



Annual Police  
Officer's  
Night of  
Honor is  
October, 13,  
2017



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA



David Dodd —  
Director of Library  
and Cultural  
Services — a Man  
with a Unique  
Work History

David Dodd, our new library director here in Benicia, has had a very unique work experience history. Mr. Dodd was actually the librarian in Benicia 25 years ago (August 1990 thru March 1994) at the “old” Benicia Library located on G Street. During his tenure at the “old” library, he helped move to the “new” library (now 25 years old), and switched from a card catalogue to an on-line catalogue system. But in 1994, he decided to follow his girlfriend, soon wife-to-be, to Colorado. (Her expertise is in software implementation for libraries which is how they originally met.) However, David didn’t work in Denver, so he volunteered his knowledge at the Denver Art Museum Library, ultimately merging seven libraries into one library. In his time in Denver, he gained extensive skills in cataloguing. His knowledge drew him to a job at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs where he became an assistant professor, on track to become a full professor. Yet again following his wife and her job, he found himself as the Library Director in Aptos, CA, which ultimately led him to a job at UC Santa Cruz, again as an assistant professor. But a move was in store, and he followed his wife and her job to Singapore for one year. In Singapore, he was busy as a full-time dad, and also enjoyed singing in the symphony chorus! Moving from Singapore to the US landed him employed as the branch manager at the Marin County Civic Center. Next job, San Francisco, then back to San Rafael as the Director of the public library.

San Rafael was important for many reasons. David had the opportunity to restore a Carnegie library which was a huge task that required money to replace large windows, an old time boiler that functioned poorly with new, modern HVAC, and to find the 1.3 million dollars to do this. In 2008, San Rafael's library was reopened and rededicated. San Rafael is also the center for the Grateful Dead (*read on*). David, who lives in Petaluma with his wife and two kids, became the collections manager. But learning that our own Diane Smikahl was retiring from her job as Director at the Benicia Library, he applied for the job in Benicia and was successful. Welcome David!

One of the most interesting things about David is that he is a SERIOUS fan of the Grateful Dead, so San Rafael was a perfect location for him. The Grateful Dead, an American rock band formed in 1965 in Palo Alto, is known for its unique and eclectic style, which fused elements of rock, psychedelia, experimental music, jazz, country, folk, bluegrass, blues, reggae, and space rock in their live performances with lengthy instrumental jams. Followers of the Grateful Dead, such as David Dodd, are known as "*Deadheads*." But David, with his love for the Grateful Dead, started investigating the origin of the words in their songs while in Denver and published this information on the new World Wide Web in 1995. He taught himself HTML, and put up annotations about Grateful Dead's music and lyrics. His research became very popular as he created a giant database. While at the University of Colorado, David published this database on the University of Colorado website which had more traffic than any of the other portion of that website.

David was really here to talk about our Benicia library, but his past was extremely interesting. David believes that the library should represent everyone who enters. There needs to be something for everyone. At the Benicia Public Library, there are many services: teaching ESL, offering GED education, sponsoring authors and poet laureates, providing story times for young children, and board games for citizens to enjoy. During our recent heat spell, the library even acted as a cooling center since many residents in Benicia do not have AC.

Our library is an amazing resource in our town and we need to continue to support it. On June 26, 2018, our library will be celebrating 25 years with music, events, and happenings. Mark your calendars. ***This is something we don't want to miss!***

## Noteworthy!

- \* We received a newsletter with updates from ***Little Flock***, the orphanage in India that our club once sponsored.
- \* The **Vallejo Lions Club** sent our club a thank you note for participation in their recent golf tournament.
- \* The **Liberty High School oversight committee** will meet **October 3, 2017** at 1:45 PM in the conference room at LHS. See Jim Trimble for more info.
- \* The **Northbay Film Festival**, which helps support Benicia Education Foundation, will be on October 6, 7 and 8 at the Clocktower.
- \* The annual **Rotary Night of Honor** is October 13, 2017. See Diane Smikahl for more info.

# Happy Dollars!

- \* **Reg Page** and wife Nancy celebrated their 45th anniversary in Santa Barbara by camping on Refugio Beach. He was \$25 happy! A traditional AND modern 45th anniversary gift is a sapphire!
- \* **Mario Giuliani** and wife Lacey celebrated their 4th anniversary. For an anniversary gift, Mario gave Lacey tombstones, skeletons and a fog machine. He was \$25 happy. However, a traditional 4th anniversary gift is flowers and fruit. A modern 4th anniversary gift is linen, silk or nylon. (Mario said Lacey was happy about his gifts to her.)
- \* **Jon Dwyer** said Kym Surani (*High End Uniforms*) did a great job on the Rotary shirts for the Shasta Rotary event. He was \$20 happy.
- \* **Kym Surani**, our guest today, donated happy dollars as one of his employees (Michaela) was originally a Liberty High School student who came to him because of Rotary.
- \* **Jim Lessenger** just returned from a trip to Hawaii — where he viewed “weapons of mass destruction.” He was \$20 happy!
- \* **André Lewis** survived his Fed Ex trip, and he just finished taking his oldest daughter to college at UCLA. He was \$10 happy!
- \* **Darrell Doi** just took his son to college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and wanted to thank Rotarians for their Benicia community that impacted his son and family so positively. He was \$20 happy!
- \* **Eric Hoglund** donated \$5 for cursing at Darrell’s Demotion dinner three years ago....in front of Darrell’s son who attended that night. (*Eric’s apology.*)
- \* **Scott Reep** donated \$1 — because he did t have \$2 which is traditional for Scott. Scott is interested in talking to someone who has visited Cuba recently.
- \* **Bob Schroth** just returned from Maui. He looked very rested and was \$30 happy!
- \* **Jim Trimble** donated \$20 because he didn’t have the plaque for Kym Surani (*High End Uniforms*) at the golf tournament.



Some members of the Golf Committee presenting Kym Surani (High End Uniforms) a plaque for his support of our tournament in August

The **26th annual Night of Honor** for Solano County Police Officers will be October 13 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfield. Our club sponsors a table, so we have EIGHT tickets for our members to use at NO-COST to you! See **Diane Smikahl** for more information.

*The Rotary Club of Benicia has sponsored a table at this event. Please contact Diane for info/tickets*

# NIGHT OF HONOR

**Solano County Rotary Clubs**

## 26th ANNUAL SOLANO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION NIGHT

HILTON GARDEN INN - FAIRFIELD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

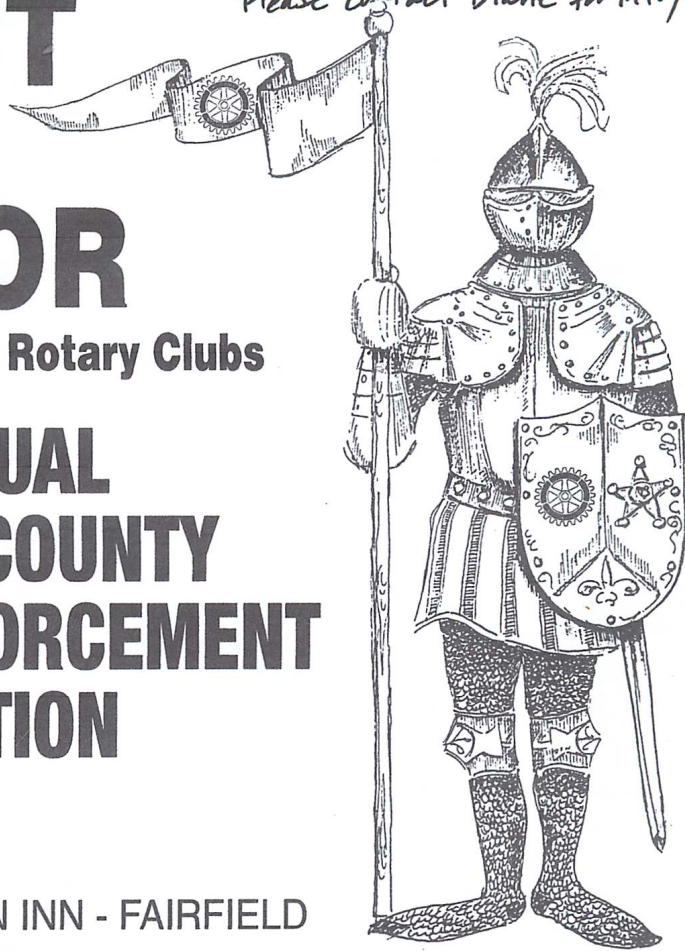
No Host Cocktails – 6:00 PM

**Doors open at 6:00 PM**

**\$40.00 PER PERSON**

**DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL**

**TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$375**



**For Tickets Contact**

- Tom Myers ..... 439-6880
- Candy Pierce ..... 953-3735
- Steve Bird ..... 685-5217
- Ed Lydon ..... 425-6171
- Mike Vieira ..... 592-4118
- Lee Williams ..... 689-3960
- Kris Kistner ..... 448-9333