



# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA



## Mike Vieira – Rotary Night of Honor

This is the 27th year of the semi-annual Rotary Nights of Honor. In March of each year, local firefighters are celebrated, and in October of each year, local peace officers are celebrated. It is a way of recognizing the outstanding service that each honoree deserves for their commitment to the communities that within Solano County.

Our speaker today was Mike Vieira, a retired California Highway Patrol officer and fellow

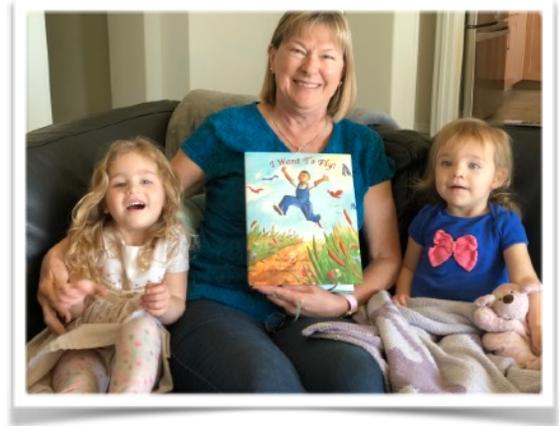
Rotarian from the Vacaville Rotary Club. Mike presently serves at the chair of the committee for this event which was originally started by the Kiwanis Club in Suisun City. However, when the Kiwanis club dropped this program, Mike Garver, a fellow CHP with Mike Vieira, pickup this program up for the Vacaville Rotary club to continue, and it has been going strong since. In 1991, police officers were honored, and in 1992, the program expanded to include firefighters. Many of this year's firefighters, who will be honored on March 23, were involved in the deadly Napa Fires that occurred last fall.

Originally, the program to honor recipients was held at the Holiday Inn in Fairfield, but the number of attendees quickly outgrew the capacity of the hotel. The program was moved to the Nut Tree in Vacaville, and eventually to the Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfield. Early on, the program included speakers, but the program became too lengthy and so the speakers were omitted. The Hilton Garden Inn has a capacity of 300 for dinner, and often times, the Night of Honor sells out and some guests are unable to obtain tickets. The firefighters' night usually is larger than the peace officers night because there are more firefighters than peace officer. It is hopeful that when Vacaville completes the convention center that is planned, the new convention center could be a possible future venue.

Each Rotary Club in Solano County sponsors a table. No host bar is at 6:00, dinner is at 7:00 and the program is completed by 9:00PM. Each club has tickets. If you are interested in attending, contact Diane Smikahl. What a great way to celebrate the men and women who give back to our community! A good suggestion from our club was to invite the local winners after each event so we could meet them and get to know them better. Thank you, Mike, for sharing with us about this great event!

## Noteworthy

- \* Last Saturday was the annual **Benicia Library Trivia Bee**. A big thank you to Bob Triglia, Bill Warren, Eldon Petersen, Alan Schwartzman and Steve McClure for manning the bar which is what our club does to help the Library. And yes, thank you, Eric Hogleund for acting as the emcee for the evening. Helane Bowles wrote our club a nice thank you card for our service at the Trivia Bee. Good job, Benicia Rotary!
- \* It is bocce time again for the annual 5160 **bocce tournament** on May 19, 2018. If you are interested in participating, see Scott Reep.
- \* **John Blunt** is away winning more Blackjack tournaments, and is going to bring us more **coffee** — either ground or beans — which he provides to our club free, and members purchase for only \$5/bag. This is a great, easy fundraiser. Thank you, John.
- \* The annual **Night of Honor** for firefighters is **Friday, March 23**. Diane Smikahl has tickets!
- \* The annual **Benicia Run for Education** is **April 22**. Our Rotary club is a platinum sponsor of this event, and with that sponsorship comes a few complimentary tickets for those of you who might want to actually run in the race. If you are interested in being a runner and would like to secure one of those complimentary tickets, contact Darrel Doi. Of course, you can simply sign up, too — either to run or to work as worker bees are needed to make this a successful race. Afterwards, there is a pancake breakfast at Estey Real Estate. (Eric is not cooking the pancakes, but is supplying the space for this great fundraiser for Benicia High School athletics!)
- \* **André Lewis** expressed an interest in helping to support Girls' State and Boys' State, so he donated the first \$100.
- \* Remember how **André Lewis** writes children's books? Remember, how last April 24, 2017, he was our speaker at our club? Remember how he gave each of us a book, ***I Want to Fly***, to read to a young child, and then take a picture of yourself and the child after you read it to them? I never forgot, but I had to wait until my oldest grandchild was big enough since I don't know many young people anymore! Here's my picture. Where is your picture???? (By the way, these are my granddaughters — Sheridan and Jayden. They live in Tucson. Cuties, eh????).



# Happy Dollars

- \* **Jim Lessenger** enjoyed PETS (president-elect training seminar) last week. He also just returned from a trip to exotic places such as Easter Island, Santiago, Chili, and the Anacama Dessert. On his trip, he enjoyed dirt biking and wine tasting — to name a few things. He was \$20 happy.
- \* **Eric Heglund** now has a new dog, Barkley. Yes, Barkley was a guide-dog-in-training that his daughter, Abby raised here in Benicia. Barkley was successful in his training and was slated to go to his forever home serving someone without sight. But at the last moment, Barkley failed — not because of lack of discipline or training, but because of a chronic ear infection which will recur. Eric was \$10 happy.
- \* **Diane Smikahl** celebrated her 8th anniversary with a quiet dinner at home. She was \$20 happy which she donated to the foundation.
- \* **Lorie Tinfow** was \$5 happy because of some of our club members served as wine pourers at the Library's Trivia Bee. By the way, the City of Benicia won 3rd place!
- \* **Scott Reep** was fined \$2 just because. He was \$10 happy as his 92-year old mom was visiting from Wisconsin and will hopefully be able to join us this Tuesday. His mom is also a fellow Rotarian. Apparently, on her flight to California, she made friends with the pilot and was allowed to sit in his pilot's chair, and was given over 40 bags of peanuts to snack on. Scott was also happy because his 1972 Triumph, with the 2003 registration tags that has been sitting dormant in his garage for 14 years, was being transported to Morgan Hill to be repaired. Scott felt was that this repair job was probably going to be expensive!
- \* **Jon Dwyer** donated \$40 to the Boys' State and Girls' State fund. He talked a bit about PETS and how the District Governors Elect (such as he) are responsible and in charge of the PETS weekend. Apparently, the event went quite well, but the hotel was over 30 rooms short of what was needed. The problem was solved as some members were moved to a nearby hotel.
- \* **Susan Hurl** was \$20 happy as Fred was on his way to a full recovery after having a complete knee replacement surgery. Susan indicated that she knows that she is NOT a good care giver and was glad that Fred could help out around the house more.
- \* **Darrell Doi** was \$10 happy because Eric Heglund had sent him emails and texts from an unknown person.....but he has since learned that this was about Interact and Eric's effort to assist.
- \* **Reg Page** donated \$5 for Jon Dwyer's *future replacement fund* for a vehicle, as he now drives a vehicle with over 180,000 miles on it. This is the vehicle that Jon intends to drive all over the Northern California as he visits Rotary clubs within his jurisdiction as governor beginning July 1. Reg is worried.....
- \* More information is listed on the next page about the **Fourth Annual Liberty High School** golf tournament on April 18, 2018.

**Fourth Annual Swing to Success Golf Tournament  
Presented by Liberty High School  
April 18, 2018  
Blue Rock Springs Golf Club  
2:00 PM Scramble Format**

This event has been a huge success and been selling out yearly. Liberty High's golf team is sponsored by this tournament. We hope to have multiple student participants this year. Students have been learning etiquette, swing, and play. Proceeds from this fun 9-hole scramble will ensure this program can continue sponsored by Blue Rock Springs. There will be on course contests and prizes. Dinner is provided following the tournament at the Golf Club.

Registration is 1:00 PM  
Shotgun scramble starting promptly at 2:00 PM  
Dinner: 5:00 PM generously sponsored by Elviarita's Mexican Grill



Mail Form with Payment to: Liberty High School 351 E. K Street Benicia, CA 94510	For more information call: Jim Trimble (707) 334-6050 or Chris Winder (650) 477-0936
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Please check the box to left and complete the form provided below

- \$50 Golfer. I am registering as a single golfer please place me in a group.**
- \$200 Foursome. I am registering a foursome (names below) and making a single payment.**
- \$25 Donation towards dinner without golf.**

Golfer's Names	Phone	Email

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Liberty High School)

Non-profit EIN: 30-0385724

