



DISTRICT 5160

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the SPLINTER

CLUB 470 - ORGANIZED APRIL 29, 1926

www.woodlandrotary.org

Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

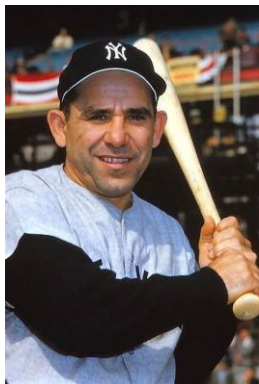
Today's Meeting



President Shawn Seyk opened today's meeting without any rainfall and the sun attempting to make an appearance. **Jim Nolan** once again led the Pledge of Allegiance. The trio of **Jim McGibbon, Dan Stroski** and **Steve Venables** set a spirited pace for the Rotary Grace.



President Shawn thanked **Tabb Randolph** for helping set up for today's meeting. He later thanked **Yvette Roy** for doing Meals on Wheels this week. He also thanked **David Pinto** (Technology), and **Kris Kristensen** (Splinter) for their work this week.



President Shawn's Inspirational Quote of the Day was:

'It ain't over, till it's over.'

Mark Ullrich knew this was authored by Yogi Bera, but **President Shawn** said **Doug Pederson** (Jacksonville Jaguars Head Coach) also said it following the Jaguar's win over Los Angeles last weekend.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests



Dan Stroski introduced his guest, prospective new Club member **Rob Beggs**. **Tony Delevati** introduced his guest & wife,



Margie. Mark Ullrich introduced his guest & wife, **Audre.**



Steve Venables introduced his guests, wife **Lydia** and their neighbor **Bonita Agnew.** **Gary Wegener** said his wife **Joanie** and **Raylene** and **Duane Ewing** would arrive later. Did **Marie Galbo** introduce her guest, **Nikki Hamilton??**

Birthdays & Anniversaries



None today.



Announcements



Yvette Roy reported about 20 people have already signed up for the July 29th bus trip to the SF Giants game with the Boston Red Sox at Oracle Park in San Francisco. She is looking to sell all 55 tickets for the event. A \$50 deposit is required to sign up. Total price is estimated at \$115 per ticket depending on final costs. Contact **Yvette Roy** to sign up for this event.

Recognition



Kevin Haarberg led today's Recognition. Under 'Thankful Time', **Jim McGibbon** pledged to pay \$5 for each update story from anyone in the room today who had children he helped deliver. **Eric Sharp** told us about his daughter **Emily.** **Tabb Randolph** told us about his son **Ryan** and daughter **Paige.** **Mark Ullrich** told us about his son **Brian** and daughter **Erin.** And **Don Huff III** told us about his son **Brandon.** **Jim** concluded by saying 'Obstetrics is the gift that keeps on giving!'



Don Huff III was thankful for the recent rains and Lake Tahoe having filled up to its 2021 level. **Mark Ullrich** was happy about the SF 49ers success in the wildcard playoff game. **President Shawn** enjoyed a trip with his now adult kids to Las Vegas recently and had \$100 left over from it. **Shawn** 'rang the bell' over winning \$500 on a soccer wager.



Marie Galbo and **Nikki Hamilton** are heading to Maui on February 1st, based on Marie winning the Grand Raffle Prize at the Club's 2022 Dinner Auction.

Next, **Kevin** asked, with the weather drying out, what plans people had for their upcoming travel. **Dan Stroski** is looking forward to taking his RV

across the country to the Florida Keys. **Roger Kohlmeier** is planning to go to Hawaii soon. **Bob Nakken** is heading to New York to watch the SF Giants open the baseball season at Yankee Stadium. **Tabb Randolph** says he'll be in NY for Opening Day as well, and also plans to be in Scottsdale AZ for Spring training next month too.

Les Engelmann will travel to Bellingham WA in May. **Eric Sharp** plans to go to Cabo San Lucas Mexico for fishing and golf in February. **Gary Bunch** is 'thinking' about going on a cruise in the Mediterranean. **Steve Venables** will be attending a Venables family reunion (100 people attending) held



every five years in France. **Kris Kristensen** said he, **Kevin Haarberg** and **Don Sharp** are going to Palm Desert this weekend for golf with **Scott Johnston**.

Gary Wegener has plans to travel above the Artic Circle to see the Northern Lights. **Tony Delevati** only plans to travel to visit his grandkids in Hollister CA. **Clyde Brooker** has no immediate plans to travel; hopes that travel uncertainty will settle down. **Jeff Burger** says he is looking forward to going fishing in Alaska in July with girlfriend Melissa.

Rags to Riches



With the pot at \$273 and 21 cards remaining, **Tom LaBrie** managed to find a free lunch.



Today's Program



Our guest speaker today was **Craig McNamara**, owner of Sierra Orchards, outside of Winters in Solano County, which

produces mostly organic walnuts and is recognized for its use of its regenerative and sustainable practices,

and conservation techniques. However, **Craig** is also the youngest child and only son of Robert McNamara who served as Defense Secretary for Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. **Craig** wrote a book '**Because Our Fathers Lied**' which was published last May. He gave us a presentation on that subject.

The **Washington Post** gave this summary about **Because Our Fathers Lied**, 'Craig McNamara came of age in the political tumult and upheaval of the late '60s. While Craig would grow up to take part in anti-war demonstrations, his father, Robert McNamara... worked as the architect of the Vietnam War. This searching and revealing memoir offers an intimate picture of one father and son at a pivotal period in American history.'





Before Robert McNamara joined Kennedy's cabinet, he was an executive who helped turn around Ford Motor Company. Known for his tremendous competence and professionalism, McNamara came to symbolize "the best and the brightest." Craig...struggled in his father's shadow. When he ultimately fails his draft board physical, Craig decides to travel by motorcycle across Central and South America, learning more about the art of agriculture and making what he defines as an honest living. By the book's conclusion, Craig McNamara is

farming walnuts in Northern California and coming to terms with his father's legacy.'

Craig opened by saying he was honored to join us today. He has many friends in the room, and respected Yolo County support for regenerative practices and sustainable agriculture.

Craig was born in Ann Arbor MI in 1950 and came from a family with deep roots in California as the first McNamaras arrived in California during the Civil War. Craig said his family often took him to the Sierra Nevada when he was young which exposed him to nature and eventually led to him becoming a farmer. He earned a BS degree from UC Davis. Later in 2001, he founded and served as President of the **Center for Land Based Learning**, now headquartered in Woodland.

The provocative title of his book comes from 'The Epitaphs of the War', a collection of writings by **Rudyard Kipling** regarding World War I (The Great War) in which his own son was lost. 'If any question why we died Tell them, because our fathers lied.'

Craig told the story of living as a 13-year-old with his family in Washington DC in 1964 and one day his father receives a phone call at home from President Johnson. Eventually it would lead to the whole family driving to the White House to meet with the President and Lady Bird Johnson. His father spoke to the President while Craig floated in the White House pool. A few days later Craig received a thank you

letter from the President. A few weeks later Robert McNamara traveled to Vietnam.

Craig asked who in the room had participated in the war. Gary Wegener and George Burger were both in the U.S. Navy at that time. He noted 2.7 million Americans would serve in the Vietnam War; 55,000 of those were killed; over 55 million Vietnamese were killed; and 7.5 million tons of bombs were dropped by the United States during the war (more than 3 times as many as were dropped in all of World War II). **Craig** said his early adult life was lived through that lens of the war. **Craig** said his heart was broken and lost confidence in his country. He became an active anti-war protester. He would eventually drop out of college (Stanford) and traveled outside of the United States for three years.

In the prologue of his book **Craig** wrote, "Just tell me the truth. Seems simple enough. Yet for all of my life, I struggled to arrive at the truth with my father. He never told me that he knew the Vietnam War was not winnable. But he did know, and he never admitted it to me. I still wonder why he was no more honest with me than he was with the American public."

Robert McNamara wrote a memoir in 1994 admitting he was wrong in not admitting the war was not winnable during his time in the cabinet but made no apology for his role in causing so much death in the war. He died in 2009.

Craig wanted to do something for all the United States troops who had participated in the war, and for the Vietnamese. 'What can we do together to move on' he asked himself. He worked with his wife Julie at researching his father. In 2017 they traveled to Vietnam and found the people there very friendly.

Craig answered several questions. Thanks to **Jim Nolan** for arranging and introducing this excellent program.



Upcoming Programs

January 2023

Vocational Service Month

24: **Juliana Garcia**, Owner of House of Shah, Mortgage Broker, Empire Home Loans

31: **Jessica Hubbard**, Executive Director, Yolo Community Foundation,
"State of Philanthropy in Yolo County"; <https://www.yolocf.org>



See more program listings on the Club's website at:
<http://www.woodlandrotary.org/Programs.cfm>