

# Rotary

## Club of Modesto Sunrise



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Club, District and International Events

#### December

**14th:** Weekly Meeting, YES Company (7:00 am)

**21st:** Weekly Meeting, Paul Harris Fellow Presentation, Gin Fizz & Santa Claus (6:45 am)

**23rd:** Volunteer Opportunity: Salvation Army Breakfast (6:00 am)

**28th:** NO Meeting

#### January

**3rd:** Board Meeting @ Source One Financial (7:00 am)

**4th:** Weekly Meeting, Modesto Airport (7:00 am)

**11th:** Weekly Meeting, MJC Foundation

**18th:** Weekly Meeting, Sylvan Union School District & STEAM Academy

**25th:** Weekly Meeting, District 5220 Speech Contest

**27th:** Volunteer Opportunity: Salvation Army Breakfast (6:00 am)

*Consult the calendar online for more details of upcoming events, dates, & locations.*

**For a complete calendar, [click here](#).**

### Tom's Tales

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:13

I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of the members of this Club! Each of you demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. Whether it's the joyful camaraderie exhibited at our annual Christmas party last week, the enthusiasm of delivering dictionaries to 3rd graders or the selflessness of Christmas Elves, there's no better group of individuals in our Rotary community. My family and I are blessed by my leadership experience with you all. I'm honored to serve.



We continue in this season's vein of peace, joy and love with a performance by Yes Co. this week, Gin Fizz, Santa & Paul Harris Fellow Presentations next week and finally Salvation Army Breakfast on Saturday, December 26.

Remember the Paul Harris Fellow match; 2:1 for members less than a year and 1:1 for the rest of the membership expires 12/31/17. You can sign up at our website ([click here](#)).

My e-mail box is always open, drop me a line, there should be plenty of "love" to go around with Christmas and New Year's ahead. Whatever you've got or need reach me here ([tomlbryant@comcast.net](mailto:tomlbryant@comcast.net)).

See You Tomorrow,

*Tom*

### Spotlight: Modesto Sunrise Rotary Mentoring Program



Sierra Vista Child and Family Services launched its second school based mentoring program at Kirschen Elementary School. With hard work and dedication from staff and administration, Modesto Sunrise Rotary adopted Kirschen Elementary as the school where Rotarians can mentor children towards brighter futures.

The purpose of the Sierra Vista school-based mentoring program is to allow caring individuals, an opportunity to get involved in our

community and have a chance to "mentor" a student. Mentoring provides guidance and support to those students who are in need and/or lack adult inspiration in their daily lives.

This year alone, MSR Rotarians Chris Currie, Gene Carrillo, Greg Kyler, Jennifer Kara, Paul Harmon and John Campbell have all been matched with Kirschen students from all ages and grade levels. Rotarians and their mentees meet once a week for one hour. During that time, they participate in a variety of activities, including the creation of fabulous masterpieces with straws like Chris and his student made (pictured above). They also assist with school work when needed, provide guidance with life choices & goals, listen, support and encourage their mentees.

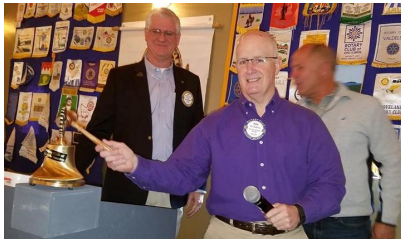
Chris Currie is one of Sierra Vista's newest mentors. Chris and student, Juan, share a passion for using their imaginations to build rockets, various structures and cars with Lego's, while engaging in meaningful conversation. Chris brings happiness to Juan's life which shows each time they see each other, as Juan runs towards Chris at each session with a huge smile on his face.

Thank you, Modesto Sunrise Rotarians, for making a difference in the lives of appreciative Kirschen students! All it takes is one hour, once a week with one child to make a difference in our community!

## Ring That Bell!

Thank You to Our Generous Members

A great way to start any weekend is by ringing it for your daughter, Adalyn, who was adopted through the long road of the foster system. Congrats **Keenon**!



**Ron Dickerson** rings the bell along with **Greg Kyler**, for attending a Dallas Cowboys game (in Texas no less) and not inviting the President to tag along. **Jon Burgi** went too but he missed this meeting. Don't worry Jon, we will fine(d) you!

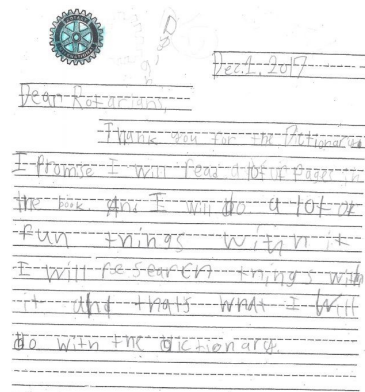
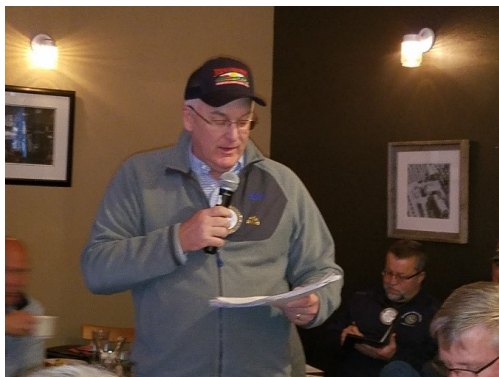
No better way to start the weekend than to ring the bell because your mortgage is paid off! Congrats **Jennifer Kara** for that amazing accomplishment!



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Highlights From Past Modesto Sunrise Rotary Meetings

### Modesto Sunrise Rotary Dictionary Project



"Dear Rotarian, Thank you for the dictionary. I promise I will read a lot of pages in the book. And I will do a lot of fun things with it. I will research things with it and that's what I'll do with the dictionary" - Anonymous

## Modesto Sunrise Rotary 180 Moment: Ron Ramont



Ron Ramont, past President, and great Rotarian gave his :180 and it was awesome! Ron is locally born and raised, attended local schools and grew up thinking he'd be a farmer. When that didn't happen, he went to work in the Ag Industry, from which he retired at 39 years old, completely changing his life. Ron became a successful broker for Merrill Lynch and is married to his lovely wife Laurie. Laurie and Ron now have 2 grown kids, Alyssa and Kurt, who they love and care for very much. Ron is also a pilot and is very involved with the Commemorative Air Force-Central Valley Squadron; thanks for sharing Ron!

## GOOD TO KNOW - Rotary History And What's Happening Globally

### Spirit of Earth Day: Tree planting project stems from surviving a tsunami

As a child, Gowri Rajan was scared of trees because of the reptiles and insects lurking in their roots, branches, and leaves. "I wouldn't go near trees," says Rajan. "It's ironic that, later in life, a tree would be the reason I'm still alive."

On the morning of 26 December 2004, a tsunami slammed into Rajan's vacation house on the Indian Ocean in Sri Lanka, where her family and a few friends were staying for the holidays. The water violently crashed through the house, destroying everything inside. "I said my last prayers. I thought this was the end," she recalls. When the water receded, it swept Rajan with it. But she saved herself by grabbing onto one of the few trees that hadn't been uprooted.



After the wave receded, she started to swim back to the house through the dark water, to rejoin her family and friends. A second wave came crashing in. A friend was able to reach Rajan and help her climb to the top of another tree. "I was saved by two trees," she says. "It's a miracle I'm still alive." "For 20 minutes I held on with all my strength. I could feel the ocean pulling my body in," says Rajan, who lost three of her friends that day.

Now, Rajan is looking for a million people to share their tree stories to raise awareness and money to restore the island nation's trees. Read more by [clicking here](#).

## The Paul Harris Foundation



You can be a sustaining Paul Harris Foundation member for less than \$10 per month! **Check out** what's so great about becoming a sustaining member and start **giving** today!

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### Meetings - Thursdays, 6:45a

Ralston's Goat, 1001 10th Street, Modesto

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**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**



Ray M. Caporros, District Governor, District 5220 2017-18 ([Click here for more about District Governor](#)).

Ian H.S. Riseley, Rotary International President, 2017-18 ([Click here for more about our President](#)).

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