



Listening In

November 20, 2017

President Fran called the meeting to order at 12:33PM following a sampling of sparkling beverages thoughtfully donated by **Fran** and her husband, **Harley**. Thank you both!

The Pledge and "Thought of the Day" was delivered by **Rob Devincenzi**

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." - Oprah Winfrey

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. - William Arthur Ward

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUEST OF ROTARIANS

As if her champagne contribution wasn't generous enough, **President Fran** started the meeting by fining herself a bell ringer on a procedural gaffe, calling on an update by **Carolyn Hoffman** on the Christmas Giving Program *before* announcing Visiting Rotarians and Guest of Rotarians. We all forgive you, **Fran**, as long as you keep bringing bubbly to the meetings!

Visiting Rotarians included **Noah Griffin** from Larkspur Rotary and **Melissa Prandi** from Mission San Rafael.

Guests of Rotarians included 7 friends of **Steve Harris**, including his wife **Kai**. You can ask **Steve** for the names of his friends. They all sounded important and I'm sure **Steve** can remember their names. I don't have 7 important friends, so you can't expect me to remember the names of his.

Otis Bruce brought **Dan Daniels** (ask **Otis** what he does), and **Pete Herley** brought his lovely wife **Susan** (we all know what *she* does - and we thank her for her listening skills and patience!).

It's a bird... It's a plane... It's Peter Levi? **Laura Bertolli** announced that **Peter** was in attendance. I'm not sure if **Peter** is a guest or a visiting Rotarian? **Peter?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

President Fran once again called

on **Carolyn Hoffman**, who this time reminded us all of the Christmas Giving Program. Please see **Carolyn**, get the name of a student, and make a difference in young person's life! Gifts will be given out at the Al Boro Room at Pickleweed Community Center in San Rafael at 5:00PM on Thursday, December 14th, 2017. Thank you, **Carolyn!**

Bob Marcucci announced this year's \$10,307 Mini Grants award to San Rafael Schools. Since 2000, our club has donated over \$151,799 to the program. A special thanks to committee members **Fran White, Beth Fernbacher, Diane Henderson, Helena Marsh, Toni Sterling, Marilyn Riede, Natu Tuatagaloa, Peter Thompson, Richard Kalish, Jack Hunt, and Chairman Bob.**

With bells a-ringin', elf ears a-flappin' and Santa hat a-floppin' **Dan Walker's** alter ego once again appeared, this time waving a Salvation Army bell-ringing sign-up sheet. This year's festivities (2-hour shifts) will be held on Saturday December 9th at Macy's and Saturday December 16th at Nordstrom, both in The Village in Corte Madera, between 10:00AM and 6:00PM. I think it's time we reevaluate **Dan's** classification, don't you?

Madeleine Moore has generously opened her home to us all for a social on December 12th at 5:30PM at 60 Oxford Drive in San Rafael, CA. **Thank you, Madeleine!** (Bring a friend - or if you promise to be on your best behavior - a prospective member.)

According to **Oak Dowling**, this week's performance by his "**Oak**"land Raiders may explain why the *black* in their Silver and Black Christmas stockings may be a *lump of coal*.

MARBLE GAME

Well over \$1,600 remains in the pot as **John Scopazzi** won a bottle of wine courtesy of **Joe Shekou**. Thank you both!! Only 7 marbles left...

ROTARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Steve "Bush Pilot" Harris - whose interest and participation in aviation spans

decades - recounted a harrowing July 2012 story of courage and perseverance. While piloting Cessna 7565X along a flight from Alaska to Wichita, KS., **Steve** experienced a zero-visibility fog event and with water entering the instrument panel through a failed seal in the windshield, made a safe touchdown in Anchorage, followed by a quick Scotch at the bar... Hey **Steve**, I hear take-offs are optional, but landings are mandatory. *Good on you!*

PROGRAM



Kenyatta Leal and President Fran White

Steve Harris introduced former San Quentin inmate, **Kenyatta Leal**. After years of blaming others for his circumstances, he recognized that if he was the "*problem*" - he must also be his own "*solution*". **Kenyatta** is a founding member of **The Last Mile**, a Technology Accelerator program inside the prison. The brainchild of VC Chris Redlitz, who spoke at the prison to men about business and entrepreneurship. Impressed by the men's level of business knowledge and desire to learn, he began to nurture the idea of creating a program which might help find a path to reduce recidivism. Since its inception, **The Last Mile** has generated a groundswell of support across America. Upon **Kenyatta's** release in 2012, he began a paid internship at Rocket Space and since then has earned a Management position with the San Francisco based technology campus. It is said post-release employment is key to success in breaking the cycle of recidivism, and the return on investment is far reaching!

- Submitted by **Tom Mulvey**