



# The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

April 23, 2014

## Enchanted Bridge



**Lowell** took a trip down memory lane recently and crossed a bridge to get there, a bridge built by our club 20 years ago. He was visiting the Enchanted Hills Camp for blind children, on Mt. Veeder.

“Surprisingly, enough of the bridge is still mostly there,” he said. “It was a unique project for the club. 10, 12, 15 of us worked on it for 15 weekends in a row. It still looks good.”

“Also, the camp Director made the



pitch that there are lots of projects that he needs help on.....I have not made any commitments to him pending a discussion at the next board meeting. The projects are things like building a boat house, erecting sheds, building benches for an outdoor stage, etc.”

Our club’s last project at the camp was demolishing cabins in 1998. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Napa does cleanup projects at the camp on the second Saturday of every month.



## July DCM Should Be a Winner

Last week three club members met with two members of the Yountville Kiwanis Club to continue plans for co-hosting the July DCM at Crane Park.

“**Donalee, Mike** and I met with **Susan** and **Boyd** of the Yountville club,” reports **Jeff**. “We decided on food and narrowed down choices for the entertainment. The flyer will go out mid-May.”

The date of the event is Thursday evening, July 17<sup>th</sup>. If prior years are any indication, all of the District 8 clubs will be represented at this popular venue. Everyone loves a barbecue in Napa Valley. A service project or fundraising activity will be part of the evening, with proceeds going to Napa Emergency Women’s Services (NEWS).

## Work Days Ahead

**Don** reports that the Project Committee will be making sawdust this summer. But first some cleaning up. “On Saturday, May 10, we will attack the storage garage at the Red Cross House,” says Don. “There’s a lot of stuff to sort out and dispose of, but it shouldn’t take too long if we have a good turnout.”

The second project is building portable barriers for roads at Bothe Park. “We need plans,” says Don. “The design hasn’t been worked out, but they’ll resemble something like a sawhorse with storage compartments.”

“Bale Mill will get our help later in the summer. They need decorative covers for the garbage cans and bins... structures with an 1850s style design.”

*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.”

Editor Bob Beckstrom  
bbeckstrom@pacunion.com  
Reporters Bill Savidge  
Ryterz Block

# This Week at the Club

## The Heights... and the Depths

(April 16) A good turnout of 16 members and 4 guests exchanged cheerful greetings before the bell. It must have been something about tax returns. With **Lester** on vacation **BobM** stepped up to the bung starter. **Lowell** followed with some Words of Wisdom: “All three churches in a small rural community had problems with squirrels in their churches. The Presbyterian Church decided they couldn’t harm God’s creatures and decided to live with the furry pests. The Methods agreed that they couldn’t harm God’s creatures either, so they humanely trapped the squirrels and took them to a nice wooded area. Three days later the squirrels were back. The Baptists baptized the squirrels and added them to the membership roster. Now they only seem them at Christmas and Easter.” During breakfast **BobM** slid up to the podium and said “Good Morning, Kiwanis.” No response. He tried again, with better response, and proceeded to explain, “With our fearless leader on vacation it doesn’t hurt to take a look at ourselves... similar to a visitor to an asylum... asked what the criteria were for being hospitalized... tub full of water... [punch line].” Hootin and hollerin. Then visitor introductions. **Lowell** introduced author and guest speaker, **Whitney LeBlanc**. Next was **Drew**, who introduced **Norm Manzer**, known by most in the room. **Drew** introduced another man “who needs no introduction,” **Doug Ernst**, and his guest **Robbie Whitman**. When **BobM** asked for H or S \$\$, **Lowell** jumped up with some photos to share. “My son Stuart and I, on Saturday, had an interesting adventure... Enchanted Hills Camp... 20 years ago our club did a unique project there... 15 weekends in a row... 10, 12, 15 of us... bridge is still there... designed by committee.” **Gary** had a H\$ “for the Warriors... 50 wins.” **BobB** had a S\$ and a H\$ but forgot to write down what it was. **BobM** had a H\$ for “Tucson... nice vacation... happy we got back.” **Mike** had a H\$ “for bass fishing.” **BobM** checked the calendar and found an anniversary. “**Mr. Watson**... how many years?” Silence. He’s probably still counting. “Is there a Mr. Good Guy?” **Don** took the bait and said, “The usual suspects... **BobB**... **Steve**.”

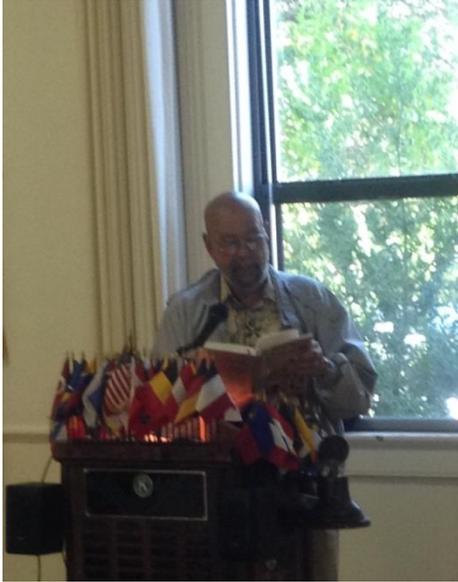
### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **Norm Manzer** was happy to be here “for my annual visit... shopping lists... 14<sup>th</sup> year to raise money for the mission team to Russia... we support orphanages there but now the rummage sale does outreach in our own community... 153 volunteers... 120 church members... Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, bring your stuff for the sale... last year we made \$55,555.”

### DRAWINGS:

- Don** won the ticket to be Fine Free.  
**BobB** fondled the marbles but couldn’t find the clear one.

# Creole Heritage



Guest speaker **Whitney LeBlanc** talked about his life and his books. “I’m from New Orleans. I was brought to St. Helena by God, through the windows of Grace Church. In the 60s I was out of the service and went to school at Antioch College... learned stained glass under the art department head, Bob Metcalf... Then did a career in TV and theater and ended up in Hollywood... not much success... I retired in 1995 and asked, Now what?

“I saw a newspaper ad for a stained glass workshop... reinvigorated to do stained glass. In 1996 I came to St. Helena and ended up as a member of Grace Church... a few years later I did 12 new stained glass windows.

“Meanwhile I decided to do some writing. In 1995 I did a made-up work called *Blues in the Wind*, about a Creole family in Louisiana. I grew up as a Creole but was always confused by these people... a marginal group that came to LA from Acadia during the French/English War. They intermarried with Indians, free blacks, Spanish... the book covers up to 1934, when Leadbelly was let out of prison... he traveled with Lewis Lomax and recorded the Blues.”

Whitney continued with an engaging synopsis of the book and its origins, autobiographical elements and development into three separate books.

# Board Meeting Summary

*By Mike Hardy*

Kiwanis Exec Board Meeting  
April 7, 2014

Called to order at 5:10 By President L Hardy at the offices of BD&Co.

Present: L Hardy, M Hardy, L Smith, B Beckstrom, T Davis, J Darter

1. Minutes of March meeting were approved.
2. Financial report was approved.
3. Lowell floated an idea for a cooperative fund raiser with Cameo Theater; Idea to be passed along to the Fund Raising committee. Lester said he would try to get the Fund Raising committee activated.
4. Mike reminded everyone that nothing has yet been done on the Golf Tournament- Meadowood has not even been booked. A general discussion of fundraising ideas and needs followed. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45, as Lester was not feeling well.

# 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.

**April 23** – Guest speaker, Jay Greene

**April 23** – Builders Club, RLS Rm C2, 12:45. Check in at the office.

**April 30** – Guest speaker, TBA

**May 5** – Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m.

**May 10** – Red Cross garage cleaning project, 9:00 a.m.

**May 17** – Veterans Home Historic Cemetery cleanup day.

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

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

### Worthy Causes

**May 4** – St. Helena Community Band performance at Inglenook

**May 15** – Bring donations to Grace Church for annual rummage sale

## Special Notices

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

2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Steve, David or TomD.

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

# Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

P.O. Box 362

St. Helena, CA 94574