

**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

Our speaker will be Colin Behring, Founder and CEO of the Behring Companies, a real estate and private equity investment firm. He 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 24, 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

Register directly with the Food Bank by May 11.

Contact Teresa Weyand with any questions

## **HOT Squad**

Volunteer Service Projects serving the community as scheduled.

## **Committee Meetings**

### **Public Relations**

May 5 – 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

**President Shannon Hackley** led the reintroduction of the annual Brown Bag Lunch meetings, at which Rotarians fanned out throughout the city to tour the business locations of some of their colleagues. It was a great way to get to know more about what Rotarians do during their daily lives and enjoy fellowship with a small group of colleagues. Each venue could accommodate about 10 -12 people. Unfortunately, the COVID Pandemic shut it down until now.

Organizing it is a big task and former member and Brown Bag Lunch chair, **Michael Valva**, graciously stepped in to advise us on how to do it. Many thanks to Program Chair **David Stein** for pulling it all together, to **Jesse Bowdle** for communications, and to **Julie Fox** for coordinating the catering, all big jobs!"

The delicious white boxed (rather than brown-bagged) picnic lunch, was supplied by Ann's Catering.

Nine locations hosted members. Below is a description of each event, in most cases provided by a member in attendance.

## **Brooklyn Basin Signature Properties**

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**Faye Brandin**, Senior Project Manager for Signature Properties hosted the meeting.

Other Rotary club members in attendance were: **Fred Morse, Kristine Watson**, Robert Latimore (Kristine's Guest), **Wayne Goodroe, Andrew Brown, Rick Draper** and **Merlin Edwards**. **Faye** was the right person to host us. She gave us the history of the Brooklyn Basin from the beginning to its current state and the future buildout. Our group kept her on her toes by asking her some very difficult questions. Whatever she could not answer on the spot, she sent out an email after we left with answers.

While the commercial space is not as full as she would like it to be, the residential building near where we were was 75% occupied. That is a very good number for this time in Oakland.

There is lots of space for community events on a sunny day with a beautiful view of the estuary.

## **Chapel of the Chimes**

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**Ed Brail** hosted a group of Rotarians today for a tour of the lovely Chapel of the Chimes. We were also treated to a video of the history of the chapel and funeral home along with a list of local celebrities buried there, including Al Davis, John Lee Hooker, and recently-added Rickey Henderson. Chapel Director Cary Boisvert then showed us all through the gorgeous buildings, originally designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan based on



Kick-off meeting to select speakers for 2025-2026 year.

Contact David Stein 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:

#### May

- 01 – Stephanie Casenza
- 02 – Bill Dixon
- 05 – Marianne Robison
- 07 – Christy McAvoy
- 09 – Kathy Kelleher
- 11 – Emily Morgan
- 11 – Courtney Morse
- 14 – David Barron
- 14 – Mary Geong
- 14 – Kevin Hunter
- 15 – Catherine Pinkas
- 17 – David Kersten
- 20 – Bob Spencer
- 22 – Jake Schoneker
- 24 – Sean Callum
- 25 – Wayne Goodroe
- 25 – Mark Rosen
- 26 – Ralph Sklar
- 27 – Mieko Hatano
- 30 – Ces Butner
- 31 – Megan Imperial

### **Membership Anniversaries**

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

#### May

- Charlie Adams – 43 years
- Rick Draper – 35 years
- Dudley Thompson – 32 years
- Anne Bisagno – 23 years
- Julie Fox – 22 years
- Debra Barnes – 17 years
- Pat Williams – 10 years
- Tom Duryea – 7 years
- Kerry Hamill – 7 years
- Diane Schaffer – 7 years
- Sonja Fitz – 6 years
- Janice Brickley – 5 years

a library theme. Truly beautiful! It was a wonderful event.



### **Children's Fairyland**

**Kymberly Miller** gave a Rotarian tour of Children's Fairyland and detailed how the park not only survived the pandemic, but has grown its operations by 60%. The group talked about all the different offerings Fairyland has from birthday parties, to after-hours adult events, to their annual gala. **Kymberly** has a dream of eventually installing a large ferris wheel in the park.



### **East Bay Restaurant Supply**

**President-Elect Joe Goralka** hosted the group. Oakland Rotarians started with a champagne reception while learning the story of the Polar Bear and 7 ft. beer stein at the front of the store. They had lunch in the CEO's office among the huge Mettlach stein collection



Sarah Chavez-Yoell – 4 years  
 Bill Purcell --- 3 years  
 Davey Warner – 3 years  
 Cybele Gerachis – 2 years  
 Andrew Brown – 2 years  
 Lyz Luke – 2 years  
 Megan Imperial – 1 year

and saw a photo of company founder (former Oakland Rotarian & Past RCO board member) **John E. Breznikar**, They also saw a photo of **John** on a Rotary Reno Train Trip from years past.

Current East Bay President Jonathan Breznikar spoke about family history and company statistics, plus explained types of services offered. Currently \$80 million in sales is down from \$100 million. At 99 years old, it is one of the top 20 largest foodservice distributors in the nation. They are currently bidding an \$8 million casino kitchen renovation.

**Bob Breecker** took home the raffle prize, a professional Vitamix food prep. Members then toured and shopped in the 60k ft. warehouse showroom floor with over \$ 10 million of foodservice equipment and supplies to explore. Rotary fellowship was had by all.



### Lodestar Charter School

**Rich Harrison**, CEO of Lighthouse Community Public Schools, hosted the group. Lodestar Charter School is a Lighthouse Community Charter School located in Oakland. They have 712 students in attendance. The school is divided into TransKindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### SOSMeals on Wheels

**Rosemary Darden, Mark Miller and Karen Friedman** visited SOS Meals on Wheels at their San Leandro headquarters. The group was hosted by **Kim Olson**, SOSMOW's Director of Advocacy and future Rotarian. During lunch the group learned about SOS Meals on Wheels work to serve a daily nutritious meal and wellness check to homebound seniors in Alameda County. They took a tour of the SOSMOW Kitchen, which produces 2,000 to 2,500 meals a day, and met

with Eric Gremlin, Head Chef, who shared his passion for cooking delicious food, despite the program's strict dietary guidelines. They also learned about volunteer opportunities to help prep and deliver meals: <https://vimeo.com/1054563506>.

**Kim** reported that the group was small, but mighty, so they were able to have an excellent discussion and get to know everyone better.

### **Oakland Hills Campus**

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About ten Rotarians visited the Oakland Hills Campus – the new name for the former Holy Names University. Club member **Dan Cardenas**, who is the Director of Operations for the new campus, led our group on a tour of the property's highlights. The campus has a new 450 seat theatre, and class and conference rooms that can accommodate meetings of just about any size. There are also student dorms, a dining hall, computer labs, a library, a hospital nursing training facility, and a gym, including a Division 2 basketball court where NBA players sometimes practice that blend in well with the campus' open landscaping. BH Properties, the new owner, is currently renting portions of the campus on short term or single event leases. However, the long-term expectation is that the campus will host a college or trade school consistent with the property's current zoning as a site for above-secondary school education.

### **Oakland Zoo**

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Eleven members and guests journeyed to the Oakland hills for a Brown Bag visit to the Oakland Zoo. The group boarded the gondola and arrived at California Trail for lunch in the Habitarium classroom. During lunch, Zoo CEO and Oakland Rotarian **Nik Dehejia** discussed the zoo's conservation efforts locally and around the world, wildlife rescue activities, volunteer opportunities, and the business of operating a zoo.

Lunch was briefly interrupted so that the group could observe the four Brown Bears enjoying their enrichment treats just outside the classroom and Habitarium windows. The visitors received a selection of the new "Get to Know Your Bay Area Neighbors" animal cards, including Coyote, Opossum, Wild Turkey, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Raccoon, and Raven cards. About half of the group participated in a tour of the California Trail, led by Oakland Zoo trustee and docent, and Oakland Rotary Past President **Michael Bruck**.





### Style Bath and Kitchen

**Nuno Mike Ferreira** hosted the meeting at his business. **Nuno** reported he had a great visit with **David Stein, Ces Butner, John Claassen, Stephanie Casenza** and **Alex Poulson**. They explored all of the latest and greatest products available for the kitchen and bath. **Stephanie** let them know that her dad owned a business like this in Long Beach when she was a kid. Everyone loved the Big Chill retro refrigerators and **Ces** is ready to add a towel warmer to his bathroom!



### Bellringers at April 17th Club Meeting

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The list of bellringers was inadvertently left off the highlights of the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. A big thank you to the following members who rang the bell.

**Joe Goralka** rang the bell for St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County.

**Jack McAboy** rang the bell for the many club members who reached out to him following the passing of his wife, Carole.

**Linda Chew, Pam Claassen and Linda Hamilton** rang the bell for Sabrina Landreth.

**Randy Arnold** rang the bell for Oakland Rotary Endowment.

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

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Oakland Rotary members are providing a Day of Service to Alameda County Community Food Bank on Sunday, May 18 from 12:30 – 3:00 pm. Nineteen volunteers are needed. The Food Bank is located at 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland.





Volunteers need to sign up by **May 11<sup>th</sup>** directly with the Food Bank. Here is our sign-up link:

<https://accfb.tfaforms.net/20?groupvolhoursid=a1DRI000008xBKbMAM>

If you have any questions, please contact **Teresa Weyand**.

### **District 5170 Learning Assembly**

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Club Members attended the Rotary District 5170 Learning Assembly on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Among the participants were **Past President and District Assistant Governor Dudley Thompson, President Shannon Hackley, President-Elect Joe Goralka, President Elect Nominee Merlin Edwards, Executive Administrator Jesse Bowdle and Daniel Cheng**.



