

# Rotary Club of Oakland #3

## Live Oak Newsletter

### We Care Corner

A confidential email has been set up for members to alert the We Care Committee to reach out to a member and connect.

### Home Care -- Shared Experience Corner

Need information about home care including equipment and supplies? There may be fellow Rotarians who can give helpful tips based on personal experience. Send a confidential email to the We Care Committee address (listed below) and we will provide you some information or one of us will get in touch.

### Other Needs

Need help:  
Post surgery?  
Logging on to Zoom?  
A ride to the weekly Club meeting?  
Choosing a committee?  
Some cheer during a rough time?

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

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

The email is:  
[RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com)

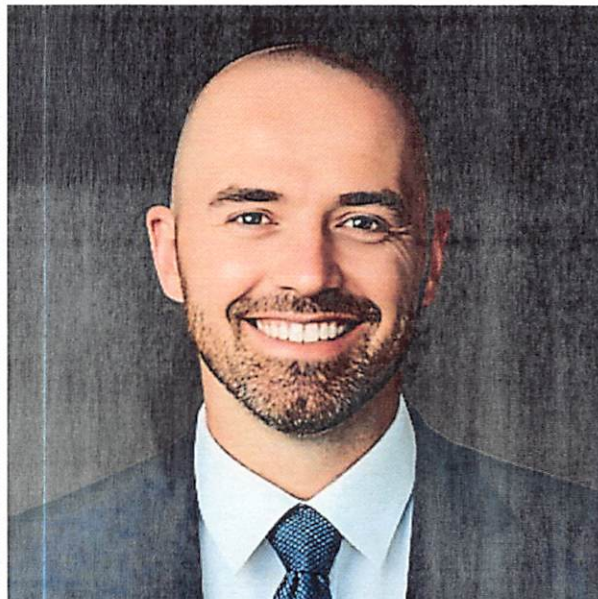
### Special Events

## Stories

### Next Club Meeting – May 1, 2025 – Colin Behring

**Past President David Stein** reminded us there will be no meeting in the Ballroom on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will be enjoying the Club's time-honored tradition of visiting the businesses of members as part of Brown Bag Lunch Day.

The next meeting in the Ballroom will be May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our speaker will be Colin Behring who will talk about the current Business Real Estate Market. Recently he purchased a building at 1950 Franklin Street.



**If you are attending in person, please use the Rotary Club's Eventbrite to sign up so our team will make sure we have sufficient lunches and seats in the Ballroom.**

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

### Rotary Meeting Highlights for April 17, 2025

## Oakland Ballet -- Dancing Moons Festival 2025

May 4 – 3:00 pm  
Paramount Theatre  
Exclusive ticket discount for Oakland Rotary members  
PROMO CODE: RCLUB10

Purchase tickets on Oakland Ballet website.  
Purchase Link: Angel Island Project Paramount Theatre Tickets.  
Click the UNLOCK before selecting seats to enter the promo code. Promo code will not work if entered at checkout screen after selecting seats.

## Rotary at Mono Lake

June 13 – 15  
Lee Vining & Mono Lake  
See flyer for details  
Greg Knight and Randy Arnold are available to answer questions.

## Rotary International Convention

June 21 – 25  
Calgary, Canada

## Service Projects

### Day of Service – Alameda County Community Food Bank

May 18 – 12:30 – 3:30 pm  
7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland

## HOT Squad

Volunteer Service Projects serving the community as scheduled.

## Committee Meetings

### Public Relations

April 28 – 10:15 – 10:45 am  
Contact Marie Sescon for meeting information.

### Community Service

May 7 – 5:00 – 6:00 pm

### Speakers

May 7 – 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Kick-off meeting to select speakers for 2025-2026 year.  
Contact David Stein

## Call to Order

-

The meeting was called to order by **President Shannon Hackley** at 12:30 pm reminding everyone we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest club in the Rotary world of 42,000 clubs in over 200 countries.



## Guests

There were two visiting Rotarians, Avis La Grone and Patti Vandenberg from the Rotary Club of Los Gatos. **Ana-Marie Jones, Nuno Ferreira, Keith Uriarte, Mack McFadden and Fred Morse** introduced their guests. **Pres. Shannon** gave a shout-out to members attending via Zoom.

## Thought for the Day – Debra Barnes

-

In recognition of the upcoming Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and our speaker of the day, **Debra Barnes** shared a few verses from Joyce Kilmer's well-known nature poem which begins "I think I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree...".

[Read more...](#)

## Tree Planting Service Project

-

**Debra** then invited all to consider participating in the Rotary Tree Planting Day April 19<sup>th</sup> at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. The event is being coordinated by the Club's Environment Committee and Community Service Committee in partnership with Oakland's Park and Recreation Foundation. Lunch will be provided by Entertainment Committee.

for meeting information.

### **Fun, Sport & Adventure**

May 13 – 6:00 – 7:15 pm

Contact Mark Rosen

for meeting information

### **Birthday Greetings**

#### **Happy Birthday!**

Celebrating are:

#### April

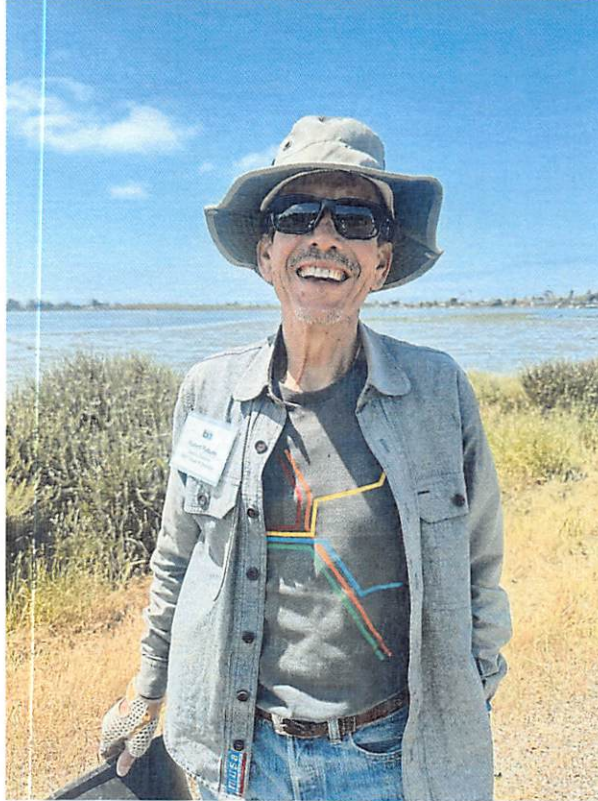
04 – Pam Claassen  
 05 – Jim Boessenecker  
 05 – Bonnie Prestridge  
 07 – Dana Sack  
 09 – Nuno Ferreira  
 10 – Barbara Beery  
 14 – Maude Pervere  
 15 – Bob Breecker  
 18 – Sed Tydus  
 19 – Phil Campbell  
 23 – Patricia Wells  
 24 – Chet Burgess  
 27 – Kathy Dwyer  
 28 – Bart Carter  
 29 – Yong Bai  
 29 – Mary Rudser

### **Membership Anniversaries**

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

#### April

Jack McAboy – 50 years  
 Kers Clausen – 42 years  
 Alex Poulsen – 36 years  
 David Stein – 36 years  
 Garrett Riegg – 31 years  
 Susan Smith – 28 years  
 Daid Kittner – 9 years  
 Linda Bradford – 8 years  
 Justin Stewart – 7 years  
 Gio Tanzillo – 6 years  
 David Kersten – 5 years  
 Keith Uriarte – 5 years  
 Rudy Besikof --- 2 years  
 Rosie Torres – 2 years  
 Michael Johnson – 1 year



### **St. Vincent de Paul Easter Event**

**Blase Bova**, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County, thanked the club for its April 12<sup>th</sup> Community Service Day assisting the agency's many clients who attended the Easter Egg Hunt, brunch and other holiday festivities. **President Shannon** presented **Blase** with a \$5,000 check to assist the agency with its community programs.



### **Oakland Rotary Endowment Annual Meeting**

**Oakland Rotary Endowment President Ces Butner** called to order the Annual Meeting of the Endowment.

There were several items of business.

First, the election of new trustees for a three-year term stating July 1, 2025. The candidates presented by the ORE Board were **Stephanie Casenza, Joel Parrott, Ralph Sklar** and **Jim Boessenecker**. The nomination was officially made and seconded and the candidates unanimously elected.

**President Ces** announced the ORE Trustees have selected the following officers for a one-year term beginning July 1. They are **Jason Wizelman**, President; **Kerry Hamill**, Vice President; **Kymberly Miller**, Secretary; and **Jim Boessenecker**, Treasurer.

**Ces** thanked departing trustees **C J Hirschfeld, Merlin Edwards,** and **Pam Claassen,** especially **Pam** who has served so wonderfully as our Treasurer for the past three years in a period of transition. **Ces** indicated he also would be completing his board service.

**Ces** reported the Endowment has grown to slightly more than \$5 million thanks to member donations and prudent investments over the years. He thanked everyone who attended and supported the recent gala to help the endowment grow and fund program budgets next year.

Finally, **Ces** adjourned the Annual Meeting of the Oakland Rotary Endowment.

The ORE annual fund-raising campaign, which kicked off with the Gala, will continue through the month of May. Members are encouraged to make their donations.



### Gala Report

-

**Stephanie Casenza,** as Safari Gala Co-Chair, took the podium to thank everyone for their Gala support. It was a sold-out crowd that attended the April 10 event at 1111 Broadway, with many donated auction items and a most wonderful evening had by all. The committee is still tallying proceeds and expenses so the grand total will be announced at a later date. **Stephanie** extended special thanks for their work on the gala to her Gala Co-Chair **Ruth Stroup** as well as **Carla Betts, Alex Poulson, Pat Williams, Kerry Hamill, Jesse Schmidt, Jesse Bowdle, Rachelle Karpeles, Ralph Sklar, Mark Miller, Michael Bruck** and **Tom Limon.** Congrats and thanks to all the auction bidders.

### Oakland Ballet

-

**President Shannon** welcomed Oakland Ballet Artistic Director Graham Lustig to the podium to announce a special upcoming program. Called the Angel Island Project, the upcoming Dancing Moons ballet program features inspiring poetry that was carved into the walls

of Angel Island Immigration Station by detainees between 1910-40, and has a beautiful score by Huang Ruo. Designed in response to recent hateful incidents against the Asian community, the ballet promises a beautiful evening. Tickets to the May 4<sup>th</sup> performance are available on the ballet's website, Rotarians should use the ticket discount code. Individuals are also invited also contribute their own immigration story on the website's wall.



### **District 5170 Learning Assembly**

**President-Elect Joe Goralka** invited everyone to consider attending the District 5170 Learning Assembly 2025 on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at West Valley College in Saratoga. Learning sessions on a variety of topics will be held from 9 am - 2 pm and lunch will be provided. There is something for everyone at the meeting and more. Contact **Jesse Bowdle** to register. The Club will cover the costs of registration and lunch for members.

### **New Member Inductions – John Mascali and Alexandria “Ali” Medina**

**Past President Linda Boessenecker** introduced new member **John Mascali**, CEO of the Oakland Boys and Girls Club. One of his two interesting facts is that John grew up in a family that owned an African safari tour company, for photographers not hunters, so he has traveled extensively in that part of the world—even gorilla trekking! The other interesting fact is that **John** met his wife while they both volunteered at a Ronald McDonald House for families with sick children. **John** has an affinity for fast food and he and his wife continued the connection for 20 years as Burger King franchisees in Oakland and the East Bay. Welcome **John**!

**Wil Hobbs** introduced new member **Alexandria “Ali” Medina**, CEO of the Oakland Public Education Fund, where she has served the past five years after previously serving in a variety of important education positions at East Bay agencies. She is a UC Berkeley

graduate and also a diehard Dodgers fan, which Rotarians promise not to hold against her. Interesting fact: **Ali** once won a car at Disneyland at the age of 12 —was she old enough to drive? Welcome **Ali**!



### Speaker for the Day – Sabrina Landreth

**Randy Arnold** introduced our speaker, Sabrina Landreth, General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District. Sabrina is a fifth generation Californian, and her name is known to many of us based on her prior positions as city administrator for both the city of Emeryville as well as the city of Oakland. A quintessential public service professional, Sabrina is delighted to be in her current post where she can make a real difference here in the East Bay and in the natural world. She is committed to preserving the natural and cultural resources in the regional parks and providing healthful recreation for present and future generations. Sabrina gave an overview of the impact that East Bay

Regional Park District has on the well-being of residents in 33 cities within the park district jurisdiction.

The park system comprises 73 parks spanning 126,000 acres, 1330 miles of trails, and 55 miles of shoreline. It was founded in 1934 and recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. It was founded from excess watershed land that the citizenry decided to use for parks and agreed to be taxed to ensure their operation. Overall, the park district is larger than the state of Rhode Island and is the largest land owner in the East Bay. It has its own police department and fire department, and has 1,100 district employees. It is the area's largest employer of youth and manages and preserves natural and cultural resources for all to enjoy and protect. The regional parks are ideal for healthful recreation and environmental education. The district has made contributions to the United Nation's 17 sustainable developmental goals and is about to begin outreach on its new District Plan which it does every 10 years, reaching out to all the cities and residents within to engage in its planning.

Sabrina said she was proud to be in the position she is now, particularly with the way things are going in Washington and for some public service employees. She shared with us a touching reflection she does every year on tax day (April 15) about the many rewards of public service, which bought some in her audience to tears to match her own.



### Bellrings

-

### Thank You

**Pres. Shannon** officially adjourned the meeting and wished everyone a safe and wonderful day.