

Rotary Live Oak Newsletter

Club of Oakland #3

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!

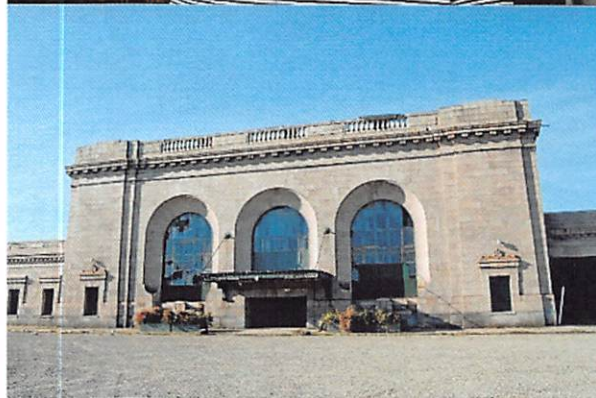
The email is:
RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com

Special Events

Stories

Next Club Meeting – May 15, 2025 – Daniel Levy

Next Thursday's Club meeting on May 15 will **NOT BE AT THE BALLROOM**. Instead, it will be at the Oakland Hills Campus (fka Holy Names University) located at 3500 Mountain Blvd. The speaker will be Daniel Levy, President of the Oakland Heritage Alliance, who will talk about the current status and history of the Oakland 16th Street Train Station, which recently was added to the National Register of Historic Places. He will also tell us about the historic role of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black labor union.



At the entrance to the Oakland Hills Campus, there is a guard gate you will drive through. Let the guard know you are attending the Rotary meeting and you will be

"Summer Kick-off" Business Development and New Member Mixer

June 3 – 5 – 7 pm
Agave Uptown
2135 Franklin Street
Discount Ticket - \$23.18
Sign up on Club Eventbrite

Rotary at Mono Lake

June 13 – 15
Lee Vining & Mono Lake
See flyer for details
Randy Arnold and
Greg Knight 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.

Lodestar School College & Career Expo

May 28 – 9:00 – 1:15 am
705 105th Avenue, Oakland
Rotarians needed to talk about
career requirements, challenges
and opportunities in their fields.
Contact Catherine Coleman
if you can participate.

HOT Squad

Volunteer Service Projects
serving the community as
scheduled.

Committee Meetings

Public Relations

May 12 – 10:15 – 10:45 am
Contact Marie Sescon
for meeting information.

Business Development

May 13 – 5:00 pm
Contact Jesse Schmidt

directed to the parking lot. There will be signage
directing you to the meeting location.

Register in the Club's Eventbrite page to indicate you
will attend.

The meeting will be in-person as well as on Zoom.
For those joining the meeting on Zoom, use this
link [Thursday Club Meeting](#)

Rotary Meeting Highlights for May 8, 2025

-

Call to Order

-

At 12:30 pm sharp **President Shannon Hackley**
welcomed everyone to today's meeting of the third
oldest Rotary Club. After greeting those participating via
Zoom, **Pres. Shannon** invited **Steve Blair** to give the
thought for the day.



Thought for the Day – Steve Blair

-

After noting today's election of the new Roman Catholic
Pope (Leo the XIV), **Steve** thought it appropriate to
recall Pope Francis who once said "Let us care for one
another and let us be loving custodians of God's
creation". Another quote of his is "we received this
world as an inheritance from past generations, but also
as a loan from future generations, to whom we will
have to return it". **Steve** also mentioned that Pope
Francis was an Honorary Rotarian.

Guests

for meeting information.

Fun, Sport & Adventure

May 13 – 6:00 – 7:15 pm

Contact Mark Rosen

for meeting information

Membership

May 14 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

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

Sarah Chavez-Yoell – 4 years

Past President Michael Bruck introduced several members of nearby Rotary clubs who joined the recent trip to Columbia. They were Grier Graff, Maxim Schrogin and Doug Fielding of the Rotary Club of Berkeley and Martha Ely Goralka of the Antioch-Delta Rotary. In addition, guests attending were Linnea Graff, Doug Hamilton and Garrett Riegg's daughter, Jen Valera.

Kerry Hamill introduced her youngest daughter Nora, who is an attorney and an avid Warriors fan.

Keith Uriarte introduced his guest Josh Rowan, Oakland's Interim Director of Public Works.

Ali Medina introduced her guest Sam Davis, a former member of the Oakland Unified School District Board.

John Claassen introduced Dr. Rebecca Opsata, the interim president of Laney College.

Ruth Stroup introduced a prospective member as her guest.

New Member Inductions – Anna Brick and Holly Robley

Past President David Stein introduced two new members.

Anna Brick, a native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was an ACLU attorney for nearly 20 years. Among other things, **Anna** enjoys playing duplicate bridge and is an art lover.



Holly Robley is an experienced project manager in the area of financial technology and security. She grew up on a horse farm in Minnesota, has lived in Bogota, Columbia, and Karlsruhe, Germany and looks forward to getting married this coming August.

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



Both inductees gladly received their red badges and other new member materials from **Pres. Shannon**. Welcome **Anna** and **Holly**!

Columbia Service Project Trip

Past President Michael Bruck and **Karen Friedman**, the trip leaders, gave their report on the recent Club sponsored trip to Columbia. As they spoke, **Alex Poulsen** unfurled a large banner commemorating the trip, which showed the US flag and the Colombian flag waving in harmony. **Michael** and **Karen** said that the group was warmly hosted by local Colombian Rotary clubs, enjoyed great fellowship, sumptuous cuisine and the beautiful, lush topography of Medellin and the charming old colonial atmosphere of Cartagena.

The group participated in several service projects. They also visited several Rotary projects, including a program providing free eye exams for kids, a boarding school for orphans and projects providing aid to pediatric spina bifida patients. This was **Linda Hamilton's** first international Rotary trip. She came to the podium to emphasize that it was an amazing experience in Rotary service and friendship. The take away message: seize the opportunity to go on a Rotary trip abroad; you won't regret it.



Interact Rally

Greg Annis took the podium to urge us to attend the gathering of Area One Interactors and Rotarians at Tomo Tea House at 825 Marina Village Parkway in Alameda on Sunday, May 25 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. It's a great chance to demonstrate our passion for Rotary and to give the young Interactors insights into Rotarians' careers and interest. If you wish to give a talk about your own career, please email **Greg** in advance.

Food Bank Day of Service

On behalf of the Community Service Committee, Co-Chair **Allison Bliss** reminded us of an important hands-on project at the Alameda County Community Food Bank on May 18 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. We need more Rotarians to sign up to go to the Food Bank to box up the food that needy people desperately need. To participate, be sure to register by May 11.

District Conference

Pres. Shannon reminded us about the upcoming District 5170 Conference on May 31 at San Jose State University Student Union. This is an important opportunity to network with other Rotarians and to become familiar with goings-on of our local District and how it all ties in with Rotary International. **President Shannon, Past President and Assistant District Governor Dudley Thompson, and Past District Assistant Treasurer and President-Elect Joe Goralka** will also be there. Rotarians can register on the Rotary District 5170 website.

Speaker for the Day – Stephanie Dominguez Walton

-

Michele Himmelberg introduced Stephanie Dominguez Walton, Director of Principal and Major Gifts at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, PP's largest affiliate that covers Alameda County and 41 other counties in central California, and the entire state of Nevada.

Stephanie's overview of Mar Monte's operations described an organization which is making heroic efforts to provide necessary healthcare under the stress of anti-abortion politics, and the Trump administration's political opposition. Although most of Mar Monte's patients are women, Mar Monte's health centers provide a wide spectrum of health care to patients, which is free of charge to those unable to pay. Abortions are about 13% of these services. Other services include sexually transmitted disease testing, cancer screenings, gender affirming care, and pediatric and adult family medicine visits. Mar Monte has 35 health centers in California and Las Vegas. It replaced the old health center near the Oakland Coliseum with a new and larger one located at 14th and Broadway, which is easily accessible by BART.

Stephanie confirmed that Mar Monte's abortion caseload has significantly increased as a result of the Supreme Court's overruling of Roe vs. Wade. Many of their abortion patients come from Texas, Missouri and other distant states that restrict abortion care. Anticipating the demise of Roe vs Wade, Mar Monte took steps to expand its medical staff and facilities, and to stockpile the abortion medication known as mifepristone.

In addition to ongoing harassment of its staff and visitors by anti-abortion activists (the "Proud Boys" being a recent example), Mar Monte is also having to defend against the adverse actions that are being taken by the Trump Administration. She gave one example in which the Trump Administration has threatened to cut off a previously awarded federal grant for a teenage sex education program unless Mar Monte signed on to all of the Trump executive orders. Mar Monte refused to do so, and is now suing for judicial relief.

Mar Monte offers a number of opportunities for people who wish to volunteer to help them out.

After praising PP for having provided all of her health care needs while an uninsured college student, **Pres. Shannon** informed Stephanie that the Club will be making a donation in her honor to the Polio Plus program. Stephanie was so thankful and so moved by the "good will" she felt during the meeting that she asked to ring the bell!

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte has an informative video about their work. Access it on [PPMM New Oakland](#)

[Health Center 2025 on Vimeo.](#)



[Read more...](#)

Bellrings

President Shannon gleefully struck the magical chimes for the following bellringer donations to Oakland Rotary Endowment:

Lorna Padia Markus rang the bell 2 times: for her oldest grandson becoming an Eagle Scout, and for **Lorna** being the honoree at the upcoming gala of the Boys and Girls Club of Contra Costa County.

Dudley Thompson rang the bell for Lorna Padia Markus.

Shannon Hackley rang the bell 2 times: for **Lorna Padia Markus**, and the magic of the Columbia trip.

Trisha Connors rang the bell for **Kerry Hamill's** daughter Nora.

Kerry Hamill rang the bell for her daughter, Nora.

Ruth Stroup rang the bell for her sister, Elizabeth Messina, a Rotarian in Weston, Massachusetts.

Michael Bruck rang the bell for Grier Graff.

John Claassen rang the bell for Pope Leo XIV. He attended an event at which the new pope was named a Cardinal.

Grier Graff rang the bell for **Michael Bruck**.

Joe Goralka rang the bell for **Lorna Padia Markus**.

Garrett Riegg rang the bell 4 times for the leaders of the Columbia trip and his daughter participating in it.

Karen Friedman rang the bell for those who joined the Columbia trip.

Ces Butner rang the bell for **Lorna Padia Markus**.

Stephanie Dominguez Walton rang the bell for the "good will" of Oakland Rotarians.

Thank You

President Shannon adjourned another busy meeting at 1:30 pm.