



### 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.

Josh Rowan  
Director of Transportation  
City of Oakland  
Sponsor: **Keith Uriarte**

Becky Opsata  
Interim President, Laney College  
Sponsor: **John Claassen**

David Johnson  
President, Merritt College  
Sponsor: **John Claassen**

Kira Pascoe  
Director of Development  
Oakland Parks and Rec Foundation  
Sponsor: **Mandolin Kadera-Redmond**

Aaron Smith  
Sponsor: **Keith Uriarte**

### We Care Corner

The We Care Committee reaches out to member when help is needed for a variety of reasons.

Areas of expertise include:

Information about home care including equipment & supplies  
Help with post surgery  
Logging on to Zoom  
A ride to the weekly Club meeting  
Choosing a committee  
Some cheer during a rough time

Send a confidential email to the We Care Committee address [RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com)

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

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

### Special Events

**Summer Business Development Mixer**  
August 20 – 5 – 7 pm  
TNT Strength

### Live Oak Newsletter

#### Next Club Meeting – August 21, 2025 – Maria Valdehueza, Golden State Valkyries

**Michele Himmelberg** (Sports Journalist) announced next week's speaker will be Maria Valdehueza, the Sr. VP of Ticketing and Events. You won't want to miss hearing more about the Valkyries' phenomenal first season.

Ms. **Valdehueza** was named a 2025 San Francisco Business Times 40 Under 40 honoree. The award celebrates the outstanding business leaders who are making a difference in the Bay Area business community.



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 August 14, 2025

##### Call to Order

?**President Joe Goralka** (retired CFO) called the meeting to order at 12:27 pm. The meeting returned home to the California Ballroom after last week's field trip to the Cathedral Event Center. **Joe** was sporting tie number seven.

##### Meeting Sponsor – Isaac Kos-Read

**Isaac Kos-Read** (Communications and Public Affairs) and the Kos-Read Group is an Oakland-based public affairs firm which provides community engagement, government relations, media coverage, and similar services to civic-minded organizations. **Isaac** is a member of the club Board of Directors and chairs the Public Relations Committee. **Isaac** reminded the audience that any member can sponsor a meeting for only \$300.

### **Oakland Rotary Golf Club**

August 25 – 12 noon  
Chabot Golf Course  
Also October 8 at  
Sequoia Country Club  
Limit of 24 players, all  
skill levels welcome  
Contact Dudley Thompson  
for more information.

### **Food Insecurity Volunteer Tray-line Meal Assembly**

August 25 – 9:15 – 11:30 am  
SOS Meals on Wheels  
Contact Karen Friedman to  
participate.

### **Annual Summer Family Picnic**

August 28 – 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Lake Temescal  
\$35 per person,  
Children under 14 free  
Register on Eventbrite.

### **Sarabande Africaine**

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

### **Rotary International Convention**

June 13 – 17, 2026  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Register and pay in  
full by Dec 15, 2025  
for discount.

## **Committee Meetings**

### **Karl Stucki World Community Service**

August 12 – 5 – 6 pm

### **Business Development**

August 12 – 5 – 6 pm

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

August 12 – 6:00 – 7:15 pm

### **Enterprise Institute**

August 20 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

August 25 – 5 – 6 pm

## **Birthday Greetings**

### **Happy Birthday!**

Celebrating are:



## **Thought for the Day – Elida Scola**

**Elida Scola** (Framing & Art) invited everyone to enjoy the Italian festival of Ferragosto. It is a major Italian holiday celebrated on August 15th with feasts and celebrations across Italy. Buon Ferragosto!

## **Visiting Rotarians and Guests**

Martha Goralka, president of Delta-Antioch Rotary Club  
Kevin Smith and Donald Lacy - guests of **Merlin Edwards**  
David Morgan - guest of **David Stein**  
Betty Cohen - guest of **CJ Hirschfield**  
Ryan - guest of **John Claassen**  
Bill Schwartz - guest of **Barbara Beery**  
Kira Pascoe - guest of **Kymberly Miller**  
Sigori Pirtle - guest of **Preston Pinkney**  
Cynthia Leon, Travis Duncan, and Rodolfo Baquerizo - guests of **Isaac Kos-Read**

## **New Member Induction – Alex Garcia**

**Past President Mary Geong** (Tax & Financial Planning) introduced new member **Alex Garcia**. Alex is a District Executive of the Golden Gate Area Council of Scouting America. He was a member of his high school track team and is passionate about endurance training. Welcome **Alex**!

#### August

01 – Tom Limon  
03 – Alex Garcia  
04 – Brandi Howard  
05 – Jerry Owen  
07 – Jennifer Shanowski  
08 – Ana-Marie Jones  
08 – John Protopappas  
09 – John Claassen  
09 – Johanna Leonard  
10 – John Holmgren  
10 – Charlene Wang  
13 – Harold Lowe  
14 – C J Hirschfield  
14 – Rachele Karpeles  
15 – Roger Huddlestone  
17 – Joycie Mack  
18 – Odalis Ordenez  
20 – Kevin Jenkins  
20 – Gail Uilkema  
21 – Joel Parrott  
23 – Joe Goralka  
24 – Shannon Hackley  
27 – Julie Caskey  
28 – Jain Williams  
30 – Michael Bruck

#### Membership Anniversaries

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

#### August

Roger Huddlestone – 42 years  
Lorna Padia Markus – 29 years  
Allison Lindquist – 19 years  
Peter Sherris – 16 years  
Gary Flaxman – 14 years  
Robert Raburn – 12 years  
Yong Bai – 11 years  
Mona Hall – 8 years  
Lesley Weaver – 7 years  
Kymberly Miller – 6 years  
Mieko Hatano – 4 years  
Vivian Chen – 3 years  
Rachelle Karpeles – 3 years  
Chet Burgess – 1 year  
Tya Modeste – 1 year



#### Fukuoka Student Exchange

The Oakland #3 - Fukuoka Rotary student exchange program has existed since 1979. **President Joe** introduced Sakura Nakao, this year's Fukuoka student ambassador. Sakura's goals as a participant in the program are: improving her English skills; making friends around the world; and improving her global perspective. Sakura presented a gift from the Fukuoka club to **President Joe**.

Samantha Taniguchi, Oakland's student ambassador, thanked the club for the opportunity to participate in the program. She was able to improve her Japanese language skills, learn more about Rotary and enjoy the Japanese food and shopping.

**President Joe** awarded "Rotary on the Run" medals to Sakura and Samantha.



#### Happy August Birthdays

More than twenty Oakland Rotarians are celebrating their birthdays in August, including **C J Hirschfield** who was observing her August 14th birthday. They were honored by the singing of the Happy Birthday song.

#### Rotary Golf Is Back

**Past President Dudley Thompson** (Graphics Vinyl) hauled his golf clubs onto the podium to announce the next Oakland #3



Golf Club event. Both seasoned and less than seasoned golfers will gather at the Lake Chabot Golf Course on Monday, August 25 at 12:00 pm. Every golfer is welcome so long as you "move along." Register on Eventbrite or call **Dudley** at 510-453-9962.



### Biz Development Mixer

**Business Development Committee Chair David Kersten** (Videography) invited members and guests to the next Biz Development Mixer at TNT Strength on Wednesday, August 20th, 5:00-7:00 pm. There will be snacks and beverages from the Entertainment Committee and a live demonstration by professional bodybuilder and American Ninja Warrior Verdale Benson. Register on Eventbrite.

### Even More Announcements

Rotary Picnic - August 28th, 5:30-7:30 at Lake Temescal with food and music  
Dues are Due - Please pay your club dues ASAP.

### New Sergeant at Arms

**President Joe** announced that the only member who has carte blanche to speak out at club meetings is Sergeant at Arms **Jason Wizelman**. **Jason** will assist in keeping order and adding to the fun at meetings.

### Speaker for the Day—Kristi McKenney

**Isaac Kos-Read** returned to the lectern to introduce member **Kristi McKenney**. **Kristi** assumed the position of executive director of the Port of Oakland on March 1, 2025. She is the first woman to serve as Port executive director in its ninety-eight-year history. She previously served as COO and assistant aviation director.

**Kristi** provided an overview of the Port and updates to the port, airport, and real estate operations:

- The Port is an independent department of the City of Oakland. It does not receive any funds from the City and pays taxes and for City services.
- The seaport is the waterfront agency and has 1,300 acres
- The Port either owns or has jurisdiction over Jack London Square, Embarcadero Cove, Brooklyn Basin, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, and the Airport Business Park
- The airport opened in 1927 and consists of 2,600 acres
- Southwest Airlines is the largest private employer in Oakland
- The seaport is the number one refrigerated export port in the world
- The seaport is a "balanced" port with 50% imports and 50% exports
- All ships at berth have shore power
- Passengers can fly to Europe from OAK (ask **Kristi** for details)

- The new airport name (Oakland San Francisco Bay Airport) identifies the airport geographically
- The airport is elevating the airport experience with new shops, restaurants and five-star restrooms
- The Port's commercial real estate is the most challenging operation



### Bellringers

**C J Hirschfield** in honor of guest Betty Cohen

**Joe Goralka** in honor of guest Cynthia Leon

**Shannon Hackley** in honor of speaker **Kristi McKenney**

### Adjournment

**President Joe** adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm, reminding everyone that through Rotary world peace will come someday and we will end Polio too. "Look Out – Oakland Rotary is on the Run".