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[Dennis A. Fordham](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Laura McAndrews Sammel](#)
iPast President

Birthdays

Marie Schrader
February 21st
Natasha Levchenko
February 27th

Rotary Club of Lakeport

(Oh man, our cub reporter has outdone himself this week. Some of its even true.)

Rotogram

Meeting of February 14, 2024

Written by: Tom Lincoln, Cub Reporter

Rememberingâ€¦

This Rotogram is dedicated to our friend and fellow Rotarian Ruth Darling, who passed at home over the weekend very suddenly and unexpectedly. Our hearts are broken, and thoughts and prayers abounded for Dennis Darling and daughters Kori and Amber as President Mark led the club in a minute of silence in memory of Ruth.

Call to Order

President Mark called the meeting to at 12:10.

Pledge

Ruth Lincoln led the Pledge to our flag.

Guests (many spousesâ€¦ must have been Valentineâ€™s Day!)

President Mark introduced his better half (emphasis on â€œbetterâ€) Tammy; preacher David introduced his mate Natalie; Laura dragged husband Dave along as well as local realtor Janice Hodges; club banker Marty had his wife in tow and Eric brought the love of his life Elizabeth. And Pam introduced husband Ron.

Sunshine

Laura had the duty.

Birthdays: Marie

Club Anniversaries: Alex

Wedding anniversaries: April, 31 years!

Happy Bucks (no fines, just happy memories of Ruth Darling)

The club raised over \$800 in Happy Bucks donations in honor of Ruth. The money will be donated to a charity of the Darling family choice. It was hard to keep track, but most donations were a minimum of \$50. A couple of \$100 donations were sprinkled in.

Jeff: he was happy the 49ers made the playoffs.

Faith: she recounted how Ruth always advised her to â€œstand her groundâ€ when confronted with lifeâ€™s challenges.

Gary: fond memories of Ruth.

Melissa: she texted President Mark from afar with her tribute to Ruth.

Greg: Ruthâ€™s passing reminds him of the lovely daughter he lost several years ago.

Laura: remembered how kind and welcoming Ruth was, always reaching out to help regardless of the need.

Alex: remembered that Ruth blessed the club with our overseas visitor Bella.

David: Ruth called him recently to offer to assist with his parish food kitchen which always needs volunteers.

April: Ruth was always there ready to help regardless of the need.

Me: I will forever miss introducing Ruth Darling and â€œmy darlingâ€ Ruth.

Jennifer: Ruthâ€™s indispensable help with three decades of Konocti Challenge.

Pam: Ruth and Dennis always chipped in at the drive through crab feed. In fact, despite the loss of his mate, Dennis will be delivering the crab to this weekendâ€™s event. Rotarian through and through!

How we met our Valentines

President Mark insisted that we share the details of how members met their spouses. I'm not a good speed writer so if I get the details wrong, I apologize. And I tend to make things up anyway.

Tom and Ruth: We met when we were both married to others. I flew the air ambulance and Ruth tended to the patient in the back. We bumped into each other several years later, having both divorced, and the rest is history.

Mark and Tammy: met on a Ferris wheel at Pacific Ocean Park in southern California. She offered him a bite of cotton candy and he offered her a lifetime of surprises and adventure.

Faith's mother Janice shared her story of meeting hubby Shaun. She was 13 and he was a wee bit older, but very determined. Patience paid off, though, and they were married when the age difference grew closer. Then came Faith.

Enders: He returned from an extended visit to his native Norway. I can still only pick up every third word when he get rolling with a story, but I think the gist of his cute meet was that after meeting his future wife at a Rotary district conference in Vienna, he pursued her to other conference destinations in Singapore and Greece and eventually married in Lake County. If I completely botched it, please accept my sincere apology.

Laura: claims that Dave first laid eyes on her while at U.C. Berkeley and then stalked her to various other locations, including U.C. Davis. They eventually met face to face after one or the other responded to a Yahoo Personal post. The rest is history.

Eric: met his Valentine Elizabeth at a Renaissance fair while admiring each other's costumes.

Announcements

Drive through crab feed is Saturday at the new Margaret Silvierra Conference Center in Lakeport. That's the old B of A building. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. Please dress in your best pirate gear! And plan to show up between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

There will be a work party at Hospice Services of Lake County on February 24, starting at 11 a.m.

This month's Rotary after Dark will be at Dana Kearney's palatial home on Westlake Drive, Buckingham, on February 28. Pot luck. Drive down Westlake Drive until you see the American flags on the left side of the road.

Finley

Pam won the \$10

Marie won a box of chocolates!

May Dennis Darling and family find peace and comfort at this very sad time in their lives.

May 10, 2023

By Andrew Blum on Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Rotary Club of Lakeport

Rotogram

Meeting of May 10, 2023

Reporter: Tom Lincoln

The Beginning

President Laura called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

The Pledge

The Honorable Andy Blum led the salute to our flag.

Invocation

Pastor Greg offered the invocation with the flair of a grand Toastmaster.

Guests/Visiting Rotarians

Sausalito Rotarian Gary Furber was visiting along with friend Gerry who was also past Commodore of the Sausalito Yacht Club. Credit union tycoon Jacob was in attendance as was recently hired Lakeport Fire Chief Patrick Reitz and his wife Christina.

Sunshine

Past president Bruce regaled us with a rundown of Rotary International's battle to eliminate polio from the earth. In the last 90 days there has only been one new case, and that was in Pakistan.

Bruce recognized April (birthday 4/24) Mark (birthday 5/6); Ender's wife (birthday 5/9); it was also Ender's 10th anniversary in the club with 35 years of total Rotary service. Congratulations Enders!

Wedding anniversaries for Gary (14 years); Pam (25 years); Tom & Rourke (33 years).

Bruce then recognized our club's Paul Harris Fellows:

Major Donors (\$10,000 +): Dave Herrick; Kenny Parlet; Jeff Warrenburg; Jennifer Strong

Bequest Members: Jeff; Jennifer; Cam Reeves

Finally! Bruce shared his joke of the day. Very funny!

Detective

Pam called on volunteers to share what they thought was best about the previous week's District Conference. Needless to say, everyone gushed about Governor Jennifer's flawless performance, the beauty of Konocti Harbor, the captivating speakers, the delicious food, the exceptional Friday excursions. Jennifer received kudos for everything, including making sure the trains ran on schedule. Those commenting were April, Pam, Enders, Art, me, Ruth, Alex, Kelly B., Beth, Laura, Greg. Mostly everyone in the club!

Program

Leah Sautelet with the Lake County Office of Emergency Services (OES) gave us a rundown on the department and its importance to the health and safety of county residents. It is the lead agency in response to natural and man-made disasters and other unexpected crises that come along from time to time. Sheriff Howe is the agency director, assisted by Gavin Wells, deputy director. The agency is responsible for mitigation, preparation, response and planning in order to address the needs of county residents when disaster strikes. The agency coordinates responses through its emergency operations center and relies on resources provided by the state OES as well as FEMA. It partners with other government agencies, private enterprise and individual citizens in meeting the many challenges that arise during a crisis. Leah asked everyone to make sure they are aware of which emergency zone you are located in. To find out you can go to (community.zonehaven.com).

Announcements

Pam is selling tickets to the Kiwanis Memorial Day pancake breakfast. April is selling candy bars. Giovanni thanked everyone for helping him earn the 2023 Small School District Association's California Superintendent of the Year. Congratulations Giovanni! Lance reminded us of the two Top 40 events coming up. Upper Lake High is May 23 and Clear Lake High is May 24. Our fire chief shared that it is National Correction Officers Week.

Rotary After Dark will be held at the home of Ruth and Tom Lincoln on May 24, starting at 5:30 p.m. Appetizers, wine and other beverages will be served. Their address is 2652 Hill Road East, Lakeport. For those who get lost, Tom can be reached at 707-349-3210.

Finally, Enders announced that he is going to Norway for three to four months. He wanted everyone to know what a wonderful president Laura has been as he will not be able to attend her debunking.

Adjourn

Laura urged us to live life through Rotary!

May 3, 2023

By Andrew Blum on Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Rotary Club of Lakeport

Rotogram

Meeting of May 3, 2023

Reporter: Tom Lincoln

The Beginning

President Laura called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

The Pledge

Pam led us in the pledge to our flag.

Invocation

Pastor Greg offered the invocation and asked for special thoughts and best wishes to Jennifer Strong for the upcoming District 5130 Conference at Konocti Harbor Resort. Since I am writing this Rotogram post-conference, we all know now that Pastor Greg's request came to be, as the conference was a splendid success.

Guests

Eric from Sequoia Senior Solutions was with us again as was Jacob from the newest credit union in the county. Sweet Ornella from France graced our presence again. Ornella was our Rotary Exchange Student back in the day. I remember taking her to the Santa Cruz boardwalk where we rode several rides, including the big roller coaster. She loved it; I was terrified. Being a licensed pilot, I dislike being trapped in something over which I have no control! And lastly, District Governor Jennifer was introduced as a guest, recognizing that she has had less than perfect attendance since she left us to the circus.

Program

Laura opted to go straight to the program. Marie introduced Barbara and Francis McChesney. Barbara heads up the district's environmental committee which is engaged in a number of initiatives. The focus of her presentation was on the ongoing threat to the environment from plastic, particularly single-use plastic, such as bottles and bags that find their way into oceans and other ecosystems frequently to be ingested by fish and animals. Rotary is also very active in a coral reef project (go to icriforum.org) that is engaged in protecting and restoring coral reefs around the world. There is also the Climate Action Team Network involving over 900 clubs in 92 countries.

She asked us to take up the District 5130 environmental challenge that calls for clubs to embrace various environmental initiatives through:

â€¢ Action

â€¢ Education & Awareness

â€¢ Changing habits

â€¢ Connecting Internationally

Announcements

They all centered around the district conference that is now history. Back to normal this week!!

Adjourn

Laura urged us to live life through Rotary!

Rotogram April 12, 2023

By Andrew Blum on Friday, April 14, 2023

Welcome, Invocation and Pledge

Laura opened the meeting with two bells.
Greg led the invocation expressing thanks for Spring weather.
Gary led the pledge. His wife Lacey led him.

Visitors and Guests

Far too many to name. O'Meara's was packed!

Announcements

Members decided they like the separate table set-up.

In case you haven't heard, there's a District Conference coming up soon. Please register and sign up for an excursion. Registration deadline is April 27th. Register at: <https://www.rotary5130.org/rotary-rocks-the-lake/>. Jennifer is looking for volunteers for a packing party for Tango Mike; Meals-on-Wheels and landscaping at the Resort.

Sunshine

John had another birthday. Colleen and Mark L. had club anniversaries.
Interesting facts: There are over 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide, with over 3500 clubs in 200 countries.
Pocket change left at airport security checkpoints in the U.S. added up to \$1.5 million in 2020.

Detective

Mark L. drove the wrong way at the Board meeting. I picked up the tab.
Jerry paid for Jennifer's "boulder on boulder" landscaping design.
Several members (even Laura) forgot to wear pins.
Dave bragged about the clearly laid out Board meetings.
Faith is in an on-line MBA program.
Greg thank everyone for pitching in for the Easter egg hunt.

Speaker

Anna, Holly and Lisa, from the Lake County Office of Education, spoke about the "Healthy Start and Family Services Program." The program is focused on getting homeless and unaccompanied young people back into school and making sure they have what they need to succeed. These kids do not have stable homes and often are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. The program works with all school districts in the county. A high percentage of homeless kids drop out of school.

Healthy Start gets the kids whatever documents (birth certificates, etc.) they need to get enrolled; conducts summer youth programs, and assists with transition to higher education and trade schools. They also work with foster youth. Good work being done by good people!

Further Announcements

Marie returned Beth's tablecloth.
The Passion Play is coming up in late May. Marie is working on a Rotary delegation for the event.

Rotary After Dark on April 26. It might be at Konocti Harbor Resort and may involve moving furniture.

Closing

Laura's reign as President is coming to a close. After almost two years at the helm, she still loves us. (The feeling is mutual Laura!)

Joke: Egyptian crocodiles aren't worried about climate change because they are in "DeNile."

March 1, 2023

By Andrew Blum on Wednesday, March 1, 2023

March 1, 2023

Welcome, Invocation and Pledge

Laura opened the meeting with two bells.

Greg led the invocation. No one had any thoughts or concerns.

Judy led the pledge while Laura dragged Old Glory front and center.

Visitors and Guests

Three guests speakers from the Red Cross (see below).

Sunshine

Beth came well-prepared as usual. Marie fessed-up to getting a year older.

No new cases of polio in Afghanistan or Pakistan in the last year!

The club received over \$1,700.00 from Bruno's. Keep on shopping!

Detective

Dave fined all the missing detectives. While the rest of us were buried in snow, Jerry got a suntan in Hawaii. Kelly paid for her power *not* going out. On seeing snow for the first time, Zimbabwe exchange student Bella ran barefoot through it.

Congrats to Beth who is scheduled to become a grandmother this Sunday! (No one could believe she's old enough to be anyone's grandmother. Apparently she had Heather when she was 12.)

Speakers

Dennis introduced three speakers who work with the American Red Cross. Nick Widmar, Gabrielle Perez and Pastor Shannon of Galilee Lutheran Church spoke about the Red Cross' "Community Adaptation Program." This is not the "Blood and Flood" Red Cross; instead this program focuses on "Health, Hunger and Housing." There is a 6.8 million housing unit gap in this country which makes it particularly difficult when weather disasters strike. The program works with local organizations to transform how communities cope with disasters.

One goal is to increase the number of families who can stay in their homes during disasters. (Not everyone can use Jerry's technique of laying on a Hawaiian beach while a blizzard hits Lake County.) There will be a "Neighbor Fest" on April 15th at Galilee Lutheran Church in Kelseyville. The idea is to create more resilient partners before disasters strike.

Announcements

March 31, Rotary night at the Soper-Reese at 7:00 p.m. Our own Laura is starring in the production of "Fish Wrap." The evening starts at Wine in the Willows at 5:30.

Daylight savings time starts on March 12.

Rotary After Dark will be at Wine in the Willows March 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Closing

What a week! Everyone (except Jerry) struggled through the storms.

February 1, 2023

By Andrew Blum on Thursday, February 2, 2023

Opening

Laura opened with two bells.
Greg led the invocation. No one had any concerns. (It's sweet to be a Rotarian.)
Cam led the pledge.

Guests

Laura introduced Alex Nunez as a guest for the last time and speaker Jolene Treadway.

New Member

Alex became a Rotarian in an emotional initiation. Tears were shed. Welcome aboard Alex!

Sunshine

With no birthdays or anniversaries, Bruce regaled us with fascinating information. Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was the first U.S. President with a beard and Warren Harding was the first President to address a group of Rotarians? By the way, what do you call a group of Rotarians? (A Flamboyance? An Exaltation? A Gaggle?)

Bruce then told a joke about one hunter shooting another. Oh, the humanity!

Detective

With little to work with, Dave M-W fined Pam for truck hauling. Pam seemed as confused as the rest of us, but in the spirit of Rotary passed the fine onto new member Alex.

Laura was fined for buying wine but passed the fine back to Detective Dave. (Let future detectives take warning.)

April has been so overwhelmed with twin grandchildren that she has taken to wearing slippers in public. And not only at Walmart.

Jennifer harassed Mark L. as he lay in the hospital recovering from surgery. On the plus side, Mark was quieter than usual! Seizing the opportunity, Faith also took advantage of Mark (I forget how). The fine was passed onto seldom fined Dave H. Perhaps Dave can pass his fine avoidance techniques onto Jennifer.

Everyone who didn't help lay sod this Saturday at Westside Park and didn't have a good excuse paid up.

Announcements

Pancake breakfast on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

In case you hadn't heard, there's a crab feed coming up. Still looking for auction items. There are a few meals still available for purchase but 115 have been sold.

Speaker

Dennis introduced Jolene Treadway to speak about Tule House. Tule House is a peri-natal residential treatment facility in Upper Lake. Jolene, a Clearlake High grad, is an advocate for mental health services. Tule House provides 15 beds for women and children and will soon expand to 30 beds. All women leave the program with a plan for outpatient treatment and for housing.

Jolene is the Clinical Director of Client Services with the Redwood Community Services Inc. RCS runs 29 facilities in Northern California. Apparently, RCS has its own construction company which builds their facilities. (As a judge who has been trying to get a new courthouse built for 15 years, I am extremely jealous! Perhaps RCS should run the court system as well.)

It was an excellent presentation by someone doing great work for Lake County. Thank you Jolene!

Closing

Laura closed the meeting asking us all to show the community what it means to be a Rotarian.

Rotogram November 9, 2022

By Andrew Blum on Monday, November 14, 2022

Welcome, Invocation and Pledge

President Laura opened the meeting. Greg led the invocation.
Fire Chief Patrick Reitz led the pledge.

Visitors and Guests

Christina Reitz introduced herself. She and Patrick are Rotarians from the Idyllwild club. Patrick is a past club president.
Interactors Jalen, Jasmine and Brianna gave a summary of events at Clearlake High School. The football and volleyball teams have done well!

Sunshine

Dave brought a little sunshine. Ruth and Tom Lincoln are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Dave told a joke about Lucerne trying to be Nice.

Detective

Faith filled in for Lance. She fined Mark L. for getting a new truck. Jeff paid up for a trip to Hawaii. Brock went to Arcata to watch the high school soccer championship.

Speaker

Ginny Craven, the founder of Operation Tango Mike presented. Operation Tango Mike sends care packages to soldiers serving overseas. It's an all-volunteer effort operating since 2003. They provide care packages for any soldier, whether from Lake County or not, because "they all belong to all of us." They ship out 80 to 120 boxes each month to 12 different countries.

Umpqua bank has let Operation Tango Mike use bank facilities at no cost for the past 14 years. "Tango Mike" means "thanks much. Packing parties take place at 6:00 p.m at Umpqua Bank in Lakeport on the third Thursday of each month. Volunteers are welcome, no notice required. Donations are always welcome. Check their website at operationtangomike.org for further information.

Announcements

Crab Feed on February 18. Alex Nunez is a prospective new member.
Beth announced the 4th annual "Festival of Trees" on December 3rd sponsored by Hospice.
On December 14th, we will be visited by our esteemed District Governor!

Closing

Laura closed the meeting with words of inspiration.

November 2, 2022

By Andrew Blum on Thursday, November 3, 2022

Welcome, Invocation and Pledge

Laura opened the meeting with two bells.
Before leading the invocation, Greg asked if we can "DIG IT."
Marie led us in the pledge.

Visitors and Guests

Jeff introduced us to the new Fire Chief, Patrick Reitz. Welcome, Chief!
Alex Nunez of Nala's Cleaning Expertise joined us and has applied for membership!
Dave introduced us to Randy Knolles a software expert.

Sunshine

Dave Schwenger brought the sunshine.
Beth's birthday is on the third. Happy Birthday Beth! She and Jeff (Havilla not Warrenburg) are headed to Half Moon Bay to celebrate.
Faith and Denise had birthdays/anniversaries but were AWOL.

Dave had no joke to tell (thank you Dave). Laura told one about a dog, but I missed it. I'm sure it was hilarious!

Detective

No detective appeared, so Laura fined everyone not wearing a Rotary pin. Too many to name.
Pam and Judy received accolades for having the courage to sit up front with Laura. They passed fines on to backbenchers Beth and Mark.
Marty and Dave M-W paid up for borrowing Rotary club equipment. Dave claims he returned what he borrowed; Marty plans to at some point.

Speaker

Marie introduced JoAnn Saccato who is the Community Engagement Coordinator for "Upstream Solutions for Greater Community Health and Prosperity" for Lake and Mendocino Counties. (How's that for a title!) She's operating on the second year of a 5-year grant to involve local communities in "looking upstream" to fix health problems at their source. As we have heard, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Actually it turns out that \$1 of prevention is worth \$5.60 of intervention.

The "U.S. Health Disadvantage" (as it is known) largely stems from Americans' lack of physical exercise, poor diets and tobacco use. Vaping is introducing young people to tobacco use, which can be highly addictive. Joann is engaging businesses and local governments to improve community conditions which are responsible for 80-90% of health outcomes. These improvements would include creating green spaces, providing healthy activities and diets, etc. Great presentation JoAnn!

Announcements

Marie urged us to adopt Christmas trees to decorate for the annual Main St. Christmas program. Trees are \$100 each.
On the 16th, Dave M-W will bring us gift tags for "Christmas for Kids" again this year.
Laura explained that the Christmas gift basket will not return. The powers that be have decided to stick with just issuing gifts cards. (It's too bad, I loved that event. The camaraderie and the incredible organization skills of the club made it a lot of fun.)

Closing

Like all good things, the meeting came to an end.

Rotogram July 20, 2022

By Andrew Blum on Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Welcome, Invocation and Pledge

President Laura hobbled to the podium and opened the meeting. David M-W led the invocation. Ruth led the pledge.

Visitors - All members except the guest speakers - see below.

Sunshine: Beth

The "triplets" Art and Jerry, celebrated their birthday, though Art pointed out that Jerry is much older. Judy and Art are celebrating their 6th wedding anniversary. Marie has been in the club one year.

Joke: Bruce

A doctor was out fishing when he got called to deliver a baby. After the delivery, the doctor's fishing scale revealed the baby weighed 22 pounds and 10 ounces. Either you can't trust the scale or that was a really big baby!

Detective: David M-W

Pam enjoyed "non-makeup" day.
Mark B. is performing tonight at the Skylark at 6:00 p.m. before a crowd of 10,000.
Jeff paid up for using Skylark pens for the sign-in sheet.
Jennifer has visited 4 clubs in the district so far and has 43 more to go. She is having "tons of fun" staying at Rotarians' homes.
Beth avoided Covid; her daughter and son-in-law did not.
April explored San Francisco with her grand twins.
Jennifer bragged on Lake Event Design for catering back-to-back events for her.
John L noted his daughter's birthday and the anniversary of Bruce Lee's death.
Laura's daughter turned 21 and ordered an adult beverage. In shock, Laura slipped and fell in her "hippie bus."
Natalie and David's daughter turned 31, but they stayed on their feet.

Speakers

Chris Rivera and Jim Adams spoke on behalf of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. Chris is a retired Lake County Sheriff's sergeant who many of us know. Jim was an engineer at San Quentin prison. Both are working to preserve the Konocti Fire Lookout. The lookout, which was built in the 1930s, is in bad shape and has been shutdown since 2018. Chris is the Pacific Regional director of the association and has lobbied for funding for the project. Jim trains volunteers who serve as fire lookouts. Right now they can't use the lookout so they "look out" from the mountain top. Both stressed the importance of restoring the lookout to the people of Lake County. Satellites and fires aren't as reliable as human lookouts. So far, their volunteers have made 5 first reports of fires this year. They are always looking for more volunteer lookouts.

Announcements

The quarterly check from Bruno's came in for \$1280.88. Rotary receives a percentage of the purchases made by Rotarians at Bruno's. So, if you shop there, be sure to sign up.

Rotary received \$4,354 from the beer booth at the Monster Truck Rally. So thanks to all who helped out.

Due to health concerns, Wane Yost has stepped down from Rotary. We wish you well Wayne.

Laura says we are all connected and she holds us all in her heart. Nice thoughts Laura.

Rotogram

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