Monday, May 20, 2019

**Upcoming Events**

**Bocce Ball** tonight!!! 5:30 at the Cannery.

**Davis Homeless Solutions**

**Summit:** May 22, 2019, 5-9pm at Davis Senior Center, Valentine Room

**UCD Rotaract Club** is having a potluck on May 28th, and you are invited.

**President’s Denob Party** – Monday, June 24th, 6:30 pm.

Thank you to The Printer for donating its services to print our Agrotarian!

**Monday, May 13, 2019**

**President’s Message**

On this day in 1757, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s first opera was performed in Salzburg when he was 11 years old. As he was quoted saying “Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius.”

President Andrew then proceeded to test the Club with a Rotary Quiz, on both the Club’s and Rotary’s history. It came down to Marjorie Hartsough and Jonathan Bayless. They guessed on the first 5 Clubs in Rotary, and Jonathan laced out with Oakland, not New York, being in the first 5.

**Announcements**

Marjorie Hartsough gave a demo on proper hand-washing and sanitation for Saturday’s BBQ. Keep it clean!

We will have a Club Potluck June 23rd, details still to come.

Kay Resler stated that the Crises Nursery is having a Diaper Drive, details on your tables.

Sharon Shoemaker reminded everyone to sign up for BBQ volunteer posts.

Greg Phister said that we still need six more pies for the BBQ, homemade or store bought, your call!!!

Nicole Davis reminded everyone of the Yolo Crises Nursery Diaper drive.

Anand Mamidi said that there will be an International Services Committee meeting today after Club. Two students involved will be there.

Dave Scheiber reminded everyone of Committee Sign-up sheets for next year, his year!

Roger Gambatese reported on how Davis United and Davis Wild did at the District Bocce Tournament. Neither team made the play-offs (next year or bust!)

**Draw of the Day**

Someone won, but drew the 4 of Diamonds from 49 cards and $479 in the pot.

**Sergeants Report**

Jeff Stromberg

Jonathan Bayless was asked to interpret bobcat behavior in Davis, based on his park experience. Said he’s never seen on in Davis.

Greg Ott was called out for his spontaneous weeding of the 113 Rotary Garden.

Samer Alassaad was linked to the bobcat story, in a torturous way, and was questioned about cats advertising his new office?

Nicole Davis has family links to cable Car wash, and was questioned about crows being employed to soil cars in collusion.

**Weekly Program**

Dr. Ferguson started working with USAID to support pistachio projects in Afghanistan some 15-20 years ago. Pistachios grow there in three different forms: Wild trees, AFForestation, and home gardens. They are native to areas very close to Afghanistan, and do quite well its dry environments once established.

They have a tradition called “Shola Pist” in villages where a ranger guards the trees; a headman calls for the harvest, women crack the nuts with rocks, the Mosque members distribute them, and they are purchased by buyers. Most are sold to Pakistan and India for 18 Euro a kilo (2.2 lbs.), but they could get 40 Euros a kilo if they could sell them in Germany, but they don’t have the required testing labs for Aflatoxin that the E.U. requires.

They could greatly increase production and revenue if they could: (1) harvest at the right time; (2) Increase the number of female trees over males; (3) test for Aflatoxin as required to sell in the E.U. Whether used for reforestation of denuded areas, or grown as cultivated orchards, pistachios have a real potential to increase the wealth of the nation. Better grafting techniques, combined with modern processing machinery, could substantially increase production.

Louise helped establish a germ-plasm collection, and got to visit the palaces used as the seat of power in Kabul and also the President’s summer palace. For these official visits she rode in armored cars, but most trips for USAID were in regular cars. “The only time I was uncomfortable was near the border with Pakistan,” she noted.

She was asked about the challenge of competing with poppy growers suppling high-value opium. She replied that one makes the effort trying to improve people’s lives in ways that don’t have to involve the risk of violence.

Overall, Afghanistan has great potential to expand its growing of this delicious and nutritious nut, the humble Pistachio!