



Our GOLF tourney on Aug 11 was a **HUGE** success!



ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA



Dr. Jim Lessenger

Rotary's Benicia
Historian

Our own Dr. Lessenger was our speaker today. Jim started with a cup of tea....something he learned when he and some coworkers dined with Ronnie and Nanci.....Reagan. He said that Ronald Reagan always drank something warm before he spoke. Apparently, it lowers one's voice. So that is how Jim began his talk today.

Dr. Lessenger is a history buff, and knows so much about the history of Benicia. He enjoys doing research about historical topics that interest him and he enjoys writing about these topics, and adding some flair, but with an aim to still be educational. Presently, Dr. Lessenger is interested in revamping

the Benicia Historical Museum with a new exhibit that will last a minimum of five years. The story would be in display cases, dioramas, booklets, and pamphlets. The exhibit would cover Benicia from 1847 to 1964, and would include the history about the conversion of the arsenal into the industrial park. Jim is interested in this project for his upcoming presidential year (2018-19) and is hoping that Steve McClure and his board will consider this project as well, as the projected cost will be \$15,000 — the total over two years. This project would give our club much recognition and publicity, too!

In doing research, Jim has learned that history books are often — at times — inaccurate. He wants to do the basic research for this project. During Jim's explanation of his project, he also shared great historical details, and much humor, about Benicia and the history behind our wonderful town.

Important Upcoming Events

Last call for the September 9 Fall Seminar in Redding. Coffee at 8 AM. Simpson University. Includes continental breakfast and lunch. To register, you must respond to the link that was sent to your email by Bev Stupek.

Happy Dollars!

The **BIG RED BUCKET** was absent last week since Jim Trimble was not at our meeting. Mario, however, was available to collect fines which were deposited in an envelope marked "**Tribute Envelope to PAY Mario.**" We are not sure what happened to the envelope with OUR money!??

- * If you did not wear your Rotary pin, you were fined \$1. Mario collected quite a sum of money.
HINT: wear your pin!
- * Allan Schwartzman is a year older and celebrated with many of his coworkers on August 16 (his actual birthday) who also have birthdays during the summer months. The next day, Alan went to Oregon to see the eclipse. He was VERY happy and paid \$100 to Paul Harris.
- * André Lewis celebrated his 21st anniversary, but his wife was in Benicia and he was in Sydney, Australia. She wasn't very happy. Neither was André.
- * Jim Lessenger paid \$29 for his sins and to celebrate today's speaker. (He was the speaker.)
- * Scott Reep paid \$5 as he was happy that Darrell and André met with the Interact Club last Saturday to plan this year's Interact events.
- * Labor Day honors the social and economic achievements of American workers.
- * John Blunt played in a blackjack tournament in New Orleans, but left Sunday night and at 36,000 feet, he could see the curvature of the clouds from Hurricane Harvey.
- * In the late 1800's, average Americans worked for 12 hours a day and seven days a week to earn a basic living. Children as young as five to six years old also worked in factories and mines.

- * Steve McClure was happy because his son, a college student, won the MVP golf award from last season. He is also happy because he is taking his wife to Maui. It was supposed to be a surprise, but he opted to let her know a month in advance. His decision was VERY wise.
- * Oregon was the first state to officially make Labor Day a state-recognized holiday.
- * Jon Dwyer is headed to Chicago to visit his daughter and her family, and to watch some football.
- * Labor Day was first observed on Tuesday, September 5, 1883 when 10,000 workers gathered for a parade in New York City, up Broadway to Union Square.
- * Alex Lobban was happy because his Benicia Soccer League did well in Sunnyvale (although they lost on penalties). He was also happy that DVC started last week and he is off to a good start with his coaching at DVC.
- * In the late Victorian era, people did not wear white or seersucker clothing after Labor Day as it unofficially marked summer's end. However, this tradition isn't really followed anymore, according to the National Constitution Center. (Fashion police???)
- * Bob Triglia, our newest Benicia Rotarian, knew the answer to Mario's question: *Who is our newest Rotary member?*
- * Sue Hutch (that's me) knew what hospital our last week's speaker was associated with: *John Muir*.
- * In 1894, Congress passed an act to designate the first Monday in September as Labor Day.
- * Eric Hoglund did not know the second Rotary motto: *They profit most who serve best*.
- * The number of people aged 16 and above in the national's labor force as of May 2017 is 159.8 million, according to the United States Census Bureau.

Rotary

