



THE MILL WHEEL

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary Club of Mill Valley
Founded June 7, 1926 • Club # 393
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<http://millvalleyrotary.org>
District Website: www.rotary5150.org
Rotary International: www.rotary.org



★ GREETER

❖ Michele Crncich Hodge welcomed guests and members to today's meeting. Her Thought for the Day: *Pluralism as a political philosophy is the diversity within the political body, which is seen to permit the peaceful coexistence of different interests, convictions, ideologies and lifestyles.*

★ PRESIDER

❖ President **Kim Jessup** leading the way.

★ VISITORS

❖ **Susanne Karch**, member of the Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael and current Assistant District Governor responsible for several southern Marin clubs including Mill Valley, joined us

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



today. Also attending was **Chris Blodgett**, the speaker's wife.

★ CELEBRATIONS

❖ *Birthdays*—Was this leaving the best for last? Before adjourning the meeting, President Kim asked PP **Doug Scherf** to lead the singing of Happy Birthday in honor of **Rita**

Sedano-Garcia who celebrates her birthday on October 30.

★ GOOD TIMES

❖ PP **Lee Kirkpatrick** and family celebrated a grandson's first birthday in Hawaii. A bell-ringer!

❖ District bigwig **Susanne Karch** celebrated a Good Time the moment she entered the clubhouse door: "I appreciate everything your club does for Rotary," she enthused. A bell-ringer? Almost but not quite! Great to see you, Susanne!

★ PAUL HARRIS + 4

❖ Two Mill Valley Rotarians were recognized today for their support of The Rotary Foundation. **Howard Harker**, a member since 2002, and **Steve Miller**, a member since 1991, are receiving their Paul Harris Plus 4



MEETING SNAPSHOTS

► Left: Speaker **Michael Blodgett** and wife **Chris** with ADG **Susanne Karch**. Right: Greeter **Michele Hodge**, center, with **Steve Bajor** and **Rita Sedano-Garcia**. (Photo by Tom)



★ PAUL HARRIS + 4 (Cont'd)

pins. Steve got his today during a blood free pinning ceremony conducted by President Kim. Congratulations, Steve and Howard!



► All smiles after receiving his Paul Harris + 4 pin, longtime Mill Valley Rotarian Steve Miller poses with President Kim. (Photo by Tom)

★ HOT DOGGERY

❖ Club Treasurer **John Carmichael** reports that the club's Hot Doggery booth at the recent Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival scored net proceeds of \$4,849. Well done, Head Hot Dog PP **Elizabeth Suzuki** and crew!

★ PERU GREENHOUSES

❖ Mill Valley Rotarians have had a special interest in a Peruvian Greenhouse Project for almost 10 years. The Peruvian Altiplano Nutrition and Economic Development Greenhouse Project was initiated when the first Rotary Global Grant started in 2016 enabling 20 families to build and equip 20 greenhouses.

Mill Valley International Service Director **Rita Sedano-Garcia** recently visited Peru



► Members of the Rotary Club of Mill Valley celebrated the upcoming World Polio Day by filling the Polio Jar with \$174, which was matched and then some by an anonymous donor who decided that the effort was worth an additional \$250, making the final take for Polio Plus \$424. Good show, MV Rotary!

where she and Past President **Jackie Olsen** of the Rotary Club of Los Altos California met with members of two Lima Rotary Clubs and the NGO Kusimayo and visited the greenhouse area.

Rita reported on her visit to Peru at today's meeting.

As of September 2025, there have been five completed global

grants with the sixth well on its way to completion, enabling 178 families to build their greenhouses with technical and food preparation training, roofs, irrigation systems, and seeds furnished by the Peruvian NGO Kusimayo and funded by The Rotary Foundation.

2025-2026 TRF HONOR ROLL

◆ Foundation Co-Chairs Greg Dyer and Phil Richardson are pleased to report the following Mill Valley Rotarians have contributed to the 2025-2026 Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) Rotary Foundation Drive. Won't you join them?

Bob Canepa
John Carmichael
Greg Dyer
Jane Hall
Howard Harker
Don Herzog

Jim Iavarone
Kim Jessup
Robin Keller
Ed Marshall
Tom McKlveen
Steve Miller

Stephanie Ricardo
Phil Richardson
Doug Scherf
Dick Spotswood
Burnett Tregoning



★ PERU GREENHOUSES

The project enables subsistence farming families who have been scratching out an existence above the tree line in extremely harsh conditions to grow vegetables and produce they have never seen before, creating a reliable food source and also providing the ability to sell their surplus crop in the regional marketplace.

Rotarians, working in partnership with these farmers and Kusimayo, have changed lives for generations into the future. The total Rotary Foundation expenditure for these six global grants is \$484,000. And, the groundwork for the seventh global grant is already underway.

Future global grants are going to alternate among an international partnership of four Rotary clubs. Mill Valley will be the international partner with the Rotary Club of Lima as sponsor for every other project. The alternating projects will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Los Altos California with the sponsor club Los Alamos in Lima, Peru. Stay tuned.

★ 2025-26 GRANTS

❖ Service Fund President **Lee Kirkpatrick** recently announced the grants made this 2025-26 fiscal year. He followed up at today's meeting with the details.

A total of \$54,650 is being distributed from the endowment fund to 22 recipients:

Youth and Young Adults (48%): 10,000 Degrees; Book Exchange of Marin; Eagle Scout Projects; First Base Foundation; Hannah Project Freedom School; Interact Club (Job Fair); Marin Council, Scouting America; Mill



► Veggies growing on the Peruvian Altiplano? You bet—when Rotary gets involved! These photos, including the one at bottom right of Rita Sedano-Garcia receiving gifts from a local lady, were snapped during Rita's recent trip to Peru.

Valley Schools Foundation (Kiddo!); Next Step Liaison; Painted Bins; Rotary Youth Leadership (RYLA).

Seniors (24%): Marin Villages; The Redwoods Alzheimers Walk; The Redwoods Retirement Community.

Community (19%): Jonathan's Place, Homeward

Bound; NAMI Marin (Mental Illness); Schurig Brain Injury Recovery; Semper Fi Fund & America's Fund; The Kern Project; Canal Fire Relief.

International (5%): Cambodian Legal Education for Women; Rotaplast International.

Unassigned (3%).

★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The club will provide dinner at **Jonathon's Place** in San Rafael from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12 and December 10. Check in with **Jane Hall** and/or **Joan Steidinger** if you can help.
- ❖ A work party is scheduled at the **Marin Food Bank** at 9-11 a.m. Saturday, November 29. Ask **Jane** or **Joan** for details.

★ PROGRAM

- ❖ Talk about timely! Do we have a fantastic Program Committee or what? The possibility of Peace in

the Middle East was the subject of today's guest speaker, **Michael Blodgett**.

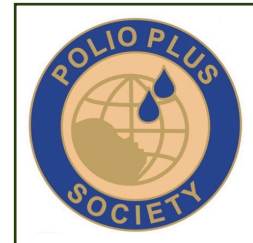
After detailing the long history of strife in the area, today's speaker offered that the following would have to be achieved for peace to prevail:

- Recognition that Israel is at political and military peace with Arab states (except Syria).
- All sides must stop using past injury to justify current violence.
- Recognize that Palestinians and Arabs are different cultures.
- The Iranian nuclear program must end.

- Recognize antisemitism behind Iranian, Arab and Palestinian actions.
 - Israeli settlers must be withdrawn from the West Bank.
 - A competent Palestinian authority reigns in Gaza.
- Keep your fingers crossed!



► **Good Times in the making?:** Photos received from India show PP Greg Dyer at his charming best (left) and posing with Karyne in front of the Taj Mahal. Can't wait to hear the rest of the story!



**2025-2026
PolioPlus Society
MV Membership Roster
(Join Today—Pledge \$100 per
year to Polio Plus)**

**Lisán Campbell
Greg Dyer
Jim Iavarone
Kim Jessup
Ed Marshall
Stephanie Ricardo
Doug Scherf
Dick Spotswood
Michelle Terrell
Burnett Tregoning**

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Jane Hall 10/7/08

Kent Campbell 10/9/12



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Rider 10/1

Kimberly Jessup 10/10

Lisán Campbell 10/17

Rita Sedano-Garcia 10/30



Next: A Navy Seal in Vietnam

November 4: Former Navy Seal **John Gulick** will present *A Navy Seal in Vietnam*. The Navy SEALs are one of the world's elite military units. The selection and training process to become a SEAL borders on brutal. The failure rate of those who volunteer is steep. What does it take to pass these tests, be assigned to a SEAL team and experience combat? How does it impact one's



life? John Gulick will recount his experience transitioning from an English Literature major at Washington & Lee University to a naval officer with duty aboard the destroyer USS Fletcher to Navy "frogman" in an Underwater Demolition Team; ultimately to becoming a SEAL deployed on combat operations in the deadly Rung Sat Special Zone, deep in the heart of Vietnam's Mekong Delta, during which he was wounded in action.

BRING A FRIEND

**POLIO JAR
2025-2026**

**GOAL:
\$1,000.00**

**TOTAL
\$ 617.40**

**SERVICE FUND
(GEO. HOYLE)
2025-2026**

**GOAL:
\$7,750.00**

**TOTAL
\$200.00**

**ROTARY
FOUNDATION
2025-2026**

**GOAL:
\$7,750.00**

**TOTAL
\$3, 025.00**

ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2025-2026

President: Kimberly Jessup
Past President: Ed Marshall
Secretary: Lisán Campbell
Treasurer: John Carmichael
Service Fund (Ex Officio): Lee Kirkpatrick
International Service: Rita Sedano-Garcia
Community Service: Jane Hall & Joan Steidinger
Fellowship: Elizabeth Suzuki
Membership: Bernard Link
Foundation Chairs: Greg Dyer & Phil Richardson
Public Relations: Denise Acain
Youth Service: Emily Uhlhorn
Member at Large: Michelle Terrell

Committees
FireWise: Richard Rider
Greeters: Kathleen Delehanty

Website Staff
 Robin Keller, Webmaster

The Mill Wheel Staff
Managing Editor: Burnett Tregoning
Reporters: Tom McKlveen; Burnett Tregoning

Today's Photographers: Tom McKlveen, Lee Kirkpatrick & Others

Reporting Today: Burnett Tregoning

Program Committee: Bob Canepa & Elizabeth Suzuki

