



# ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



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**Notes:** Anne Hetland

**Photos:** Paul Wilson, David Brown

February 1, 2023

**Club Website:** [www.rossmoorrotary.org](http://www.rossmoorrotary.org)

**District Website:** [www.rotary5160.org](http://www.rotary5160.org)

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## MEETING NOTES: 02/01/23

**Call to Order:** President David Brown opened the meeting at 12 p.m. Jim Olson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests and Visiting Rotarians:** Fab 5 club members including: DG Suzanne Bragdon, DG Elect Claire Roberts, DG Nominee Dan Gerald, DG Designate Joy Alaidarous, Past DGs George Schafey, Jim Cambell, Susan Waite, and Mark Roberts.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today was the Fab Five annual meeting at the Event Center in Rossmoor. About 136 people were in attendance. The President of each of the Fab Five clubs gave a short speech summarizing their club's activities for the preceding year:

President of the Lamorinda Sunrise Club, Daniel Herbert, spoke how their club helped with the education of the youth in the community, helping those in need in the area, and also about their international work in Africa.

Co-President of the Moraga club, Igor Kipnis, spoke of their education work in the community, international work in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Dinners with Rotary, to help acquaint members of the community with Rotary. Their club was also interested in waste management.

President Kimberly Lam of the Lafayette Rotary spoke of working with families in need in the area, and said that they were also interested in waste management. Their Concert at the Res in May was a successful money raiser for their work.

President Rodney Lal of the Orinda Rotary spoke of delivering meals, helping local charities, their annual fishing excursion to the San Pablo Dam Reservoir with underprivileged children from Oakland, and the planting of trees.

President David Brown of the Rossmoor Rotary spoke of our successful Gala benefiting Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, our See's Candies money raiser, food drive, golf fund raiser, money for Ukraine, sending 3 students to camp, and our help to Brian in Uganda, who is working to become a nurse.

All the clubs were very effective in raising money and helping worthwhile causes here and abroad.

## PROGRAM

Our speaker was Adam Hochschild, author of many books of history. His speech was about his latest book, called *American Midnight*.

The book looks at the time period between 1917 to 1921, which covers WWI to the Roaring 20s. Supposedly we were as one in the country fighting the war, then at peace after the war ended.

But instead this period was one of much unrest, and the foundations of American democracy were threatened by the war and by violence at home fueled by battles over race, the immigration of Germans, Jews, Italians, and Poles, and the rights of labor. These factor led to riots, killings, and actions and court cases that undermined our freedom of speech and freedom to congregate peacefully. In 1917 Congress passed the Espionage Act, upheld unanimously by the Supreme Court, which gave the government power to suppress dissent during wartime. For example, freedom of speech was massively curtailed when magazines and newspapers were censored effectively by the Postmaster General, who refused to send through the mails periodicals which he felt fueled dissent.

The war, then worries that the revolution of the workers in Russia might spread here, led to horrific worker suppression, race riots, and immigrant exploitation. The book discusses, among others, President Woodrow Wilson and his failure to do anything to calm the waters and discusses Herbert Hoover, who sent his men to help in the suppressions.

Our constitutional democracy was threatened. But we did survive this period, which gives us hope in our now trying times.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 8	10:30 Club Board of Directors meeting
Feb 8	Vanessa Russell – Love Never Fails – human trafficking
Feb 15	10:30 RRF Trustee meeting
Feb 15	Jeff Matheson – Rossmoor General Manager

## PHOTOS



Igor Kipnis and Rodney Lal







**Kimberly Lam and David Brown**





Dan Herbert and Jim Olson



