



ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



President: Sue A **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595 D5160 Club 461

Notes: Jim O **Photos:** Paul W Jan 31, 2024

Club Website: www.rossmoorrotary.org

District Website: www.rotary5160.org

MEETING NOTES: 01/31/2024

Call to Order: President Sue called the meeting to order, David led the pledge, and the song was our national anthem from the 49ers/Lions NFC Championship game.

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Athena Q of Bryon Park, a guest of Freda's

Thought for the Day: Alison presented thoughts on juggling crystal balls and rubber balls. Life is about choices; life is about balance.

Happy Dollars: Sharon; Jim O., Bill B., Eddie F.; David B.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAB5 Reminder- Next Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 11:30-1:30. The Event Center. There will be no regular meeting at Hillside. We have 33 members so far attending.

Membership- District 5160 Assembly, Saturday, March 23, 2024, 8 am-2pm, breakfast and lunch included, in Fairfield. Register via Dacdb. Look for email from the District on how to register. If you need help with this talk to Jim, John R., or Bill B. All members are encouraged to attend, especially "new" members. This is an important way to learn about the District and collaborate with fellow Rotarians. You will participate in breakout sessions and conversations to increase your impact on your community, enhance every participant's engagement, and increase your ability to adapt and grow.

New Member Orientation- Monday, February 12, 2024. 10 am (1-1/2 hours) at the home of Bill B. New members will learn about our Club and the Foundation, and be asked about what activities in the Club they want to participate in.

Raffle- Ruth R.-Wine; Sharon-Wine

PROGRAM

Speakers-Member Bios

Patrice J is a Past President of the Club, from 2017-2018, a member of the Program Committee, and Youth Services Lead. She was born in Salt Lake City in February, and has 2 pre-WWII sisters, and 2 Baby Boomer brothers. There are 4 Masters degrees, and 1 PHD in the family. A graduate of the University of Utah, she came to California with the VISTA program and worked on an economic development project for Hispanics getting Small Business Loans. She also worked at Legal Aid. Her mentor Susan Weiss recommended her to the Graduate Social Work Program at Sacramento State. She studied Policy Planning and Administration. Before graduation, she was hired by a non-profit in Pittsburg, Ca, to be Executive Director of a program assisting parolees and probationers in obtaining training and jobs. Later, she changed to work in "for profit" jobs. She got a job with a financial services firm in their marketing department. In 1985 she made another career change to real estate.

Now in her 30's as a single woman contemplating marriage, with a better chance of being hit by lightning than getting married according to some press accounts, she found herself on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. Ultimately, she did marry Tom Pruitt, her massage therapist after 2 years of dating. Unable to produce an heir, they decided on an international adoption. In 1994 they went to China and adopted a baby girl Collette, and in 1999 to Cambodia to adopt a boy Benson (named after her father). Her kids are "the light of her life." Patrice is a bookworm and gardener.

After 25+ years selling real estate throughout Contra Costa County, Patrice decided she wanted to work with an older population and moved to a Rossmoor office. Soon after, she was invited to a Rotary meeting which quickly became a big part of her life. She loves Rotary and her Rotary friends. Rotary has given her the sense of fulfillment she had longed for.

Irv F was born October 8, 1933; Irv is the son of a minister. Dad was giving a sermon on the day he was born. Irv grew up in Oakland, near Mills College. He loved playing cops and robbers. December 7, 1941, was a significant event in his young age. He recalls being both excited and scared; listening to soldiers being transported to service on trains, and then scared as injured soldiers returned for treatment at nearby Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. Irv spent some time in religious school contemplating the ministry. Eventually, he went to U.C. Berkeley and graduated with a degree in Biochemistry, which was not his calling. He found "people more interesting than lab rats." He and his late wife Carlyn were married for 48 years. He became a member of our Rotary in 2008 and has served successfully as our Treasurer.

Ruth R joined our Club when it merged with Kiwanis in 2012. She is a member of the Paul Harris Society and has been a generous benefactor. Last year she contributed \$10,000 to our Cancer, Alzheimer, and Parkinson's Gala.

Ruth emigrated from Germany in 1964. She lived in Spokane for 10 years before coming here. She was born in 1935. Her father died when she was 4 in WWII. Her mother re-married and her stepfather was a very good man. Her early education is sketchy. She learned accounting and bookkeeping which in her later business life came in handy. However, "she hated statistics." She is a good amateur photographer, and has 3 children. It took her 1 year to obtain a visa to the U.S. She worked in the photography department, and then the jewelry department at Montgomery Wards. She met her husband in San Francisco and later became a businesswoman with a successful self-storage business which in the beginning (1976) she knew nothing about. Her business acumen has featured good long-

term relations with her employees, some over 20 years. Ruth is one of Club's most beloved members.

Ron B's beginning was in Huntington, Indiana. At age 4, his family moved to Albert Lea, Minnesota. He lived there until high school, moving to Chicago where he graduated. Ron tells an interesting story about his entry into the U.S. Army, and how after an interview he wound up in counterintelligence. Before marriage because he wanted to earn more money, Ron went to Officer Candidate School. With his new bride, he wound up in Frankfort, Kentucky, not Europe. During his military experience he always wore civilian clothes, not military uniforms. After the Manhattan Project, as a 23-year-old, Ron was assigned with others to interview every Lieutenant Colonel at Fort Knox.

Ron's career in marketing was with such notable companies as IBM; Proctor and Gamble; and Transamerica. His work at Transamerica brought him here. He also has had executive responsibilities in Poland. Knows a lot of Polish jokes but won't tell any. Before joining our Club, Ron was in the Lamorinda Club. He enjoys Rotary for what it brings to the community. Ron wants to have fun in his work with Rotary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7	Fab Five meeting – Hillside Event Center
Feb 12	10 am New Member Orientation – Bill B.s home
Feb 14	Connor Merrigan – Summit Financial
Feb 28	10:30 RRF Trustee meeting
Feb 18	Anne Bevilacqua- Prison Teaching

PHOTOS



Patrice and Sue



Irv and Sue



Ruth and Sue



Ron and Sue