

page of the Quacker. Lots of good things coming our way. (Zippedy doo dah!)

Steven Douglas was nowhere to be found so ... Geoff was back with an interesting faaact - a joke (too long to write up) about an Amish farmer and a Jihadist. Then he gave a eulogy to Osama bin Laden, and offered an apology for any insensitivity he might have evoked.

With help from Ed and Art, here's what came in and went out:
Inga's tomato planting kit to Suzanne W.

Bill Hardenstine's Fruit Liquor to Joy

Al Clancy's See's chocolates to Tony

A.Nony Mouse's coffee mug to Les Piskitel

Bob Niemann's desert wine to Ken Hansen

Art J's woman's pin and (unisex) lollipops to Gary Fisher

Susan Racanelli (our speaker)'s Seacology tote bag to Dr.Jon Sigurdson

And..... we welcomed Victoria Rocha as Club member #1101. "Tora", lauded by Anne Woodell as the best worker in the Public Works Department, is the Park Superintendent for the City of Oakland and has responsibility for 110 facility pieces in/around Lake Merritt and West Oakland.

It's a wrap for this week.
TK

Quacker Part II, May 5, 2011
SEACOLOGY Development Director, Susan Racanelli

Aileen Frankel, Chair of the Day, introduced world traveler, Susan Racanelli, who traveled during her twenties while working with exotic animals for theme parks, television, and motion pictures in Europe, South America, Africa, and the Caribbean. Later, Susan returned to the Bay Area for a college degree in French Language and Literature at San Jose State University, and for a graduate degree at Santa Clara University's Business School. After marketing for firms from Carmel to Silicon Valley and San Francisco, she decided to follow her passion. Since 2004 Susan has worked as a development director, promoting fundraising, event planning and leading group visits to Seacology's island conservation projects.



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Susan is married with one son who is now studying international relations and foreign languages at George Washington University. She explained that Seacology's lean six-person administrative office in Berkeley on Solano Avenue, manages 211 projects on 114 islands around the world, mostly along the equatorial belt where poverty is rampant. Seacology's mission is to preserve island cultures and their habitat of mangrove trees, coral reefs, rain forests, and complex ecosystems.

Susan showed us a video and slide show of projects that exchange the building of something needed by the indigenous community, including a desalinization plant or clear water filtration system, solar energy network (to replace the dirty power sources of diesel or kerosene), a community center or school. In return, the community pledges to protect and preserve acres of wildlife habitat in perpetuity. It is a "win, win" -- utilizing mostly local residents to provide the construction and maintenance of the new facilities and the protected reefs, shorelines, and inland areas.

Places where projects are underway include Malaysia, Isla Guadalupe, Java, Papua New Guinea, Borneo and Madagascar. Paul Valva asked, "Are these people aware of global climate change and broader worldly concerns?"

Susan answered, "Yes, they can see the ocean tides move higher, requiring them to abandon and relocate homes higher up on the island; they see unfamiliar debris washed up onshore."

David Lee asked, "Are these agreements just on a handshake?" Susan replied that a field representative checks on them at least once a year, sometimes twice, and they get communications from local workers during the year. To Jeff Wong's question she said there are no written contracts with government bodies, and indigenous law supersedes government in these locations. Seacology hasn't had backtracking on commitments by these partner communities.

Jack London George, George Rowan, Jr., asked, "How do you accept donations because I'd like to offer \$500!" To that he received a resounding applause and the answer, "Online via www.seacology.org or with a check right now. I have pockets!"

We appreciated the good work and descriptive brochures. Kudos for environmentally active Americans and residents abroad on islands far from California.

- AF