



# THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley  
Founded June 7, 1926 • “Service Above Self”  
August 8, 2017 • Volume 91, Issue #04  
<http://millvalleyrotary.org>  
District Web Site: [www.rotary5150.org](http://www.rotary5150.org)



## GREETER

■ Mr. Greeter himself, **Joshua Szarek** welcomed members and visitors to today’s meeting. After leading the pledge to the flag, Joshua advised the crowd to *Never take life too seriously. You’re not going to get out of it alive anyway.*

## PRESIDER

■ Taking the greeter’s advice, **President J. R.** immediately launched today’s joke:

*Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House. One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Minnesota.*

*All three go with a White House official to examine the fence. The Minnesota contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. “Well,” he says, “I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me.”*

*The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, the says, “I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me.”*

*The Chicago contractor doesn’t measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, “\$2,700.”*

*The official, incredulous, says, “You didn’t even measure like the*

*other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?*

*The Chicago contractor whispers back, “\$1,000 for me, \$1,000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence!”*

## VISITORS

■ Plenty today—**Leona George-Davidson**, wife of our July 11 speaker; **Oak Dowling**, our July 18 speaker; **Reed Nothwang**,

## JOSHUA GETS THE ROTARY LOW-DOWN AT PRLS



► **New member Joshua Szarek poses with Jayne Hulbert, Rotary District 5150 Governor-Elect, during a break at the recent introductory Potential Rotary Leaders Seminar (PRLS) held in San Francisco Saturday, July 29. Three advanced Master PRLS sessions are planned for August 19, October 14 and November 18. Check the District website for details. On second thought, check with Joshua; he’s very enthusiastic about the program and may be planning to continue attending PRLS.**

## VISITORS (Cont'd)

financial advisor in Larkspur who may be interested in joining the club; **Carolyn Vaughan**, Special Education Therapist at the Mill Valley Middle School; **Joyce Massucco**; **Iris Saligman**; and **Ghirmay Neghasi**, father of today's interviewee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Community Service Director **Trevor Scotto** is looking for volunteers to plant Redwood trees behind Cafe of Life (465 Miller Ave.) at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 26. Shovels and compost will be provided. Give Trevor a call if you'd like to participate.

■ Three high school-age girls from The Republic of Congo are looking forward to being exchange students in Marin this coming fall, but only if we can provide host families, said Past President **Jane Hall**. If you know someone who would be willing to host one of the young ladies, please contact Jane post haste.

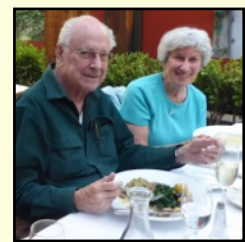
■ **President J. R.** reminded the club that the *Celebrating Women Doing Good in the World* brunch is scheduled for Sunday, August 27 at the Merchants Exchange in San Francisco. You can find more details and make a reservation on the District 5150 website.

■ J. R. also announced that a *New Kids Coffee* event is scheduled for September 6. Details to follow.

■ The MVPD's pink patches are still for sale, reported **Allely Albert**. They are \$10 each and the proceeds go to fight breast cancer.

■ PP **Doug Scherf** reminded members of his Youth Services Committee that there will be a special training session following lunch on August 22 for all members who will be working with youth this Rotary year. If you have questions, call Doug.

## IT'S ALL FUN & GAMES AT PIAZZA D'ANGELO



► The club held its first "social" of the new Rotary year last Tuesday evening at Piazza D'Angelo restaurant in downtown Mill Valley. Staff photographer Margareth Tanner snapped these photos of the participants.





## GOOD TIMES

■ Recently retired Club Treasurer **Stephanie Ricardo** noted how great it was to be sitting with the “regular folks” once again. The club gave her a big hand, much deserved for the years of special service she gave to the club.

■ **Burnett, J. R.** and **Bill Lambrecht** enjoyed the movie Monday at the Lark Theatre in Larkspur where they saw *De-Lovely*, the life-story of **Cole Porter**. The event was a fundraiser for Rotary Club of Central Marin.

■ **Dan Hatch**, one of the group just back from visiting our Global Grant project in Peru, had such an inspiring experience that he was prompted to contribute a bell-ringer to the Rotary Foundation.

■ **Steve Miller**’s family was visiting—a special Good Time.

## RAFFLE

■ **Howard Harker** made a valiant attempt but came up empty. The pot rests at \$714.



► **Next Week: President-elect Bob Roberts will tell us all about this Peruvian greenhouse as he presents his report—*Rotary Good Times in the Andes of Peru*—in which he will provide details of our Global Grant Project and the recent visit to the area by Mill Valley Rotarians.**

## PROGRAM

■ **Rod Septka**, Global Studies Mentor and Master Teacher at the Mill Valley School District, interviewed former student,

**Mesgna Neghasi** about his journey from Eritrea, Africa to Mill Valley, California. In a program titled *Goodbye Son: Leaving My Home to Discover My Destiny*, Mesgna shared spell-binding stories about life in his native Eritrea as a young child, and his amazing trip to Mill Valley with his father, **Ghirmay**.

Mesgna will be a senior at Tam High this coming school year. He is an athlete (soccer and track and field—he is a Marin County Athletic League (MCAL) track champion—speaks excellent English in addition to Arabic and his native Eritrean tongue.

It wasn’t always like that, though. One of the toughest things about his first months in America was the fact that he couldn’t speak English. He and his father went to the library and rented cartoons which they watched to learn our language. Apparently, *SpongeBob* was an excellent teacher!

Mesgna’s story was a fascinating tale, and we appreciate him and teacher Rod Septka for sharing it with us.



► **Today’s speakers, Middle School teacher Rod Septka (left) and Mesgna Neghasi (3rd from left) pose with (from left) Carolyn Vaughan, Middle School Special Ed therapist, Mesgna’s father Ghirmay Neghasi, Carolyn’s mother-in law Joyce Massucco and Program Chair Bob Canepa.**

## NEXT WEEK

**August 15:** Mill Valley Rotarian **Bob Roberts** will tell us about *Rotary Good Times in the Andes of Peru*. This is the tale of four intrepid club members along with a wife, a lady friend and a devoted son who discover hardship and happiness in the Andes of Peru. This is the story of our club's Global Grant and the Peruvians who made it happen.

## CLUB CALENDAR

**August 22:** Mill Valley Mayor **Jessica Sloan** and Mill Valley City Manager **Jim McCann** will present the traditional *State of the City*. They should be able to answer your questions about the progress of the Miller Avenue makeover. (They're gettin' there!)



► Mesgna Neghasi and teacher Rod Septka on stage at today's meeting.

**August 27:** Celebrating Women Doing Good in the World brunch at the Julia Morgan Ballroom, Merchants Exchange in San Francisco. See District website for details.

**August 29:** Gil Sanborn, the civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Pacific North/Sierras, will discuss *The Battle For Mosul, Iraq*. He will detail U.S. Army support to Iraqi Forces in the fight to defeat ISIS in Mosul. Included in his presentation will be a prerecorded call-in by the commander leading 82nd Airborne troops in Mosul from his battlefield HQ.

**September 5:** District Governor **Ron Gin** will be our speaker.

**September 6:** *New Kids Coffee*. Details to come.

**Hospital Chart Bloopers**  
(They claim these are for real!)

*Rectal examination revealed a normal size Thyroid.*

**2017-2018  
POLIO PLUS**

**CLUB GOAL  
TBA**

**JAR TOTAL  
AS OF TODAY:  
\$1,133.73**

**2017-2018  
SERVICE FUND  
(GEORGE HOYLE)**

**GOAL  
\$10,000**

**TOTAL  
AS OF TODAY:  
\$200.00**

**ROTARY  
FOUNDATION  
GIVING**

**2017-2018 GOAL:  
TBA**

**TOTAL  
AS OF TODAY:  
\$300.00**

## ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2017-2018

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President Elect: Bob Roberts  
Secretary: Raymond Palmarini  
Assistant Secretary: Beverlee Sandy  
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Past President: Kent Campbell  
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Program Committee: Bob Canepa & Elizabeth Suzuki