

“MAKING CONNECTIONS”

ROTARY CLUB OF MARIPOSA YOSEMITE

January 2023

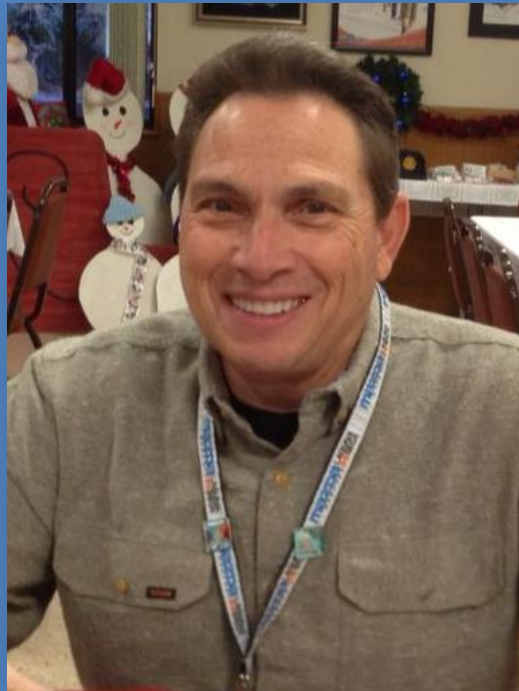


Due to high winds and rain, our Rotary club will not be meeting on Thursday, January 5th. Our next social will be held on February 2nd.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp

All eight of our high school juniors proposed for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), were accepted to attend the three-day camp. This is a first. The District 5220 leaders said we could only send one girl and one boy to camp, but when Bill Lowe told the Rotary District leadership about the excellent candidates we had interviewed, they allowed us to send four girls and four boys on Presidents Holiday weekend in February.

Remembering Ron Iudice



Submitted by Chery Davis with assistance from Susan Robinson

It's with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of one of our long-term Rotarians, Ron Iudice. Ron always had a smile for everyone, and he considered all of us his family. He referred to me as his sister. Ron was involved with many Rotary projects including auctioning "Pork in the Morning." He had perfect attendance for many years. Well, that is until he met Cindy online, and she turned his world around. Because both sets of their parents lived in San Jose one block from each other, Cindy and Ron spent a lot of their time together visiting and taking care of family members. Ron's Mom lived to be over 100 years old.

One of his largest projects for the community was the radio station KRYZ. Ron put thousands of hours into establishing and maintaining the station. People from all over the world listened in, and Ron could tell the exact number and from which country they listened. He assisted in developing a program that helped non-English speakers learn English. Community members would write stories that were read on air and the library had written copies of the stories so non-English speakers could read the words and learn how locals pronounced them.

With Cindy's help, Ron kept up a valiant fight against cancer of the esophagus and passed away on Monday, December 26.

Ron touched each of our lives in a very personal way. He really did love us all. That was Ron's special gift.



THE FIRST EVER ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Who worked approximately 6-7 hours per day for about five weeks to build a Christmas Village? You know who they are – many of our dedicated Rotarians. Bill Lowe said, “The club is going all out with a giant tent to house Santa on his sleigh, a beautiful Christmas village, animatronics, lights galore, and of course, snow. The whole historic town of Mariposa will be getting into the spirit by decorating all along Main Street, CA Highway 140 / 49. As with the Halloween Trunk or Treat Event, we are expecting over 1,000 children and their parents.”

But what happened? Just when we were about to put the village up across the street from the Courthouse, rain came. In giving sympathy to Sarah Constable, one of those hard-working Rotarians, Sarah’s response was, “Well, we’ll have it all ready for next year.” Now that’s a positive attitude.

Fortunately, it didn’t rain on December 17th, so the “Rotary Crew” raised the tent and set up the village. A professional photographer snapped pictures of the children and their families with Santa, John McCamman, in a red sleigh. The photographer was very quick, let the kids tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas and then sped them on their way. The other elves and I kept the kids out of the photos until it was their turn. A basket full of candy certainly helped with that. The elves who assisted Santa were Elaine Seymour, Debbie Peters, Earl Heitzman, Margarita King, Jim Wittkopf, Sue Weihe, and me, Chery Davis. One very little girl came over to hug my legs.

Another tiny girl said her mom told her she would see elves. She asked me if I was an elf, and I said, “Yes.” Then she took her finger and lightly poked my arm. So cute. The line of children and their families went on for about 2 hours. Bill Lowe and Michael Hall had a snow blowing machine that the kids loved, music, and a letter box for mail to Santa that several families used. The Lions Club served free hot dogs and warm drinks. Heidi Dulcich provided lots of popcorn that everybody loved.

Submitted by Chery Davis



Mountain Crisis Donations



Mountain Crisis Staff received donations from the Rotary Club of Mariposa Yosemite shown in photo from left is Legal Advocate Leanna Williams, Program Director Kristen Fiester, and Program Specialist 1 Isamar Gonzalez on November 21, 2022.

ERIC WEIHE

Eric Weihe, our club president, has passed the course needed to qualify for grants. We appreciate this Eric. After the disasters we have had this year, we know the need.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing 2022



Editors of "Making Connections."



Chery Davis and Julie Hadzega