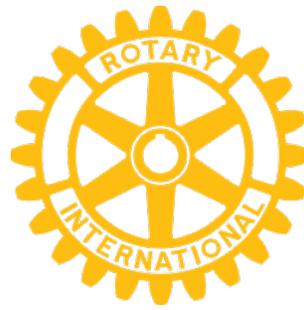


Rotary

Club of Oakland



Club Meetings

January 22
William B. Taylor, Jr.

January 29
Offsite – BART Hayward
Maintenance Complex
Behind the scenes tour

Service Projects

**Alameda County
Community
Food Bank**
Feb. 22 – 8:30 – 11:30 am
Register on Club Calendar

Special Events

Glowfari – Oakland Zoo
January 22 – 5:30 – 7 pm

District Conference
May 1 -3, 2026
Reno, Nevada
Go to Club Calendar
for registration link.

**Rotary International
Convention**
June 13 – 17, 2026
Taipei, Taiwan

Committee Meetings

KinderPrep
Jan 21 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

DEI
Jan 26 – 5 – 6 pm

Next Club Meeting – January 22, 2026 – William B. Taylor, Jr.

Past President David Stein announced that next week's speaker is William B. Taylor, Jr. Former US Ambassador to Ukraine. He will share insights on the latest developments in Russia's war against Ukraine, plus U.S. efforts to bring the conflict to an end. He will also speak about the U.S.-Russia relationship, all within the broad context of shifting American foreign policies.

The meeting will be on Zoom only starting at 12:30 pm.

To join on Zoom, use this link [Thursday Club Meeting](#)

Rotary Meeting Highlights for January 15, 2026

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka, aka "Coach Joe", called to order the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland at 12:34 pm in our new Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts location. Due to glitches in the audio-visual connection, attendees, particularly on Zoom, we were unable to hear or view parts of the meeting. **Visitors** **Coach Joe** introduced Visiting Rotarian Martha Goralka, charter president of the Delta-Antioch Rotary Club.

Shannon Hackley, **Robert Raburn** and **Isaac Kos-Read** were among those who brought guests.

Thought for the Day – Jake Schoneker

Jake Schoneker provided today's Thought for the Day encouraging us to meet our challenges. His final words were "Things turn best for the people who make them best."

Banner Presentation – Mike Melone

Mike Melone brought a banner from the Budapest-Sasad Club where he recently attended a meeting.

New Member Induction – Nate Vieira-Ducey

President Joe then shared that introducing and inducting new members is his favorite part of being the club president.

Membership

Jan. 28 – 5 – 6 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

January

01 – Maria Alderete
01 – Faye Brandin
01 – Ann Brick
01 – Moya Robinson
02 – Katie Hall
02 – Peter Turner
03 – Elida Scola
04 – Ramona Chang
06 – Rick Draper
07 – Stevan Alvarado
09 – Garrett Riegg
09 – Dudley Thompson
14 – Diane Schaffer
16 – Tom Love
19 – Gary Flaxman
23 – Sonja Fitz
25 – Jeannine Menger
27 – Linda Hamilton
27 – Randy Reed
29 – Randy Arnold
30 – Ed Silva
31 – Marie Sescon

Membership Anniversaries

Thank you for your years
of
service to the Club and
the community!

January

Carla Betts – 38 years
Dana Sack – 30 years
Daniel Cheng – 28 years
Greg Gilbert – 21 years
Linda Boessenecker – 18
years
Karen Friedman – 15
years
Kathy Dwyer – 13 years

Past President Tom Limon introduced our newest member **Nate Vieira-Ducey**. **Nate** works for Corovan, a commercial moving company. He recently managed the move of Samuel Merritt University to the new downtown campus. He is a 5th generation Californian. His family originally immigrated from Portugal. An alum of Bishop O'Dowd, he attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

President Joe then presented **Nate** with his Rotary pin and badge and encouraged him to get involved. Welcome **Nate**!



Enterprise Institute

Trisha Connors and **Marie Sescon**, co-chairs of the Enterprise Institute Committee, gave us an update of the Institute that will be held March 13 – 15. We saw testimonials from Rotarians as well as past Enterprise Institute participants. Volunteers are still needed for the entire weekend, or you can come just on Saturday. Contact **Trisha** or **Marie** to participate.

Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts

Terri Trotter from the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts thanked us for using the facility. There will be a week long celebration for its official opening starting January 19th. Oakland Rotary is the first organization to have regular use of the facility.

Club Announcements

Past President Ed Jellen invited us all to meet up at Glowfari at the Oakland Zoo on January 22nd. This is open to children, family, friends, parents, grandparents,

Wil Hobbs – 13 years
Gary Hall – 9 years
Gabe Bruck – 7 years
Katie Hall – 7 years
John Malick – 6 years
Jesse Bowdle – 5 years
Greg Knight – 5 years
Kevin Hunter – 4 years
Jennifer Shanoski – 2 years
Kathleen Uribe – 2 years
Vera Hannush – 1 year
Charlene Wang – 1 year

everyone is welcome. Get tickets on the Oakland Rotary website.

Robert Raburn invited members to the off-site club meeting on January 29th at the South Hayward BART Maintenance Complex. Rotarians will board the Lake Merritt station BART train at 12:02 pm to travel to the maintenance yard.

Coach Joe invited members to come early on February 5th for a pre-meeting reception honoring long-time member **Gail Uilkema**. **Gail** will be relocating to Southern California.

Bill Swartz, Speech Contest Chair, announced we already have two students confirmed and may reach the limit of six. The contest will take place on February 26th. Volunteers are needed to serve as judges (training is provided), greeters, and timers. More information is available on the Club Website.

Past President David Stein announced the annual Brown Bag Lunch meeting will be held on April 16th. Members will have the opportunity to visit the business of a fellow Rotarian. Ten sites are needed. Please contact **David** if you are interested in hosting a small group of members at your business. Lunches will be provided.

Kira Pascoe of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation announced the Tree Planting Service Day on Martin Luther King Day, January 19th has been postponed. More information to come.

January Birthdays

President Joe invited everyone to sing Happy Birthday to members celebrating birthdays in January. The honor of wearing the birthday hat went to **Past**



President Dudley Thompson.

Speaker for the Day — Senator Monique Limon

Our speaker was Monique Limon, California State Senate President Pro-Tem. She is the first Latina, the first mother and the first Senator from the Central Coast to hold this position. A graduate of UC Berkeley, she has spent time in Oakland. 2026 will be a busy year of uncertainty with lots of budgetary challenges. Changes at the Federal level are having a big impact on the California budget. Some of the issues the legislature will be dealing with this year include health, housing and response to natural disasters.

If members have questions or comments for Senator Limon, please email them to Olivia.Wilson@sen.ca.gov.



Bell Ringers

Daniel Cheng rang the bell.

Joe Goralka rang the bell for **Nate Vieira-Ducey**.

President Joe announced **Past President David Stein** officially retired from Donahue Fitzgerald law firm at the end of December.

Randy Arnold, Joe Goralka, Shannon Hackley, Pam Claassen, Nuno Ferreira, Elida Scola, Harold Lowe, Kerry Hamill, Anne Brick, Linda Hamilton, Pat Williams, Dudley Thompson, Ces Butner, Danny Wan, Linda Boessenecker, Wise Allen, Jake Schoneker, C J Hirschfield and **Wil Hobbs** rang the bell in honor of **David Stein's** retirement.

David Stein rang the bell twice, including once for his friends in Rotary.

Adjourn

Coach Joe shared that through Rotary world peace will be established one day and polio will be eliminated as he adjourned the meeting promptly at 1:30 pm.