

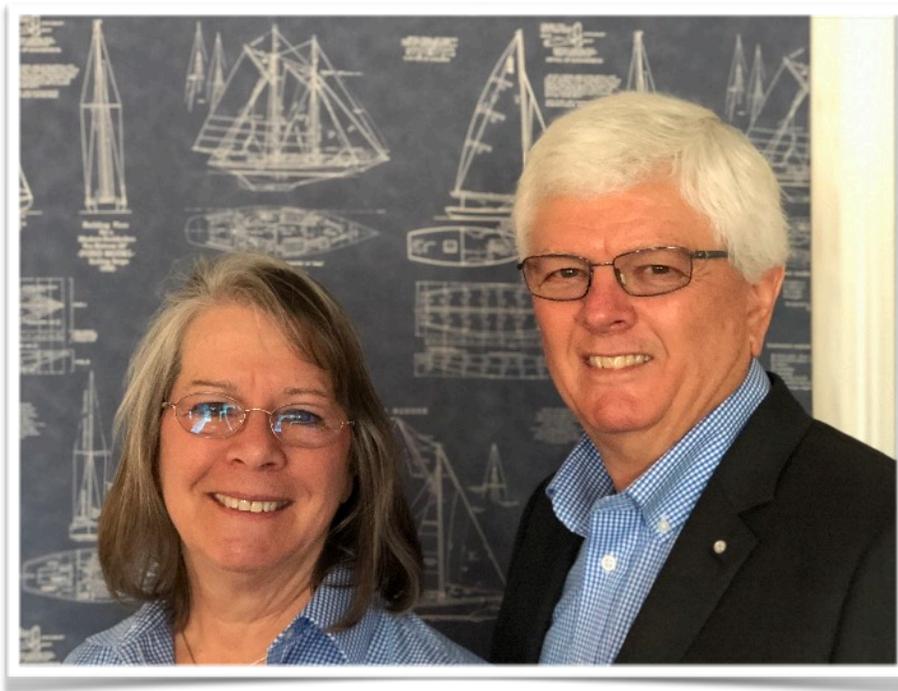


Our **Holiday**
Rotary Party is
Wednesday,
December 13
 at 5:30 PM.
 Mark your
 calendars!



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA



Leslie and Gary Vilhauer

Gary Vilhauer — Our District Governor — 2017-18

Gary Vilhauer, our Rotary District 5160 Governor for 2017-18, was our speaker today. He started out with a story about his trip to Lagos, Nigeria for a three-day adventure, *Rotary Family Health Days*. After flying for almost 24 hours, Gary arrived exhausted from the trip only to be met with chaos, construction, trash, and long lines. A large man, carrying an AK-47, came up to Gary and said, "You're a big man, follow me." Gary obliged and followed the gentleman. The gentleman turned to

Gary and said, "Thank you and Rotary for helping our country!" The man then escorted Gary through the chaos, past the long lines, to a compact van and whisked him away to meet other Rotarians, and to meet the recipients of the global family health project. During Gary's short time in Nigeria, Gary gave drops to a baby, helped with health screening and vaccines, and saw the difference Rotary can make in the lives of people. *It was an awesome experience for Gary!*

Gary talked about how membership in Rotary across the world is declining in key areas. If we want to stay a viable organization, we need to have meaningful conversations and need to talk about what we do...and then invite people to join us in our endeavors. When people come together, that's when real change happens — we turn what **we see** into what **we have done!** Gary's hope for us is that at the end of this year, we can say we have made a difference. And there is no limit to the difference we can make!



Gary also presented a few special awards. Darrell Doi received his Paul Harris Foundation **plus 7** award!
Congratulations, Darrell!

Gary presented awards to three other Benicia members. These members were selected by our president Steve McClure as members who have been a big assistance to him in his presidency this year: Sue Hutch (me), Jim Trimble, and Jon Dwyer. (No, that's not Jim, as Jim was in Palm Springs — so Mario accepted the award on his behalf.)
Thank you, Steve! We were all very flattered!



Noteworthy!

- * Our Rotary Holiday Party is **Wednesday, December 13** beginning at 5:30 PM — at Eric Hogle's business (Estey Real Estate — 216 First St.). This is a full meal for you and your guests, but sign-ups are necessary so we can plan appropriately. The meal will be catered by *Elviarita's* in Benicia. The final cost has not yet been determined, but our club is hoping to subsidize the cost so it will be minimal. More information will be available soon.
- * Benicia Rotary Club is assisting with the wagon rides on **Friday, December 1**. Volunteers are needed from 6:00 - 7:30, and 7:30- 9:00 PM. Susan Hurl sent out a sign-up sheet via email. Hope you can add your name!
- * Benicia Rotary Club is assisting with "ringing the bell" at Raley's in December. Sign-ups will be available at our next meeting.
- * We still need Holiday dinners! Feel free to donate so we can help make someone's holiday happier! Each meal costs \$80. Even partial donations are appreciated.
- * **Marlene**, our exchange student from Austria, will be participating in the Benicia High School Improv Show on **Friday, December 15** from 7:00 to 9:00. She would be delighted to have us attend!



Happy Dollars!

Steve McClure always wanted to do Happy Dollars, so today, he did!

- * Susan Hurl is now a certified **Tae Bo** instructor! She donated money!
- * Alan Schwartzman has another new granddaughter — *Coral Marie* — so he donated \$100 to the Rotary Foundation.
- * Sue Fisher Jones, in appreciation for John Blunt's donation of toiletries to the homeless and victims of the fires, donated \$20 to the Foundation.
- * André Lewis was a recipient of a grant from Valero. He donated money!
- * Jon Dwyer had a great week and met the Rotary president-elect from Nassau — so he donated \$20.
- * Bonnie Dwyer fined her husband \$20 for referring to her as his "better half."
- * President Steve asked simple questions of Bill Pugh, Lori and Sue Fisher Jones. Everyone knew the answers. So **Jim now owes 3 X \$2 = \$6** since this game was Jim's idea!

