

# THE WIND REPORT

Week of December 15, 2014

## Club Officers:

Lynn Eager, President

Jessica Braverman,  
President-Elect

Sharon Mace, Secretary

Larry Mace, Treasurer

Laura Montalvo, Public  
Relations

Gary R. Clarke, Rotary  
Foundation

James Frazier,  
Membership

Rita Smith, Club  
Services

Katherine Richardson,  
Community Service

Sudhir Sahni,  
International Service

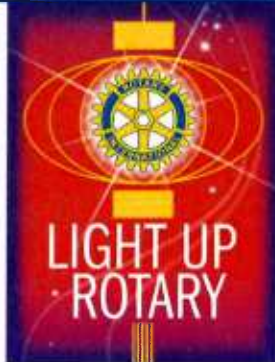
Greg Wilson, Youth  
Services

Tom Eager, Past  
President

Valerie Munoz,  
Executive Secretary,  
Webmaster

Dan Gerald, Assistant  
District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT  
5160,  
CLUB NO. 30335**



## **San Ramon Valley Rotary Club, Danville, CA, USA**

**Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.,  
Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville  
[www.sanramonvalleyrotary.com](http://www.sanramonvalleyrotary.com)

**Wind Report Editor:** Laura Montalvo  
**Club Photographer:** Dany Gregory

## ***Christmas Traditions From Around the World***

Christmas, as we know it, is a Victorian invention of the 1860s. Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is a product of hundreds of years of both secular and religious traditions around the globe. Check out what happens this time of year in Sweden, Germany and "Down Under."

**SWEDEN: 'GOD JUL!'** - Most people in Scandinavian countries honor St. Lucia each year on December 13. The celebration of St. Lucia Day began in Sweden, but had spread to Denmark and Finland by the mid-19th century. In these countries, the holiday is considered the beginning of the Christmas season and, as such, is sometimes referred to as "little Yule." Traditionally, the oldest daughter in each family rises early and wakes each of her family members, dressed in a long, white gown with a red sash, and wearing a crown made of twigs with nine lighted candles. For the day, she is called "Lussi" or "Lussibruden (Lucy bride)." The family then eats breakfast in a room lighted with candles.

**GERMANY: 'FROEHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN!'** - Decorating evergreen trees had always been a part of the German winter solstice tradition. The first "Christmas trees" explicitly decorated and named after the Christian holiday, appeared in Strasbourg, in Alsace in the beginning of the 17th century. After 1750, Christmas trees began showing up in other parts of Germany, and even more so after 1771, when Johann Wolfgang von Goethe visited Strasbourg and promptly included a Christmas tree in his novel, *The Suffering of Young Werther*. In the 1820s, the first German immigrants decorated Christmas trees in Pennsylvania. After Germany's Prince Albert married Queen Victoria, he introduced the Christmas tree tradition to England. In 1848, the first American newspaper carried a picture of a Christmas tree and the custom spread to nearly every home in just a few years.

**AUSTRALIA** - In Australia, the holiday comes in the middle of summer and it's not unusual for some parts of Australia to hit 100 degrees on Christmas day. During the warm and sunny Australian Christmas season, beach time and outdoor barbecues are common. Traditional celebrations include family gatherings, exchanging gifts and either a hot meal with ham, turkey, pork or seafood or barbeques.

## Birthdays This Month:

Tim Alman, 12/10  
Buntie Sahni, 12/11  
Marci Harris, 12/13  
Greg Wilson, 12/16  
Michelle Lin, 12/16  
Vikram Gokli, 12/16  
Jessie Castro, 12/22  
Laura Montalvo,  
12/24  
Anita Frazier, 12/30

## Anniversaries This Month:

Kathy and Dave  
Richardson, 12/23  
Barbara and Jack  
Bailey, 12/28  
Jesse and Svitlana  
McGuire, 12/29

## Upcoming Greeters:

Greg McGuire, 12/10  
Santa Claus, 12/18

**TO ALL OUR RED BADGERS!** To get your blue badge, you need to be a greeter at one of our meetings. It is your responsibility to sign up and pick a slot. Any questions, feel free to contact Rita Smith.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

On December 10, we were lucky to have a big California storm blast through the Bay Area and leave a lot of flooding in its wake – but we were thankful for the rain! At our Rotary meeting, our greeter was **Greg McGuire** and we were visited by our speaker, **Lynda Rexroat**, with the Cooking with Kids Foundation. Also visiting us was **Daniel Huber**, guest of James Frazier. Welcome to our guests and thank you Lynda for sharing some great information about Cooking with Kids. Here's a link to their website for more info: - [www.cwkfoundation.org](http://www.cwkfoundation.org).

We also took a vote for our new Board Members for the 2015-2016 Rotary Year. A big congratulations and shout out to those who are officially members of Jessica Braverman's new Rotary Board for the San Ramon Valley Rotary Club: - **James Frazier, President Elect; Dany Gregory & Sudhir Sahni, as Co-Treasurers; Sharon Mace, Club Secretary; Valerie Munoz, Executive Secretary; Tim Alman (with Gary Clarke), Foundation Director; Bob Schumacher, Director of Fundraising; Neville Guard, Director of Community Service; Dan Gerald (with Michelle Lin), Director of Club Services; Laura Montalvo, Director of Public Relations; Deb Kileen (with Dany Gregory), Director of Youth Services; Greg Wilson (with Tom Eager, Director of Membership; Traci Engle (with Barbara Bailey), Director of Activities and Fun (Non-Voting Position); and our Sargeant-At-Arms is Greg McGuire (also a Non-Voting Position).** Thank you all for your willingness to volunteer your time and energy to our Club.



## One Warm Coat Gets Huge Support from SRVR Members...

Traci Engle reports that the Friday night Bishop Ranch Tree Lighting Ceremony was a huge success. Our members showed up to support the One Warm Coat kiosk and do a little Rotary promotion mixed with fellowship while collecting coats, clothing and blankets for those in need. On hand were: Dany, Valerie, Larry, Sudhir, Steve, Larry, Sharon, Rita, Traci, Brian, Lynn, Tom and Neville. On a wet and rainy evening, San Ramon residents and Bishop Ranch employees dropped off the equivalent of 4 boxes of coats and clothes.



Jesse McGuire reported another show of support on Saturday at the Sorting Party that ran from 10am to 1pm. A total of **1,777** items of clothing, coats and blankets were sorted bagged and counted. DVSR Club members stopped by and dropped off their contributions.



Thank you to Dany Gregory for getting OWC into the Valley Sentinel

Traci says it takes a village to do what we do and there are over 24 volunteer Rotarians and their friends and families assisting on this project. If they were not there on Friday or Saturday, they were out collecting the donations at merchant locations and taking them to the warehouse. Some of these folks are:

Jesse McGuire	Brian Roth	James Anita, Josh & Noel Frazier
Greg McGuire	Tom Eager	Gary Clarke & Courtney & Friend
Dany Gregory	Sharon Mace	Alex Harris
Kristina Plisik	Steve Kasa	Valerie Munoz
Neville Guard	Larry Mace	Rita Smith
Pam Jones	Neville Guard	Sudhir Sahni
Janice Dalton	Gobind Anand	Barbara Bailey
Laura Montalvo	Lynn Eager	Traci Engle

Coming up next...

Jesse McGuire will send out an email regarding the next weekends' sorting parties. There will be one more Saturday in December and two Saturdays in January. Brian Roth will head up organizing one or two weekday evening sorting parties. We will start delivering to two of the charities before Christmas: Christmas for Everyone and St Vincent de Paul. Thanks to EVERYONE for their support and participation!!

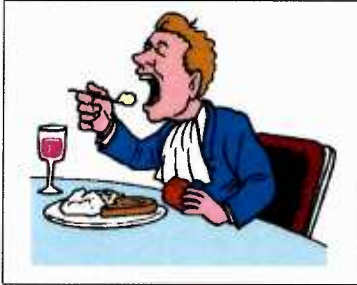


**COMING UP AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 17:**

Our Greeter will be Santa Claus.

AND IT'S OUR HOLIDAY SHINDIG - starting at 6:00 p.m.

Don't forget to bring a gift for our White Elephant Gift Exchange.



**WHAT'S ON THE MENU?**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

Caesar Salad; Atlantic Salmon with Capers, Chives, Beurre Blanc;  
Grilled Flat Iron Steak with Roasted Brandied Onions; New York  
Cheesecake for Dessert - another Big Yum!!

**COMING ATTRACTIONS AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

November 10 through January 14, 2015 - ONE WARM COAT DRIVE IN PROCESS. SEE UPDATE ATTACHED. Contact Traci Engle at (925) 890-3205 or see her at the meeting for details on how you can volunteer to help with sorting parties.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., HOLIDAY PARTY! At the Blackhawk Country Club, Danville.

Wednesday, December 24, 2014: - DARK - NO MEETING -HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wednesday, December 31, 2014: DARK - NO MEETING - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Saturday, January 17, 2015 - Evening with the Classics.



**Need to Make Up a Missed Meeting?**

Go to our club website and check out the list of neighboring clubs you can visit for more fun and fellowship. Just e-mail Valerie Munoz to let her know you made up the meeting and where.

Here's the link to the list of Clubs, dates, times and locations:

<http://www.sanramonvalleyrotary.com/index.cfm?display=sisterclubs&sub=e>



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martin kornfeld