



THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley
Founded June 7, 1926 • “Service Above Self”
March 1, 2016 • Volume 89, Issue #32
<http://millvalleyrotary.org>
District Web Site: www.rotary5150.org



PRESIDER

- President **Ken Brooks**.

GREETER

- **Vince Howes**, who wondered if Trump wins the election, will Canada build a wall to keep all the Americans out. And he reminded us that **Ronald Reagan** believed we should “trust but verify.” If **Vince** is referring to the Electoral College we’re all out of luck.

VISITORS

- *Guests of Rotarians* – **Bill Buchanan**, retired Marine (**Bob Canepa**); **Daniel Cavaliaye** and **Kristine Meeks** from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the North Bay, recipient of a Club service fund grant. Small world as **Kristine**’s father in Norway belonged to Rotary and his Club had Rotary exchange students. **Carl Lippenberger**, our go-to guy for all things BB/BS, reminded us that April 30 is Bowling for Kids day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President **Ken** invited us to find out more about the District Assembly on March 19 at www.rotary5150.org.
- Mark your datebook: *The Cantina* is the place to be on March 23 for Rotary Means Business 5:30-7:00. A twenty will

get you small bites and drinks are no host. This reporter got an anonymous tip that The Cantina bar has great margaritas.

- In case you were wondering, Rotary (the service club that was founded in 1905) was an answer on Jeopardy. So there, Lions.
- I hate to break the news to all you optimists: the heavy equipment in the clubhouse parking lot is NOT replacing the parking lot. Instead it is putting in new water lines. The date for the new lot? This reporter is asking for guesses and whoever wins, gets to park anywhere they want

for one meeting. Hint: likely winning answer? How about “never!”

- March Madness is upon us, thanks to foundation Chair **Bob Roberts**. This time it’s 2:1 until March 31 for your first, or one hundredth, **Paul Harris** Fellow. Look for your personal update coming soon to a mailbox near you.

DICTIONARIES

- **Cyndi Moore** will be on hand next week with a sign up sheet for delivery of the dictionaries to Mill



► Today’s speaker **Brian Sobel** autographs copies of his book.

Valley 3rd Graders. Deliveries actually will start Monday at the Old Mill School. Cyndi will fill us in on the rest of the schedule when she asks for volunteers. This is a fun event, so sign up and participate if at all possible.

GOOD TIMES

■ It must have been a pretty depressing week as the Club could only muster two GTs, with or without the lime. Thank heavens for **Don Herzog** who went to LA and enjoyed the very impressive **Ronald Reagan** Presidential Library. And kudos to **J.R. Hastings** who also had fun, this time in France where he celebrated his 70th in style. They filled our fine box with an even tenner.

PROGRAM

■ **Brian Sobel**, whose resume must be several pages long with a track record including Petaluma Chamber of Commerce, Agricultural Board, Golden Gate Bridge District, and Bank of Marin Board as well as many appearances on the History Channel and articles in the *Wall Street Journal*.

In his new book, *The Fighting Pattons*, **Brian** told us the behind the scenes story of not one but two **George Pattons** – the father, General **George S. Patton** from World War 2 fame, and his son Major General **George S. Patton** who served in Vietnam.

By chance, **Brian** noticed a photo of the retirement of a military leader, Major **George S. Patton**, son of the famous World War 2 leader, and was intrigued enough to start researching and eventually became the world's foremost **Patton** expert.

The senior **Patton** had dyslexia, was a pentathlon athlete (five different events including shooting



► The greeter and the greetee.

while riding) in the 1918 Olympics, chased **Pancho Villa** in Mexico under General **Pershing**, believed in reincarnation and had a few disagreements with Ike in the 1940s.

But his true claim to fame was his leadership of the Third Army in Europe in WW2, acclaimed as

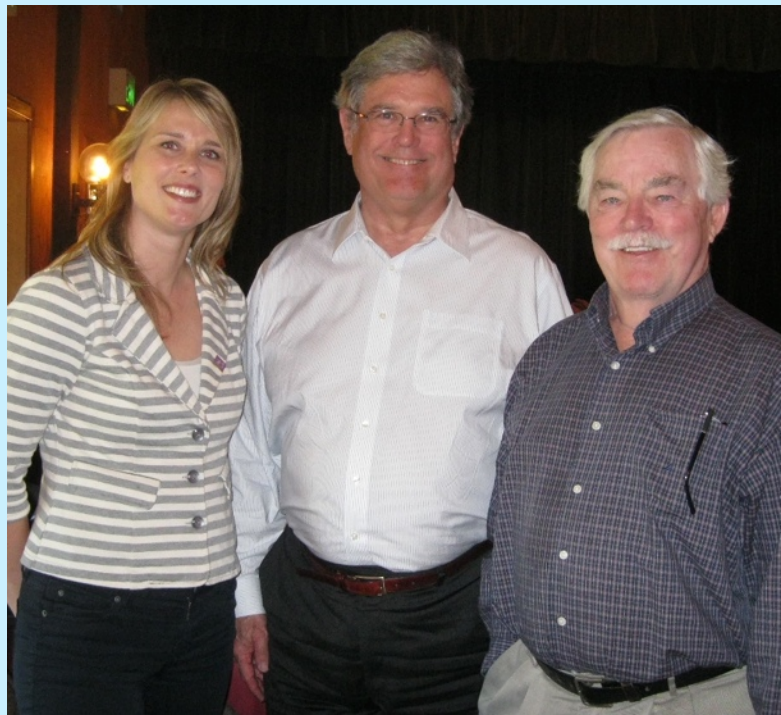
the best army in the history of the world. **Patton** was killed in a car accident just about the time his son was starting his own military career, earning accolades of bravery in Vietnam where he took remarkable personal risks in combat.

Since then, several generations of the **Patton** family have remained very engaged with veterans' groups, leading battlefield tours where the **Pattons** had served. A debt of gratitude to all.

NEXT WEEK

March 8: Tina Vierra's presentation is entitled *The Wine Industry On Your Doorstep*. She will discuss the current health of the industry, some general statistics on wine sales trends and the business in general, and some

Carl's the Filling for a Norwegian Sandwich



► **Kristine Meeks** of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Bay, a native of Norway, and our own **Einar Asbo**, another native of Norway, put the squeeze on **Carl Lippenberger**.

of the concerns and challenges that winemakers and grape growers discuss among themselves these days.

CLUB CALENDAR

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. Next it was

charities and union retirement funds. Billions of dollars were channeled to Madoff's investment firm, and his feeders became fabulously wealthy. The competition wondered how the man could produce such steady returns in good times and bad. There were allegations that Madoff was front-running or operating a Ponzi scheme, which the SEC investigated several times over the last two decades. But Madoff remained untouched until December 11, 2008, when he admitted it was all one big lie.

March 19: District Assembly at Redwood High School. Sign up on the District website:

www.rotary5150.org

March 22: Jack Hunt will be our speaker. His presentation: *Collector & Classic Cars*. Jack is the owner of Jack L. Hunt Automotive in San Rafael. He is

an automotive expert and collector.

March 23: Rotary Means Business will be hosted by Mill Valley Rotary at The Cantina restaurant. This is the first time we will have sponsored this networking event, which attracts Rotary colleagues from various parts of Marin. See President Ken for details.

March 29: The Liars Club strikes again! **Elizabeth Suzuki, Suzanne Irwin-Wells, Dick Spotswood** and **Leo Yang** will do their best to befuddle, trick, confuse and fool us with their clever distortions and manipulations of the truth.

SKELETON:

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

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

**JAR TOTAL
AS OF TODAY:
\$1,179.00**

**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**

ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2015-2016

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President Elect: Kent Campbell
Secretary: Raymond Palmarini
Treasurer: Stephanie Ricardo
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Events: Roberta Keller

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Program Committee: Bob Canepa & Elizabeth Suzuki

