not your sisters because you're not his son."

CHOOSING A HUSBAND

The local channel 10I news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought.

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, and a preacher when in her 60's, and now - in her 80's - a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained,

"I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

JUDI'S NEW RIDE

Judi had her eye on Jaguar XK140 convertible she spotted at a local dealership. It was wonderfully restored and she fell in love with its gorgeous red paint work. After she got her bonus check at work, she decided to finally get it and few hours later she was tearing down the leafy country road enjoying her beautiful new car. Her long blonde hair was flowing in the wind, music blaring from the radio, what could possibly go wrong?

At that thought there was a splutter from the engine and the car slowly coasted to a stop. She got out and lifted the hood and concluded after a few minutes that she didn't have any clue what was wrong. Luckily she had her cell phone with her and made a call to the AAA.

After a short wait, she saw a AAA car pull up behind her.

"That's a lovely car," said the mechanic. "What seems to be the matter?"

Judi replied, "Well, it just broke down I'm afraid."

"Let me have look." He set to work and ten minutes later the engine was purring like a cat again.

"Thank goodness," she said. "What was the matter?"

"Simple really, just crap in the carburetor," he replied.

Looking shocked she asked, "Oh. How many times a week do I have to do that?"

. . . That's all folks.