



THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley
Founded June 7, 1926 • "Service Above Self"
February 4, 2014 • Volume 87, Issue #29
<http://millvalleyrotary.org>
District Web Site: www.rotary5150.org



GREETER

- Greeter: Keith Papulius

ANNIVERSARIES

- Steve Miller - February 7th
Ray Palmarini - February 7th.
Rumor has it both will be turning a 'two-digit' number.
- **Club:** Tracy Cook - February 1st. 3 years. Richard Rider - February 8th. 20 years. Dick Spotswood - February 9th. 21 years.

VISITING ROTARIAN?

- While not really a visitor, it's been so long since **Bob Knox** has been here that it seemed that way. He now has three grandchildren, still hikes quite often, and plays the electric guitar every day. If he has time after all of that he practices law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Barbara Hofling** updated us on the dictionary project. We will be handing out dictionaries on the 14th and the 26th of February.

Here is how it works: A small, nervous, anxious, fearful, tightly packed group of Rotarians cautiously enters an enclosed space wherein a mob of 3rd graders lies in wait.

In order to assure a safe exit Rotarians pacify the natives by handing out colorful dictionaries.

We need help with native pacification! Call Barbara!

- In **Richard Simon's** absence **Jim Simkalo** stepped up and told us the Spring Blood Drive would be on Saturday 29 March. If you are giving blood that day, please remember not to use any psychedelic drugs beforehand as it could upset or delight recipients.

- **Roberta Keller** wants us to remember the Chamber Mixer on February 19th. We need Ambassadors from Rotary to join the mixer and toot our horns. If you would like to offer either your time or something (else) of value to the Chamber Mixer Raffle, or

just stand around and toot, contact **Ken Brooks**.

GOOD TIMES

- **Jim Simkalo** was treated as a guest at the Rotary club of Tiburon Evening at the San Francisco Yacht Club when he presented YPT (Youth Protection Training), which is required for Rotary clubs that have a youth program.

RAFFLE

- **Dick Spotswood** was the winner of the lottery. He wins a free lunch at the world famous



☛ Where are they now? In apparent effort to enhance their "checkered" Rotary careers, President Sue and President Elect Roberta are caught enjoying themselves at Novato Rotary's recent Polenta Feed. Photo by Dennis Hagerty, Assistant District Governor. Yeah, the same guy who cleaned out our raffle pot a few weeks ago!

restaurant 'La Rotary' in Mill Valley (very exclusive - only open Tuesdays for lunch). 'Escargots de Bourgogne', 'Oeufs en Meurette', and the always delectable 'Confit de Canard' are just a few of the dishes not found on the menu.

NEW MEMBER

■ The membership application of **Jean L. Batman**, Mill Valley resident who is an attorney with offices in San Francisco, has been approved by the club board of directors. **President Sue** is her sponsor.

Jean was born in San Diego and has been practicing for 24 years. She is an attorney at Legal Venture Counsel, Inc. in San Francisco. Her classification will be *Law - Business Transactions*.

She and her spouse, Alexander Choulos, have three children, ages 21, 18 and 14. She is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, Pi Beta Phi and the American Bar Association. She has been a regular speaker at veterans' and Memorial Day events at the Marin Civic Center.

Members have seven days in which to comment in writing to the club secretary should they wish to do so.

PROGRAM

■ Ever wanted to know the history of modern day Cuba? Well, here is a condensed version of the day's program, presented by **Adam Vaught**, a director on GeoEx's Americas team:

Cuba was Columbus' second stop after the Bahamas. Cuba remained a Spanish colonial territory until about 1868. At the time, one of its claims to fame was that Cuba had the most slaves per capita due to the sugar industry. Being a slave wasn't as much fun as no one says it was, so slaves and some right-thinking

IKE WANTS YOUR INPUT AT HEALTH FORUM NOW

■ **Dr. Isaac (Ike) Silberman's** team at *Health Forum Now* is interested in your ideas and input. You may devote as little or as much time as your interests motivate you. They are emphasizing doing what works locally.

If you have a passionate interest in improving access to personalized, prompt medical information—with options and ways to act on this need—please contact **Ike** at **235-7805**. According to Ike, this approach improves personal health care by providing a proactive, timely, integrated system that helps people get what they need, where and when they need it.

Ike's team has developed tools which are free, quick, easy to use yourself and/or with your health provider at local facilities. The focus is to help you help yourself—and help others.

"We need people who have experience or knowledge of nursing, networking technology, call center operations, education, small group—7 or less—development, administration and strategy planning as we grow," Ike noted.

You need not have degrees or licenses in these areas, but you must be passionate about some practical ways to improve local health care for the community, working with existing programs and resources.

Want more information? Give Ike a call at 235-7805.

Cubans got together to end slavery. Unfortunately, their valiant effort was quickly crushed by Spanish troops.

Fast forward a bit to 1898, the Cubans were still fighting the Spanish. But Cuba's northern neighbor, the United States, helped them gain independence in 1953. But 'independence' can mean different things to different people.

Consequently the US pretty much controlled Cuba after its 'independence' and helped install a man named [Bautista](#) as

President by using an efficient shortcut to democracy known as a 'military coup'.

Bautista had already been President of Cuba previously, and was not universally loved as a dictatorial President the second time. He was especially unloved by the young beardless illegitimate son of a wealthy farmer named **Fidel Castro**.

On July 26, 1953 Castro decided he just wasn't having it. So he and some others drove 16 cars into Santiago de Cuba (the second largest city in Cuba) and

ONLY TWO SEATS LEFT FOR CUBAN DANCE PARTY!

■ *Only two seats left* at the table for 10 at the February 16 Marin Sunrise Rotary Cuban Dance Party. Please call **Burnett** at **388-2113** if you'd like to have them at \$40 each. The event will feature authentic Cuban cuisine and entertainment from 5 to 10 p.m. at the San Rafael Community Center, 618 B St., San Rafael.

Now that you know the country's history, join us at this special event and learn why Marin Sunrise, a club sponsored by Mill Valley Rotary in 1987, believes there may be a new Cuban history as it relates to Rotary.

attacked a barracks in hopes of absconding with the weapons inside.

The adventure didn't turn out well, many were killed or captured (and then executed). But Castro and his brother **Raul** were spared death's inconvenience.

Castro, who had studied law, defended himself in court. The net result was that he was thrown into prison for a twenty year term. But then, a few years later, President Bautista released a number of political prisoners. Unfortunately for President Bautista, two of them were Fidel and Raul Castro.

The brothers immediately left Cuba for Mexico, obtained a 12-person yacht called the Granma into which they stuffed at least 80 people, and then headed back to Cuba to take part in a planned coup.

But with 80 people on a 12-person yacht they arrived days after the coup had already petered out. They were intercepted by the Bautista government and fled inland. Only 19 revolutionaries made it, the rest were killed or captured.

Fidel and Raul survived by fleeing to the mountains and managing the revolution from afar. Working with others, including a seemingly rogue CIA operative who understood military tactics, Fidel and Raul Castro orchestrated the Cuban revolution.

They, along with [Che Guevara](#) defeated the capitalist dogs. On January 1st, 1959 Bautista gathered up some traveling money (about \$300,000,000) and left Cuba for the USA. ¡Viva la revolución!

Castro's utopian workers paradise was not without its challenges. Three years after the revolution, a paranoid Castro executed the CIA operative who had helped him plan and win the revolution.

A few years after that, the CIA sponsored [Bay of Pigs](#) occurred where US forces were defeated by

Cuban forces while attempting regime change in Cuba; today school kids in Cuba get three days off to celebrate the overthrow of the 'American Imperialists.'

At the time, the US was the number one trading partner with Cuba. But eventually America got serious with an embargo. Russia took the opportunity to step in and filled the vacuum caused by the departure of US trade, saying they would buy all of the products Cuba had sold to the US (and they would throw in some nuclear missiles at no additional charge).

The Cuban Missile Crisis, tighter embargoes, money transfer and travel restrictions for Cuban Americans ensued. Then, in the

1990s, Russia told Castro they could no longer support Cuba, so the foreign supported Cuban economy collapsed.

Fidel called this the 'special period' and (wait for it...) blamed the United States for their troubles. But Hugo Chavez of Venezuela came to Cuba's rescue in what is known as the 'Pink Tide.' Apparently, Cuba has a lot of doctors; Venezuela has a lot of oil. The two began a 'trading doctors for oil' program. The oil injection was enough to restart the heart of the Cuban economy.

In 2006, the US started broadcasting ticker-tape type messages on the side of a Havana building rented from the Swiss.



ENJOY MILL VALLEY



Join us for our next Mixer at
The Mill Valley Golf & Clubhouse
 267 Buena Vista Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

Wednesday, February 19, 2014
5:30-7:30 pm

Mixer Hosted By
The Rotary Club of Mill Valley

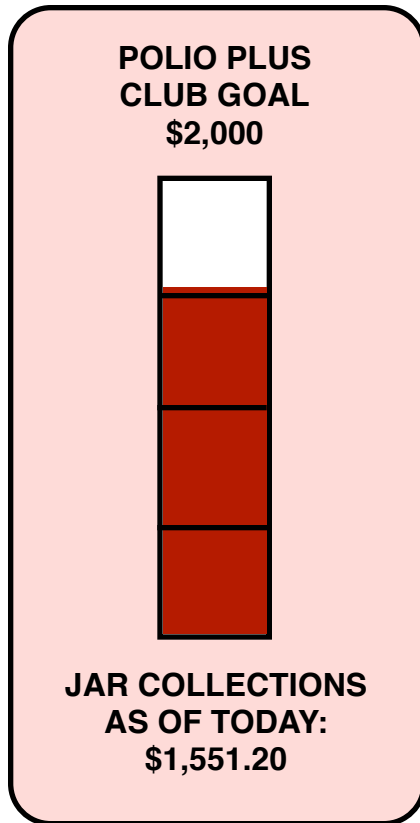
94941

Non-member \$20 | Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
 388-9700 | www.MillValley.org

☛ Members of the Mill Valley Chamber will soon be receiving this invitation to join us at their February 19 Mixer. The club is hosting the event and invites you all to be there to act as ambassadors for Rotary. Put the date on your calendar!

This early attempt at building-mounted tweeting was not received well by Castro. He retaliated by erecting a monument densely packed with flagpoles which blocked the view of the illuminated messages from public view.

Two years later, on February 20, 2008, Raul Castro took over for his brother Fidel. Things started to get better and then some other fascinating things happened and, well, here we are.



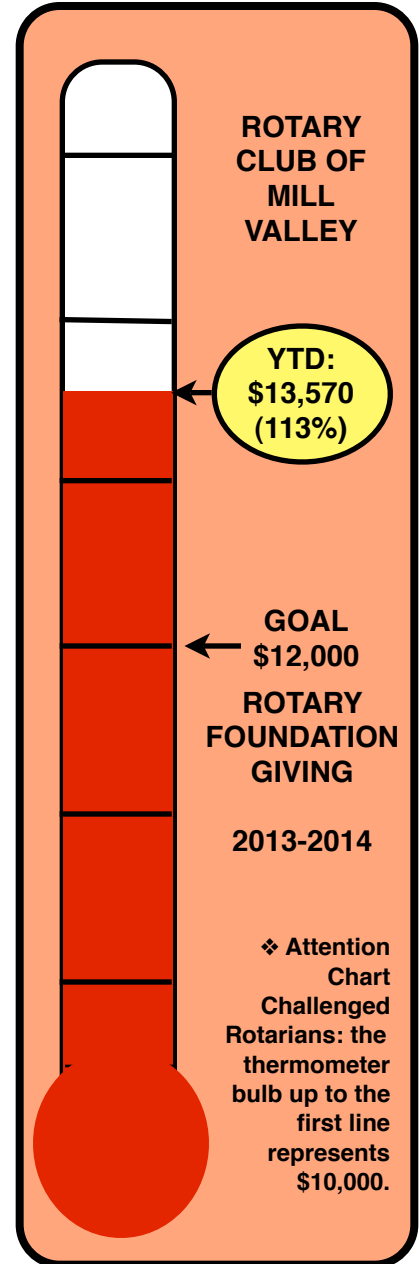
Reporter's Note: The above was taken from hastily scribbled notes while eating brownies. *Accuracy is not guaranteed.*
(Editor's Note—Only in Mill Valley—the brownies, that is!).

NEXT WEEK

■ Mill Valley Police Chief **Angel Bernal** and Fire Chief **Jeff Davidson** will talk on *Public Safety*.

CLUB CALENDAR

- **February 8:** Work Party at Terwilliger Marsh. **CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN!!!!!!**
- **February 16:** Cuban Dance Party. (See P. 2).
- **February 18:** Our speaker will be **Gem Munro**, and his presentation is entitled *Mothers of Intention: The Power of Motherhood to Teach the World*. He and his family run the Amarak Society which teaches very poor mothers in Bangladesh how to read and write in their local language.
- **February 19:** MV Rotary will host the Mill Valley Chamber's monthly mixer at the golf clubhouse, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **March 7:** Redwoods Senior Prom. Men only see **Bob Canepa** who has the sign-up sheet.



ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2013-2014



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