

# Rotary



# Club of Concord

## Events

August 9th  
[Food Sorting at the  
Food Bank of Contra  
Costa](#)

## Birthdays

Michael Joseph Barrington  
July 28th  
David Miller  
August 1st  
John B. Kaminski  
August 2nd  
Ronald E. Leone  
August 17th  
Edwin L. Shuff  
August 19th

## WELCOME TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF CONCORD!

Read below for what's going on at your club! Do you know how to add to our Concord Rotary Website or Facebook? Send articles and photos to Guy Bjerke <guybjerke@gmail.com>.

CLUB WEBSITE NOW INCLUDES THESE WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS - CHECK IT OUT!  
[www.concordcarotary.org](http://www.concordcarotary.org)

## July 23, 2021 Rotary Club Meeting Report by Inge Yarborough

This Friday **President Ron** started the meeting with a surprise: a toe-tapping musical rendition of our 4-Way test sung by the Saskatoon Rotary Club. Saskatoon is the largest city in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, about 380 miles NE of Calgary. How ever, did you unearth that, **Ron**?

After slipping back into a more familiar routine of playing our national anthem, Ron briefly gave the floor to **Memory**,



who in turn handed it to **Ivan Hernandez. Ivan** is the president of the Diablo Valley Rotaract Club. He came over from Mexico just a few years ago and is now starting his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Computer Science at DVC, with help from a \$4,000 Rotary Scholarship.

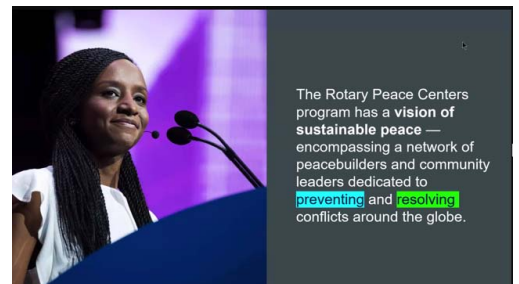
Our speaker of the day was none other than our own **Susan Grossman!**



Who knew that Susan, among a number of other volunteer activities, has also chaired the Rotary Peace Centers Committee for the District for some time?

Rotary Peace Centers are funded by the Rotary Foundation and support the vision of educating interested non-Rotarians to become ♦peacekeepers♦, who are trained to promote conflict resolution and other actions that nurture peace & non-violent solutions throughout the world by applying them in their own backyard.

Internationally there are six Universities (University of Bradford, International Christian University, University of Queensland, Duke/University of North Carolina, and Uppsala University) that house Rotary Peace Centers which offer courses for master♦s degree program, with Duke/UNC being the facility in the US. For the peace and conflict certificate program, there are two universities: Chulalongkorn (Thailand) and Makerere (Uganda). A new Middle East Peace Center will be opening in 2024! Applicants must have a BA and several years experience in a related job or activity to be eligible and the District Committee must endorse them for this competitive program. If accepted as a Peace Fellow by the Rotary Foundation, then they can apply to the university for the program.



**Susan** stressed that they are always looking for viable candidates, so look amongst your friends for someone you might want to introduce to it. You just might create a win-win situation! More at the District Peace Fellows website: <http://www.rotary5160.org/peace-and-conflict-resolution-2/>

**Susan** also broke the news about a new international club program in Guatemala.

In partnership with the UWARA Rotary Club (a satellite to the Vista Hermosa Club in Guatemala City), the non-profit Planting Seeds International has bought a large site in Guatemala City♦s zone 3, which is dominated by a garbage dump with no place for kids to play. The plan is to erect a 3-story community center ♦ and our club has committed to finance outfitting the 3<sup>rd</sup> story to the tune of around \$15,000 with the help of a District Grant. What are we doing there, you ask? We are outfitting it for a Multi-Sports Courts including basketball, ping pong, and so much more. We can thank past president and honorary Concord Rotarian **Lyn Kenney** for initiating this project! If that makes you proud of our good deeds, reach for your wallet J!

An extra note from Lyn: **The idea came from those families living at the garbage dump and they were not only involved in every phase of the project, but they want to empower themselves by teaching some of the classes. As the saying goes: ♦Something about us, without us, is not for us!♦**

As **Ron** followed up with announcements, neither of our birthday boys, **Paul King** and **Rich Timmons**, were present, but we wish them a Happy Birthday

anyway!

**John Kaminski** donated \$100 in honor of his Rotary Anniversary and five couples celebrated wedding anniversaries this week: **Carol & Russell Anderson**, **Barry & Brenda Gordon**, **Nelson & Debbie Meeks**, **Rich & Kathi Timmons** (**Rich**, did you get married on your birthday?) and **Josh & Karolin Young**.

**David Litty** announced the start of a new ♦Rotary Means Business♦ series of Thursday night gatherings (first one on Aug. 26) and asked for business hosts. Somehow that prompted some tongue-in-cheek rumination about why we don't have any chiropractors in our group anymore and that we are in need of CPA's too ♦ apparently, we used to have several. Contact Dave if interested in hosting.

**Rick** finally got to formally introduce our visitor **Beri Kasper** from the Concord



Diablo Club and **Nick Peterson**, a first-time visitor, with hopes that he would come back.

And then came the special moment when **Leslie Chapman**



had her red badge affixed by her husband! Leslie was invited by the **Prescotts** and is a promising new member with a background in volunteering for Meals on Wheels and other organizations. She has already thrown herself into the Ladybug Project and come up with more ideas ♦ and if her glowing perspective of our club does not entice **Nick Peterson** to come back, nothing will.

**Tom Wentling** was so impressed, he contributed \$100 Happy Bucks to initiate **Leslie's** Paul Harris Fellowship. What a way to welcome newbies, **Tom!**

There were some Happy Bucks from **Ron Leone** about his grandson and **Inge Yarborough** about her family reunion before **Ron** closed with a particularly cerebral joke: ♦Why was the car embarrassed? Because it had gas♦♦

*PS. Be sure not to miss our next meeting with a very special guest, who has been on TV: The Director of SETI, which stands for ♦Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence♦. It promises to be an experience that♦s out of this world!*



Stephanie is the leader of the club's Ladybug Project!  
And she brought in her pal Leslie Chapman to our club!!

### Upcoming Speakers

July 30th

[Seth Shostak, Senior Astronomer and Director of SETI](#)

Come and learn from the SETI Director about their search for extraterrestrial intelligent life in our universe.

August 13th

[Charles Marshall, Director of the UC Museum of Paleontology](#)

Explore the land of Dinosaurs with the Director of Paleontology at the UC Museum.

August 6th

[Elisabeth Andreason](#)

More than just penguins...Join us on a National Geographic Tour of Antarctica!

August 20th

[Jessie Saunders PhD, research geophysicist US Geological Survey](#)

This will shake you up. Listen to Dr. Jessie Saunders a research geophysicist at the USGS Earthquake Science Center in Moffett Field, specializing in earthquake early warning.

### Club Leaders



[Ronald E. Leone](#)  
President



[Memory A. Woodard](#)  
President-Elect  
Youth Services  
Chair



[Sandra J Newman](#)  
Secretary



[Gregory M. Grassi](#)  
Treasurer



[Guy S. Bjerke](#)  
Public Relations  
Chair



[Wanda D. Waltman](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Rick Ernst](#)  
Membership Chair



[Sherilyn Escoto](#)  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



[William Bobetsky](#)  
Community  
Service Chair



[Rita Corbinook](#)  
Club Service  
Chair - Fellowship



[Michael Joseph Barrington](#)  
International  
Service Chair



[Dave Litt](#)  
Vocational Service  
Chair



[Bradford T. Prescott](#)  
iPast President



[Dess A. Benedetto](#)  
Assistant  
Governor