

Rotary

Club of Oakland



Speakers

October 8
Clifford Stoll

October 15
Linda Shively

October 22
Dr. Emil Kakkis



Special Events

Rotary Halloween Party

October 29
Chapel of the Chimes

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

October
02 – Ruth Stroup
04 – Lorna Padia Markus
09 – Tommy Edwards
09 – Andrew Shalauta
09 – Pat Williams
10 – Pauline Fox
11 – Isaac Kos-Read
12 – Wise Allen
13 – Cristy Johnston-Limon
16 – Jason Wizelman
17 – Tobi Ogedegbe
18 – Sean Marx
19 – Ama Torrance
20 – Mike Melone
22 – Nadine de Coteau

???????Next Club Meeting – October 8, 2026 – Clifford Stoll

Next week's speaker will be Clifford Stoll, whose topic is Stalking The Wily Hacker. The meeting will be at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts. Fellowship starts at 12 noon and the program starts at 12:30 pm.

Forty years ago, Cliff stumbled across a 75-cent accounting error in a computer system at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, where he was working as an astronomer. That led to work he and his team have done in pursuing hackers.

Cliff will revisit the chase – not just to remember, but to ask what changed, what didn't, and why a 75-cent mystery still matters today.

The meeting will be in person as well as on Zoom.

For those joining on Zoom, use this link [Thursday Club Meeting](#)

Rotary Meeting Highlights – October 1, 2026

Call to Order

President Merlin Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Past President Dudley Thompson introduced Ryan Clausnitzer from the Rotary Club of Alameda. Also visiting was Ed Titus from the San Lorenzo Valley Rotary Club in Felton.

26 – Bob Lee
27 – Ed Brail
28 – Maurice Arnold
29 – Shanna O'Hare

Membership Anniversaries

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

October
Leslie Hilger – 48 years
John Protopappas – 41
years
Ana Cretian – 26 years
Joe Goralka – 24 years
Stephanie Casenza – 16
years
Steve Nicholls – 16 years
Preston Pinkney – 10
years
Ruth Stroup – 9 years
Greg Annis – 8 years
Maren Amdal --- 5 years
Isa Chu – 5 years
Ursula Jones Dickson – 1
year
Kira Pascoe – 1 year
Danny Wan – 1 year

Rotarians introduced their guests.

Thought for the Day – C J Hirschfield

C J Hirschfield shared a quote from Henry Ford. “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Self Introduction – Bill Swartz

In three minutes, **Bill Swartz** told about growing up in San Diego and developing a love for Disneyland magic. That led him to a career of developing and publishing video games for 39 years. He values five principles: Kindness, Trust, Optimism, Determination & Motivation (grit) and Humble Gratitude. He loves RCO#3 and is quick to ask others if they also do. He has taken leadership in organizing the annual speech contest which will take place in the spring.

Bill thanked **Barbara Beery**, **Daniel Cheng** and **Past President Joe Goralka** for supporting him in joining Rotary and getting involved. **President Merlin** presented **Bill** with his Blue badge and thanked him for working with the speech contest at the club as well as District level.

Announcements

Oakland Port Harbor Tour

Jeannine Menger reported the Port of Oakland Tour was enjoyed by about 40 Rotarians. They saw cranes that were 480 feet high and massive container ships. In addition, she commented on the high expanses of wetlands and bike trails as well as vast waterfront property. An extra bonus was the sunset over San Francisco and the moonrise over Alameda. As Rotarians like to do, the night ended with drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Volunteer to help OUSD Students

Trisha Connors needs more volunteers to help with our activities with OUSD. We are helping students with resume building and capstone projects as well as developing other skills. Contact **Trisha** if you have time and would like to get involved.

Pennies & Used Eyeglasses Project

We are still collecting pennies and eyeglasses, If you have any, please bring them to a meeting.

International Convention Sign-Up

President Merlin reminded us that if you're interested in going to the convention in Barcelona, the price is now \$795. Sign up before the prices go up even further.

Upcoming meeting information

We will adopt the Constitution at our October 15th meeting. On October 22nd, we will celebrate our international polio program. We will also be elected our Club Nominating Committee members on that day.

Educational Quiz and Fellowship

Members and guests were invited to open the envelope on each of their tables and spend time seeking answers the questions in the envelope. Today's theme was Rotary and U.S. Presidents.

Here are the questions and their answers:

Q: Are any living presidents currently a Rotarian?

A: No

Q: Who is the oldest President to be a Rotarian?

A: Jimmy Carter

Q: Who was the first President to become a Rotarian?

A: Warren Harding (George Washington was not correct!)

Q: How many Presidents have been Rotarians?

A: Seven. Warren Harding, Jimmy Carter, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, John F. Kennedy and George H. W. Bush.

Speaker for the Day – Cristy Johnston-Limon

We were lucky to have our very own **Cristy Johnston-Limon** as our speaker. Introduced by her husband, **Past President Tom Limon**, **Cristy** is Deputy Director of the Department of Economic and Workforce Development for the City of Oakland. She has been the Executive Director for several non-profits over the last few years in San Francisco and Oakland. She is currently Chair of the Bandaloop Board and is Treasurer for the American Conservatory Theater Board of Directors.

The City of Oakland adopted a five-year Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) a year ago. It is being implemented by the Department of Economic and Workforce Development Department. The first year has just ended and **Cristy** presented the EDAP First Year Results and shared What's Next. The recap follows. Oakland is working on bringing Costco to West Oakland. This would bring 400 new jobs. A solar Manufacturing Company hopefully is coming to Oakland. Samuel Merritt University moved their campus downtown; this will bring 2,000 people to the downtown area. A Native American Health Center is opening in the Fruitvale. Thirty-seven new businesses have opened this year.

Some projects in the pipeline include Affordable housing units. The Oakland Ballers signed a 10-year lease and the Oakland Ice Rink signed a new lease. A new library will be opening up in West Oakland. The Howard Terminal will be the permanent home for The Roots. The City is providing \$2.5 million for façade improvements. There are a lot of positive things happening. **Cristy** encouraged us to tell our Oakland story!

Here is a link to the [5 Year Plan](#) that Cristy spoke about in her presentation.



Bellringers

Joe Goralka, Daniel Cheng, Jesse Schmidt, Keith Uriarte and Mark Goralka rang the bell in honor of **Bill Swartz**.

Darren Moore rang the bell in honor of **Andrew Brown**.

Linda Boessenecker rang the bell for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and that she has been cancer-free for 13 years.

Merlin Ewards and Christine Williams rang the bell in honor of **Linda Boessenecker**

Isaac Kos-Read rang the bell in honor of the giant La Catrina sculpture that just went on display in the Fruitvale.

Adjournment

President Merlin adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.