



The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

May 21, 2014

Clean Up Day



On Saturday morning, May 10, volunteers from Red Cross, Kiwanis and Boy Scouts met at the Red Cross House to clean the garage and some rooms. **Anne Steinhauer**, Red Cross executive director, was ecstatic. "We finished everything we needed to do, and in record time."

TomB and **Howard** kept their pickup trucks busy with trips to the dumps. **Jeff**, **Kaitlyn**, **Bill** and **BobB** also showed up to help.



The crew separated materials into recyclables and dumpables, so there was some head-scratching to go with the back bending. Red Cross Board member **Marjorie Arroyo** brought her pickup to haul away electronic gear for e-cycling. A 10-foot surfboard was spared, however, just in case it's needed for rescuing victims of global warming. Three Boy Scouts rescued a key from the bottom of the dumpster.



Ready For Memorial Day



By Donalee Shackleford

RLS was bustling last Wednesday with students preparing for their annual Fund Run to take place the following day. Students were to trek to Crane Park and travel throughout the community for this event. Needless to say there was excitement in the air. Students were also preparing for their ferry trip to SF to the Exploratorium, scheduled for Friday.

Jerry, the Builders Club president, called the meeting to order. When he asked who would be attending the annual cemetery cleanup at the Veterans home Saturday it seemed all of the members had conflicts but one. Both teachers expressed their disappointment as this activity had been on the calendar for months.

As it turned out, St. Helena was well represented at the Veterans Home cemetery cleanup with 2 teachers, 2 Kiwanis members, 2 RLS students and both of Malcolm's kids participating. It was a beautiful morning in Yountville and we were told there were 6000 veterans buried there. One left with a true sense of satisfaction after 4 hours of hard work for such a good cause.

*The Kiwanis Club of
St. Helena, a chapter in good
standing of
Kiwanis International
since 1950,
is dedicated to serving the
Community of St. Helena.*

**The Powers That Be
Club Officers 2013-2014**

President Lester Hardy
President Elect Bob Matheny
Vice President Tom Davis
Secretary Mike Hardy
Treasurer Jeff Farmer
Past President Lester Hardy
Directors Bob Beckstrom
Tom Belt
Jan Darter
Donalee Shackelford
Lowell Smith

Kiwanis Foundation

President George Watson
Officers and Directors Tom Belt
Tom Davis
Jeff Farmer
Mike Hardy
Bob Matheny
Lowell Smith

Committee Chairs

Fundraising Jay Lewis
Membership Jeff Farmer
Projects Don Richardson
Publicity Lowell Smith
Youth Donalee Shackelford

The Bung Starter

An almost regular publication of
the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena.
“We don’t print retractions.”

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Reporters Bill Savidge
Ryterz Block

This Week at the Club

The Heights... and the Depths

(May 14) Move over Big Ben. Little **Lester** can wallop a bell with the best, as he almost whacked it across the street. Definitely in mid-season form. And that was before his Wheaties. Speaking of fine form, **Lowell** had this to say: “We may be getting a little older physically, but mentally we’re still tarp as shacks (sic).” And he reads from notes in 72-point font! So, after his Wheaties **Lester** launched into an epic about Andrew Carnegie. “Carnegie was highly motivated by religious feelings... last days... torn... prayed nightly... angels... heavenly father listening but you can’t take it with you... next night back to bargaining... just one suitcase... prayer granted... you can bring small suitcase... he packs it with gold bullion... at heavenly gates... St. Peter... what’s that?... can’t do that... one minute... ok, open it up [punch line].” Smiles all around. “Any guests?” **Lowell** introduced guest speaker **Marissa Schleicher**. “Happy or Sad \$\$?” **Jim** had a H\$ for a \$45 check from **George** for the Giants home run derby.” (**Jim** also mentioned only one person hasn’t paid yet but his name doesn’t seem to be in the notes.) **Lowell** paid a H\$. “Speaking of Carnegie, I’ve seen the original 2 letters asking him to build the St. Helena library... first for \$862, then another asking for a couple hundred more.” **Lowell** followed with a S\$. “Another Andrew Carnegie story... when JP Morgan bought him out for \$200m... later playing golf, Morgan said he’d have paid \$400m... Carnegie replied he’d have taken \$100m.” **TomD** paid a H\$ “for my break for 2 weeks... but S\$ because yesterday a truck pulled out and hit my car.” **Jeff** pad a Segue\$ to note that “public works projects even then had cost overruns.” **Ryan** paid a S\$ “because I missed last week.” **Lester** paid a S\$. “Not only can I not take it with me, I can’t even keep it.” **BobB** paid a H\$ “because **Steve** gave me a \$ this morning when I mentioned I don’t have any \$ for fines.” **Lester** asked, “Any birthdays? Anniversaries?” Nada. “I guess we’re in a dry patch.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **BobM** called for the Scholarship Committee to meet after the meeting.
- 2) **Don** asked the Work Projects Committee to meet after the meeting too.
- 3) **George** offered his home as a venue for “indoctrination of new members.”
- 4) **BobB** apologized for no B.S.; promised more B.S. to come.

DRAWINGS:

Steve won the Fine Free drawing and got a big grin on his face.
BobB won a chance at the marble game but choked.

Meeting After Meeting



Jeff, Drew, George and BobM go over scholarship applications.



TomB, Bill, Don, and John make plans for upcoming work projects.

Local Treasure



Marissa Schleicher is Director of the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum in St. Helena. “We have the largest collection of Stevenson material in the world on public display.”

Marissa gave a fascinating bio of the author’s life, starting with his birth in 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland, where his father designed light houses. Louis attended the university to study Civil Engineering. “He became bored of light houses, but loved writing.” He changed his major to law, graduated, but never practiced law. Instead, he led “a bohemian lifestyle” and soon met Fanny Osborne, an American with 2 children and a philandering husband back in CA. Louis fell in love with her, she returned to Oakland, and he followed. He was ill throughout his trip, arriving in Monterey in 1879. His poor health and weak finances did not deter Fanny from divorcing her husband and marrying Louis. They honeymooned in Calistoga, where they spent 8 weeks as squatters at Silverado Mining Co. They returned to Scotland where Fanny was adored by his family. During this time he wrote most of his classics. In the late 1880s, due to health reasons, he and Fanny sailed in the South Seas, ending up in Samoa. He died there in 1894 at the age of 44.

In 1969 Norman Strousse, an avid Stevenson fan, started a museum in St. Helena. In 1979 the collection was moved to its present building by the library. The museum has 11,000 items, 2,000 visitors a year and holds events.

Member Profile

Jan Darter



By Bill Savidge

“Some of the moms whose babies I help deliver now, I delivered as newborns themselves. Like being a ‘grandnurse’ to those new babies.”

Jan is in Obstetrics at St. Helena Hospital, employed there since 1972. As manager, 18 years now, she supervises 20 nurses, working with three OB doctors. She doesn’t know how many babies she’s delivered but “the number would be in the hundreds.”

Jan was born in Shasta County and has lived all her life in N California. Her father left when she was two. With her mother, twin sister and brother, Jan moved from Summit City to Middletown, then Santa Rosa and Yuba City, where she finished high school. She received an LVN from Yuba College and later an RN at Napa College. Her grandparents had a ranch near Middletown; both were employed by Oat Hill Mine, her grandmother a schoolteacher, her grandfather a teamster, hauling material in a horse-drawn wagon.

At Kiwanis building projects, Jan shows she knows how to use a hammer, crowbar or paint brush. Her work ethic started young, babysitting, and later, after school and weekends, she detailed cars at a Datsun dealership. For recreation in her youth, Jan had a horse named BubbleUp that she rode, often on overnight trail rides, parades and rodeos.

Jan met her future husband, Dr. Bob Darter, at the hospital. “That was in 1972 when he really was 39.” They got married in 1996. Jan’s daughter from her first marriage, Kimberly, asked her new step-father to adopt her, which Bob did without hesitation. Kimberly lives with her husband in Washington, DC. She recently made Jan a grandmother.

With Bob, Jan went on several Mountain Travel hiking and climbing excursions, each trip taking several weeks: Patagonia, K-2 in Himalayan Pakistan in 1996, central Asia’s Silk Road, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. In between, there were the Boy Scout snow trips to Camp Silverado, near Kirkwood in the Sierras. “The boys would build snow caves and sleep in them. “We had a tent, did the cooking. That was a sacrifice on my part, ‘cause I don’t even like snow. Love – and Bob’s badgering – forced me to go.”

How much does it cost these days to have a baby in a hospital? Jan said her mother-in-law found the receipt for Bob’s birth at Berkeley’s Alta Bates Hospital: \$53. “You can add three zeroes to that now.”

Grandmother, grandnurse, grandworker—Jan likes the opportunities for service that Kiwanis presents. She’s a familiar face at all the club’s projects.

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

Guinness World Record Holder

Longest continuous wine toast 10/7/12

CLUB CALENDAR

Every Wednesday – Club Meeting at American Legion Hall, 7:30 a.m.

May 21 – Guest speaker, TBA

May 21 – Builders Club, RLS Rm C2, 12:45. Check in at the office.

May 22 – DCM in Dixon at Jess Jones Winery, 6:00 p.m. Contact Lester.

May 28 – Guest speaker Mike Hardy: Former Inmate, Gulag Saint Helena

June 2 – Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m.

June – Date TBA: Build sawhorse/benches at Bothe Park

July 17 – DCM at Crane Park, sponsored by St. Helena and Yountville

Worthy Causes

June 11 – “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament for SH Boys & Girls Club

Special Notices

1. Membership Committee seeks names for potential club members. Contact Jeff, George, BobB or BobM.

2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Lester or TomD.

4. Publicity and Outreach Committee needs your help lining up weekly speakers. Contact Lowell, Lester, Steve or Jay.

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

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