

Announcements

Get Your Tickets now – for *Miracle on Jewell Street*. This year's Annual Fundraiser is going to be a merry and bright magical night. Please join us at the Elks Lodge on **Saturday, May 11** for a festive Christmas inspired, holiday celebration where we'll raise money for a fantastic cause. Drinks are FREE thanks to Seghetti Waxler. Tickets are \$125 per person. Email Jill@santacruzrotary.com or call 586-945-5455 to reserve yours today. Learn more at santacruzrotary.com/annual-fundraiser.



Last Meeting April 26, 2024

Invocation: Chris Murphy provided us the following quote from Mother Teresa: *"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."* This quote reminds us that all individual's contributions are valuable and necessary and that even a small drop can make a meaningful impact when it joins the collective efforts of others. Thank you, Chris!



Raffle: Speaker Dick Peixoto selected **Richard Beach** for the day's drawing. Richard won handmade cards, a Total Eclipse T-shirt from the San Saba, Texas Rotary Club and gift certificate for the Shadowbrook all generously donated by **Elizabeth Hammock**.

Detective Report: Aleene Althouse, presented the club with "Snark Week" and did not disappoint. She was raised as an only child and heard lots of snarky remarks growing up. She let the club know the root word for snark is to tear flesh but ended up being gentle with everyone. Before we started, Ian gave Happy Dollars and announced that he would be a granddad in October. The snarking then went into high gear with several memorable lines: **Sam Bishop** – "If idiots grew on trees this place would be an orchard."; **Sharon Caiocca** – "This isn't my first rodeo."; **Chris Murphy** – Am I speaking Greek?" or "Huh, I never thought of that!"; **Mike Allard** – when shopping at the express line for 15 items or less – "Yes, but

my name is Les."; **Bob Davidson** – "You don't really have to be brilliant, you just need to not be stupid!" and **Todd Massie** – quoting from the movie Dumb & Dumber – "Just when you do something stupid you completely redeem yourself!". ended the presentation by telling people to *"Be Kind When You Can!."*

Program Speaker: Ashley Thompson introduced **Dick Peixoto** of Lakeside Organics and the California Grill both based in Watsonville, CA.



Dick kicked off his presentation by telling us that his dad was a pesticide salesperson and that he rode along with his Dad as a kid. Dick started growing tomatoes and after early success decided to go into farming. At 16 he bought his first tractor and by 18 signed his first lease for 40 acres of land. He formed Lakeside Organics and has grown his business to become the largest solely organic shipper in California. He has customers in every state of the US and locally distributes directly to local markets including Staff of Life, Lunardi's and others. About 7 years ago, working with Santa Cruz County Bank, Lakeside

built their own refrigeration system to integrate its business operations and to reduce shipping costs. They supply directly from local farms. Dick commented that he has also been using new technologies to reduce costs and manage their property more efficiently and environmentally using Ag-Tech. Dick also shared his philosophy about the importance of his employees and introduced a variety of employee benefits including an in-house Farmers Market – providing fresh vegetables for families – as well as annual bonuses and family events. Amazing person and business!

Club Calendar

Birthdays:

May 6 – Phillip Allegri

May 12 – Edward Penniman

Wedding Anniversaries:

May 4 – Masi & Todd Bayless – 10 Years

May 7 – Andrew & Kathryn Miller – 46 years

May 11 – James & Claudia Miller – 38 years

Club Anniversaries:

May 4 - Robert Ciapponi – 40 years

May 10 - Ian Mackenzie – 22 years

May 11 - Alliah Bradburn – 6 years

May 11 – Thomas Foster – 23 years

May 12 – James Courtright – 29 years

May 13 – Thomas Castillo – 8 years

May 14 – Lawrence Brenner – 25 years

May 15 – Matt Falconer – 4 years

May 15 – Steve Solberg – 4 years

Next Meeting: May 10, 2024

DARK – ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Upcoming Program: May 17, 2024

Academic Scholarship Program