

Rotary

Club of Oakland



We Care Corner

The We Care Committee reaches out to members when help is needed for a variety of reasons.

Areas of expertise include:

Home care information
including equipment & supplies
Post surgery help
Logging on to Zoom
A ride to the weekly Club
meeting
Choosing a committee
Some cheer during a rough
time

Send a confidential email to the
We Care Committee address
RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com

We will reach out with sensitivity
and be sure we offer appropriate
support.

Rotary is here for you. Let's
stay close and connect!

Club Meetings

October 9
Ursula Jones Dickson

October 16
Bill Sokol

October 23
Tami Mucahy

Service Projects

Tree Planting Project
With City of Oakland
November 1

LIVE OAK October 2, 2025

**??????? Next Club Meeting – October 9, 2025 –
Ursula Jones Dickson**

President Joe Goralka announced our next speaker will be **Ursula Jones Dickson**. She is Alameda County District Attorney. **Ursula** will share her vision for justice, safety and equity. **The meeting will take place at 1721 Broadway at 12:30 pm instead of the California**



Ballroom.

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 for October 2, 2025

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka, aka “Coach Joe”, called to order the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland, the 3rd oldest Rotary Club in the world, at 12:30 pm. He welcomed members and guests attending in person and online and reminded us that Oakland Rotary is where members come together to take action for local and global impact, and

Prescott Market

**Food Insecurity Volunteer
Tray-line Meal Assembly**

October 27 – 9:00 – 11:15 am

SOS Meals on Wheels

Second & Fourth Mondays

Contact Karen Friedman to
participate.

**St. Vincent DePaul
Holiday Party**
December 13

Special Events

**Oktoberfest Business
Mixer**

October 9 – 5 – 7:30 pm

Minuteman Press

**Piedmont Montclair Rotary
Pickleball Tournament**

October 11

Oakland Hills Tennis Club

**District 5170 Avenues
Of Service**

October 16

Columbo Club

Halloween Party

October 30

Chapel of the Chimes

Holiday Party

December 6

Home of Fred Morse

**Rotary International
Convention**

June 13 – 17, 2026

Taipei, Taiwan

Register and pay in
full by Dec 15, 2025
for discount.

Committee Meetings



have fun together.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Past President Mary Geong introduced Dianne Dorn, member of Pleasanton North Rotary Club and District 5170 Lieutenant Governor for the East Bay (Areas 1, 4 and 5).

C J Hirschfield, Past President Tom Limon, David Kersten and Mandolin Kadera-Redmond introduced their guests.

Yom Kippur

Pres. Joe called attention to today being Yom Kippur, being the highest day of the year in Judaism, focusing on reflection, atonement and renewal.

Thought for the Day – Ed Jellen

Past President and Past District Governor Ed Jellen announced his topic for the day is Success. He proceeded to share a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

To laugh often and much: To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has

breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

Community Service

Oct. 8 – 4 – 5 pm

Fun, Sport & Adventure

Oct. 8 – 6 – 7:15 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

October

02 – Ruth Strou

04 – Lorna Padia Markus

09 – Tommy Edwards

09 – Andrew Shaulata

09 – Pat Williams

10 – Pauline Fox

11 – Isaac Kos-Read

12 – Wise Allen

13 – Cristy Johnston-Limon

16 – Jason Wizelman

18 – Sean Marx

18 – Lou Rigali

19 – Ama Torrance

20 – Mike Melone

26 – Bob Lee

27 – Ed Brail

27 – Kristina Brouhard

28 – Maurice Arnold

29 – Shanna O'Hare

Membership

Anniversaries

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

September

Leslie Hilger – 47 years

John Protopappas – 40 years

Eric Angstadt – 33 years

Ana Chretien – 25 years

Joe Goralka – 23 years

Stephanie Casenza – 15 years

Steve Nicholls – 15 years

Greg Annis – 7 years

Isa Chu – 4 years

Meeting Sponsor – Bill Palmer

Bill Palmer is an executive coach and founder of the Clubfoot Fund. Clubfoot is the fourth most common birth defect, affecting one in 200,000 children. **Bill** was born with club foot. In 2026 the Fund will be working in Ethiopia to assist people and provide advanced training for surgeons. He hopes this cause will be worthy of the Rotary's support through a global grant.

New Members – Kira Pascoe and Ursula Jones Dickson

Ana-Marie Jones came to the podium to introduce new member, **Kira Pascoe**. **Kira** is Development Director for Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation. Two interesting facts: she has hiked all the trails in Redwood Regional Park, and the East Bay Ridge Trail between Wildcat Canyon and Cull Canyon. She also developed a food program in Montana.

Keith Uriarte introduced our newest member, **Ursula Jones Dickson**. **Ursula** is Alameda County District of Attorney. Two interesting facts: She modeled briefly when she was in high school and college, and she loves football.

Coach Joe welcomed and presented them with their new member badges, Rotary pins, roster, 4-way test and other Rotary goodies and told them to never hesitate to say "hey coach put me in!"

New Paul Harris Fellows

Pam Claassen and **Pat Raburn** became the Club's newest Paul Harris Fellows. **Ruth Stroup**, Chair of The Rotary Foundation Campaign, presented them with their pins and certificates.

District Governor Herb Ritter

Past President Dudley Thompson introduced Herb Ritter who was making the annual District Governor's visit to the Club. Herb is a member of the Pleasanton North Rotary Club. Originally, he joined the North Stockton Club 36 years ago where he met the legendary Past International President Cliff Dochterman.

Herb described how people see Rotary as an iceberg. Before joining, they see Rotary for its fundraisers and helping the community. After joining they see the deeper values including teamwork, fellowship and extensive service.

Herb also told us that all District clubs are using the DACdb as their platform and thanks to the District it will now be free.

He reminded us to Lead with vision, Serve with heart, and Leave your mark!

October Birthdays

Pres. Joe saluted members celebrating their birthday in October. He had

the Rotary Birthday Hat in hand and gave it to **Ruth Stroup** to wear since today is her birthday. She dutifully wore it while everybody sang Happy Birthday and then quickly gave it back to **Coach Joe** for safe-keeping!

Announcements

Past President Dudley Thompson announced that the Golf Tournament has been postponed.

Speakers for the Day — Alexis Madrigal

Ahmad Anderson introduced Alexis Madrigal, author of *The Pacific Circuit*.

Alexis told us his mom had been a Rotarian in Vancouver, Washington.

His book, *The Pacific Circuit*, describes Oakland's role in global economy, and centers in West Oakland. It began during the Vietnam War when supplies needed to be sent across the Pacific Ocean. The Port of Oakland became the first on the west coast to be able to ship cargo containers. The Port had the land for creating the loading area, container storage, and access roads.

Seventh Street provided the truck access, although it required removing housing and closing many businesses. BART now runs down 7th Street also. At the same time, the air is now 70 – 90 percent cleaner.

The takeaways are: Oakland is part of the integrated regional picture. Damage has not been repaired – there is lots of space for remediation.

Oakland has become a poster child for gentrification and non-
image.png



gentrification

Bellringers

Pam Claassen rang the bell for Alexis Madrigal.
Another Rotarian, out of microphone range, rang the bell.

Adjourn

Pres. Joe thanked those who helped put on today's meeting and adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm. He reminded everyone that through Rotary world peace will come someday, and we will end polio too.