

SALINAS ROTARY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 13
January 2018



Wine Down in Ireland



Ireland Excursion



Madison Meeks,
Christine Meeks, Santa,
and Caroline Meeks

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello My Fellow Rotarians!

It has been 3 months since our last newsletter. In that newsletter my message centered on the fun our club had, as well as how productive we were working with our committees and our community, demonstrating that we are “A Club of Action.”

It is now 3 months later, and our club continues to be “A Club of Action”, having fun and serving our community. The following are just some examples of how we are continuing to be productive while serving our community: having interesting speakers and fun meetings such as the Halloween meeting that showed off how creative our members were with their costumes; spontaneously stepping up and having close to 100% participation in donating \$100.00 per member to help the homeless teens at SHS; Immunization Day for the less fortunate, coordinated by Henry Franscioni, (thank you, Henry); celebrating the SHS football team for becoming the CCS Division Champs by hosting a hot dog barbecue; supporting the Salvation Army by ringing the bell at Star Market; and celebrating at the Holiday Evening Party on December 19th where members were encouraged to wear their “ugly” Christmas sweaters and the children got to visit with Santa. The Apostolic Community Life Center Choir performed for us, and they were fantastic—thank you, Kelly McMillin, for arranging that! All had a jolly good time thanks to Claudia and Doreen coordinating and executing the festivities.

As we are entering a new calendar year, 2018, I am confident that our club will continue to be a “Club of Action.” Our biggest fundraiser, Pigs, Pinot & More, will be held on February 24, and Lino Belli, together with his committee and chair, Felicia Kausin, are putting together a great evening. Thank you, Lino and Felicia! Mark your calendars!

I invite all of you to get involved with committees and help make a difference. Together, as Rotarians, we will continue to do good work.

President Bev

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ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

TAKE ACTION: www.salinasrotary.org

Salinas High Interact Club

For many years the Interact students at Salinas High raised money for toys and goodies for the children that attend Sherwood Elementary School. This year, the Interact students decided to switch gears when they discovered that over sixty of their own SHS classmates were classified as homeless. With the help of our club, they raised over \$6,500.00 to help these families have a wonderful holiday season. They were able to give them the basic toiletries, blankets, towels, and they had enough left over to give their classmates and their families Christmas presents. Additionally, the Interact students also gave presents and goodies to a local boys group home.



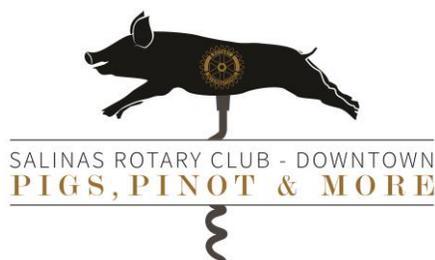
Rotary Holiday Party

Rotarians celebrated Christmas with a festive, musical, and delectable affair that was enjoyed by all in attendance. We had young and old who were on the naughty and nice list mingling and toasting to the holidays.



Pigs, Pinot & More

Save the Date for the 8th Annual Pigs, Pinot & More happening on February 24, 2018 at the Salinas Police Activities League Center. Mark your calendars to indulge in the best of Monterey County Wines and local chef delicacies. Come join us for a wonderful night of food and wine with Chef Tony Baker of Montrio Bistro. Great prizes will be raffled off. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit our website at www.pigspinotandmore.org.



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

January

Tim Baldwin
Vern Horton
Todd Wheeler
David Mills
Luis Alvarez
Basil Mills
Steve Shearn
Brett Harrell
Teri Belli
Raul Chavez
Brenda Granillo

February

Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin
John Haupt
Catherine Kobrinsky-Evans
Fred DeYoung
Dave Mora
Lorisa McKelvey

March

Andy Matsui
Lisa Craft
Jeff Ursino
Tiffany DiTullio
Mike McGirr
Peter Kasavan
Julie Edgcomb
Paul Powers

Anniversaries

Gaylon Haney – 44 Years
Mark Scarr – 33 Years
Spence Myers – 33 Years
Bob Kasavan – 26 Years
Paul Powers – 21 Years
Joe Marchionna – 21 Years
Henry Francioni – 20 Years
Mark Kennedy – 20 Years
Teri Belli – 19 Years
Greg Chilton – 19 Years
Kelly Sutherland – 19 Years
Bev Ranzenberger – 19 Years
Brett Harrell – 18 Years
Dan Ortega – 18 Years
Todd Wheeler – 18 Years
Bruce Adams – 13 Years
Rod Braga – 12 Years
Vanessa Vallarta 12 Years
Abby Taylor-Silva – 12 Years
John Farahmand – 10 Years
John Haupt – 10 Years
Felicia Kausin – 10 Years
Laura Pruneda – 10 Years
Stephanie Hulsey – 10 Years
Tim Baldwin – 8 Years
Richard Copeland – 7 Years
David Smith – 7 Years
Robert Dickenson – 7 Years
Angela Savage – 7 Years
Joe Piini – 3 Years
Sherrie Isaac – 3 Years
Doug Yount – 3 Years
David Peartree – 3 Years
Jeff Ursino – 2 Years
Mali Cuda – 2 Years
Steve Martin – 1 Year

Abby Taylor-Silva: BuildOn Project

In early November, I joined nine friends, some of whom I'd graduated from my Ag Leadership fellowship with two years ago, and got on a plane to Malawi after raising \$36,000 to build a school. A landlocked country in Eastern Africa, Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. We went with BuildOn, a non-governmental organization focused on creating schools and promoting gender equality in the United States and in seven countries throughout the world where they've identified that infrastructure is one of the biggest hindrances to education.

In our five days living in the village, we began work on a secondary school next to the primary school BuildOn built in 2015. The community will have two schools now because they took the initiative to harvest the clay and kiln the 10,000 bricks needed for BuildOn to start a school there. This secondary school will allow older children the opportunity to attend school while working on the farm. Especially for girls, who have many more family chores outside of the farm than the boys, a school close to home is essential. The children were beautiful inside and out, the women so strong, and the men hard working farmers. We stayed in a home in the village for four days and worked, played, sang, danced, and prayed together. A special thank you to the Joe & Lori Grainger family, who made a similar trek and raised more funds than they needed, providing a substantial gift to our efforts.



Joe Grainger: BuildOn Project

Rotarian Joe Grainger, his wife Lori, their daughters Maggie and Brittney, niece Lindsey Miller, and sister-in-law Kathy Grainger decided to do something as a family in honor of the memory of Joe and Lori's late son, Tom. They traveled in July with eight other travelers to a remote village in Malawi, Africa, to help build a school. The experience touched them more than they could ever have imagined. The people were warm and loving, and the time together was comforting and healing.

The Graingers worked with an organization called BuildOn. The BuildOn organization builds schools with villages that have historically had no adequate school structure – where students are squeezed into dark and crumbling mud huts, or are taught under trees when the weather permits, or have to walk multiple miles to a neighboring village, or can't attend school at all. For two decades, BuildOn has mobilized rural communities in some of the economically poorest countries on the planet.



Salinas
Rotary



The Downtown Club

P.O. BOX 676
Salinas, CA 93902

Rotarians Having Fun!

Claudia Pizarro-Villalobos hosted a fun and entertaining Halloween program with a Munsters movie, costume contest, trivia, and much more. A great time was had by all, and we had many Rotarians dress up. Thank you, Claudia!



Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin
as Jessie from Toy Story



Anne Leach as a
Ghostbuster



Robert Dickenson, Sarah Frahm, Mark McAuliffe, Rodney Meeks, Frank Ducato, Nate Stoope, Bill Barr, Felicia Kausin, Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin, Nicole Pettit, Anne Leach, Claudia Pizarro-Villalobos, Rachel Isaac, Vickie Dixon, Bev Ranzenberger, Joe Grainger, Brenda Granillo, Doreen Luke, and Susan Yedlicka



Rodney Meeks as
T. Rex

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