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Stockton East Rotary  
 meets every Friday  
 12:15 PM  
 Elkhorn Country Club

# Grapevine

The Official Newsletter of Stockton East Rotary

Send all official correspondence to Stockton East Rotary, Post Office Box 8626, Stockton, California 95208-0626

**The Grapevine**

**Nov 20, 2009**

## Today's Speaker is Sgt. D.L. Holloway USMC Recruiter



### The Meaning of Semper Fidelis by Cam Beck

For my family, Semper Fidelis is more than a fancy slogan. It is truly a way of life. My father retired from the Marine Corps in the 90s, after serving over twenty years and more than one tour of duty in a combat zone. Therefore, my two brothers and I grew up in a culture that demanded excellence and loyalty of its members, and it showed. It is partially for this reason, I am convinced, that we all joined the Marine Corps when we were of the appropriate age. Because of my upbringing, it is somewhat difficult to imagine what life would be like, had I not grown up surrounded by living, breathing personifications of "Semper Fidelis," and I am increasingly beginning to realize that I do not understand the mindset of those who had not. It is this realization that led me to reflect on the history of the phrase, and speculate the reason it holds such weight with the members of the Marine Corps.

The first thing I questioned was the Latin thing. Why not simply make the slogan "Always Faithful," since that is what the Latin phrase literally means? More people would certainly understand it. Apparently, whenever someone has something important to say, he translates it to Latin, and that lends the phrase credibility and respectability.

E Pluribus Unum. Pro bono. Carpe Diem. Mea Culpa. Sic Semper Tyrannus. The phrases are a part of our culture, but not native to our language. Unless we have been taught what they mean separately from our education in English, we would have no idea. I would wager that Semper Fidelis means more to those who use it than just about any other Latin phrase in use today.

Customarily, though, Latin has also been the language of law. Habeas Corpus, Stare Decisis, and Per Curiam are terms one commonly would come across if he did only a precursory exploration of legal decisions. Even the United States adopted the practice of using Latin

(continued on page 3)

### Future Programs

- Nov 27th Dark for Thanksgiving
- Dec 4th Willie K. Kelly Jr., President Stockton Delta Rotary Club
- Dec 11th To Be Announced

### Important Dates to Remember

- Nov 24th All City Luncheon
- Dec 1st SER Board Meeting
- Dec 9th Basketball
- Dec 12th SER Christmas Party
- Dec 18th Wrapping of the Presents
- Dec 25th Dark for Winter Holiday



# SERVICE Above Self

## District 5220 Make-Up Opportunities

### MONDAY

Lodi Tokay	Noon
	Lodi's Elk Lodge
Modesto Gateway	Noon
	Sportsmen of Stanislaus Club
Modesto North	5:30 PM
	Appetez
Stockton Delta	Noon
	Angelina's Restaurant

### TUESDAY

Manteca Morning	6:45 AM
	Doctor's Hospital
Modesto	12:15 PM
	Double Tree Hotel
North Stockton	Noon
	Brookside Country Club
Stockton Sunrise	7:00 AM
	Brookside Country Club
Tracy	Noon
	Platinum

### WEDNESDAY

Lodi Sunrise	7:00 AM
	Woodbridge G&CC
Modesto East	12:15 PM
	Hazel's Elegant Dining
Oakdale	12:15 PM
	Oakdale Golf & C.C.
Ripon	12:10 PM
	Barnwood Restaurant
Stockton	Noon
	Stockton Golf and C.C.
Tracy Sunrise	6:45 AM
	Four Corners

### THURSDAY

Lathrop Sunrise	6:30 AM
	Holiday Inn Express
Lodi	Noon
	Burgundy Hall, Lodi Grape & Festival Grounds
Manteca	Noon
	Isadore's Restaurant
Modesto Sunrise	7:00 AM
	SOS Club
Riverbank	7:15 AM
	Perkos

### FRIDAY

Galt	Noon
	La Quinta Restaurant
Galt Sunrise	7:00 AM
	La Quinta Restaurant
Oakdale Sunrise	7:00 AM
	Oakdale Country Club
Salida	6:45 AM
	Holiday Inn Express

## A Little Brag from President Prag

Congratulations to all of our duly elected incoming officers. You know who you are (I hope!).

Kudos to Chris Weed for organizing the Rotary District 5220 at the Thunder event, at the Stockton Arena last Sunday. Too bad the skates on the home team's players were stuck to the ice for most of the afternoon.

Eighteen members and guests have signed up for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday, November 24th, at the First Baptist Church in Stockton. Tickets, which I still have, are \$25 apiece; checks should be made payable to Stockton East Rotary. This Friday will be the last opportunity to purchase the tickets in advance from me without making special arrangements.

Thanks to Fifi Aoun for arranging the appearance of last week's speaker, Kimberley Borgens, and for Kimberley's engaging presentation, "Using Language to Transform Your Life."

We have now raised in six short weeks, through sales of raffle tickets, our \$500 targeted contribution to a water purification project at six elementary schools in Mexicali, Mexico sponsored primarily by the Escalon Sunrise Rotary Club. What else can I say to all of the club members who have helped make this happen but....huzzah!!

Lynette Morlan, classification clergy, will now become our newest Rotarian, A tip of the yellow Thunder cap to Neil Hamilton for proposing her for membership. The induction ceremony is scheduled for December 11th.

We will be dark next week in honor of Thanksgiving. In these difficult economic times, let's try to remember all of the events in our lives for which we really should give thanks. Have a safe and joyous holiday.

**Remember: the Future of Rotary is in Your Hands.**

YIRS, President Jeff

**THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do**

**Is it the TRUTH?**

**Is it FAIR to all concerned?**

**Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

*Learn more about our club at [www.stocktoneastroty.org](http://www.stocktoneastroty.org)*



(continued from page 1) in its written Constitution, in spite of the desire to create a Constitution that could be easily understood by common people, who typically could not read and write Latin. However, America was a special case. The people had already been governing themselves for some time before the revolution. Unlike today, now that apathy reigns, participation in local politics was almost necessary for survival. That atmosphere of social and political cooperation was one that was replete with Latin phrases. America was unique --set apart from the other countries--for just that reason. It was a province that was governed by the people, not kings--and its people would not relinquish that tradition without a fight.

When doctors started translating ailments into Latin-Greek hybrids, they were criticized for creating a language that only doctors could understand. Of course, that was partly the point. It set apart those who could understand from those who could not--thus both signifying the value that doctors provided as well as creating a group of people who could identify one another by their similar values and education.

The use of Latin in the Marine Corps motto is not bred from a very different motivation. Of course, the Marine Corps has never experienced a mutiny. Marines in England were revered for their loyalty to the crown, just as United States Marines are now revered for their downright fanatical dedication to each other, their service, and their country. Using Latin to characterize this quality represents its legitimization--its codification. Significantly, for Marines at least, it also provides a caste--a group that is separate and unique from any other--a group that has no desire to be like any other.

What is left unsaid in the motto is also notable. The phrase is "Always faithful." It isn't "Sometimes Faithful." Nor is it "Usually Faithful," but always. It is not negotiable. It is not relative, but absolute. Who is always faithful, though, and to what, exactly are they faithful? Interestingly, the simplicity of the phrase and the calculated neglect to specify its parameters seems to strengthen it. Marines pride themselves on their straightforward mission and steadfast dedication to accomplish it. Things do not need to be spelled out for them; they know what it means and what to do about it.

Even though Marines are known to swell with pride from time to time (they do, after all, have a noble legacy to continue), they are not snobbish. Even the use of Latin must make them uncomfortable, because they shorten an already-short motto to the more colloquial "Semper Fi." This does not misrepresent the phrase; it simply symbolizes the ability of common people to become part of a brotherhood that demands more of its members than any other comparable group in the world.

The longer I am out of the service, the more I recognize my draw to and longing for the culture of "Semper Fidelis." I suspect that reading this will impart nothing significant to Marines, as they already are aware of their glorious charge. It is my earnest hope, however, that it may help others understand the reason Marines hold the Corps in such high esteem. All those references by former Marines, in their new jobs, to "back when I was in The Corps," will begin to make a little more sense. Marines are imbued with Semper Fidelis, and all it means, and because they lived it for so long, they have difficulty accepting any less from others. **Semper Fi!**

**Membership** This week's table top visual classification reminder is: **TURKEY!**

A perfect opportunity to invite someone to Rotary who raises turkeys or poultry. How about someone that works in a meat/poultry market? Don't know any? You must know someone that eats turkey, so ask them! If all else fails, invite a turkey friend -- we all have a few of those. Remember the temporary motto, **"If they won't come to a Rotary Meeting, GIVE 'EM THE BIRD."** Have a good turkey day. Gobble Gobble

**SER Friday Greeters**

**Today: Shabbir Jiwa**

**Next Week: Dark**

**SER Birthdays:**

**11/20 Sharon Roman; 11/22 Nels Fransen;**

**SER Anniversaries:**

**None**

**11/26 Barbara Wolterstorff**

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