



ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



President: David Brown **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595 D5160 Club 461

Notes: Anne Hetland **Photos:** Paul Wilson June 7, 2023

Club Website: www.rossmoorrotary.org

District Website: www.rotary5160.org

MEETING NOTES: 06/07/23

Call to Order: Hoagie led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no patriotic song today.

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Peter Van Slyke and Steve Epstein are new members. Carolyn brought Allison, a prospective member.

Sunshine: Tillie's memorial – see below

Thought for the Day: Irv read from *The Cry for Justice*, an Upton Sinclair edited book for which Jack London wrote the introduction. Irv read an excerpt from that introduction. It dealt with understanding, unselfishness, service, truth and strength to make opportunity for men to make themselves into caring and productive men. Irv felt Jack London would have been a fine Rotarian.

Happy Dollars: Joy was happy about attending the Rotary International Annual Meeting in Melbourne with 14,000 Rotarians from all over the world; Eddie was happy about his birthday (80), his good friend Steve joining Rotary, and the bandage off his wrist; Bill was happy about his grandson's high school graduation; John K, his daughter's graduation from prekindergarten; and David for his oldest granddaughter's graduation from 8th grade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raffle: Eddie won the money, \$138. He donated \$50 to the college fund for Ellie, John K's daughter, and will have a dinner with the rest. Steve Epstein won a bottle of wine.

Anniversaries: Sue, an anniversary as a member of Rossmoor Rotary since June, 2007; Eddie and Wolfgang Meier, birthdays in June.

Announcements: John Bernardin announced that the Rotary Foundation (International) has the highest rating a charity can have. The money you donate is invested for 3 years. During that time the income helps run the Foundation. After the 3 years, ½ of the donated money is turned back to your District for projects. Remember EREY: Every Rotarian Every Year. The Paul Harris Award is awarded in recognition of every \$1,000 given to the Foundation. John then presented Meiko with 2 Paul Harris awards, as one donation now gets double points for the award.

John K then announced that our Club has its own Rotary Foundation (Rossmoor). At our next meeting we will be voting for Trustees for our Foundation.

PROGRAM

Our speaker was Kelly Berto, Senior Manager of Resident Services for Rossmoor. This is a new position created to incorporate a mid-level management position, directly under the supervision of Jeff Matheson, who has been promoted to General Manager. She began working for Rossmoor in February, 2001, in her early 20s. She commutes from Roseville. In 2015 she was promoted to Recreation Manager. Now, in April of this year, she was promoted to her new position, Senior Manager of Resident Services. In this position she oversees the following departments: Recreation, Custodial Services, Transportation, Fitness, Aquatics, and Counseling. She at the moment is also still Recreation Manager, while searching for someone to fill that position.

Her plans for the various departments include opening up more on-line services for the Rec Dept. There are over 200 clubs at Rossmoor, and many people now want more on-line access. Custodial Services include setting up for all the events, plus audio and visual support, all of which needs streamlining. The Transportation Department no longer has fixed routes. Passengers must call ahead. They are looking into adding a few fixed routes. The Counseling Department is looking to expand its services. It sponsors a Health Fair every year.

The Fitness Center has a new (1 year) manager, Christine. The Fitness and Aquatics Departments are combining in July, and are planning a Camp Rossmoor later in the year. At Camp Rossmoor, residents can try all the activities, gym, golf, tennis, etc., free for a week to see all that is available.

The Departments all rely on each other and need each other to work together. Ensuring that is Kelly's main goal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14	10:30 Club Board of Directors meeting
June 14	Sharon Long – Gala planning committee update
June 21	10:30 RRF Trustee meeting
June 21	David Brown – Presidential Awards
June 28	Bill Broxham – Presidential Demotion

PHOTOS



Mieko receives Paul Harris Award from John Bernardin



Speaker Kelly Berto



Kelly receives appreciation from Jim Olson

A LIFE WELL LIVED

Thelma "Tillie" Schiller was born on New Year's Eve in 1919, the daughter of two Norwegians, Oscar and Janette Rastad. Janette, who emigrated to America in 1912 at sixteen years old, originally had a ticket for the S.S. Titanic but chose to take a later ship with several girlfriends. Oscar and Janette were married in 1916 and had two daughters, Helen and Tillie. The family lived in San Francisco, where Tillie attended Lowell High School and later San Francisco State College.

San Francisco State was the site of an all-American love story: the vivacious Tillie was a cheerleader and Dave Schiller was a star football player. They married on Christmas Day, 1941. Dave went on to play professional football for the Packers, the Clippers, and the 49ers, while Tillie gave birth to two sons, David (in 1942) and Brad (in 1943).

For many years Tillie taught high school, first as a substitute teacher in San Francisco and then later as a longtime tennis and swimming coach at Hillsdale High School. She was passionate about teaching and genuinely loved her students. That love was reciprocated with letters and accolades that continued for years after her retirement.

After 67 years of marriage, Tillie's husband, Dave, passed away in 2008 and Tillie made Rossmoor her primary home.

Her boundless energy allowed her to stay active in sports, participate in a variety of community organizations, and spend valuable time with her family and friends. For her 100th birthday, she invited 53 guests on a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico, returning to California just one week before the COVID-19 outbreak forced the quarantining of cruise ships!

Among the many activities Tillie loved were the weekly lunches and social gatherings at Walnut Creek's Rotary Club and alumni events at Hillsdale High, SF State, and the Daughters of Norway. At age 103, she was still flirtatious, thrilled when someone at the Rotary Club would ask her to dance or offer a ride home.

After a bout of congenital heart failure in early April, however, Tillie had to trim her schedule. For the last two weeks of her life she was advised by her doctor to remain at home and in bed. Her loving caregivers, Deborah Easter and Norma Lee, helped her to occasionally break those rules — which she enjoyed. Fortunately, she was alert, sharp, and lively enough to receive a stream of visitors until her very last day.

Tillie is survived by her son (Brad), three grandchildren (Justin, Ashley, Megan), and four great-grandchildren (Kaitlin, David, Max, Wade).



SHE WANTED TO LIVE, AND LIVE FULLY,
AND TO GIVE LIFE, SHE WHO LOVED LIFE!
WHAT WAS THE GOOD OF EXISTING, IF
YOU COULDN'T GIVE YOURSELF?

— ÉMILE ZOLA



THELMA "TILLIE" SCHILLER

DECEMBER 31, 1919 – APRIL 21, 2023