



THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley
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<http://millvalleyrotary.org>
District Web Site: www.rotary5150.org



GREETER

■ **PP Elizabeth Suzuki.** The thought for today was from that world-famous author, Anonymous: *Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.*

VISITORS, ETC.

■ There were no visitors, guests or visiting Rotarians today.

BIRTHDAYS

■ There were two birthdays of club members. The first was **Dennis Klein (2-18)**, whom I had the privilege of sitting next to

while he described his plans for eradicating traffic in the city of Mill Valley through his mapping system.

■ The second was **Mary Alice Cárdenas (2-18)**, who reminded us that she was giving a presentation at the Mill Valley Recreation Center, at 180 Camino Alto, this Thursday, February 18, from 5:00 to 6:30. Her presentation: living with purpose is something that doesn't stop when you are older. All Rotarians and guests are invited and refreshments will be provided.

Phil Richardson led the Birthday Song in his unique style. The club members sang with their usual enthusiasm.

ANNIVERSARIES

■ **Wedding - Larry Davis** celebrated 41 years of blissful marriage. Since he was married on Valentine's Day, he acknowledged that his wedding anniversary was easy to remember. Other club members at my table commented that he only had to buy one present. I expect a similar situation for those born on December 25.

■ **Wedding - Roberta Keller** enjoyed 51 wonderfully blissful years of marriage.

■ **Club - Past President Doug Scherf** celebrated 26 years as a member of Mill Valley Rotary. He commented that one of the biggest highlights of his 26 years was traveling to the foreign country of Texas to attend Rotary's International Convention.

■ **Club - Our Greeter and Past President Elizabeth Suzuki** also celebrated 20 years in our Mill Valley Rotary club. There was some confusion as to whether her best Rotary experience was with Russian architects or bankers. Nevertheless, she and the club had a great time hosting a Rotary Peace Fellow from Ethiopia.

GOOD TIMES

■ **PP Kim Jessup** confessed to a good time at our Mill Valley annual dinner when past president **Jane Hall** was honored. Read roasted. Apparently, **Elizabeth Suzuki** had worn her **Jane Hall** wig with style. However, past



► Greeter Elizabeth Suzuki with PP Bruce Wrisley and today's speaker.

MORE GOOD TIMES

president, Kim Jessup went on to say that, she was even more amused by the wonderful dinner for the late **Marguerite Burbank** in which Elizabeth Suzuki had worn yet another wig and had not realized until much later in the evening that she was wearing it backwards. Past president Elizabeth seemed very amused at that fond memory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Past President **Bob Canepa** reminded the club that **Lucy Mercer** would be next week's speaker. Lucy, of course, is the driving force behind 142 Throckmorton Theatre in downtown Mill Valley.

■ President **Ken Brooks** announced the appointment of **J.R. Hastings** to the position of membership chair. J. R. is of course the president elect-elect of our club.

■ President Brooks also reminded members that they are welcome to attend all club board meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:15 at the front room of the golf clubhouse.

■ **Karen Buckter** reminded the club members that 2% of the



► Birthday girl **M. A. Cardenas** invites the club to her Thursday presentation (see *Birthdays* for details).

money collected for groceries at the Mill Valley Market will go to the KIDDO foundation just for the asking. Former owner of the Mill Valley Market and past president of Mill Valley Rotary, **Bob Canepa** added that in order to credit KIDDO with those funds, customers must tell the cashier before the final tally is rung up.

■ President **Ken Brooks** also reminded the membership that a Peace Conference would be held this year from March 10-12. He also reminded members that there

would be a District Assembly held at the Redwood High School on March 19.

■ **Roberta Keller** reminded members that at our annual installation dinner there may be a possibility for members to bring auction items as a possible fundraiser.

■ The club's favorite birthday singer, **Donna D'Acuti**, titled herself "the self-promoting Queen of Mill Valley." while announcing that her next official performance will be at the No-Name bar in Sausalito at 8:30 this coming Thursday.

■ President Ken was proud to show off our public address system. It seemed to be in full working order and will be available for our chamber mixer tonight.

PROGRAM

Past president **Bob Canepa** introduced our speaker this afternoon. **Bob Roberts** is of course a member of our club and author of a book about the life and times of his father, **Charles Elmore Roberts**, or, more commonly known simply as **Mike Roberts**.

During the course of Bob's talk, it was clear that his father Mike was a friend—not only of **Amelia Earhart** and **Walt Disney** but also much more importantly of **Sally Rand**.

He was also a contemporary of **Ansel Adams**, who had nothing but good things to say about Mike's color photography. He is quoted as saying to Amelia Earhart, who wanted one of his pictures, "I have a Harley and I can drive all night."

Bob's dad's mantra was, "have something to look forward to every morning."

I expect as a sixth-grade student, Charles Elmore Roberts had a great deal to look forward to. One



► Birthday boy **Dennis Klein** contributes to the fine box.

PROGRAM (Cont'd)

fine day. In fact, that day he decided to pack a large glass bottle with dynamite and blow up his elementary school. He was summarily expelled because of that innocent chemical experiment.

These tender moments are what keep me coming back to my Mill Valley Rotary Club.

Bob's book is available for sale, and includes photos that his dad had taken of Sally Rand and friends wearing nothing but "bows and arrows." An allusion to an Indian Western theme?

In any case, for those who missed Bob's presentation, you missed excellent photographs, great historical content and a slice of Americana that unfortunately ended with the postcard era in 1989.



► Sausalito photographer (and Rotarian, we hasten to add!) orchestrates a group shot at the Chamber Mixer. We hope to share some of his pictures with you next week.

Mill Valley Rotary-Peace Corps Peru Projects

Progress Report #2: Miramar (Piura) Toilets

by Brian LaRosa, Peace Corps Volunteer

❖ Four years ago, as part of a larger potable water project, a basic sewage system was built in the town of Miramar and a neighboring town. Unfortunately the project did not include the bathrooms themselves and the vast majority of the population in Miramar was unable to afford the resources needed to build their own. As a result the sewage system went mostly unused.

We started by doing a comprehensive report on the town that we call the community diagnostic. Through interviews, surveying, and the gathering of statistics from the towns institutions (Health Center, Municipality, Schools, etc.) we were able to determine what type of projects would most benefit the community

Leaders of the community, representatives of the local municipality, and myself got together various times to discuss how we could split the costs between the three of us. Eventually we came to the agreement that the municipality would provide around 27%, the cost of skilled labor and transportation, the community would provide an additional 27%, the cost of laborers and, through the Peace Corps Partners grant from the Rotary Club of Mill Valley, California, we raised the remaining 46%. With these contributions we made our goal to build fifteen full bathrooms with connection to the sewage system, as well as provide an educational campaign to teach sanitation practices in the town. Our long-term aim is the provision of the infrastructure and knowledge to raise healthy families.

The 15 Toilets have been built and are in use. The total cost was \$9,454 of which the Rotary Club of Mill Valley contributed \$4,318.



► Peace Corps volunteer Brian LaRosa stands next to one of the 15 toilets constructed with the financial help of Mill Valley Rotary.

NEXT WEEK

February 23: Lucy Mercer's presentation is entitled *The Throckmorton Theatre from Vaudeville to Today*. Lucy founded the Throckmorton Theatre with the belief that the arts are an indispensable part of human inspiration. Her vision was to use the transformative power of the arts to engage, challenge and foster community through provocative cultural and educational exchange. Today her award-winning programs represent all of the cultural arts and attract over 50,000 people to the theatre each year.

CLUB CALENDAR

March 1: Brian Sobel, author of *The Fighting Pattons*, will give us

insight into the lives of a famous father-son duo. The father was a legendary hero whose fame had a profound influence over his son, who was determined to make a mark on his own terms. *The Fighting Pattons* is their story. The elder Patton gained renown during World War II as a fearless commander devoted to his men. A complex figure driven by his knowledge of history and warfare, he was a professional soldier who loved the art of war and hated war itself. The younger Patton also lived an eventful life; he participated in the Berlin Airlift, served in Korea, and served three tours of duty in Vietnam.

March 8: Tina Vierra will tell us *What's Going on in the Wine Industry*. Tina is the Associate Publisher of *Wines & Vines* magazine.

March 15: Oak Dowling will talk about *Bernard L. Madoff and the Largest Financial Fraud in History*. Madoff committed the largest financial fraud in history with losses totaling over \$65 billion. In 2008 he was sentenced to 150 years in Federal prison. In the mid-1960s, Bernard Madoff tapped money at exclusive country clubs with the promise of steady guaranteed returns on their investments. He then set his sights on Europe and Latin America, brokering deals with powerful hedge fund managers and feeder funds from Buenos Aires to Geneva.

YAWN:

**An honest opinion
openly expressed.**

**2015-2016
POLIO PLUS
CLUB GOAL
\$2,000**

**JAR TOTAL
AS OF TODAY:
\$1,049.00**

**2015-2016
SERVICE FUND
(GEORGE HOYLE)
GOAL
\$10,000**

**TOTAL
AS OF TODAY:
\$6,090.00**

**ROTARY
FOUNDATION
GIVING**

**2015-16 GOAL:
\$14,000**

**TOTAL
AS OF TODAY:
\$11,800.00**

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