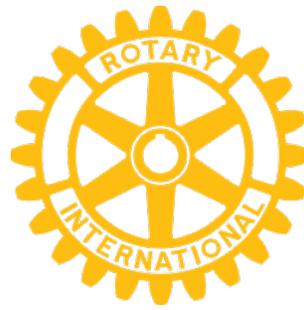


Rotary Club of Oakland



Club Meetings

February 12
Oakland Museum
Offsite – 3 pm

February 19
Congresswoman
Latifah Simon

February 26
Rotary Speech Contest

March 5
Maria Bonneville
California Institute
for Regenerative
Medicine

March 12
UCB Chancellor
Rich Lyons

Service Projects

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

SOS Meals on Wheels
Feb. 23 – 9:15 – 11:15 am

**Tree Planting Service
Day**
Feb. 28 – with Oakland
Parks & Recreation Fdn

Special Events

???????

Huddle with the

Next Club Meeting – February 19, 2026 – Congresswoman Lateefah Simon

Speaker Committee Chairperson and Past President David Stein announced on February 12th, in honor of Black History Month our meeting will be offsite at Oakland Museum of California, Black Spaces: Reclaim & Remain. The meeting will begin at 3 pm. Please register!

On February 19th our speaker will be Congresswoman Lateefah Simon. The meeting will be at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts. It will be in person as well on Zoom.

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

Rotary Meeting Highlights for February 5, 2026

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka, aka “**Coach Joe**”, welcomed the large group of Rotarians and Guests back “home” at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts after two weeks of “away” activities and rang the bell to begin the meeting. He reminded everyone that Oakland Rotary #3 is part of the 45,000 Clubs worldwide with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries making a local and global impact

Visitng Rotarians and Guests

Past President and current Truckee Rotarian, **Jon Gresley**, and **President Joe’s** wife and Charter President of the Delta-Antioch Rotary Club, Martha Goralka.

Rotarians introducing guests included **President Elect-elect Kerry Hamill**, **Daniel Cheng**, **Allison Bliss**, **President Elect Merlin Edwards**, **Past President David Stein**, **Past President Mary Rudser**, **Past President Michael Bruck**, **new member to be Christina Williams**, **Keith Uriarte** and **Gail Uilkema**. Finally, **Coach Joe** was thrilled to introduce his brother, Mark Goralka.

Thought for the Day – Jason Wizelman

Oakland Rotary Endowment President Jason Wizelman agreed to “pitch hit” to provide today’s thought. Being quick on his feet **Jason** shared this quote which seemed appropriate for the times; *“Let your smile change the world but don’t let*

President

February 12 – 5 pm
Brooklyn West Winery

Lunar New Year Dinner

February 19 – 5:30 pm
Peony Seafood Restaurant

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

Community Service

Feb. 4 – 5 – 6 pm

Karl Stucki World Community Service

Feb. 10 – 5 – 6:30 pm

Business Development

Feb. 10 – 5 – 6 pm

Fun, Sport, Entertainment And Adventure

Feb. 11 – 6 – 7:15 pm

KinderPrep

Feb. 18 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

We Care

Feb. 19 – 5 – 6 pm

DEI

Feb. 24 – 5 – 6 pm

Membership

Feb 25 – 5 – 6 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

the world change your smile.”

New Member Induction – Daniel Mason, Christine Williams and Skye Bernard

President Joe announced that he is honored to induct three new members today and shared the goodies they will receive.

Faye Brandin introduced **Daniel Mason**. **Daniel** is an architect, married and father of two teenagers and two sheepadoodles. He grew up in Colorado where he was a competitive swimmer and mogul skier. Additionally, he had a blues band that was invited to play at the Stork Club in San Francisco. The band's name was Mucis – a play on the word music rather than snot! Welcome **Daniel!**

President-Elect Merlin Edwards then took the microphone to introduce two new members. First, **Christine Williams**, a business and financial consultant who focuses her consulting business on equity and human resources management. She enjoys horseback riding and tennis and is an avid singer. Welcome **Christine!**

Merlin then introduced his second new member, **Skye Bernard**, who is **Merlin's** banker! **Skye** was born in Long Beach. She is a rock collector and sells them online. Welcome **Skye!**

President Joe then presented the new members with their Rotary pins and badges and reminded them to never hesitate to ask him, “to be put in the game”.



Celebrating are:

February

- 02 – Kittie Adams
- 02 – Maren Amdal
- 02 – Sarah Chavez-Yoell
- 02 – Isa Chu
- 02 – Warren Chu
- 02 – Jill Loh Kearns
- 02 – Lesley Weaver
- 07 – Stephanie Bolden
- 09 – Karen Friedman
- 13 – Ahmad Anderson
- 14 – Catherine Coleman
- 15 – Aaron Smith
- 16 – Charlie Adams
- 17 – Nancy Williams
- 24 – Linda Bradford
- 27 – Derek Barnes
- 27 – Keith Uriarte

Membership Anniversaries

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

February

- Ken Richardson – 43 years
- Joel Parrott – 40 years
- Shannon Hackley – 38 years
- Sean Marx – 33 years
- Rick Baskin – 21 years
- Bob Breecker – 14 years
- Emily Morgan – 9 years
- Bryan Morgan – 9 years
- Isaac Kos-Read – 8 years
- Pauline Fox – 6 years
- Sam Miller – 6 years



Gail Uilkema Farewell

Coach Joe announced that today's meeting was both joyful and bittersweet. Joyful, as we celebrate and honor a longtime member, trusted leader, and dear friend, as she begins a new chapter and moves away from the Bay Area and from the Oakland Rotary Club.

Joe shared that from the beginning, **Gail Uilkema** was a trailblazer being one of the first women to join our club. She didn't just take a seat in the ballroom – she helped shape and redefine it. She was an active member of the World Community Service Committee, a participant in travel to support projects around the world, a mentor to new members, and creative participant in club fellowship and fun.

Past President Michael Bruck and **Karen Friedman** took the stage to present a lighthearted skit. Among **Gail's** superpowers are knowing every Rotarian's name and clapping longer and louder than anyone else in the room!

Piedmont Mayor Betsy Andersen then presented **Gail** with a proclamation with **NINE** "whereas statements" encompassing the impact **Gail** has had on the community.

Finally, **Coach Joe** presented **Gail** with a Rotary on the Run medal and **Gail** thanked everyone. The bellringers then rang out throughout the room. Names of bellringers are listed below.

Ed Silva – 5 years
Nancy Williams – 5 years
Ama Torrance – 4 years
Nuno Ferreira – 2 years
Odalis Ordonez – 2 years
Bob Lee – 1 year
Mack McFadden – 1 year
Yesenia Sanchez – 1 year



Lunar New Year 2026

Past President Mary Geong approached the microphone with a ringing announcement of “Gung Hay Fat Choy” which means “May you be happy and prosperous”. Lunar New Year is the longest and most important celebration in Asia, celebrated by 1.5 billion people over two weeks. This year is Chinese Year 4,724, the Year of the Horse, and begins on February 17. Lunar New Year symbolizes letting go of the past and ringing in the present. The Rotary Club of Oakland will celebrate Lunar New Year on February 19 at Peony Seafood restaurant in Oakland’s Chinatown. The cost is \$90 per person for a 10-course banquet. Register for the event on Eventbrite and celebrate Lunar New Year with



your Rotary friends!

Announcements

Coach Joe reminded Rotarians that a **Tree Planting Service Day** is this Saturday, February 7th, and that **Cocktails with the President will return on February 12th** after the offsite meeting at the Oakland Museum of California. Renamed as “**Huddle with the President**” the first gathering is at Brooklyn West Winery, owned by **Stewart Epstein**.

Speaker for the Day — Jackie Keliiaa

C J Hirschfield had the honor of introducing today’s speaker, Oakland-based comedian, Jackie Keliiaa. Jackie has built a career turning identity and grief into humor that heals as much as it provokes. She draws inspiration and material from her Native American, Native Hawaiian, Portuguese and Italian heritage. A UC Berkeley graduate she considers her background as her “superpower”.

Jackie’s family has lived in the Bay Area for five generations with many of her family members becoming public servants. She sees community and comedy intersecting to inspire her humor. Asked if she writes every day, she said she does not but rather is inspired by daily events. She has a writer’s group that meets on Tuesdays and she then spends much of the day writing. Jackie acknowledged that many comedians do write every day.

Asked about her heritage she shared that she comes from three tribes of Washoe people in the Tahoe area. So, she said, if you ski at Heavenly, you are desecrating her native lands....she then reminded folks that it was a joke. But was it? The Native American community is very active in the Bay Area. She acknowledged that it is important as a comedian to talk about what is happening in our world. She sees comedy as an opportunity for audiences to “rest” for a minute and enjoy humor.

One of her goals in her comedy is to provide authentic voices. In 2025 NBC picked up a comedy she wrote. However, it did not get selected to go forward but she was allowed to do a screening of the comedy.

She shared that she is an identical twin and as a child she was very shy and would push her sister forward to speak for both. She has gotten through it even though she still has times where she prefers quiet. She was very hard on herself but with time believed that she built the muscle memory for comedy.

When asked to share a remarkable “gig” she told of her opportunity to open for Nikki Glazer resulting in a lovely relationship. She also told of her opportunity to provide a comedy set for a tribal family retreat.

Speaking about the fine line between navigating social commentary and humor without insulting the audience, Jackie shared that performances allow for “honing” jokes and practice. She does not believe that comedy is changing. Emerging comics still use “shock and awe” to get noticed.

Jackie had her epiphany in college when she was invited to a presentation by the

Native American Comedian, Charlie Hill. After hearing him she knew that comedy was what she wanted to do.

Coach Joe thanked Jackie and shared that a contribution to Polio Plus has been



made in her name.

Upcoming Programs

Speaker Committee Chairperson and Past President David Stein announced the upcoming programs.

- February 12th—in honor of Black History Month our meeting will be offsite at Oakland Museum of California, Black Spaces: Reclaim & Remain. Meeting will begin at 3 pm. Please register!
- February 19th – Congresswoman Lateefah Simon at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts.
- April 16th – Brown Bag Lunch; please see **David** if you'd like to host a group

Bellringers

Those ringing the bell in honor of **Gail Uilkema** were **Joe Goralka, Alex Poulsen, Michael Bruck, Linda Boessenecker, Kathleen Uribe, Stephanie Casenza, Wise Allen, Dudley Thompson, Rick Draper, Jon Gresley, Ed Jellen, Ralph Sklar, Julie Fox, Elida Scola, Marissa Betts** and **Karen Friedman (five rings!)**.

Jackie Keliiaa rang the bell to thank Rotarians.

Pat Williams rang the bell in honor of the birth of her second grandchild.

Adjourn

Coach Joe shared that through Rotary world peace will be established and adjourned the meeting promptly at 1:30 pm.