



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

No meeting, Happy Thanksgiving

Words of Wisdom

Program

The next meeting will be on December 3, 2009, at Faith Episcopal Church. The guest speaker will be Assemblywoman **Alyson Huber**, 10th Assembly District

Last Week



Cameron Park Rotarians had the rare experience of visiting Folsom Prison and hearing from the people responsible for providing educational experiences to the inmates. All visitors were subject to a prior screening by the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. There were redundant identity checks at the gate before admission to the prison. Rotarians walked through cell blocks that were crowded with inmates, attended a lunch meeting, had a chance to go into an occupied cell in the oldest cell block, walked through the recreation yards (again crowded with inmates) and visited the classroom and library facilities.

Jean Bracy, Principal of Greystone Adult School in Folsom Prison, spoke at length about the state of

educational programs in the prison and conducted a tour of the prison and the instructional facilities. With a staff that includes three vice principals and forty seven teachers, academic educational programs for inmates include Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development, (GED), Adult High School (AHS), English as a Second Language, (ESL). Vocational training programs include Masonry, Electrical, Building Maintenance, Electronics Janitorial, Office Services, Welding, (AWS Certification), Graphic Arts, Landscaping and Auto Mechanics (ASE Certification).

Jean discussed the low literacy rate among inmates and how it serves as a barrier to successfully re-entering society upon release. Just having the label of "Felon" for the rest of their lives serves to impede their ability to succeed. A primary job of the school is to prepare inmates for a successful life after release and Jean observes that education can be one important component to preparing inmates for life after incarceration. Not only must they gain skills that will allow them to earn a living, they must adjust to a society that is dramatically different from that which they experienced before prison. In addition to education, they may have to deal with matters such as addictions and anger management.

Bob Hendrickson is a volunteer who manages a program to provide post-secondary education for inmates. The State eliminated all funding several years ago for education at this level and Bob is seeking volunteers to help keep the program going. Bob took over two years ago and needs volunteers 1 to 4 days a week. The program is affiliated with community colleges and can lead to an Associate of Arts degree. Bob notes a real personality change in inmates taking college level classes and observed the dramatic decrease in recidivism rates for students taking college level classes. The general recidivism rate for all released inmates is nearly 70%. For those achieving an AA degree, it drops to 14%. Those proceeding on to receive a BA have a rate of only 6%. Student inmates who are unable to continue beyond a GED have been known to delay completion of the GED program because they want to stay in the educational environment.

The visit to Folsom Prison was made possible by **Rube** and **Dee Jessop**, who have been volunteering for many years in the literacy program for inmates. Jean emphasized the critical need for more volunteers to read to inmates. They have an established program and will train volunteers willing to help anywhere from one to four days a week. This effort can have a direct impact on turning inmates into taxpayers on their release and reducing recidivism. Anyone interested should talk to Rube about his experiences and how to become a volunteer. Jean Bracy distributed her business cards so that anyone wishing to volunteer or ask questions can contact her at (916) 351-3002.

Presidents Corner



ROTARY TGIF AND POTLUCK WESTERN BARN PARTY:

The Western Barn Party and mini Fireside Chat at **Ulla Petersen's** ranch was a huge success. The program was short while the socializing was all that we hoped it would be. President **Bill Gallant** called the meeting to order, **Art Cort** gave a brief history of the club, **Bob Clarke** talked about the purpose and achievements of Rotary International and District Governor **Janice Gage** made some observations and shared some inspirational remarks. Generous Rotarians made sure that there was more than enough food and drink.

At the end of the evening, wonderful cuts of tri-tip were auctioned. **Dave Sargent** managed to secure a beautiful cut for \$15, while **Norm Headley** paid \$20. Quietly lurking to take the last cut for only \$5 was a wily **Joe Ryan**.

Noted Rotarians



CENTER PIECES FOR A PRICE:

Ulla did a terrific job of arranging the barn for a party of more than fifty Rotarians and spouses. Everyone was impressed with her beautiful barn and comments were heard about the good life of her horses. Beautiful floral arrangements were placed on each table and auctioned at the end of the evening as follows:

Mike Dugan got the first one for \$20 and liked it so much that he acquired a second for \$25.

Luke Miller also bought two, one for \$25

and the second for \$35.

Doug Bisbee got one for \$25 while **Dave Sargent** paid \$30.

The same center pieces cost \$35 each for **Chris Moore**, **Joe Ryan** and **Jim Buckley**.

Birthdays in November

Carla Carlson

Iain Marshall

Debra Miller

Dee Russo

Ben Young

-----Spouses-----

Emanuela Callaghan

Alex Ho

Dee Jessop

Judy Long

Anniversaries in November

Jana & Howell Ellerman
Tom & Starleen Keating
Russ & Barbara Lloyd
Pete & Colleen Oliver

Upcoming Calendar

November 26, 2009 – No meeting this week. Happy Thanksgiving
December 3, 2009 - Assemblywoman **Alyson Huber**, 10th Assembly District
December 10, 2009 – Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction
December 17, 2009 - A program you do not want to miss. The **Ponderosa High School Choir**
December 24, 2009 – No meeting this week. Merry Christmas
December 31, 2009 – No meeting this week. Happy New Year

Upcoming Words of Wisdom/Greeter Assignments

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, December 1, 2009 - Monthly Board meeting at noon at Bass Lake Golf Course. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thursday, December 10, 2009 – Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction at Cameron Park Country Club

Mike Neal has put together a photo series of highlights of the 20th Annual Show & Shine Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The link is at the bottom of this web page.

Gear Up is written by **Art Cort**, **Jim Buckley** and **Rick Spicer**. Web site, photography, and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.