

# Rotary

## Club of Oakland 3



Live Oak

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



### STORIES

#### Next Club Meeting – July 17, 2025 – Patti Poppe – A Climate Optimist's Stand for our Planet

**Sara Chavez-Yoell** announced next week's speaker will be Patti Poppe, CEO of PG&E Corporation.

As PG&E and its customers have been at the forefront of extreme weather and climate conditions in recent years, they are committed to stemming the speed of climate change and adapting to its effects. PG&E and its CEO, Patti Poppe, are more focused and more optimistic than ever in building an electrified, decarbonized energy system that's climate resilient and affordable for all. Hear more from Patti on why she's a climate optimist and how the energy system is a force for good.



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 July 10, 2025

##### Call to Order

The Induction of Oakland Rotary's 117th President, **Joe Goralka**, was prefaced by terrific music from the Rotary Band, wrapping up in perfect time for **Past President Ces Butner** to call the meeting to order at exactly 12:30 p.m. Looking like the accomplished coach he is, **Joe** blew the whistle for his Rotary team to run in, with **Jason Wizelman** calling the play. The team of board members jogged amongst the tables high-fiving members as they found the way to their seats.

**Ces** welcomed club members and an abundance of visiting Rotarians and special guests here for this exciting occasion. He then invited the club to greet **Joe's** large, enthusiastic Rotary-shirted team.

### Club Meeting

#### 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?  
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 with:  
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

#### Summer Business Development Mixer

August 20 – 5 – 8 pm  
TNT Strength

#### Annual Summer Family Picnic

August 28 – 5 – 8 pm  
Lake Temescal  
\$25 per person,  
Children free

#### Sarabande Africaine

August 30 – 8 pm  
Greek Theatre,  
Berkeley  
Tickets start at \$65.

### Weekly Meetings

July 17 – Patti Poppe,  
PG&E

July 24 – David Hunt,  
Prescott Circus Theatre

July 30 – 3 – 5:30 pm  
Oakland Airport Tour  
SOLD OUT

August 7 – Cheryl Lander  
Meeting at Cathedral  
Conference Center, Oakland

### Committee Meetings

**Karl F Stucki World  
Community Service**  
July 15 – 5 – 6:30 pm

**Enterprise Institute**  
July 16 – 7 – 8 pm

**Membership Meeting**  
July 24 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
Office of Lorna Padia Markus

### Birthday Greetings

**Happy Birthday!**  
Celebrating are:

July  
04 – Lois Corrin  
05 – Iris Brody Lopez  
08 – Allison Bliss  
08 – Marc Lipsett  
09 – Dave Cannon  
10 – Keri Butkevich  
13 – Ed Jellen  
14 – Allison Lindquist  
15 – Alex Kaffka  
21 – Wendy Howard  
24 – Rich Harrison  
24 – Jerry Wendt  
25 – Blase Bova  
25 – Cybele Gerachis  
26 – Angela Darby  
28 – Marta Grajeda  
30 – Julie Fox

### Membership Anniversaries

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

July  
Dale Chamblin – 49 years  
Bob Peltz – 45 years  
Syd Saperstein – 40 years  
Marianne Robison – 32 years  
Jon Gresley – 30 years  
Linda Chew – 29 years  
Ralph Sklar – 29 years



### Thought for the Day & Pledge of Allegiance – Martha Goralka

Martha Goralka, President of the Delta-Antioch Rotary Club, provided a graceful Thought for the Day, reminding everyone that the 1.2-1.4 million Rotarians around the world are dedicated to proactive service above self, using the example that working for peace means not just combatting war but eliminating polio. Because this is Independence Day week, Martha then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Song – God Bless America

Ces introduced Citali Morfin, a high school senior and Enterprise Institute participant, who sang "God Bless America" for us. She also opened a recent



Ed Jellen – 28 years  
Phil Campbell – 26 years  
Gudrun Dybdal – 26 years  
C J Hirschfield – 22 years  
John Claassen – 21 years  
Bob Barth – 17 years  
Cristy Johnston-Limon – 13 years  
Marc Lipsett – 12 years  
Jim Boessenecker – 9 years  
Nancy O'Malley – 9 years  
Suzie Yokomizo – 7 years  
Kristine Watson – 6 years  
Pam Claassen – 5 years  
Lou Rigali – 5 years  
Shonda Scott – 5 years  
Jake Schoneker – 3 years  
Michael Houston – 1 year  
Ricka White-Soso – 1 year

Club Leaders

Oakland Roots game with song.

Remarks from Key Rotarians

**Ces** asked past RI Director and Oakland Uptown Club member, Brad Howard, for some recollections about **Joe**. With the first official Goralka tenure tease regarding **Joe's** phenomenal energy, Brad pondered why the club could not find someone with more energy. He noted the terrific year **Immediate Past President Shannon Hackley** just completed, warning **Joe** he would be trying to fill the huge leadership shoes that signify **Shannon's** tenure.



**Ces** invited past District 5160 Governor, Al Frumkin, to speak about his connection with **Joe** since both were members of the San Ramon Club in 1983. Al spoke about a small group of friends, including **Joe**, who are still close and who taught him a lot about putting the Four Way Test into practice. Al noted that he and **Joe** have exchanged gifts of Paul Harris contributions at significant Rotary occasions.

The Life and Times of Coach Joe

**Ces** then asked **Linda Hamilton** to present the anticipated Life and Times of Coach Joe. Noting that **Joe** has been a Rotarian for 42 years, **Linda** observed that he and Rotary were both born in Chicago. Terrific photos included those of **Joe's** parents, and a grandfather who was a Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty. **Joe** is the oldest of nine, from a loving and caring family always helping one another - and needing two cars to go on vacation. The Goralka kids were expected to get the most from education and sports. They grew up in Livermore where Joe lettered in football, basketball and baseball. One of the photos **Linda** showed where **Joe** got two hits off of future baseball star Dennis Eckersley, who played on a rival school team.

**Joe** attended the University of Santa Clara, working so many jobs during college that he took a pay cut when he graduated to take his first accountant job. Joe loved being a CPA, starting his own firm and raising three kids, all the while undertaking world travel that has never ceased.

**Joe** became a Rotarian at the age of 28 with the San Ramon Rotary Club and was its president at age 30. Moving on to the Alamo Rotary Club in 1992, where he also served as president, was fortuitous, as **Joe** met his beloved Martha at a District 5160 conference. Martha called our new president "Jim," for several weeks, but **Joe** persisted and they eloped in 1993. Martha was a founding member of the Delta-Antioch Rotary Club, where she is now beginning her fourth term as president.

**Joe** joined Oakland #3 in 2002 and he and Martha raised three kids while continuing to attend Rotary International conventions, now numbering 26! The Goralkas are members of the Arch Klumph Society, having contributed \$250,000. There was a great photo of Joe's bike racing medals, a sport he enjoyed along with mentoring roles, and service trips including Africa, Columbia and India.



Joe Takes the Helm

**Ces** then invited **Joe** to the podium, who welcomed several remarkable leaders he has been honored to work with over the decades. Saying that we are a winning team **Joe** thanked **Ces Butner** and **Linda Hamilton**, as well as **Shannon Hackley** for a record-breaking season and a strong bench. **Joe** thanked the many family members present, Donte Gohleston, **Joe's** HOPE mentee since 6th grade, and his 'better half,' Martha.

**Joe** mentioned past Rotary International Director, Brad Howard, several past district governors - including our own **Ed Jellen** – Past District 5160 Governors Brian Thiessen and Al Frumkin, and Past District 5170 Governor Orrin Mahoney, who has been a mentor to **Joe** along with **Past President Jon Gresley**. He offered Incoming District 5170 Governor, Geeta Kadambi, a special welcome. **Joe's** first act as President was to welcome members of his team – the Board of Directors.

### New Member Induction – Jonathan Breznikar

**President Joe** introduced Oakland Rotary's newest member, **Jonathan Breznikar**. He is President of East Bay Restaurant Supply. Two interesting facts: **Jonathan's** grandfather, John E. Breznikar, was an active member and director of Oakland Rotary. **Jonathan** was a superstar basketball player at Bishop O'Dowd. Welcome **Jonathan**!

### Help Needed for the Texas flood Disaster

On a serious note, **President Joe** extended the club's sympathy and concern to those affected by this month's Texas flood disaster. Rotary, individually and collectively, are already helping financially through our website and on the Rotary International site for Zones 25B and 29.

### Happy Birthday to July Honorees

**Joe** led the club in singing Happy Birthday to members celebrating July birthdays, including **Keri Butkevich**, celebrating today, who got to wear the Birthday Hat.

### The President's Vision

**President Joe** announced that a club survey is coming asking what each member would like their Oakland Rotary experience to be. Please take time to respond. His vision is that he wants to do what we want to do. Everyone is invited to join **Joe's** team for his On the Run theme for the year.

He advised members that possible new locations for club meetings and fundraising options are under consideration. He thanked **Past President David Stein** for the ongoing calendar of exceptional speakers. He expressed appreciation to everyone who put together and participated in Rotary's appearance in the Piedmont Fourth of July parade, noting that the Club received an award for the best new parade entry!

**Joe** has set aside \$10,000 of his club budget for a project partnering with the community. He advised that the club's terrific KinderPrep Committee plans to focus more on interaction with teachers and students. And, **Joe** reinforced the priority of Rotarians doing business with Rotarians. He put forth a goal that by the end of his year we each will know every member by name and occupation, and expressed the hope that there will be an increased level of activities with working members. Finally, our new president announced that an easy-to-earn Member Recognition Medal is being introduced. **Joe** wound up his remarks by stating that, as he has seen, Rotary makes lives better.



### Bellringers

Jason Wizelman, David Stein, Isaac Kos-Read, Dudley Thompson, Ken Pon, Brad Howard, Ces Butner, Sedrick Tydus, Trisha Connors, Mary Rudser, Kerry Hamill, Shannon Hackley, Ed Brail, Alex Poulsen, Merlin Edwards, Ken Richardson, Elida Scola, Daniel Cheng, Mary Geong, Barbara Beery, Steve Nicholls, Wil Hobbs, Stephanie Casenza, Gary Flaxman, Randy Arnold, Pam Claassen, Joey Goralka and Xing Zhou, Martha Goralka, and Jim and Linda Boessenecker rang the bell in honor of **Joe Goralka**.

### Adjournment

**President Joe** adjourned his first meeting at 1:27 pm, followed by very many rounds of congratulations all around the California Ballroom.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Salutes to Joe Goralka

Enjoy the testimonials from Joe's friend, Peter Kalibbala in Uganda [Peter Kaibbala](#) as well as Dave Bedford, a neighbor and friend since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade [David Bedford](#)