



# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

Club founded in 1967

## Upcoming Events

**March 22** — Interviewers are needed for Liberty High School! A great opportunity for a Rotarian! Contact Jim Trimble if you can assist.

**March 30** — Our club provides the bar service for the annual The Benicia Library Trivia Bee held at the Clocktower. We still need workers that evening! Another opportunity for you to help your community! We still need people to work the 7:30 - 9:30 shift! Contact Mario Giuliani to sign up.

**May 5** — The BEF Run for Education happens every year; we need volunteers to help keep the course safe for runners, and we need runners. Our club is a GOLD sponsor of this event which helps support the local schools in Benicia. Darrell Doi is the guy with the answers. Contact him!

**July 27 & 28** — The Benicia Main Street Waterfront Festival is happening July 27 & July 28. As always, our club helps man the beer garden. Shifts are about 2.5 hours and you get to taste various beers, listen to music, and enjoy the event. Signups will be happening soon! Meanwhile, mark your calendars.

## Catching Up

We've been busy! Or at least the writer of this bulletin has been busy...so we are a wee bit behind. Here are the topics covered in the past three weeks:

### March 5, 2019

We actually didn't have a speaker today, so our club talked about social media and how to get our club information out there. With a few clicks of the mouse and a few current pictures on Facebook, our club experienced a surge in activity, including 33 new followers on our Facebook page and a reach of over 300 people and over 80 engagements in the first week. What a way to go! More to come!

### March 12, 2019

Our own Charles Young, Superintendent of Benicia Unified, spoke to our club and gave us an update about the school district. He feels that the state of BUSD is strong, and our school district provides a good experience for kids. He specifically talked about money, learning, and the bond that was passed. Overall, the district is doing well!

### March 17, 2019

Jamie Spence, one of our club members, shared with us about the origins of **Canvasback Missions** — and how he and his wife started this entire project which began when they set sail out of the Golden Gate in 1974. After floating at sea for seven years — under God's guidance — with days of boredom and days of terror — Jaime knew that "God had a perfect plan for his life." His seven years at sea was one of a spiritual journey. When he returned and started **Canvasback Missions**, Jaime was amazed about how the right people would show up at the right times to do the right jobs.

**August 9** — Our **14th Annual Golf Tournament at Blue Rock Springs** is happening again on **August 9!** This is our primary fundraiser for the year, and your help is needed. Even if you choose to golf, we can still use your help in getting things ready before the event, the day of the event, or the cleanup afterwards. A great opportunity for all Benicia Rotarians!

**August 10** — The **Annual Peddler’s Fair** is the day after our golf tournament. It’s a big weekend for our club. Your help is needed. Shifts are about 2.5 hours, and we need Rotarians to help! Mark your calendars now and plan to help!



Damian Scott, Charles Young, Bonnie Ramirez, and Khushwinder Gill

The ship that set sail Marshall Islands was launched off of the coast of Oregon. It was fun hearing Jaime share his story.

Jamie also shared a video about a young 6-year old boy from Majuro who was born with congenital cataracts. A team of doctors with **Canvasback Missions** successfully restored young Jack Robuti’s vision. You can watch this miraculous story at: [https://youtu.be/nf\\_dR-mjhtw](https://youtu.be/nf_dR-mjhtw).

### Important Things to Know

- Darrell Doi received his **Paul Harris plus 8**. That means, he has donated over \$9000 to Rotary International. Great job, Darrell! We are proud of you, and appreciate all that you do for our club.
- Dr. Khushwinder Gill, from Benicia Unified, joined Dr. Charles Young in distributing BUSD pins to our members to thank us for what we do to assist the schools.
- Mario Giuliani discovered that March 10 is always Mario Day:

### MAR10

- Bonnie Ramirez, a special education teacher at Benicia Middle School, was our first Teacher-of-the Month this year. She was introduced by principal Damian Scott. As a gift, Bonnie received Benicia Downtown Dollars and BMS received \$100 from our club. Charles Young and Khushwinder Gill was also on hand to support Bonnie. Congratulations, Bonnie.
- Our club received a thank-you note from Hope 4 Kids for our donation towards a new water well in Uganda.
- Our club received a thank-you note from Anne Dunleavy for our donation towards the **Wiggle Room** in Benicia, in honor of Alan Schwartzman’s daughter, Jenna.
- Our club now has the official OKAY from the Benicia Yacht Club to hang our brass plaque on the BYC building.
- Lisa Guerin, and a few other club members, have been working on the merit awards for BHS. There are eleven applicants — all outstanding. Lisa will meet with the team on March 25 to review and select the finalists for our scholarships.

## Happy Dollars - from THREE Weeks of Meetings!

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Bob Triglia was \$5 happy as he turned 61. He did NOT want a song!

Charles Young was \$20 happy as the Teacher of the Month program has been revitalized.

Jack Bell was \$5 happy as he got his real ID driver's license and the DMV process was simple and not time consuming.

Darrell Doi was \$5 happy as his daughter finished BHS soccer and is now participating on the BHS badminton team.

Reg Page was \$10 happy as he recently ran into Bill Ames, now a member of the Lafayette Rotary, but previously a member in Benicia.

Jon Dwyer was \$10 happy as he attended the "smoke and fire" clam chowder cook-off in Corning, CA. The winning entry was actually from Paradise, CA — an interesting commentary about the name of the cook-off and the group that won!

Jon Blunt was in Biloxi, one of his favorite towns, where he was playing in a Blackjack tournament, and brought back great coffee for us to purchase! He was \$50 happy which he donated to the Rotary Foundation.

Jim Lessenger generously donated \$995 to the Benicia Club Foundation — to go towards the good work that we do, especially the Benicia Historical Museum project.

André Lewis was \$5 happy as our club is supporting two girls from Benicia (BHS and LHS) to attend Girls' State in LaVerne, CA later this year.

Martha Christopher, our next Rotary Club of Benicia President, attended PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) recently and was \$5 happy as her PETS poster was a good one. (Thank you, Martha!)

Jim Lessenger was \$20 happy as he just returned from Phoenix and had toured Montezuma's Castle and also the Museum of Musical Instruments.

Jon Dwyer was \$20 happy as he attended PETS, as the outgoing District Governor and got to relax and enjoy the event....for a change!

Jack Bell celebrated a birthday and was \$100 happy which went to to Rotary International!

Reg Page donated \$10 to the foundation for our work at the Benicia Historical Museum.

Darrell Doi was \$10 happy as his daughter played soccer in Las Vegas recently.

Paul Adler was \$20 happy as Jim Trimble purchased his lunch at a recent golf tournament meeting!

Scott Reep just returned from Mexico and a bunch of other places, and was \$10 happy.