



Club Meeting

Proposed for Membership

An application has been received from the following individual. If no objection is received within five days, the application will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

(space here for future member information)

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

"Spring Mixer"
Business Development
and New Member Mixer
June 3 – 5 – 7 pm
Agave Uptown
2135 Franklin Street
Cover Charge -- \$20 for
food and drinks
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

STORIES

???????Next Club Meeting – June 12, 2025 – Oakland Gay Men's Chorus

Our speaker will be Paul Dannhauser, President of the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus. Learn how the organization plans to expand its reach and impact over the next decade—and how music can be a catalyst for connection and change.



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 June 5, 2025

Call to Order

President Shannon Hackley called to order the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland, the 3rd oldest Rotary Club in the world, at 12:25 pm.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

President Shannon announced that the agenda for this meeting was packed therefore necessitating dispensing with the introduction of visitors and guests. She welcomed everyone and announced that among the many special guests was Rotary District 5170 Governor, Jill Duerig, who oversees 3,600 Rotarians in the District.



Thought for the Day – Bill Palmer

Bill Palmer shared that today's thought is attributed to Rabbi Nachman who was born and raised in Ukraine and lived in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. His teachings and influence continue to be highly revered. He lived a life that was subject to abuse and only lived to age 38. Rabbi Nachman is quoted as saying "It is forbidden to abandon hope".

Moment of Silence

C J Hirschfield took to the microphone to share that **Bruce Nye** passed away yesterday. **Bruce** was married to his wife, Risa, for 52 years and was the father of three children. He loved baseball, both the Giants and A's, and made giving back to Oakland a priority. He was founder of the organization Make Oakland Better Now.

Global Grant Scholar – Sandrena Frischer

President-Elect Joe Goralika was invited to the podium to introduce Global Grant Scholar, Sandrena Frischer, but before doing that he announced that Oakland Rotary will be a part of the Piedmont 4th of July Parade. Rotarians are encouraged to join the celebration in Piedmont.

Sandrena Frischer then took the microphone to thank Oakland Rotary for supporting her as a Global Grant Scholar. After completing her undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley she has almost completed her PhD in diseases of poverty at Oxford. She has made many contacts and was very thankful for Oakland Rotary's tremendous support.

Calgary, Canada

Fourth of July
Parade – Piedmont
11 am – 3 pm
Details to come.

Service Projects

Lodestar High School
Career Day
May 28 – 9:00 am – 11:15 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
June 2 – 10:15 – 10:45 am
Contact Marie Sescon
for meeting information.

Fun, Sport & Adventure
June 10 – 6 – 7:15 pm
Contact Mark Rosen
for meeting information.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!
Celebrating are:

May
26 – Ralph Sklar
27 – Mieko Hatano
30 – Ces Butner
31 – Megan Imperial

June
05 – Kevin Kelley
06 – Brett Badelle
06 – Bob Barth
06 – Bob Muldoon
07 – Anne Bisagno
07 – Dale Chamblin
08 – Joseph Koroma
09 – Jim Wambach
11 – Morris Johnson
13 – Steve Nicholls
14 – Bruce Nye
16 – Steve Blair
16 – Keith Giron
17 – Preston Pinckney
19 – Bryan Morgan
19 – Julayne Virgil
21 – Kers Clausen
22 – Robert Raburn
23 – Michael Houston
25 – Sheldon Crandall
26 – Jesse Bowdle

Membership
Anniversaries

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



Member Inductions

President Shannon invited Past President Ces Butner to the podium to introduce several new members from the East Bay Community Foundation.

- Brandi Howard is the President & CEO of the Foundation. As a child she was interested in entomology, however, Ces wasn't clear how that led her to her role at the Foundation! Brandi also enjoys cross country road trips.
- Eliane (Elle) Fersan is the VP at EBCF. She has two master's degrees, speaks two languages and is an elite jazz singer.
- Marta Grajeda is the Foundation's Director of Philanthropy. In high school she was a member of InterAct! A graduate of San Francisco State she is considered a "dog whisperer".

President Shannon welcomed the new members and presented each with their Rotary pins, rosters, 4-way test and other Rotary goodies.

Keith Uriarte switched places with Ces and introduced another new member! Moya Robinson is a native Oaklander who grew up in East Oakland. She is a real estate professional who enjoys jazz, family barbecues and ballet dancing.

President Shannon welcomed Moya and also presented her with a Rotary pin, roster, 4-way test and other Rotary goodies.



Oakland Rotary Endowment

Prior to the lunch meeting, the Oakland Rotary Endowment Board of Directors recognized ORE donors with a champagne reception. ORE President Ces Butner and Treasurer Pam Claassen provided club members with a short history of the Endowment as well as an overview of current giving. In 2009 the Endowment value was \$1 million and it has now grown to \$5.1 million! Between 2020 and 2025 the endowment increased by \$1,872,825! And ORE has awarded \$1.5 million in program funding over that time frame. Seventy-five percent of Rotarians have given each year, but we are still working to reach the goal of having every Rotarian give every year. Rotarians who contributed to ORE were asked to stand to be recognized. A huge thank you to everyone!



Jack McAboy's 50 Years in Rotary

Past President Michael Bruck (and his new hip) joined President Shannon to honor Jack McAboy's 50 years in Rotary. Michael began by sharing that there are many individuals, real and fictional, known as "Mister." For example:

- Mr. Rogers was known for his children's TV show

- June
- Ces Butner – 33 years
- Margo Seligman – 33 years
- Peter Turner – 33 years
- John Holmgren – 32 years
- Fred Morse – 31 years
- Robert Kidd – 29 years
- Mary Geong – 23 years
- Elizabeth Johnson – 22 years
- Catherine Pinkas – 21 years
- Keith Giron – 18 years
- Linda Hamilton – 18 years
- Dan Altemus – 17 years
- Sean Callum – 17 years
- Merlin Edwards – 14 years
- David Barron – 12 years
- Jain Williams – 12 years
- Barbara Leslie – 10 years
- Ahmad Anderson – 8 years
- Pat McMillan – 8 years
- Lois Corrin – 4 years
- Dave Cannon – 2 years
- Fiona Ma – 2 years
- Thomas Binz – 1 year
- Mandolin Kadera-Redmond – 1 year
- Pat Raburn – 1 year

- Mr. Spock, is the famous character on Star Trek
- Mr. Burns, owns the nuclear power plant on the Simpson's
- Mr. Potato Head is a beloved toy
- Mr. Peanut is the mascot of Planter's Peanuts

However, did you know that we have our own "Mister" right here in our club?" Mr. Oakland Rotary is our very own **Jack McAboy**. **Jack** has served as Club President, ORE Chair, Polio Plus Campaign chair, founder of the Courageous Citizens Awards, Club Centennial Chair, and much more.

Today, we are celebrating one more major **Jack McAboy** accomplishment. **Jack** has been a member of the Oakland Rotary Club for 50 years! Traditional gifts for a 50th birthday include a gold watch, gold pen, and gold cufflinks. But **Jack** didn't get any of these gifts. He received something even better than gold. **HOPE Committee Chair Gary Flaxman** and former **HOPE Committee Chair Teresa Weyand** presented **Jack** with a beautiful hand sewn quilt (made by **Teresa**!) in a labyrinth pattern denoting the "maze" that the HOPE mentors help the mentees maneuver. On the reverse were the names of mentees and mentors who **Jack** helped guide.

President Shannon then presented **Jack** with an additional gift: a beautiful book created by **Linda Hamilton** entitled "Celebrating Jack McAboy-50 Years in the Rotary Club of Oakland #3-1975 to 2025" which includes photos, lists of accomplishments, "Jack Facts," messages from fellow past presidents and club members, and more. **Eilda Scola** beautifully bound the book.

President Shannon then presented **Jack** with his 50-year Rotary pin. **President-Elect Joe Goralka** presented a proclamation from **Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee** acknowledging **Jack's** service and declaring June 5, 2025 as "**Jack McAboy Day**" in Oakland.

A special surprise was the presentation by renowned sculptor and former club member **Mario Chiodo**. **Mario** worked with **Jack** during the sculpting of the **Remember Them Memorial Monument**. **Mario** presented **Jack** with the Hands of Hope, Hands of Helping of the Helen Keller sculpture.

Jack acknowledged and thanked the Club for recognizing him. He briefly introduced his family: son, Adam, daughter, Heather, and life-partner Sandy Magnuson. Members showed their appreciation by ringing the bell to honor **Jack**. The many bellringers for **Jack** are listed below.



Speaker for the Day – Ted Dang

New Rotarian **Dayana Medevsky** was honored to introduce our speaker for the day, Ted Dang. Ted is a native Oaklander growing up in Oakland's Chinatown and attending local public schools. He graduated from UC Berkeley and went on to a career in Real Estate Management. He is the co-founder of East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation.

Ted spoke on "*Collecting Comic Books for Fun and Profit*". Ted provided a brief history of comic books and their rise in popularity. Beginning with the inclusion in newspapers, pulp magazines, and the "funnies", Comics reached what is considered the "Golden Age of Comics" in the 1940's with Superheroes, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Cartoons, Romance and Teen subjects featured in comic versions.

In the 1950's a well-known psychologist published a report encouraging comics to be censored and discouraged comics for children. This resulted in a down-turn in popularity of comics. Ted then shared a variety of Comic covers and shared the value of comics that are in mint condition. For example, a 1938 Action Comics that cost 10 cents is worth \$3.2 million in mint condition or \$300,000 in fair condition. Covers of comic books Frank Frazetta illustrated are highly sought after and very valuable.

He shared stories of how he and his brother would obtain comic books from a variety of sources where they would pay 50 cents for a copy and sell for \$2 dollars. Over time Ted built a substantial comic collection, but they were lost in the Oakland Hills fire.

President Shannon thanked our speaker and shared that a contribution to Polio Plus has been made in his honor.



Bellringers

C J Hirschfield, Tom Limon, Dudley Thompson, Jim Boessenecker, Isaac Kos-Read, Fred Morse, and Joe Goralka rang the bell in memory of **Bruce Nye**.

Pam Claassen, Joe Goralka, Shanna O'Hare, Trisha Connors, John Holmgren, Merlin Edwards, Tom Limon, Kristine Watson, Mario Chiodo, John Claassen and Debra Barnes rang the bell for **Ces Butner's** leadership of Oakland Rotary Endowment.

John Protopappas, Jason Wizelman, Michael Bruck, Jon Gresley, Gudrun Dybdal, Kerry Hamill, Linda Boessenecker, Jim Boessenecker, Tom Limon, Lorna Padia Markus, Joe Goralka, Ken Richardson, Alex Poulsen, Carla Betts, Linda Chew, Shanna O'Hare, Sedrick Tydus, Wise Allen, Fred Morse, Ed Jellen, Stephanie Casenza, Dudley Thompson, Trisha Connors, Pam Claassen, Mary Geong, Mary Rudser, Pat Young, Heather McAboy, John Claassen and Harold Lowe rang the bell in honor of **Jack McAboy**.

At the May 29th meeting, **Daniel Cheng** rang the bell for **Steve Nicholls**.

Adjournment

President Shannon thanked those who helped put on today's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 pm.