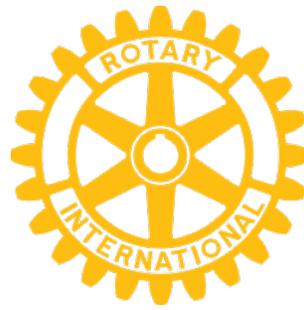


Rotary

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

December 18
Mitchell Schwarzer

January 8
Mayor Barbara Lee

Service Projects

Special Events

District Conference
May 1 -3, 2026
Reno, Nevada

Next Club Meeting – December 18, 2025 – Mitchell Schwarzer

Speaker Committee Chair and Past President David Stein announced that next week's speaker is Mitchell Schwarzer. He is author of "Hella Town", Oakland's History of Development and Disruption.



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 December 11, 2025

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka blew his whistle and called the penultimate meeting of 2025 to order at 12:30 pm.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

President Joe introduced spouse Martha Goralka, charter president of the Delta-Antioch Rotary Club.

President-Elect Merlin Edwards introduced guest Christine Williams.

Jillian Loh introduced guest Joe Jaoko.

Pres. Joe also recognized **Past President Robert Kidd** and **Honorary**

Discount Registration
Fee available until
Dec. 31. Go to Club
Calendar for registration
link.

Rotary International Convention

June 13 – 17, 2026
Taipei, Taiwan
Register and pay in
full by Dec 15, 2025
for discount.

Committee Meetings

KinderPrep

Dec. 17 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

We Care

Dec. 18 – 5 – 6 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

December

01 – Matt Davis

01 – Nik Dehejia

01 – Rosie Torres

05 – Ana Chretien

06 – Eric Angstadt

06 – Tya Modeste

13 – Stew Epstein

16 – Ginni Ring

16 – Danny Wan

19 – Peter Sherris

20 – Rick Baskin

20 – Teresa Weyand

23 – Gudrun Dybdal

23 – Elizabeth Johnson

24 – Mona Hall

27 – Jessica Arline

28 – Gary Hall

31 – Kathleen Uribe

Membership Anniversaries

Thank you for your years

Member Michael Valva.

Thought for the Day – Nuno Ferreira

On this day in 1946, the United Nations established UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). **Nuno Ferreira** also shared a quote from Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"

Rotary Banners from Italy

Julie Fox recently returned from Italy where she attended Rotary Club meetings. She presented three club banners to **President Joe**: Venice Rotary Club; Verona East Rotary Club; and Verona South Rotary Club.

President Joe conferred a "Rotary on the Run" medal on **Julie** for her extraordinary management of the weekly Rotary lunch program.

Annual Meeting

President Joe called the annual meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland to order.

President's Mid-Year Report

Joe presented his mid-year report which included the following:

- Four Interact and one Rotaract Club established
- Enterprise Institute applications exceed the available spots
- Community Service & World Community Service Committees received more grant applications than can be funded
- Received District 5170 grant to refurbish Play Island at Childrens Fairyland
- Ten meeting sponsors to date
- Hands-on projects including St. Vincent de Paul, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Oakland tree planting
- Award-winning entry in the Piedmont 4th of July parade
- Award-winning team at the Delta-Antioch Rotary cornhole tournament
- Feed the Hungry donations up 16%
- Rotary Foundation donations at 80% of goal
- Rotary Roadmap for new members
- Nineteen new members inducted
- Membership grew from 243 to 252
- Club provides over \$450,000 annually to fund projects that improve lives
- Rotary is on the Run

of service to Rotary Club of Oakland and the community!

December

Sheldon Crandall – 55 years
L. Morris Johnson – 47 years
Gail Uilkema – 38 years
David Douglas – 36 years
Bonnie Hamlin – 32 years
Kristina Brouhard – 24 years
Mark Rosen – 23 years
Catherine Coleman – 21 years
Stephanie Bolden – 17 years
Sedrick Tydus – 13 years
Allison Bliss – 12 years
Stevan Alvarado – 12 years
Joseph Koroma – 8 years
Stew Epstein – 4 years
Marleen Sacks – 3 years
Patricia Wells – 3 years
Jerry Owen – 2 years
Bonnie Prestridge – 2 years
Carey Clausen – 2 years
Brett Badelle – 1 year
Blase Bova – 1 year
Jay Conner – 1 year
Casey Farmer – 1 year
Tammeil Gilkerson – 1 year
Nikki Lowy – 1 year
Bill Palmer – 1 year

Treasurer's Mid-Year Financial Report

Treasurer Pam Claassen reported that the club's cash balance is up, delinquent dues are down and the preliminary audit has been received.

Election of Board of Directors members and President-Elect Nominee

Pres. Joe then conducted the election for directors and the president-elect-nominee. **Greg Knight, Ed Brail** and **Patricia Wells** were elected to three-year terms as club directors commencing July 1, 2026 and **Kerry Hamill** was elected to a one-year term as president commencing July 1, 2027. All nominees were elected by acclamation. Congratulations to **Greg, Ed, Patricia,** and **Kerry!**

The Rotary Foundation – Ruth Stroup

Foundation Chair Ruth Stroup reported that close to \$80,000 has been received to date from twenty percent of the members. She urged everyone to flip this number so that eighty percent of the members contribute to The Rotary Foundation. **Past President Shannon Hackley** will match foundation recognition points for any members who make a contribution. **Ruth** also recognized new member **Bill Swartz** who just became a Paul Harris Fellow.

St. Vincent de Paul Service Day

Bob Lee reminded members to sign up for the December 13th service day at the St. Vincent de Paul children's holiday party. Over 700 children and their families will attend this event. He asked members to sign up for a shift - no setup or cleanup will be required and Spanish speakers are desired. Contact **Catherine Coleman** for more details.





Cookie Exchange Contest Winner

President's Special Committee Chair Michael Bruck thanked everyone for bringing their holiday cookies to enjoy and take home. **Past Presidents Linda Boessenecker** and **Dudley Thompson**, the distinguished cookie judges, selected **Kathleen Uribe's** holiday cookies as the best in show. **Kathleen** won a coveted Entertainment Committee apron and a special spatula to be used to bake even more holiday cookies.

December Birthdays

This was a big day for **Kathleen Uribe** who not only won the cookie contest but was chosen to wear the Rotary birthday hat in celebration of her December birthday. Happy birthday to all members born this month.

Speaker for the Day — Joanna Sokol

C J Hirschfield introduced Joanna Sokol and Jon Carroll. Joanna is the author of "A Real Emergency: Stories from the Ambulance." Jon Carroll was a longtime S.F. Chronicle columnist and served as moderator for the presentation.

Joanna was born and raised in Oakland and spent thirteen years as a camper, counselor, and director of the Touch the Earth Camp in the Oakland hills. She has worked as a 911 emergency medical technician and ambulance driver for many years in Santa Cruz, Reno, and San Francisco.

Ambulance services fall into a gray area between emergency responders (police and fire) and hospitals. They have various operators including private, public, volunteer and hospitals. The ambulance service in Oakland is operated by Falck which handles all 911 calls. There is little profit in the ambulance business. The majority of patients fail to pay their bills. As a result, ambulance companies cut corners in wages, staffing, and training. Despite the challenges she faced as an EMT, she found joy

in the midst of the pain. Little known ambulance facts:

- Ambulance staff are required to wait with the patient at hospitals until hospital personnel take over their care
 - Freedom House Ambulance Service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was the first service to require training beyond basic first aid and had an all-Black staff
 - Fire departments started responding to emergency medical calls because the number of fires declined (and they often responded more quickly than ambulances).
- image.png



Bellringers

Joe Goralka rang the bell in honor of **Greg Knight, Ed Brail,** and **Patricia Wells.**

Joe Goralka rang the bell in honor of **Kerry Hamill.**

Kathleen Uribe rang the bell.

Wes Palmquist rang the bell in honor of **Pam Claassen** and Joanna Sokol.

Gary Flaxman rang the bell in honor of Joanna Sokol and **Romeo Garcia.**

Julie Fox rang the bell in honor of **Wendy Howard** and **Kerry Hamill.**

Adjourn

President Joe adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.