



BE THE INSPIRATION

ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

Club founded in 1967

McClure Presents Guy Benjamin with a Check

Earlier this year, Guy spoke to our club about his involvement with Water 4 Kids, a program to provide safe drinking water by drilling wells in remote villages around the world — restoring hope...one village at a time. Our club presented Guy with a check for \$654.50 to be applied to this worthwhile project.



Information 4 You

BHS is having a softball day. For \$40, you get two tickets to two baseball games: 3/24/19 (A's vs Giants) and 7/25/19 (A's vs Rangers). If you are interested in supporting this worthwhile cause, see Steve McClure as he has tickets! BTW - Willie Calhoun, a BHS local, is a Ranger and could be playing that day!



Worthy Matron & Patron — Heidi & Guy Benjamin

In November 2018, Heidi and Guy Benjamin were installed as worthy Matron and Patron of the Order of Eastern Star. The Order of the Eastern Star is a Masonic associated body open to both men and women. It was established in 1850 by lawyer/educator Rob Morris, and eventually adopted and approved as a part of the masonic Fraternity in 1873. The Eastern Star originated in order to introduce the Masons to the daughters, wives, and other relatives of Master Masons — in order for them to help support and encourage the men. Morris' life was devoted to the uplifting of humanity. The emblem of the Order is a five-pointed star. Each point references a particular trait: fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love.

The role of Masons is an important piece of the history of Benicia, and the history of the state of California. Both Robert Semple, a newspaperman and politician, and Thomas Larkin, a businessman, were masons and established the city at the Carquinez Straits that became Benicia. Clinton Hastings, a prominent lawyer and a mason, settled in Benicia and soon became the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. In the meantime, he also ran for the

Happy Dollars

- **Diane Smikahl** celebrated her 9th anniversary on 2/24! Flowers and Girl Scout cookies were exchanged, but a future dinner is scheduled. She was \$5 happy!
- **Lisa Guerin** reported that her daughter is going to attend Culinary School. She was \$10 happy!
- **Jon Dwyer** was \$50 happy because of the lovely stained glass emblem (Be the Inspiration) that Jim and Leslie Lessenger gave him last week. He indicated it was one of the nicest gifts he had received as District Governor.
- **Lori Tinfow** was \$10 happy as she just welcomed her second grandchild, a baby girl named Taylin!
- **Mario Giuliani** was \$25 happy as he appreciated Jon Dwyer for sharing what it means to be a member of Rotary. Mario also wanted to thank fellow Rotarians for the support he has received this last year while going through difficult times at home. Thank you, Rotary!
- **Steve McClure** was \$7 happy as his son, Zach, was golfing with his team at TPC Harding Park for three days and did well in inclement weather. He also wanted everyone to know that he is moving his office — same building, different suite.
- **Jim Trimble** was \$20 happy as he is having his middle finger fixed by early summer!

Attorney General of California. Additionally, A Grand Master from Louisiana gave a dispensation to a group that eventually became the Pacific Lodge at Benicia, and was later chartered as Benicia Lodge #5. This building is still standing on West J and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. In the building are the first jewels used by the Lodge, made of tin and cut from cans of food, as well as other artifacts from early Masonic history.

Some famous women who were members of Eastern Star: Clara Harlow Barton, known as the angel of the battlefield and was the first president of the Red Cross; Laura Ingles Wilder, known for writing and illustrating children's books; Kate Pier, the first women in the US to be conferred with judicial powers; Ollie Josephine Prescott Bennett, one of the first women doctors to serve in the US Army Medical Corps; and Sandra Day O'Conner, the first women to become a Supreme Court Justice.

Heidi is a long-term member of Eastern Star. When Heidi was participating in the Relay for Life helping to serve breakfast, Guy volunteered alongside her. That was one of their first dates. In 2014, Guy and Heidi were married.

Heidi's lodge has adopted a school classroom and provided money to build a classroom library, offered scholarships, created "Port Pillows" for chemo patients, and helped to fund Paws for Purple Hearts, an organization involved in training dogs for veterans. Today, Heidi also shared some of her personal items from Eastern Star (see the pictures below).

Thank you, Heidi and Guy, for sharing information about Eastern Star, its history, and how important it has been in your lives.



