

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:

Information on home care,
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

November 6
Tim Gardner

November 13
Shirley Grace

November 20
Br.Guy Consolmagno SJ

December 4
Saleem Gilmore

December 11
Joanne Sokol

Next Club Meeting – November 13, 2025 – Shirley Grace – The Rotary Foundation

Ruth Stroup announced the club will be back in the Ballroom. Next week's speaker will be Shirley Grace, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, and a cyclist who has raised over \$400,000 for End Polio Now.

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 November 6, 2025

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka, also known as **Coach Joe**, opened the meeting at 12:30 pm, noting that the club is testing the field today, with today's meeting in the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Allison Bliss, Past President David Stein, Danny Wan, Fred Morse, Cristy Johnston-Limon and **Susan Smith** introduced their guests.

Coach Joe lauded new member **Danny Wan**, for inviting his guest and neighbor, Kaitlin Levenstrong, after being a member for one week.

Thought for the Day – Susan Smith

In honor of today's new Paul Harris Fellows, **Susan Smith** quoted from Paul Harris, who said "The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm of foundation could it have stood." In reference to last week's World Series, **Susan** recalled the incomparable Yogi Berra, who would have said "We have a good time together, even when we're not together."

In Memoriam – Bob Peltz

President Joe asked for a moment of silence in memory of an esteemed club member of 44 years, **Bob Peltz**, who passed this week.

December 18
Mitchell Schwarzer

Service Projects

Food Insecurity Volunteer Tray-line Meal Assembly

Nov. 24 – 9:00 – 11:15 am
SOS Meals on Wheels
Second & Fourth Mondays
Contact Karen Friedman to
participate.

St. Vincent DePaul Holiday Party

December 16

Special Events

Holiday Party

December 11
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

Karl Stucki World Community Service

Nov. 11 – 5 – 5:30 pm

Business Development

Nov. 11 – 5 – 6 pm

KinderPrep

Nov 19 – 5 – 6 pm

WeCare

Nov. 20 – 5 – 6 pm

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Nov. 24 – 5 – 6 pm

Membership

Update on a New Meeting Location

Observing that we are looking for a new stadium, **Pres. Joe** invited **Past President Tom Limon** to the podium, who as chair of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee worked with its members to check out more than 20 possible locations for the club's weekly lunch meetings. Cost, location, capacity, parking, access to public transportation, on-site storage, and office space on-site or nearby are the primary categories considered. Committee members include **President Joe Goralka, Ali Medina, Pat Williams, Gary Flaxman, Past President David Stein, Past President Shannon Hackley, President-Elect Merlin Edwards, Jil Loh, Pam Claassen, Past President John Protopappas, and Jesse Bowdle.**

Noting that feedback from everyone is welcome, **Tom** reminded the club that we have already "tested the field" at the former Holy Names College and the Cathedral Event Center. **Tom** noted that the committee toured this location once, and did so again a month later after building renovations had progressed. Advising that this space is a work in progress and will continue to evolve, this particular room may not always be available to us, but there are other meeting spaces in the building. **Tom** asked that we complete the site survey that will be sent out regarding this location. Bell ringers in honor of **Tom** and the committee for their work searching for a replacement meeting place included **Erich Harris**, who noted that he was married in this building 36 years ago.



Nov. 26 – 5 – 6 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

November

05 – Sam Miller

09 – David Stein

09 – Kristine Watson

13 – Bill Palmer

15 – Carla Betts

18 – Jon Gresley

19 – Jack McAboy

21 – Pat Raburn

23 – Linda Boessenecker

23 – Mark Miller

30 – CJ Johnson

Membership Anniversaries

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

November

Garrett Dailey – 44 years

Mark Miller – 42 years

Mary Rudser – 35 years

Wendy Howard – 33 years

Wise Allen – 29 years

Kathy Kelleher – 24 years

Bob Spencer – 23 years

Harold Lowe – 22 years

Joycie Mack – 21 years

Stephanie Bolden – 19 years

Mike Melone – 18 years

Tom Limon – 13 years

Steve Blair – 11 years



New Member – Jeannine Menger

Past President Dudley Thompson introduced new member **Jeannine Menger**, who has worked for 30 years in tech and real estate development, and moved here from Olympia, Washington, where she was a Rotarian. Two facts about **Jeannine** are that she is a born natural golfer with significant course accomplishments over decades, and that she has played since high school in a band she started which performs monthly at the Chit Chat Cafe in Pacifica. Presenting **Jeannine** with her red badge, Rotary pin, and a copy of the Rotary Four Way Test, **Coach Joe** urged her to never hesitate to say “Put me in, Coach.” Welcome



Jeannine!

New Paul Harris Fellows

Coach Joe invited Oakland Rotary Foundation Chair **Ruth Stroup** to recognize several members for achieving Paul Harris status for service

Teresa Weyand – 9 years
Courtney Morse – 8 years
Maurice Arnold – 8 years
Jesse Schmidt – 7 years
Fanny Li – 6 years
Ramona Chang – 3 years
Julie Caskey – 2 years
Angela Darby – 2 years
CJ Johnson – 2 years
Tammeil Gilkerson – 1 year

or \$1,000 donations. **Ruth** invited new Paul Harris Fellow **Gary Flaxman** to introduce the others, **Jil Loh, Susan Smith, Jesse Schmidt, Kevin Hunter, Keith Uriarte, Kerry Hamill, Lois Corrin, Allison Bliss** and **Odalis Ordonez**. **Ruth** invited everyone to support the Rotary Foundation, and to contact her at any time regarding more information.



Tree Planting Day

Coach Joe invited **Catherine Coleman** to report on last week's tree planting service event with the Oakland Parks, then presented **Catherine** with a Rotary on the Run Medal for organizing club service events this year.



Halloween Party at Chapel of the Chimes

Coach Joe thanked member **Ed Brail** for sponsoring this year's terrific Halloween Party at the Chapel of the Chimes. He singled out winners and honorable mentions for great costumes included **Greg Annis**,

Randy Arnold, Martha Goralka, Marissa Edwards, **Sedrick Tydus**, **David Stein**, and John Lynch.



Holiday Nutcracker Event

Mack McFadden said he will keep talking about The Nutcracker performance on December 20 until everyone makes plans to attend. It features the Oakland Ballet, Oakland Symphony and Piedmont East Bay Children's Chir. The performance will start at 1 pm at the Paramount Theatre. Following the performance, everyone can walk nearby to Agave for fellowship.

Doing Business with Rotarians

Coach Joe thanked **Lorna Padia Markus** for the excellent meal he and Martha enjoyed at **Lorna's** new restaurant in El Sobrante, PJs, currently open during its soft opening period.

Speaker for the Day — Tim Gardner

Coach Joe invited **Marleen Sacks**, of Marleen Sacks Law Firm, to the podium to introduce today's speaker, Tim Gardner. **Marleen** characterized Tim as a government watchdog and newshound, and a cofounder of the Oakland Report weekly newsletter. His topic was The Infinite Unknown. It concerned the value of uncertainty in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Tim began by thanking a colleague who accompanied him here today, Sean Reinhart, who began as a volunteer and has now assumed leadership of the Oakland Report, his weekly free newsletter that uses reasonable evidence-based analytics to comment on Oakland activities. He said that in preparing remarks for today, he asked himself how to be politically interesting without being political. Tim said his remarks are centered on the city of Oakland, tribalism, and threading those equations. He will attempt to persuade us that uncertainty is a superpower, because it is actually the key to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Oakland Report is a civic news and commentary site launched in 2023, in response to alarming reductions in city services. He mentioned the graffiti ordinance which holds businesses responsible for clearing graffiti on their property, the fact that taxes are collected annually for a city pension fund that has a surplus and is largely funded, 15% deficit spending, and a lack of realistic decision-making about school closures. Tim objects to an assumption that voters are not interested in verifying what they read about city decisions. He said primary evidence, rigorous analysis, and a dispassionate voice are essential to honest government. Tim referenced Erwin Schrödinger's equation, considered the foundation of modern astronomy and physics, which, although it is a law of nature can never be entirely proven. An insistence on truth necessitates healthy doubt, because when we frame our analysis with doubt, we are open and sometimes arrive at truth. Tim posited that too often civic life presents a disregard for evidence and truth, turning instead to ideology.

Coach Joe advised Tim that the first principle of Rotary's Four-Way Test is "Is it the truth," thanked him for his remarks, and gave him a Rotary Four-Way pin and announced a donation to End Polio Now will be made in his



honor.

Bellringers

Linda Chew, David Stein, Dudley Thompson, Alex Poulsen, Ralph Sklar, Joe Goralka and Mary Rudser rang the bell in memory of **Bob Peltz**.

Isaac Kos-Read and **Erich Harris** rang the bell for **Tom Limon** and the Real Estate and Facilities Committee.

David Stein rang the bell for **Danny Wan**, who now working at Donahue Fitzgerald.

Elida Scola rang the bell for **Trisha Connors**.

Ali Medina rang the bell for **Odalis Ordonez** and **Isaac Kos-Read**.

Lorna Padia Markus rang the bell three times 1) for her brand new PJ's Italian Restaurant, 2)

for Rotarians who have already come to PJ's, and 3) for all the Rotarians who will come in the future.

Mary Rudser ran the bell twice for the visit to PJ's by **Marissa** and **Carla Betts** and Dan Gonzales and herself.

Dudley Thompson rang the bell for **Lorna Padia Markus** and PJ's.

Isaac Kos-Read rang the bell for **Mary Rudser** and **David Stein**.

Lois Corrin rang the bell twice -- for being a member of Oakland Rotary, and for the Love Life Foundation Gala on November 15th.

Jesse Schmidt rang the bell in honor of his recent engagement to Jeyshree Ramachandran.

Gail Uilkema and **Joe Goralka** rang the bell for **Jesse Schmidt**.

Trisha Connors and **Marleen Sacks** rang the bell for Tim Gardner.

Tour of the Henry J. Kaiser Center

Ralph Sklar invited Rotarians to take a brief tour of the building immediately following today's meeting.

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.