



# Listening In

October 30, 2017

**Margaret Deedy** led us in the pledge and offered a thought for the day about living today since we can do nothing about yesterday or tomorrow. Speaking of which, we could do nothing at Rotary without **Matt Briggs'** awesome technology skills, in this case making the microphone work.

## Thought of the Day:

*"There are only 2 days in the year that nothing can be done: One is called Yesterday and the other is called Tomorrow. So Today is the right day to Love, Believe, Do & Live!"*

## VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Visiting Rotarians included:

**Jamie Ortiz - Harbor - Banking**

**Christine Goodin - Terra Linda - Property Management**

**Janet Hayward - Terra Linda - Banking**

**Elena Vince - Terra Linda - Chiropractor**

Guests of Rotarians included:

**Mike Watenpaugh, Ed.D - Superintendent of San Rafael City School District**

**Tod Brody - Executive Director of Marin Symphony and Flutist, both guests of Pete Herley**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**Tom Whelan** worked in a tale about his feats on the baseball diamond. It seems that championships follow him around like a puppy dog, and he's still being regularly recognized as the season's Most Valuable Player 30 years after I played softball with him at Skywalker Ranch. Stud.

### TRAVELING ON THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE

Garulous PP **Dave Bernardi** offered up a TRIPLE bellringer for a trip to Seattle to see the eclipse, another trip to Spain and Portugal where he almost caused a civil war, and for his 70th birthday.

**Pat Burke** gave a bellringer to Mini-Grants for his trip to SoCal to celebrate his mom's 100th birthday

**John Grasham**, hijacked into a car trip by a daughter-in-law, arrived at a family reunion in Southern Oregon well-rested.

**Gary Phillips** ventured to San Diego where he officiated over his son's wedding.

**Oak Dowling** reunited in Wisconsin with 19 of his cheesehead friends there.

Ever generous **Joe Shekou**, celebrating 49 years in the US, offered up a TEN-bell bellringer towards the Santa Rosa fire relief fund.

## CONSPIRACIES

President **Fran White**, a Houston native and Astros fan, spoke about football and baseball. I think she was encouraging members to rat on each other when their alma mater wins so then be fined accordingly. Or not. DID ANYONE SEE THE ASTOUNDING GAME 5 of the WORLD SERIES Sunday night?!?!?

**Otis Bruce** didn't realize it at the time he announced PP **Mac Cranford**, and not **Ed Berberian**, as the winner of this week's raffle prize, but he's now on probation at work.

## PROGRAM

**Maynard Willms** introduced our speaker, San Rafael Mayor **Gary Phillips**, who gave us a thorough overview of the state of the city. Gary Phillips is in his second term as Mayor of the City of San Rafael. He and his wife of over 40 years, Linda, have made San Rafael their home since 1972.

In his professional life, Gary is a retired partner of DZH Phillips LLP, a San Francisco CPA/Business Advisory and Consulting firm.

In his leisure life, Gary and San Rafael's former Mayor, **Al Boro**, participate in a pre-WWII car rally called the Great Race. Gary has been instrumental in bringing the race to San Rafael in 2006 and 2016. To fit within our meeting parameters, Mayor Phillips indicated that his presentation would focus on SMART, Public Safety and the Santa Rosa Fire.

**SMART:** The train has been officially operating for 2-months and statistics indicate that 60% of the ridership ends up in San Rafael. Current weekday ridership averages 2,500 per day and weekend ridership averages 900 per day. The Mayor expects these statistics will change with time.

Currently under construction is the West Francisco portion where the

roadway and the rail track will "flip" sides. The 2.5 mile stretch to Larkspur is progressing and should be complete in 2-years. There has been a PUC obstacle involving Anderson Drive that Mayor Phillips feels will be resolved.

The Bettini Transit Center is currently functional but with the Larkspur expansion, 4 tracks will be needed. The City is working with Golden Gate Transit, who owns the transit site, to relocate the center. There are several options being discussed with the existing Citibank site as SR's preference with a proposed housing element over the transit center.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Thanks to a sales tax measure passed in 2015, three San Rafael Fire Stations are being rebuilt. Rehab of the remaining 7 stations will follow. The project should be complete in 2020.

**SANTA ROSA FIRES:** San Rafael sent 5 fire engines, 1 ambulance, and a dozen public safety officers to assist the City of Santa Rosa fight fires and control the aftermath. Mayor Phillips is in contact regularly with his counterpart in Santa Rosa to offer continuing assistance, but also, to gain information and experience for our City's benefit.

**MISC:** Pensions - current outlay is \$30,000 annually. Mayor Phillips believes it will remain static for the next 15-years and is "manageable"

**HOMELESSNESS:** Situation is getting better but there is a need to address housing. To improve fire safety, 600 homeless encampments were eliminated which reduced the number of fires. Ritter Center is in talks with the City to relocate in-take center. Mail service (500 pieces per week) was relocated to the Bellam Post Office. Marin Community Fund has granted \$120,000 for mobil showers. Downtown Streets team has received 0 complaints.

**MASSAGE PARLORS:** 33 have been closed

**PARKING** in Canal, Spinnaker and BayPoint has been reduced to 24-hours.

**CANNABIS:** the City is getting advice to provide Medical-only sites.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6: Jeff Burhardt, bartender and columnist - "Twenty Years Behind Bars"

November 13: Gary Federoff, Sunny Hills