

# Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon

6520 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Visit our website: [VOMRotary.org](http://VOMRotary.org)

Volume XXIII Issue No. 1 David Beach, President July 6, 2023



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



The **Four-Way Test** of things we think, say or do:

Is it the **Truth**?

Is it **Fair** to all concerned?

Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

President **David Beach** rang the opening bell at 8a.m and **John Derby** led the flag salute.

## VISITORS:



Sgt-at-Arms **Fred Merrill** announced the presence of visiting Rotarians **Marilyn & Larry Lira** of the SR East/West club, and **Al Ferguson** of Big Bear Lake Rotary. Also visiting is our speaker William Hanson, Ron Bickert (**David Beach**), and Megan Miller (**Maureen McGettigan**).

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

**John Brodey** having just returned from a month-long retreat to Greece & Turkey, said he's still on their time and it's 1:30 a.m. in Turkey!

**John** would like to see this portion of our meeting remain, along with Getting to Know You, which helps us get to know each other just a bit better. He'll pass around a sign-up sheet next meeting and asks us to participate.

John's very deep "Thought for the Day" came from a meditation book called "The 5 Invitations: Discovering What Death Can Teach Us About Life" by Frank Ostaseski. His choice was about suffering and how it relates to living.



## MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Val Hulsey** welcomed **Maureen McGettigan** back to our club after a brief hiatus and returned her Blue Badge to her. We sure do welcome ace photographer and great person, Maureen, back to the fold.



**Kevin Johnson** passed around a sign-up sheet for Greeters.

**Jim Allen**, the new Environmental chair, suggested we take any plastic items we brought to the meeting home with us, wash and re-use.

**Daymon Doss** is starting early to remind us of our next CRAB FEED, which will be Saturday, February 24, 2024! The first meeting will be in early August, so be sure to sign up and let's make this the best fundraiser ever!

**David Beach** has been in touch with other local Rotary presidents and they're all in agreement about more social events. The first event for all Rotary clubs is going to be on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Museum at 425 7<sup>th</sup> Street (just across the street from Macy's parking garage). It's an interesting history of our town, so join Rotary for a nice evening.

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

**Craig Clissold** had a birthday yesterday, so John Derby led us in song! He said his family took him to Stark's Steak House for an awesome dinner.



## HAPPY & SAD DOLLARS:



**Star Power** was happy for a joyous evening Saturday at Transcendence Theater's performance of "The Beat Goes On" at the Belos Cavalos horse ranch just down Hwy 12 aways. It was a spectacular night under the stars, attended by about 700 folks. Lots of singing and memories of days gone by.

## RAFFLE:

**Craig Clissold** drew Jim Reed's number in the mere \$25 Raffle and he didn't draw the Joker.

## GUEST SPEAKER:

**Fred Merrill** introduced our speaker Bill Hanson, a docent (and more) at the Sturgeon's Mill in Sebastopol.



Bill was born in Santa Rosa, as was his grandfather, father, Bill's children & grandchildren, making his granddaughter a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Santa Rosa native. His great-grandfather Hanson walked out west in a wagon train from Ohio in 1851, part of the gold rush. He found the gold in hauling freight from the docks in Stockton to the miners. He settled his family in Napa Valley and bought the property for 10 cents an acre in 1857.

Bill was an investment advisor in SR for 28 years. Today he is a rock nut, including jewelry making. He is an amateur mycologist (wild mushroom nut). He has written a weekly outdoor column for the Community Voice

for 17 years. He's a member of the Lafayette Masonic Lodge, volunteers for the local rock club, and is on the board of directors for the Sturgeon's Mill Living History Museum.

Bill's been a docent at the mill for 8 years. Bob Sturgeon of the original family and the most senior member, is still around and active in demonstrating what the mill has done over the years. They're obviously quite proud to show how lumber was milled in days gone by. It boasts its original steam-powered sawmill located in Sebastopol.



Bob Sturgeon is thrilled to show off their "baby", real bathrooms built by volunteers with lumber milled right there. In the past, they only had porta-potties (at a cost), so this is a real pleaser to visitors.

The mill is only open to the public about 8 days a year. For 2023, the May and June dates are past, but they'll be open on September 16 & 17, then on October 14 & 15, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This is a great place to bring the kids to witness this step back into history and see how lumber was milled. They boast an amazing set of Cheshire draft horses, along with other farm animals that aided in the lumber industry. During their exhibitions for the public, they demonstrate how these rare & incredible animals are trained to haul logs through difficult terrain to the mill.

The whole mill is run on steam power. A steam-driven band saw can still cut more lumber at a lower cost than modern mills.



All working lumber mills are closed, including Sturgeon's Mill in 1963 until a few years ago, when the family got together and cleaned out the area of brush & blackberry vines, bringing it back to life. Their original steam engine was originally bought in 1913 from Korbel Bros who were making cigar boxes. It was bought by Merle Sturgeon, who ran it in Coleman Valley out to the ocean. It was moved to the Sebastopol site in 1924.

The 1st Saturday of each month teaches a workshop for volunteers. Bill cooks their lunches and also helps tend the Sturgeon Garden. Bill talked about the demonstrations put on for the children, which is always a thriller – a tug-o-war between the kids on one side against the giant donkey on the other, which demonstrates the power of the animal against up to 200 kids!

Bill is obviously very passionate about the mill and invited us to come out and visit. Over Father's Day they had 800 visitors, and the day before they had 600, so it sounds like a terrific place to visit. Bill left flyers on our table with directions to the mill on the reverse, but you can log on to their site at [www.sturgeonsmill.org](http://www.sturgeonsmill.org) for more. Their address is 2150 Green Hill Road (not to be confused with Green Valley Road) in Sebastopol.

Bill fielded several great questions from our members. President **Beach** thanked Bill for an interesting talk and gave him a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift.



### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**President Beach** adjourned our meeting at 9 a.m. and we recited the Four-Way Test.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**



7/13/23 – Conservation Corp Anastasia Pryor

7/20/23 – TBD.

7/27/23 –Advo Kids Margaret Coyne

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

First Posting for membership for *Morgan Holien* and *Ron Bickert*.

**Share Rotary with your friends.** We should invite business friends and neighbors to a meeting. Who do we do business with, what neighbors do we know, and what former Rotarians could be asked to join us? Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club's expense.

When introducing your guest at a meeting please do not introduce them as a prospective member. No one can be a prospective member until the Board votes on their application. Just introduce them as my friend or neighbor or whatever is appropriate.

**MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE JOINED ROTARY HAD SOMEONE ASKED THEM!**

### **ERRORS & OMISSIONS**

**Editor:** Star Power  
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**Publisher:** Valerie Hulsey

**Photographer:** John Derby

#### **Club Officers:**

**President:** David Beach

**Immediate Past President:** Art Fichtenberg

**President-Elect:** Fred Merrill

**Secretary:** Valerie Hulsey

**Treasurer:** Liz Moore

#### **Directors:**

**Community Service** –Marcel Coder

**International Service** – John Derby

**Youth Service** - Jackie Ryan & Lydia Harris

**Club Service**– Daymon Doss

**Environment** – Jim Allen

**Rotary Foundation** – Mike Isola

