



THE Rio Rotarian

"Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision." -Winston Churchill



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

Fire truck is on its way to Mulegé! *"Having fun helping others...watering the rosebuds"*
-Dr. Ted Schulz

Welcome

- We pledge, sing, and pray.

Our guests

- We welcome Judy Tussy, today's speaker, Katherine Vandiest and Lisa McCapes, who brought a \$500 donation from Clarksburg Rotary, & Tom Engle, who brought a \$500 donation from West Sacramento Rotary. The donations will help pay for fuel to deliver the fire truck. A backup team to provide parts and supplies will accompany the truck. We greet Michelle Ralston & Shawna Newcomb from Vagabundos del Mar Travel Agency, who researched 7 fire departments to receive firefighting equipment in Baja on the way to Mulegé. The Interact Club invited Collin Lira, student at RVHS to attend our meeting, this morning.

Treasurer's report, Jay

- We've got \$17,476 in the Charitable Account. Jay withdrew \$2,500 for travel expenses.
- Last week, Rob won \$885 in the Marble Draw. He gave back half his winnings to be split equally between Mulegé trip and Interact.
- Joke: How do polar bears build their house? Answer: Igloo together. We're gonna miss Jay around here.

Committee reports

- Evelyn says Charter *(Cont'd. below)*



Pres. Lee introduces Katherine Vandiest, prime mover behind fire truck project.



Danny proudly models his "Mulegé or Bust" sweat shirt.



Above from left: Tom Engle, West Sacramento Rotary; Judy Tussy, today's speaker; Michelle Ralston, Vagabundos del Mar; Lisa McCapes & Katherine Vandiest, Clarksburg Rotary; and Shawna Newcomb, Vagabundos del Mar.

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- No school during—"Ski Week." When school resumes, Interact will begin Teddy Bear Drive—donations will go to a Children's Hospital. Swim Team: first practice is Monday. Brrr. Katie turned 18 last week. She finished reading *Reaching the Top* by Zig Ziglar, so Jay proudly donates \$40. Interact program on Camp Royal will be Friday, March 6.

Just one more committee report

- Gripping about using the DACdb computerized application forms, Bob says he electronically filed the final report for the the new Chevy Traverse van we gave to RVHS. He circulates a thesis folder of the report for everyone to admire. Grant

(Cont'd. below)

(cont'd. from above)

Night will be Friday, Feb. 21, 6:00 Cocktails, 7:00 dinner. Signup sheet is going around.

- Golf Tournament: Patty says contract will be ready, next week; so far there are 2 confirmed sponsors; Patty's working on Xfinity; will be on website.
- Scholarships: Tom's working with high school to get applications out.
- Tequila Y Más: Derek reports Julie Griffin has the poster ready and placemats are coming, soon.

Announcement

- St. Patrick's Day Gala: The Clarksburg Rotary cordially invites Rio Vista Rotary to wear green and join them on Sunday, March 15 from 1–5 p. m. at Miner's Leap Winery, 54250 S. River Rd., Clarksburg—just north of the Sugar Mill and south of Freeport. They'll have a band and complimentary wine tasting. \$10 entry, with half going to Rotary clubs for international account and half to the winery.

Interact Report

- Saturday is Vice-Versa Dance at 7p.m. It was almost cancelled, but more tickets were sold at last minute.
- There was a well attended Interact meeting, Thursday at lunch. They'll start bringing one member, each week, to our Rotary Club meetings. Basketball: last home game, today, Vs. Highland—"Are we gonna kick their butts? Sure!" says Sam.

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*Reporter:
Jon Blegen*

*Editor-Publisher:
Bob Bard*

(cont'd. from above)

funding breakdown: Booster's-\$14,131.32, Rotary District 5160-\$10,000, Rio Vista Foundation-\$2,500, RioVision-\$2,500, our club-\$1,000; total to Abel's-\$30,131.32.

Confessions

Tom volunteers to pay for new Tahoe, but Derek jumps right in, and after erroneously suggesting that he pay \$1 a tire like your cheap editor, he relents and pays a \$25 fine for Tom.

Molly proudly announces 3-Mile Brewing's 4th anniversary party, next weekend, with bands, food & souvenirs. She touts their planning of a new Vacaville branch, as well as Tony's and her Grand Is. Bee pollinating enterprise, which is currently servicing Dixon almond tree orchards. Michelle Machado says, "Hello." Molly escapes with \$20 fine.

Danny attends school, Friday, then runs a dive class in the 45° waters of Puget Sound. He experiences a flight delay getting back, but he ends up having a great time schmoozing with drinking buddies at the airport . He had so much fun in those frigid waters that he pays fine of \$50 to Interact.

Jim Mac waxes poetic about his dad, who passed 26 years ago. His dad entered Harvey Felt's first wood shop class in 1948. Jim gives \$50 to Harvey Felt Fund.



Interact members present report, from left: Kimberly Broughton, Lane Eggers, Sam Esperson, Katie O'Connor, Maddy Myers, Collin Lira, and Edgar Rodriguez.

Program

Tom Donnelly introduces our guest speaker, Judy Tussy, who discusses the many years that she and her husband, Hank, served the citizens of Mulegé, Baja California Sur, México.

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In 1984 Judy became obsessed with the idea of traveling to Baja CA, but Hank objected. Then, one day they got a call from a doctor in Sacramento regarding a group of northern CA Rotarian health care professionals headed by Dan Ratley, a dentist in the Mt. Shasta Rotary. This group was serving the 5,000 people of Mayan and Aztec descent who lived in Mulegé, a small fishing village on the Sea of Cortez about 650 miles south of the U. S.-México border.

The group's mission was to provide much needed medical, dental, and optical services to the local populace. Very much aware of the hazards of travel in México, Hank set up a 3-way telephone conference call and offered to assist this effort. He and Judy soon found themselves making numerous trips to México, and working in various supportive capacities. At that time, Judy's job was to cook for this group of 28 people.

Although the original group folded, much of their efforts are still carried on. They built a new dental clinic which is still in operation, and educational opportunities were enhanced.

On occasion, Judy and Hank would fly down in private planes, where landing on the dirt runway was interesting. They would make 3 approaches before landing: the first 2 they'd look for hazards
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like animals or rocks, then land on third approach.

Hank and Judy lived in a 5th wheel trailer for a while and built a home out of natural rock and tiles for \$45,000, there. *(It's a lovely home.)* Judy taught English to school-aged children, and she did so for 8 years. Her efforts were appreciated.

Public school, there, is government supported through grade 6. Tuition must be paid after that. Judy and Hank started a program that's been active for 36 years and paid for 500 kids' tuitions.

Hank and Judy have taken 3 fire engines and 1 school bus to Mulegé. She advises not to stop for anything, because they want "morditas" (tips) at all of the "check points" and will hit you up for any contrived infraction. Jay asks, "Does that mean we should crash the border with that big, red, 28,000 pound bullet?" *(Maybe not a good idea. We once stopped, at a Baja check point that had a manned, camouflaged machine gun nest on a truck bed. As we left, we smiled at the guy; he was stone-faced.)*

Mulegé now boasts a hospital, 4 doctors, and a dental clinic. Judy tells Jay that he should enlist the assistance of former Mayor Saul Davis if he needs anything in Mulegé.

Judy concludes, thanking our club for donating \$600 every year since its inception to the Mulegé Scholarship Fund that she founded.



Above from left: Tom Engle, Jay Huyssoon, and Katherine Vandiest pose with fire truck before driving it to old México.

Mulegé or Bust

Katherine says Jay will be traveling to 7 fire departments to drop off supplies donated by multiple agencies during the next 7 days on his way to Mulegé. He'll be training firefighters to use this equipment. Saturday, at 7:00 a. m., he's scheduled be escorted across the border by the mayor of Tijuana. 2/10/20 at 12:30 p. m. *Derek Abel says fire truck couldn't cross border, but all firefighting equipment was transferred to another truck for delivery.*

COMING ATTRACTIONS

DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	CHAIR PERSON
Feb. 13	6:00 p. m.— Board Meeting, Poppy House	Lee Williams
Feb. 14	David Moen/California Vegetable Specialties	Tom Kelly
Feb. 21	Charter Night: 6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner-the Point	Evelyn Wilson
Feb. 28	"Simply Organic" Farm→Table→Compost→Farm	Gary Lazdowski
Mar. 6	Molly and Campers—Camp Royal 2020	Molly Coito