

The Alamo Oak

Rotary Club of Alamo

Please visit our website at: www.alamorotary.org



April 7th, 2010

“The Bravest Generation”

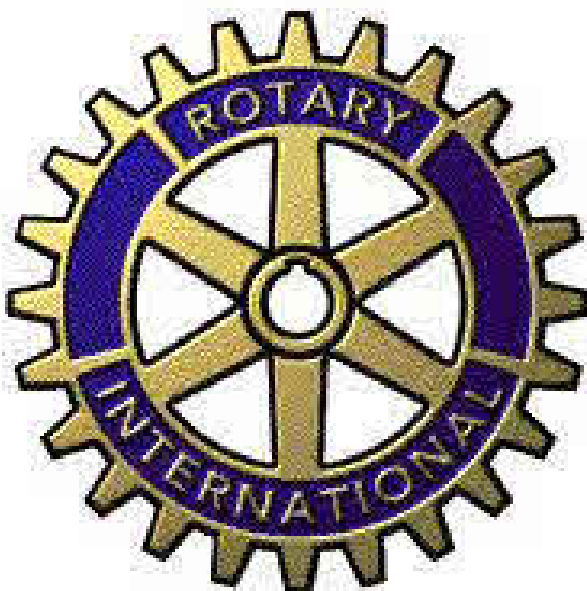
Coming Events!

- April 12th: Board Meeting 6 pm**
- April 17th: District Assembly**
- April 21st: Roth IRA Program**
- April 24th: Rotarians at Work
Smoke Alarm Replacement Day**
- April 28th: British Secret Service**
- May 5th: Education Awards**
- June 5th: Bocce Ball Tourney**

It is very easy to take things for granted, especially when we can live the good life, enjoying the benefits and security of a rare form of social and political freedom that was bought and paid for not by most of us, but rather by those who went before us, our parents, grandparents, and so on. How many times a week do we complain about some small irritation or disappointment, forgetting how uniquely blessed we are to have the lifestyle of relative ease, social equity and unprecedented freedom we enjoy?

Who do we have to thank for this wonderful life? Well, among many others, we need to thank our veterans who served their country and us in times of national threat and war, especially our WW II Vets who we are losing at the rate of 1000 a day. With the upcoming anniversary of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo and with the dwindling numbers of WW II Veterans for us to thank, we all need to make our best efforts to once again express our sincere appreciation to those who put it all on the line when it mattered most, to those men and women like **Sam Nuccio** whose personal commitment, dedication, courage and loyalty guaranteed us the peace and freedom we now enjoy.

From all of us at Alamo Rotary to Sam and all our veterans: our heartfelt thanks and undying gratitude!



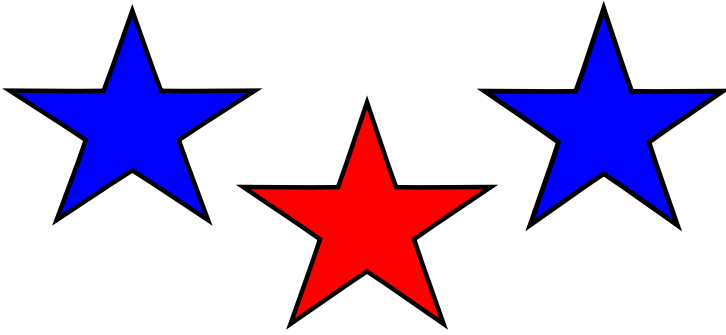
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Announcements!

- ❖ [Myrtle Polcyn](#), mother of [Steve Polcyn](#), passed away this week. The club is sending a sympathy card and making a donation in her memory.
- ❖ [Bart Gledhill](#) continues to relay the info about [Rotarians at Work Day](#) set for Saturday, April 24th from 9 AM until noon. Members of the 6 SRV Rotary Clubs will be visiting homes and town homes within the San Ramon Valley Communities to change the batteries in the senior residents' smoke detectors. Rotarians will provide new batteries for the detectors and will give each resident a fire safety information packet from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. Save the date!
- ❖ [P E Steve Polcyn](#) continues to promote the upcoming [District Assembly](#) scheduled for April 17th. All incoming board members, including all returning board members, all service committee chairs and all interested members are urged to attend. There are NEW RULES and NEW PROCEDURES to be learned if we are to remain an active club capable of commanding district and RI monies for our projects! [Vishwas More](#) is organizing carpools; give him a call if you are interested.
- ❖ The [4 Way Speech Contest](#) semi-finals were held last Wednesday at the SRV Rotary Club meeting at 7 pm at the Crow Canyon CC in San Ramon. Our club choice, [Sebastian De Luca](#), came in second to [Brendan Bashin-Sullivan](#) from Lamorinda Rotary, losing by just one point! It was a very tight and enjoyable competition, accompanied by a delicious dinner and the camaraderie of fellow Valley Rotarians.
- ❖ Club Historian, [Bob West](#), gave the members a detailed report of the history of the [Doolittle Raid on Tokyo](#), which happened on April 18, 1942. This was an unexpected blow to the Japanese sense of security which resulted in unnerving both the Japanese population and Japan's Imperial High Command. Lt. Colonel James, "Jimmy", Doolittle led a flight of 80 men in 16 Mitchell B25 bombers on what was essentially a "suicide mission" flying from the USS Hornet to successfully drop all bombs on Tokyo, striking fear into the once impervious heart of the Japanese Empire. Although all the planes were lost or forced to land far beyond recovery, the psychological damage done to the Japanese war effort was significant, leading to the US victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the eventual decline and fall of the Japanese Empire, and to a Medal of Honor and a promotion to the rank of Brigadier General for Doolittle. [Bob Myhre](#) reminded the members that we should honor the US Navy for getting the Doolittle Raiders close enough for the attack. (The Hornet was later sunk in revenge by the Japanese Navy.) [Bill Kiper](#) added an anecdote about flying over Maui with [Charles Lindbergh](#), and our guest, [Dave Geary](#), spoke about working to protect our nation from high-tech threats such as concentrated bursts of micro-waves and the like. All in all, it was a highly interesting and very appropriate exchange of facts, figures, and stories. Thanks, Mr. West, for making it all happen!



B-25 leaving USS Hornet for Tokyo on the Doolittle Raid 4/18/42



The 4 Way Test:

- 1. Is it the truth?*
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

TODAY'S GUESTS

Our guests today included our speaker, Sam Nuccio, his wife, Jeanine, their friend, Dave Geary, and Lafayette Rotarian Bill Eames. Welcome all!

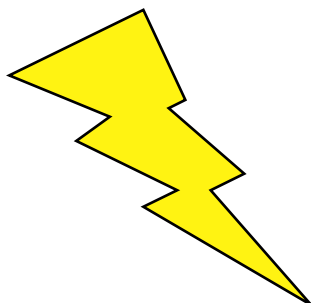
FINES AND RECOGNITIONS!

Father Bill returned to the pulpit today and sought confessions. **Ken Soult** asked to be recognized for his **36th Rotary Anniversary** and was duly recognized for **\$20**.

Alan Fahrenkrog rejoiced in 46 years of marriage to the lovely **Rose Marie** and donated **\$20** for the good of the order. **Bob Myhre** agreed to donate **\$20** to the club to celebrate his 35th wedding anniversary to the delightful **Betty**, if he lives to see May 16!

Father Bill cast his gaze about, saw no other volunteers or likely prospects and closed the book for today. Those AWOL and other sinners beware; "HE'S BACK!"

Beware the Sudden Strike of Righteous Taxation!



Father William on the job!

Today's Program

Today, the members were treated to the story of WW II Veteran, **Sam Nuccio**. Sam was a Staff Sergeant in the US Army during World War II. He was inducted in NY in the winter of 1942, took basic training in Florida, became a radio tech and then was assigned to be a tail gunner in a B-24. After crew training in Arizona, Sam was shipped to Italy. On their second bombing mission to Budapest, Hungary, Sam's plane developed engine trouble, had to turn back, ran into an enemy fighter squadron, and was shot down by a friendly and waving pilot in a ME-109. Since his plane was on fire and going down, Sam decided to



leave his boots behind and bail-out. As he floated down in his parachute, he was shot in the knee, which he tolerated. He was struck unconscious by a blow to the head which he accepted. But as he was being transported to the interrogation hut, a Hungarian peasant stole his wedding ring, which Sam found unacceptable and refused to tell the Germans anything except his name and serial number.

Sam spent a long time in military hospitals and prisons, awaiting his eventual release in a prisoner exchange between the Germans and the Americans. While in prison, he had his leg amputated using Scotch whiskey as the anesthetic! Sam commented that the US Military was remiss in stamping our soldiers' religions on their dog tags because any one the Germans caught with an H for Hebrew on his dog tags was shipped off to a Death Camp! When he finally returned home, tough Sam's equally persistent wife, Jeanine, cut through all the Army red tape, and personally saw to it that Sam was sent back to Michigan where she could tend to him. I guess she figured that

her man had done enough for his country and deserved to be home with his wife.

We couldn't agree more! Sam did more than enough; he is a real hero, part of a whole generation of heroes who saved our freedom and our world for us against the forces of tyrannical oppression and unbridled evil. Thanks to them all; thanks to Sam, thanks to Jeanine, and thanks to John Hansen for the inspirational program!

