

## **The Butcher, The Baker, The Candlestick Maker; Rotarians Creating Livermore**

T J Gilmartin December 14, 2011

Irv and Alex have talked about the projects and activities that this Club does for the benefit of our community and for our selves. I want to take a different cut at this, to name the professions in our Club and show how broadly these Rotarians are involved in making our community. Members of our Club, past and present, provide us with: property development, city government, healthcare, education, products and services, and civic vitality.

We have in our Club residential and commercial developers, housing manager, architects and civil engineers and planners, landscape architects, Alden Lane nursery, a steel structure designer and structural engineer, constructors and equipment operators, truckers, electrical contractors, building inspectors, bankers, and realtors. We have people very interested in the City's general plan, the downtown, open space, the theaters, and BART. You will not find any board for any development activity in Livermore that does not have active Rotarian members.

We also have mayors, city counselors, the city manager, just retired, directors of the library and the LARPD, superintendents of schools, the judge, the police and fire chiefs and officers. On a whole different level, we have veteran soldiers, sailors, flyers, and marines, reservists, and experts on national defense and homeland and international security.

A little story: in the 1990s the then city manager and the director of the library, the school superintendent, and the director of parks and recreation conceived a bond-funded city improvement program. It would build a new central library, a new civic and sports center, and put \$110M dollars into k-12 school improvements and additions. These four people were all Rotarians. They enlisted the help of our two Rotary Clubs under the leadership of a Rotarian City Counselor to write letters, man phone banks, and talk to their friends and neighbors. The measure passed with an 83% majority, at a time when most bond measures were being quashed. Our fantastic library and civic center were built. Science facilities at Livermore High and Mendenhall, a completely new campus for Sunset Elementary School, and capital improvements at every school in Livermore have now been completed. I think of this as a Rotary project.

We have in our Club doctors, surgeons, dentists, oral surgeon, optometrists, pharmacist, medical and biological researchers, physical therapists, chiropractors, veterinarians, home care providers, medical ethicists, and hospital board members. We could almost form a health care program.

We have the chancellor of the entire California community college system, the chancellor of Las Positas College and members of its board and foundation, School Board members, superintendents of schools, principals, teachers, school administrators, erudite church ministers, the Pedrozi scholarship foundation administrator, Student Education Loan Fund board members, teachers of theater, martial arts, and music, athletes, hikers, coaches, and team boosters. We are a force for education and for the next generation.

The president of the Chamber of Commerce is an ex-member of this Club. Rotarians provide an awesome array of products and services. I will mention only what I have not mentioned already: accounting and financial advisors and brokers, travel, automobile sales and services, banking and mortgages, lawyers, insurers, company executives, managers, and administrators, computer and information technology, newspaper, radio, and TV, booksters, authors, publishers, and printers, painters and potters, jewelers, trophies, clothiers and outfitters, ranchers, farmers, and winemakers, restaurateurs, sanitation, science and engineering, guitar maker and musicians, airplane builders and pilots, race car builders and drivers, boatmen, and sailors, all members of this Club.

Finally, civic vitality. We have people working for the Livermore Valley Opera, the Pacific Chamber Symphony, the Livermore Amador Symphony, the Shakespeare Society, Del Valle Fine Arts, the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, the Valley Concert Chorale, the Bankhead Theater, Main Street, and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Council. Plus untold other City arts and athletic and family and humanitarian activities. Every civic and educational community activity that I know of in Livermore has Rotarians.

As the saying goes “It takes a village.” I might say “to build a village, it takes Rotarians.”