Sharks?"

Please Pay Your Recognitions, Fines, & Donations:
Please make sure to pay your recognitions (including birthday and anniversary fines) as promptly as you can. Neeru Bhutani will accept all recognition and fine payments, Cathy Durfee will take the sponsor meeting payments and Gordon Fischer collects the Rotary International Foundation payments. If you have any questions, you can contact your Club President, Pam Raumer at 925-274-5740 or praumer@rina.com. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

Introducing New Member, Dess Benedetto
Dess is an estate planning attorney, and most of us remember her excellent presentation to the Club last year which we can hope helped her decide to join us as an active Club member. Dess and her 4-year old son live in Danville. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of California (Go Bears!), and played on the water polo team. After CAL, she worked for a startup software company for a couple of years, then moved on to law school at the University of San Diego. She worked for the district attorney’s office but found that her interests and psychology background were better suited to the estate planning field. Dess continues to pursue swimming as a hobby, and participates in the Masters swimming program in Walnut Creek, and competes in Masters events. Dess tells us that she is working on a novel. Welcome, Dess!

New Members
Welcome our newest members. Doug Switzer has transferred from the Rotary Club of Walnut Creek—Sunrise. Doug is retired, and was an active Rotarian in Seattle before relocating here. Besides his involvement in Rotary, Doug also has been an active leader in the Boy Scouts, recently serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 216 in Alamo. Eugene McGrane, of MCC Realty Group in Walnut Creek, has joined in the classification of Commercial Real Estate.

Happy 50th Birthday to President Pam!

For the latest “scoop” on upcoming meeting programs, visit our website and click on the link on the home page: www.rotarywc.org
Rotary is uniquely privileged to be a well-established, religiously and politically neutral organization with no governmental ties or obligations. We are known and respected as a group of men and women who simply come to help – by bringing clean water and food, teaching literacy and numeracy, providing assistance after a disaster, ending polio.

Fishing in the City, Saturday May 10th, 8:30am to 11:30am Heathervale Farms
Eighty third graders from Buena Vista School are getting ready to go fishing with our Club in a partnership program with the school district and the Department of Fish and Game. A few Rotarians will be going to the school during the week to teach the kids to cast, tie knots, and about fishing generally. The main event will be held at Heathervale Farms from 8:30 am through 11:30 am on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Everyone’s welcome, and no fishing experience is necessary to enjoy the day and help out with the kids. Please contact John Gardner, 944-6080, john@rotarywc.org for more details or with questions.

Rotary Poker Tournament and Casino Night
May 17th Pleasant Hill Community Center—Open to Rotarians and Family Members
Our Club Will Sponsor 10 Members at $100 Each!
Register now for this annual fun and fundraising event. $100 entry for poker players, $20 for casino players. The event is Sat May 17th from 4pm to 10pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive in Pleasant Hill. See Mitch Ambro for details and to register. Our Club is sponsoring 10 Members and will pay the $100 for each of them as part of our contribution to the District 5160 prosthetic hand LN-4 project.

Message from Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson
Dear fellow Rotarians,

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when there is a need, a crisis, or an emergency, Rotary is there. We know that, as Rotarians, part of our role in any crisis is to bring people together, rather than drive them apart. It is our role and also our responsibility.

Today, we are faced globally with a new crisis: the changing environment and the changing climate. It’s a frightening situation that will affect everyone but will hurt the poor and the weak far more than the wealthy and the strong. The days of wondering and considering and hoping are at an end, as it has become ever clearer that we are on a course that can be slowed but not stopped. This past summer, the Arctic ice cap melted at a pace that exceeded even the most pessimistic expectations. The rate of melting and warming is accelerating in what seems to be a cycle of ever-increasing speed, and we cannot pretend that it will not affect us. It already has. In the American West, water is becoming more and more scarce as less snow falls every winter to refill lakes and streams.

From my window in Evanston, I can see Lake Michigan, whose water level, like the other Great Lakes, is near or already at a record low. And as the supply of fresh water diminishes, the sea levels are rising, putting low-lying nations – many of them poor and developing – at increasing risk. We know that in the years and decades to come, there will be crises, and there will be challenges. Will we let them drive us apart, or will we use them to bring us together? Will we be fragmented, or will we come together to address the universal needs of all people? Will we choose to address the desires of the rich over the needs of the poor, or will we do what is best for everyone on our planet? The greatest challenges lie before us, now and in the years to come.