



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

## Deborah Hogarty — Once a “Ghost Walk” Skeptic

Deborah Hogarty was our guest speaker today, giving us a glimpse of paranormal activity that occurs on the *Ghost Walk* tours sponsored by Benicia Main Street. Deborah has been a tour guide for these *Ghost Walk* tours since 2010. She said these tours have changed quite a bit in the past seven years.

Deborah talked about the actual tours which usually occur twice a month (1st and 3rd Fridays), for approximately 9 months out of the year. A tour begins at 8:00 PM and ends by 10:00 PM, and starts at the Benicia Main Street Depot, ending at the Benicia Capitol Historic State Park. These tours, which have about 20 - 22 participants, cost \$25/person and are a bit different from other paranormal walks, as K2 meters and dowsing rods are used to “to investigate.” A K2 meter is a simple hand-held device that has become a standard paranormal investigation tool and cultural phenomenon, and dowsing rods, which have been used for centuries, to locate ground water, buried metals or ores, gemstones, oil, graves and other objects and materials. These tools are used to communicate with the “ghosts” and are simply another investigative tool such as an audio recorder, a video recorder, or a camera.

Today, Benicia Main Street operates out of the Depot. The Depot was originally erected in the mid 1890s in the town of Banta in Contra Costa, California, and was moved and erected to its present site in 1902. The Depot served as Benicia’s main passenger, freight station and train-ferry staging center until 1930, when a train bridge opened across the Carquinez Strait. Station agents and their families lived on the second floor until 1958. Vacant for decades, the city and volunteers salvaged it in 1999, and it was restored by the city and volunteer funding in 2001. The Depot now serves as home to the Benicia Main Street Program.

The *Ghost Walk* tour starts at the Depot, proceeds to the Tannery Building, up first street past the Union Hotel, and ends on the Capitol grounds. Participants ask questions (yes or now) and use their dowsing rods and K2 meters to discover the “energy” — whatever that might be.



Deborah Hogarty

*The Ghost “skeptic”*



*Benicia Main Street*



*K2 meter*



*Dowsing Rods*

## Noteworthy!

- \* Gary Vilhauer, our District 5160 governor, will visit the Rotary Club of Benicia on **Tuesday, November 14**. Mark your calendars now! Come here Gary's vision for Rotary 2017-2018.

## Happy Dollars!

- \* Jim Trimble's passion is collecting dollars for our holiday meal donations! \$80/meal this year.
- \* Jack Bell has been married to Sue for 46 year. Yes, they were married on Halloween, October 31, 1971. Jack donated \$200 because of his happiness.
- \* Jim Trimble had a fancy bottle of wine (2000 Duckhorn Cabernet) that he had been saving for Rebecca Sgambati. (The bottle had a Valero inscription which was designed by Sue Fisher Jones' brother.) Jim had brought this bottle of wine to Rotary six times in the past 2 months, but .....no Rebecca. Today, Rebecca was present and paid \$20 for the bottle of wine. Such a deal!!!!
- \* Diane Smikahl has a new car, but hasn't seen it yet. It is being driven from the foothills, but apparently the driver didn't make it here yet. It is a *Subaru Outback*. She was \$20 happy for the yet-unseen vehicle.
- \* Jack Bell's son is a professional golf caddy. This past weekend, his golfer, Chesson Hadley, placed 2nd! Jack was pleased...and donated more money for this!
- \* Alex Lobban paid \$5 of happiness as a Formula One Race Car driver from the UK won this past weekend!
- \* Eric Hoglund was \$20 happy as he now only has one child in sports at this time! Incidentally, Eric is sporting a mustache at this time.
- \* John Blunt was at it again — Black Jack. However, he didn't place, but he did win in the after game "drawing". He donated \$25 from this drawing to our club — after getting in a good dig to Steve McCure about the Dodgers in the World Series (\$2 donation).

## Happy Dollars — continued!

- \* John Dwyer — unlike some of our members who have been traveling to Florida, Italy or Hawaii, has spent the last three weekends in Stockton, Chico, Orland and Mt. Shasta. His alma mater, Notre Dame, is doing well! He donated \$80 for a holiday meal.
- \* Bill Warren's softball team won, so he felt there was hope for the Dodgers. He donated money.
- \* Sue Hutch paid \$3 for misspelling Jim Trimble's name in the bulletin, and will pay another \$5 next week for stating that Mario was André Lewis' sponsor. (It was actually Sue Fisher Jones.)
- \* Jim Lessenger interrupted Jim Trimble and was fined \$5.
- \* Scott Reep spent three weeks in Italy — an amazing trip on a Rick Steve's tour! He felt that his best dinner was in Sienna! Some of the places he visited: Rome, Lake Como, Florence, Umbria, the Italian alps, and Venice. He also was wearing the wrong badge — apparently he has TWO badges in his desk at work (\$2 fine). He also wanted to thank Eric Hoglund's daughter, Abby, for bringing in the mail and watering the plants (\$2) while he was on vacation.
- \* Bob Sherman, former two-time president of our Benicia Rotary club, was visiting today and donated \$5 as he recently turned 88! He first joined our club in 1974.
- \* Susan Hurl missed the "microclimate" in your own backyard question. (\$1)
- \* Bill Pugh was inaccurate in his description about what community group our club inherited our golf tournament from. (\$1)
- \* Bob Schroth's phone rang and he couldn't remember the three inconveniences that Alan Schwartzman recently endured on his trip to Florida.
- \* Alex Lobban accepted his presidential year's flag from Steve McClure!



**Our Rotary Holiday Party  
is.....**

**Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30  
at Estey Realty, 216 First St,**

# Pictures from the past..... Do you recognize anyone?

