

2022 - 2023

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## MEETINGS

Board 7/11  
Buttercup 7am

Charitable Fund  
7/12

# 2023 ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR VICKI SEXTON



## ROTARIANS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Stanley Dollar Clubhouse in Rossmoor was the setting of our Promo Demo end of term event Saturday. **Mary Kemnitz** and **Larry Hutchings** spoke about the amazing accomplishments our club conducted during the 2022-2023 term and gave awards and recognition to the members who performed them. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of Rotarian of the Year that turned out to be our 13-year Rotarian **Vicki Sexton** who serves as our Board of Director and Charitable Fund treasurer. Great job, Vicki.

# MORNINGRITUAL



**Clayton Worsdell** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Mary Kemnitz** was the Mystery Greeter. **Russ Anderson** and **Vicki Sexton** presented the Thoughts for the Day. **Irene Davids Blair** recited the Four Way Test.

## Thoughts for the Day



### From Russ Anderson:

"The time is always right to do what is right."  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

### From Vicki Sexton:

"Who amongst us had not preferred the comfort of illusion or deceived themselves in order to deal with the difficulties of life – sometimes hoping for the impossible – knowing that even if their aspirations were implausibly far-fetched, it was better to take that risky highway rather than remain on the low road of caution and despair?" —James Runch

**Today's guests: Julia Kitay and John Dickerson**



# TODAY'S SPEAKERS

## *An Experience of a Lifetime*

Today's speakers, **Vicki Sexton** and **John Dickerson**, presented a very interesting recap of their most amazing month-long excursion in Spain to experience the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is a unique experience and trip of a lifetime that attracts thousands of people from all over the world. Due to its enduring popularity and the many Camino routes, it has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. The Camino's essential role has encouraged cultural exchanges between people from all over Europe and the world for many centuries.



*Vicki said "I am thankful that I got to go on this adventure with John and our merry little troop of hikers. Spain is a beautiful country. The people we met along the way were wonderful. Life was uncomplicated. All you had to do was get up, put on yesterday's clothes, find food and water, walk, walk, walk and at the end of the day, get to a bed with a roof over your head and sleep. Next day, get up and repeat. While this was a physical journey, it was also thought provoking"*

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

**VICKI SEXTON**, newly appointed Rotarian of the Year, joined our Club on August 5, 2017, after being an eight-year member of the Brentwood Rotary Club where she served as their Treasurer. Vicki was our 2020-2021 President and is a Paul Harris Fellow. She currently serves as the Treasurer of our Board of Directors and the Charitable Fund. It is a role that she is well suited for as banking was her calling. As a member of the Brentwood club, she was the 2016 Rotarian of the Year. Vicki retired from banking after 46 years of service, eight of which were with the First Bank in Brentwood. Currently she is a volunteer at the American Cancer Society's Discovery Store, Mobility Matters, and the Leshner Center of the Arts. Born and raised in Castro Valley, she has four children, nine grandchildren, and resides in Clayton.





**JOHN DICKERSON'S** first introduction to the Camino de Santiago was in 1992 while looking through a selection of discounted records at Rasputin's records in Pleasant Hill. The album was called "Music from the Camino de Santiago" and while John had not yet heard anything about the Camino, nevertheless for 99 cents, he figured how could he go wrong.

The music was captivating. There were rhythms that he had never heard before. Basque music from Navarre, Gregorian chants from Spanish monasteries, and bagpipes coming from Galicia. The music left a deep impression because of its uniqueness. 10 years later, John heard of the Camino de Santiago a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. This was from the movie "The Way", a movie that prompted 10s of thousands of hikers to become pilgrims and walk the Camino. Like many others, John was hooked as well and he walked the Camino for his first time in 2016. When a hiker friend mentioned last November that he wanted to make the walk, John volunteered to accompany him. When Vicki mentioned that she was interested, our adventure began.

## What is the Camino?

- The Way of St James is a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela to view / venerate the relics of St James the Greater
- The Camino can be a religious, spiritual, cultural pilgrimage or an athletic hike.
- There are numerous routes to Santiago but the Northern route and the French route are UNESCO World Heritage Sites because the pilgrimages expanded culture and trade during the middle ages.



**THIS IS WHERE THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS TAKES PLACE**



# CLUBNEWS

## THE RUN: *Done With the Run—This Year*



**Jeff Wilson** said we took in approximately \$3,500—so far. It was a lot of fun and a lot of work, but we are in great shape to do this again next year. Thanks to all who donated, worked on the committee, and to all who ran.

## THE UPCOMING GALA

### Academy Awards & Installation Banquet

More than just awards, July 8<sup>th</sup> is an event full of wonder and excitement. An in-person event that all members will enjoy with takeaways to add to each of our Rotary Journeys. Here are the highlights:



An exquisite 1920s locale in Sacramento, the Historic Elks Tower

- Walk the red-carpet gauntlet beginning at 5:15 PM
- Mingle with old and new friends while eying the Hollywoodesque vibe
- Ogle over and bid on the dessert auction treats offered by each of our 12 Assistant Governors to add to your table's dining experience.
- Search for surprises and tokens of appreciation that await our assistant governors/executive team members (remember the collages of each club Presidents' social-media life unveiled?) and "walk of fame stars" for our current club presidents.
- Enjoy a multi-media program honoring our nominees and award winners in seven distinctive categories, along with special awards and recognitions
- Celebrate the transition in leadership at the District and Club level (infused with humor and merriment).

Carrying through with the themes of the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Rotary years, July 8<sup>th</sup> is the event of the Rotary calendar not to be missed.



# UGANDA

## MOSQUITO NETS & BIRTHS: *Update*



### THE NETS

**Deb Luyiima** and **Herb Muyinga** reported that "the funds for the mosquito nets and the soap project were received in the bank today. The need out here for the nets is dire. Hopefully we shall have the first batch of the liquid soap produced next week. We just have to check with the Interact club patron for the right time."

"Last week we distributed 50 mosquito nets. Priority was given to the breastfeeding mothers, babies, expectant mothers, elderly and the disabled. It was such a revealing moment as most of the families do not have beds therefore, we had to improvise to ensure that they can have the mosquito nets hang on their bedroom walls to cover their mattresses. Attached are some of the pictures taken during the distribution exercise. The smiles on the faces of the beneficiaries say it all. THANKS SO MUCH FOR IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE LESS PRIVILEGED.



## WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Deb went on to report "Over the weekend we welcomed a baby boy and girl. The baby girl was the heaviest baby that was ever born at the clinic. She weighed 3.6kg (7lbs.9oz) and she is the first-born child of her 23-year-old mother. Both mothers and the babies are in good health. Thanks for enabling the mothers to have safe child deliveries."



## A VISIT TO UGANDA

**Torsten Jacobsen** told us that **President elect Bob Sundberg** mentioned that he may consider a trip in the Fall to Uganda to observe our club's projects but with the stipulation that he will ONLY consider going if we have others join us on a truly rewarding adventure. Let Bob know if you are interested in participating.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: *The Team*

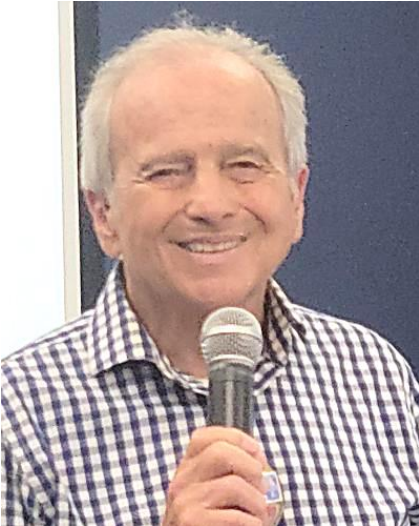


**President Mary Kemnitz** reported that the Scholarship Committee held the first meeting for next year's awards. **Alison Bacigalupo** serves as the Chair with **Vicki Sexton**, **Mary Kemnitz**, and **Joan D'Onofrio** comprising the committee.



# HAPPYBUCKS

Barbara Reifschneider



**LARRY HUTCHINGS** was very happy this morning about the mosquito nets. Apparently 50 mosquito nets have already been distributed and they received the donation we sent.

**RUSS ANDERSON** had a happy five bucks this morning. Russ was happy, or shall I say grateful, that Mary only has one more meeting left.

**MARY KEMNITZ** was five dollars happy this morning. Mary and Dave are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and a get together given by their kids.



**MOLLY AVILEZ** had a positive buck this morning. She let us know that her grandmother was in surgery this morning and she wanted all of us to have positive thoughts and good energy flowing her way.



**TORSTEN JACOBSEN** complemented Vicki and John on their intimate, down-to-earth and challenging sojourn, certainly much more memorable, rewarding and insightful than some laidback luxury trip. The physical challenges and much more intimate and immediate contact with oneself, nature and others of a different nationality and culture were experienced as incomparable and very memorable. He then quoted well-known Hunter S. Thompson, "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a ride!".





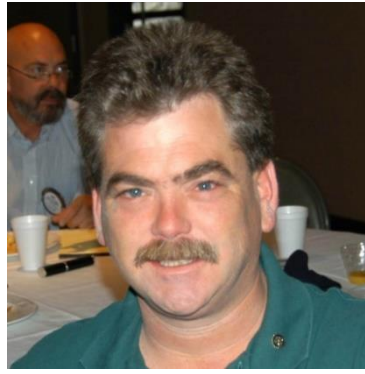
# CELEBRATIONS

## *This Month's Birthdays*

**EWA**



**JOHNNY**



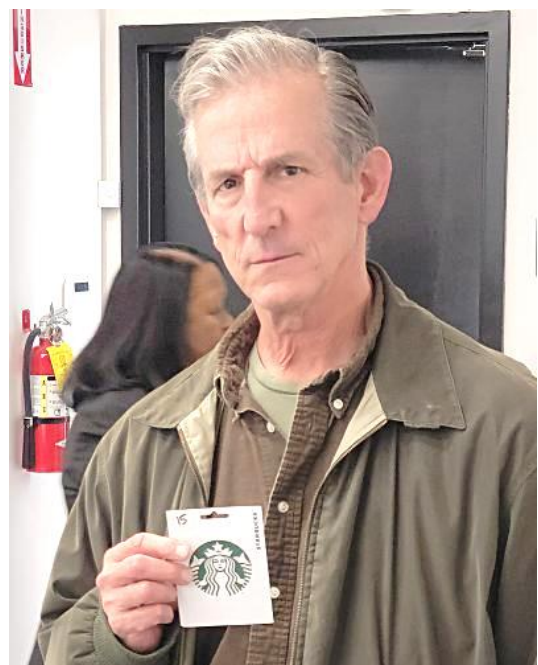
**EWA SOBILO** served on the Club as the Group Study Exchange team leader for Japan, is a member of the Paul Harris Society, and member of the Concord Ambassadors Sister City Organization. As a child, Ewa lived in Gdansk, Poland, the hometown of the Polish Solidarity movement. She and her husband are owners of the Moose Metal Company that specializes in metal sales and fabrication. She and her husband live in Concord.

**JOHNNY MORGAN** has been a member of the club for the past 20 years; he has been our computer guru forever.

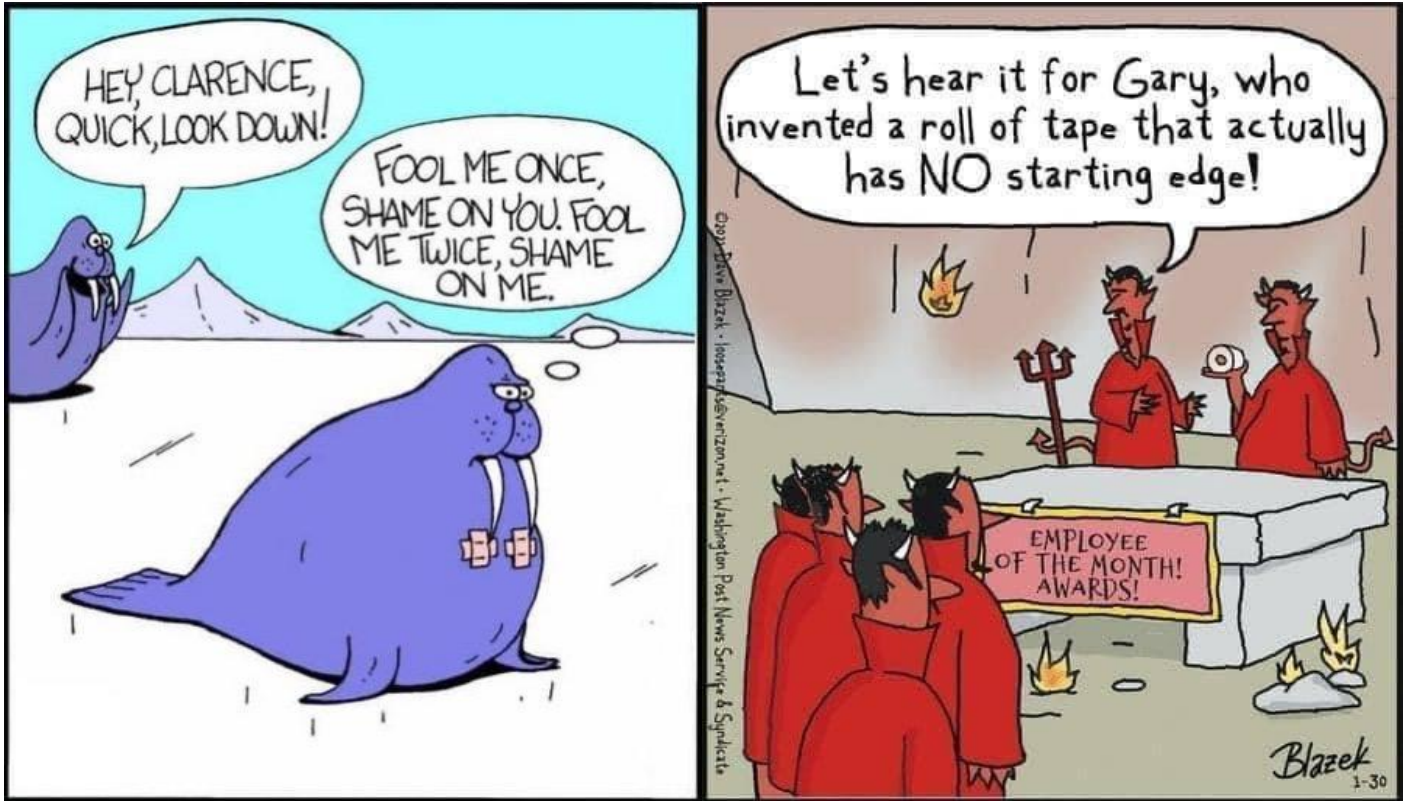
## THE RAFFLE

**...AND THE  
WINNER IS**

Why isn't this  
Rotarian smiling?



# FUNSTUFF



## Sardonic Senior Wisdom

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

Common sense is like deodorant: the people who need it the most never use it.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but there's a new strain out there.

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.



I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round. . . and laughed and laughed and laughed.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.

Sometimes the Universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dumbass.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being truthful.





Everybody knows somebody that has a car they don't need. Tell your friends about how we administer this vehicle donation program with volunteers so that the charity they choose gets the highest value. Donate online at [Cars2ndChance.org](http://Cars2ndChance.org) or call for more information: (925) 326-5868.

*... That's all folks*