

The Alamo Oak

Rotary Club of Alamo

Please visit our website at: www.alamorotary.org

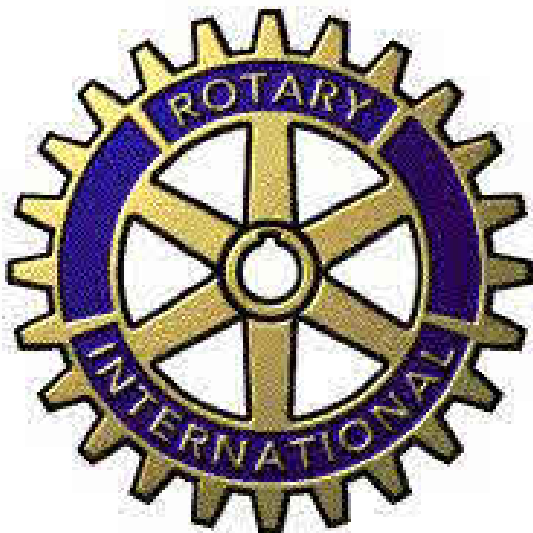


Coming Events!

Jan. 27th- Pace International by Erik Adcock, MV Interactor

Feb. 10th DG Earl Kilmer Visits Alamo Rotary! That night, we have our Valentines Party at Scott's in Walnut Creek - a double delight!

Feb. 17th: 4 Way Speech Contest Preliminaries at Roundhill Country Club



January 20th, 2010

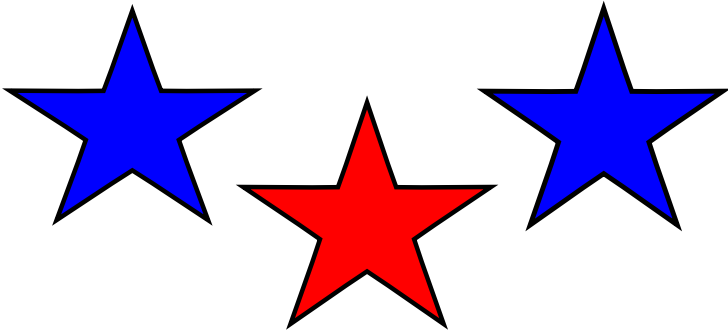
The Bells Toll in Haiti!

For Whom The Bell Tolls

John Donne

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a part of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manner of thine own
Or of thine friend's were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.





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, Rotary Peace Fellow Rebecca Minty, Linda Thompson, and visiting Rotarian Celia Mason!

Upcoming Social Happenings!

Valentine's Party
February 10, 2010
Scott's in Walnut Creek
SWAK!



Party!

Party!

Party!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Announcements!

- ❖ A letter thanking our club for its participation in the Alamo Tree Lighting Ceremony was received from the [Alamo Chamber of Commerce](#) and was presented to the members.
- ❖ Our annual [Valentines Party](#) is slated for Feb. 10th at Scott's in Walnut Creek; the charge is \$45/person with the [Singing Winemaker](#) performing! A sign-up sheet was passed around. Please contact [Mark Kahn or Bill R](#) for details.
- ❖ [The Foundation Board of the Rotary Club of Alamo](#) approved a request from the [Alamo Rotary International Committee](#) to send a donation of \$1,000 to help with the rebuilding of Haiti. Member contributions are also being solicited. Checks should be made payable to the Alamo Rotary Foundation. These checks will be collected by [Jim Schuppert, Ron Mello and Jeff Cheney](#). Our club donations will be forwarded to either [District 5160](#) for a direct transfer to on-site [District 7020](#) or will be sent to the [RI Haitian Earthquake Relief Fund](#). With over 200,000 feared dead and even more injured, and with devastation on a mind-numbing scale, Haitian need all the help we can give them, both short term and long term. Please be as generous as you can be. Alamo Rotary is the Can-Do Club, so let's do!
- ❖ [Beth Randall](#) is looking for club members who might be interested in supporting our Youth Exchange Program by hosting an incoming student for a few month next year. We have a very promising outgoing possibility in [Chris Silvestre](#), MV Senior and Interactor. Upcoming club programs include a report from Interactor [Erik Adcock](#) who has just returned from India and we have the first round of this year's [4 Way Test Speech Contest](#).



Recognitions!!

Father William O'

Ferguson, himself, forgot his own admonition for brevity and, after a very lengthy acting anecdote in which “no detail was too small”. did finally levy the levies. Needless to question, but necessary to enumerate, the fines and recognitions propagated today were:

Brad Gai \$20 for exhausting his sons by running them ragged on the awesome ski slopes at **Heavenly Valley!**

Skipper Greg Schuyler \$20 for navigating safely past another spouse's birthday using a surprise visit by their daughter and son-in-law as a “safe harbor”.

Bill and Beth R \$20 each for remaining very much in love for the last 15 years. (Always subject, of course, to Bill's complete obedience!)

Eric Robertson \$40 for his birthday and for his Rotary anniversary!

Kent Johansson \$20 for also taking his kids to **Heavenly Valley** and for skiing their socks off, as well.

Note: All of these aforementioned transgressions were revealed in spontaneous confessions reminding the flock of the power of the pulpit to inspire righteousness and obedience in name and in deed, indeed!

Repent, oh ye pitiful sinners, one and all!!!!



Today's Program

“All We Are Saying Is Give Peace a Chance!”

Our speaker today was 2009-11 Rotary World Peace Fellow Rebecca Minty. Her sponsoring club is in Ginninderra, Australia, District 9710. Rebecca is currently studying for a Masters of Law and a Masters of International Studies at U C Berkeley. Rebecca was a RYLA participant 2001-3. She completed her Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Law with first class honors from the Australian National University in Canberra in 2005. She then worked with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bangkok in 2006, and subsequently worked in corporate law. Rebecca has worked as the Human Rights Legal Advisor at the ACT Human Rights Commission, a role that encompassed advising on human rights issues, inspecting and auditing places of detention, and community education. She has been a National Committee Member and State Governor for the non-profit Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, a network active in practicing and promoting awareness of international human rights standards in Australia. While at Berkeley, in addition to profiting from her studies, Rebecca is developing friendships with other Rotary Fellows and Rotarians, as well as gaining a global, multi-disciplinary understanding and approach to peace building as a Rotary Peace Fellow! Whew! All this accomplished already and this young lady is only only getting started!

Needless to say, this was a mighty impressive program from a mighty impressive young Aussie lady with a mighty impressive resume! Rebecca gave us a brief history of the Rotary Peace Fellow Program which RI set up in 1998 at 6 different world universities with the goal of developing Peace Scholar networks to further TRF's goals of peace building through non-violent conflict resolution. She showed us a few pics of her hero lawyers and told us how her family vacations in Southeast Asia promoted her awareness of the prevalence of injustice, inequality and poverty in the world, and in Australia.

Rebecca went on to compare the Bill of Rights in our constitution to the amalgam of English Common Law, legislation, and constitutional provisions that make up the “piece meal” and inadequate Australian non-equivalent. Although Australia has signed the widely circulated and accepted International Bill of Rights, it remains to be seen if the Australian government will apply all these laws domestically. Although 61% of the Australian population erroneously thought they did have an adequate bill of rights, a full 80% of those recently polled support the development of a National Charter of Rights. With dedicated legal eagles like Rebecca on the job, it's only a matter of time before they do. Hopefully, we can say the same about that other elusive goal, **World Peace!**

Thanks Rebecca and Beth for the fascinating program!

