

2/16/ 2023

2022 - 2023

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John Wenzel: Webmaster
Bill Selb: Pancake Breakfast Chair

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MEETINGS 2023

3/14/23 Board Meeting 7 AM
Zoom
3/15/23 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM
Zoom



IMAGINE



PEOPLE OF ACTION

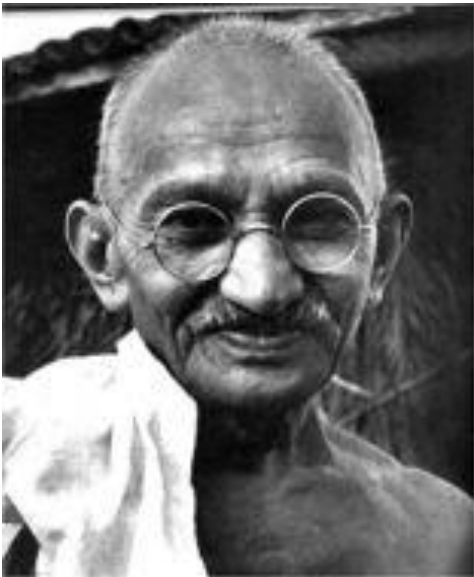
It was just such an odd thing for us, **Mary Kemnitz** reported, to have this motorhome come in as a donation and then literally a week later we found a home for it-- and such a beautiful home. We also loved how teamwork made this dream work. We worked with the Bureau to unravel the mystery of the correct converter, and called upon fellow Rotarian, **Richard Lueck's** skills to drive the motorhome for repair. We asked a longtime friend, **Steve Elstins** owner of West Coast Muffler, if he would contribute his labor and install the catalytic converter. He not only donated his labor but supplied the parts for the catalytic converter cage installation as well. He literally opened his heart to the project. **Russ Anderson** offered to do the smog test which was just the last beautiful piece to this project.

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MORNING RITUALS



Russ Anderson led us in the Pledge while **Monica Fraga** recited the Four-Way Test. **Torsten Jacobsen** served as Mystery Greeter and **Jeff Wilson** gave the Thought for the Day.



“Live as if you
were to die
tomorrow.
Learn as if you
were to live
forever.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

EVERYONE IS INVITED

Please join us. We meet every Thursday at 7:00 am in the old Red Cross building at 1300 Alberta Way in Concord. Come hungry as we serve breakfast.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: *Dr. Sedique Popal*

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Dr. Sedique Popal, Assistant Professor and President of the Noor Islamic and Cultural Community Center (NICCC). He talked to us about how the NICCC is mobilizing and helping Afghan refugees who have escaped Afghanistan because of the brutality of the Taliban, the violation of human rights, and the harsh and inhumane treatment of women.

As we all know, the newly arrived Afghan refugees helped Americans in Afghanistan. "Now, it is our turn to help them," he said, "and we can do just that by empowering them through education and jobs so they will become successful, productive members of our community. Their highest priority is the success of the K-12 refugee students.

Since August of 2021, the NICCC in Concord has been serving over 600 newly arrived Afghan refugees in the community. Staffed almost totally by volunteers, they have been providing food, clothing, blankets, furnishings, and money, helping to obtain housing and jobs, and assisting with everything from getting public benefits to navigating the DMV and getting children enrolled in school. We have also been providing crisis counseling and cultural orientation, translation services, and starting an After School program. How can you help? Contact **Dr. Sedique Popal** (925) 768- 4885.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sedique Popal is an Assistant Professor and the coordinator of the MA TESOL program. He teaches cognitive and social theories of linguistics: Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics, Assessment and Testing, Curriculum Design, and TESOL Methods courses. He has taught and trained teachers in six different countries. He has been a featured presenter and keynote speaker in the following national and international organizations: TESOL, CATESOL, NABE, and CABE. He has been awarded the Outstanding Educator Award at the University of San Francisco, UC Berkeley Extension, California State University, East Bay and the College of Alameda. His latest publication is *A Grammar Book for Teachers* (2021).



MESSAGE FROM OUR 5160 DG: *Suzanne Bragdon*

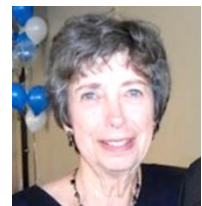
DG Suzanne Bragdon wrote: "Three years ago, then District Governor Tina Akins invited Kirk Bragdon and me to their amazing pre-Covid Valentine's celebration fundraiser. It was shortly after I joined the Rotary District 5160 District Governor Line and started visiting clubs and fellow Rotarians in District 5160. Three years ago, with truly limited appreciation of this DG Journey, and how both Kirk's and my own life would be changed by meeting so many wonderful people from Berkeley and San Ramon Rotary all the way north to mount Shasta, Dunsmuir, and Weed. Amazing club presidents are leading today as is our whole Leadership Team. Rotary membership sure has perks-- can't forget the DG classmates of the Big West. I can honestly report that 2022-2023 will ALWAYS be a special year. Friendships grew exponentially. Happy Valentine's Day full of love and total appreciation."

GRANT COMMITTEE: *Team Meeting to be Held via Zoom.*

John Wenzel reported that there will be a Grant Team meeting, via zoom, to investigate projects that we can use to apply for a grant so we can pursue and support a good cause.

So how about you? Any ideas about work or equipment that could be helpful to anyone anywhere in the world in need or distress? Remember the batting cages and the playground equipment and all the amazing work we have done in Uganda and San Felipe with the help of Grants. Put your ideas in writing and give them to John.

THE GRANT TEAM



TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE: *Please Contribute*

Rotary Foundation Chair Susie Lim reported: "With more than 1.4 million members worldwide, Rotary members are on the ground and ready to take action to help communities recover when disasters strike. This earthquake disaster is no exception. Rotary members and The Rotary Foundation play a unique role in disaster recovery through rebuilding efforts and working closely with other organizations that specialize in disaster relief." As we all know, Rotary members embrace projects that support every phase of a community's recovery. Desperate rescue efforts are continuing in the wake of the earthquakes that have devastated parts of Turkey and Syria and well over 25,000 people have died--so far. Consider contributing.



President Mary Kemnitz provided us with this Rotary Moment. *"Through our Rotary's **Cars2ndChance** car donation program we had a beautiful, low mileage motorhome donated. Through an odd quirk of fate, we were at a presentation given by the nonprofit, "Hope 680" and they mentioned their need of a motorhome for their trips along the 680 corridor where they serve the homeless. Immediately I realized that this motorhome had a special destiny and that was to be part of the "Hope 680" project."*

Just one little bump in the road. The motorhome was donated because its catalytic converter was stolen! With the assistance of the Bureau of Automotive Repair, **Dave Kemnitz** was able to put together the pieces and purchase a catalytic converter that would pass regulation inspections. Now to find an installer. *"I immediately thought of my old friend and fellow ASCCA member **Steve Elstins** who is the owner of West Coast Muffler. Steve opened his shop on Saturday to accommodate us, personally installed the converter and supplied parts and labor to build a cat cage to protect the converter. Steve refused payment for his services. **Richard Lueck's** skills driving motorhome got the vehicle to Steve for the repair This is what "paying it forward" is all about! Thank you Steve and Rich! CVCS, Lamorinda Rotaries and "Hope 680" appreciates you and your giving heart. One more obstacle awaited us and that was to run the Motorhome through the smog process. **Russ Anderson**/owner/manager of Lehmers GMC in Concord, fellow Rotarian, and ASCCA Member offered to smog the vehicle for us."*

"Almost there," Mary said. "Keep your fingers crossed and definitely know that Dave and I will be joining the "Hope 680" team on their first trip in the Motorhome along the 680 corridor."



FUN FUNDRAISERS

WINE RAFFEL: *Update*

Treasurer Vicki Sexton, this year's Wine Barrel Raffle Chair, said: "The date of the event is April 22nd and will be held right here in our new headquarters. Food will consist of a Taco Truck and will be an evening event." Vicki reported that We have collected \$400 and seven bottles of wine so far. Everyone who has donated money or bottles has been assigned 10 tickets to sell. We have 350 tickets that will sell for \$25 each. Everyone needs to step up to make this fundraiser a success."



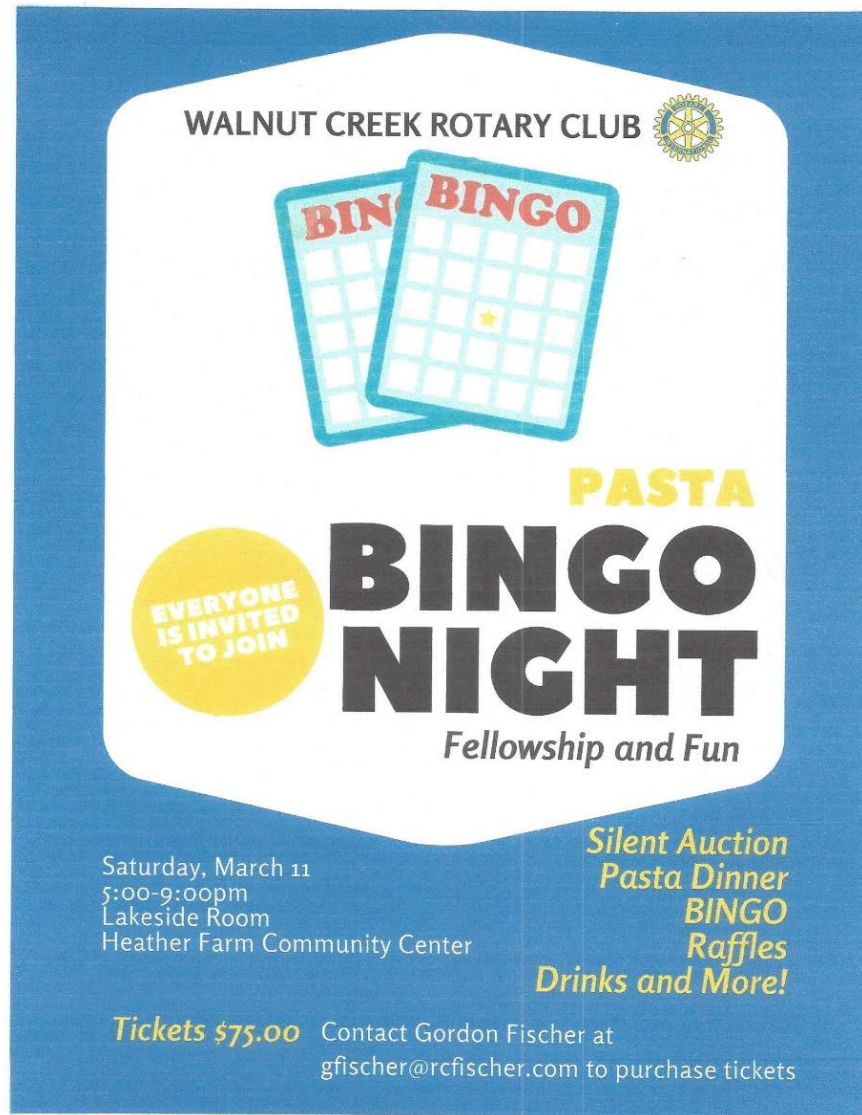
Russ Anderson donated a case and a half of extremely fine wine, and **Monica Fraga** donated three bottles plus a cash donation of \$100. We still, however, need every member to donate two bottles of wine worth at least \$20 or more or make a cash donation of at least \$40.

Now get out there and sell, sell, sell those raffle tickets that we all received.



BINGO & PASTA: *Please Join Us*

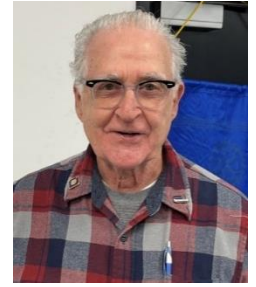
Gary Stein, President of the Rotary Club of the Walnut Creek, is having their Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, March 11 at 5 PM at the Lakeside Room in Heather Farm at the Community Center which is where they hold their weekly meetings. They are inviting members of the DV 8 to participate with them for some fellowship, a pasta dinner, bingo, raffles, and other mayhem. Please keep the date free and join them. Notify Gordon Fischer (gfischer@rcfischer.com), if you are interested in attending.



CRAB FEED: *Almost Sold Out!*

Membership Director of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, **William Chan**, reported that The Concord Chamber of Commerce will have its Annual Crab Feed & Auction on Friday, February 24, 2023, from 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM at Centre Concord. This is their major fundraiser, and they are seeking donations for our Silent Auction. Here are the contacts for participation and donation suggestions: <https://www.concordchamber.com/crab-feed>. If interested in donating, let William know at wchan@concordchamber.com

SAN FELIPE: *Come on Down!*



Torsten and **Tineke Jacobsen** are working on organizing a trip to our San Felipe twin club for the Cancer Walk while **Tina Sweeney** is working on finding housing for those interested in attending. Their biggest fundraiser, however, takes place on March 23rd and known as **'Stake in the Park.'** There will be music, dancing, an auction, and full BBQ meals prepared and served to about 500 guests. April 15th is the magnificent and most important fund raiser for their mutual Cancer Center-The **'Cancer Caminata Walk'** and Tina is working on lodging for club members so Rotary visitors have a place to stay.

COMMUNITY ARTS: *Your Vision Requested*

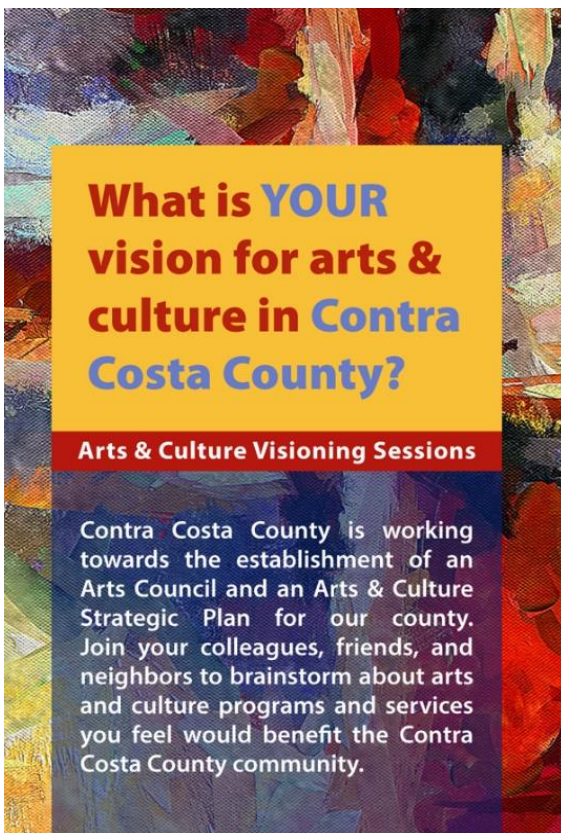
Contra Costa County will hold the first of five Community Visioning

Art Leaders and the community are getting together in Oakley to determine how the arts will be supported in Contra Costa County in the future. An Arts & Culture Community Visioning Sessions will be held Wednesday, March 15 at 5:00 PM at the Oakley Recreation

Center, 1250 O'Hara Avenue, Oakley. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/527308352477.

The event is free, and all are welcome.

The County is developing a new Arts & Culture Strategic Plan. Arts Orange County will assist in the process as the project manager and will facilitate the visioning session. The goal is to guide an arts and cultural planning effort through an inclusive community engagement process that recognizes the geographic and demographic diversity of the County. Four additional facilitated Community Visioning Sessions in various locations around the county are planned to seek input from the public. Admission is free and light refreshments will be provided. Each session is approximately 90 minutes in duration. Registration is recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.



HAPPY BUCKS: *Barbara Reifschneider*



RICH LUECK had a happy buck this morning. Richard referred an Afghan man for a job. We hope he gets it!

MARY KEMNITZ had a happy buck this morning. She was happy that Richard got up and out of the house early on a Saturday morning. Anything for cars second chance. The vehicle was an RV! Woo hoo! Mary decided she had a Happy \$10 for Russ who smogged the RV.

MONICA FRAGA had a grumpy buck this morning. Monica has this little dog, and his leg was all swollen, so they rushed him to the dog doctor, no, not to Torsten. Long story short, the dog was put on prednisone as a last resort, and Monica had to pay for the whole thing upwards of \$3,000.



JEFF WILSON had a happy five bucks today. Jeff helped to close on a house that they bought in Walnut Creek and he's going to Tahoe for four days for some much-needed R&R with his family.

VICKI SEXYON had a happy five bucks today. Vicki is happy that she's going to get to go to the Grey Wolf Lodge and play with the grandkids in the water and on all of the water slides. She's also going to new Orleans with her man, where they will be celebrating the Mardi Gras.



CLAYTON WORSDELL had a happy buck this morning. Carol has made a turn for the better, finally, and she doesn't have to go through her fourth chemo. It looks like she'll be going home to Clayton Friday.



JOAN D'ONOFRIO had a happy buck for the great job **MOLLY AVILEZ** is doing with the Interactors. They made Valentine's Day cards and brought them to the healthcare workers at John Muir and Kaiser Hospitals. Great job.

THE GALLERY

The History of the Rotary Bell

In 1922, U.S. Rotarians organized an attendance contest; the challenge was that the losing clubs would join in giving the winning club a prize. The Rotary Club of New York City was declared the winner and to them was awarded as a prize a bell from a popular patrol boat, which was placed on wood that came from HMS "Victory", Admiral Nelson's vessel at the battle of Trafalgar. Since then, the bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, at which time people present should stand, same as at the end, in order to salute the national and Rotary flags. The gavel symbolizes the authority invested in the Rotarian elected to the highest position in Rotary, and through him/her reminds those present of his/her authority. When presidents transmit their positions to their successors at the end of their mandate, they give the bell their last hit turning the gavel over to their successor, symbolizing the transfer of authority.



IMAGINE
ROTARY

Rotary



FUNSTUFF



IF YOU LOVE GOLF, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU

It's 1968 and Nineteen years in a row Bill had entered the 3-day St Valentine's golf tournament, and nineteen years in row he had come in second. It's the 20th year he's entered the tournament and the last day, he's on 16th hole leading by two strokes. Bill hits his best drive of the tournament but on the second bounce the ball caroms off into the woods. He starts looking knowing in 1968 he only has five minutes to find the ball. He finds it with a minute to spare and is about to pick it up because of the very bad lie and take the penalty strokes. As he bends over to pick the ball up an Elf pops up and says, how would you like to make that shot?

Bill says make that shot? I would have to hit it under that branch, over the bush clear a water hazard, a sand trap then get a good roll. The Elf says no problem. Bill wasn't born yesterday and asks what will it cost me? The Elf says some of your love life. Bill not all of it right? The Elf says don't irritate me, I am not the kind of Elf that would take all of anyone's love life so swing away. Bill swings and the ball goes under the branch, over the bush, clears water hazard and sand trap and rolls to the lip of the cup.

Bill's knees are shaking as he tees the ball on 17 and the Elf pops up and says how'd you like to win this tournament? Bill responds, what will it cost me some more of my love life but not all of it? Elf, exactly so swing away since 20 years is a long time. Bill goes on to win the tournament and his friends pick him up, carry him into the club house and Bill totally forgets about the Elf.

It's 3 months later and Bill is playing a practice round and on the 16 hole hits the same shot into the woods. Bill is laughing to himself as he knows where the ball is and bends over to pick it up since it's only a practice round. Of course, the Elf pops up and says, Hi, remember me? Bill responds of course and I am so glad to see you so I can thank you, as you made the dream of a lifetime come true.

The Elf asks, how's your love life? Bill says not too bad which startles the Elf. How often do you make love the Elf asks, too which Bill responds three or four times a month. The Elf says so you consider that not too bad. Bill responds it's not too bad for a Priest in a small town.



...that's all folks.