

# Rotary

## Club of Oakland 3



## Live Oak

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**



### 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 – 7 pm  
TNT Strength

**Oakland Rotary Golf Club**  
August 25 – 12 noon  
Chabot Golf Course  
Also October 8 at Sequoyah Country Club  
Limit of 24 players  
Contact Dudley Thompson for more information.

**Food Insecurity Volunteer Tray-line Meal Assembly**  
August 25 – 9:15 – 11:30 am  
SOS Meals on Wheels

### Next Club Meeting – August 14, 2025 – Kristi McKenney – Port of Oakland Executive Director

**Past President David Stein** David Stein announced that next week's speaker will be Port of Oakland Executive Director **Kristi McKenney**, who will speak to Oakland's air, land, and sea issues. The Port of Oakland is the 9<sup>th</sup> busiest seaport, has 20 miles of waterfront property and serves 10 million airline passengers annually.



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 7, 2025

#### Call to Order

?**President Joe Goralka** aka **Coach Joe** let the anticipation build in the Event Center of Oakland's Cathedral of Christ the Light at Lake Merritt before opening the weekly meeting at 12:32 pm. Noting that it's fun to be on a road trip, **Joe** said feedback on the venue as a possible regular meeting place would be invited after today's meeting.

Contact Karen Friedman to participate.

### Annual Summer Family Picnic

August 28 – 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Lake Temescal  
\$25 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.

## Weekly Meetings

August 14 – Kristi McKenney  
Port of Oakland Exec. Dir.

August 21 – Kimberly Veale  
Golden State Valkyries

## 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:

August  
01 – Tom Limon  
04 – Brandi Howard  
05 – Jerry Owen  
07 – Jennifer Shanoski  
08 – Ana-Marie Jones  
08 – John Protopappas



Reminding the audience that Rotary has clubs in 200 countries, **President Joe** noted that our 116 year old club has a significant local impact through business leaders who gather to discuss ideas and focus on community issues while enjoying fellowship. Then he invited those who attended last week's terrific Rotary tour of the Oakland Airport to send photos of the event, to add to those which will be shown at an upcoming meeting.

### Meeting Sponsor

Thanking everyone present for attending, **Joe** reminded the Club that members can sponsor a meeting for \$300, before introducing **Jesse Schmidt**, co-founder of the Bay Area's Number 1 rated strength training organization, TNT 1-on-1 Personal Training.

**Jesse** thanked everyone who has helped make TNT a tremendous success, with trainers changing individual lives in two 30-minute evidence-based sessions weekly. Noting that TNT is the only one in the world with coaches who have earned four-year degrees in strength training, he said TNT is making plans to expand next year.

### Business Development Mixer

**Jesse** then invited everyone to attend the Business Development Mixer on August 20 starting at 5 pm at TNT Strength, located at 5255 College Avenue. It will include a live demonstration by a professional bodybuilder, along with food, drink and fellowship.

### Guests and Visiting Rotarians

**Coach Joe** welcomed visiting Rotarian, Guadalupe Martinez, whom he, with wife Martha and **Past President Mary Geong**, met on a 2022 Rotary wheelchair project trip. Guadalupe's Monterrey, Mexico Club began in 1991 as an all women club. Jennifer Lee of the San Leandro Rotary club was welcomed, as was Frank Yoke, President of the San Francisco Club #2. **Jillian Loh** introduced son, Tyson. **Past President Tom Limon** welcomed daughters Lena and Natalia. **Mary Geong** also introduced a guest.

### Thought for the Day – Harold Lowe III

**Harold Lowe** gave the Thought for the Day, which focused on several thought-provoking contrasts taking us to the place between darkness and light that bring clarity when light is shined on the challenges we face.

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 Ordonez  
 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

## Club Leaders



## Rotary International Calgary Convention

**Joe** welcomed **Past President Mary Geong** to the podium to recap the June 2025 Rotary International Convention eight Rotarians and spouses attended in Calgary, Canada. **Mary** and **Joe** donned their white cowboy hats as she showed several photos of the fun, including the Rotary Mini-Stampede arranged for convention guests just one week before the city's world-renowned annual Calgary Stampede. **Mary** spoke about the pleasure of seeing Rotarians from around the world, including former Oakland #3 club administrator Lori Sinclair, now a Rotary club president in Washington state, and Mike Mowry, another former Oakland #3 member now an Oregon Rotarian.

Before presenting **Coach Joe** with a 2026 Taiwan Rotary Convention flag, **Mary** invited members to attend that international event scheduled for June 2026 in Taipei, and take advantage of the current early bird discount. For her efforts, **Mary** was presented with **Joe's** Rotary on the Run medal.





#### New Member Induction – Derek Barnes and Erica Nunez

**Fred Morse** introduced new member **Derek Barnes**, CEO of the East Bay Rental Association which spans Alameda as well as Contra Costa County. Several interesting facts about **Derek**: He was born in New York, has visited 35 countries on 5 continents. He has earned an open water dive certification and is also a cyclist.



Past President Shannon Hackley then introduced new corporate member **Erica Nunez**, representing the Hively social services offices in Oakland and San Leandro. Several interesting facts about Erica: she is a native Oaklander, has visited 16 countries, and conquered her fear of heights by jumping off a 50 foot suspension bridge in Costa Rica.



**Joe** presented new member badges, Rotary pens, caps and copies of the Rotary Four Way Test to **Derek** and **Erica**.

### Annual Club Picnic Update

**Jason Wizelman** reminded members of the Annual Summer Picnic on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Lake Temescal. Attendees need to sign-up and pay in advance using the Oakland Rotary Eventbrite page. Cost is \$35 for adults; children 14 and younger are free.

### Announcements

**President Joe** had several announcements.

Club Dues were due on July 1. If you haven't paid them, please do so now.

Sakura Nakao, the Student Ambassador from Fukuoka will be at the Club meeting next week.

### Speakers for the Day—Cheryl Lander and Vanessa Nguyen

**Ahmad Anderson** introduced Cheryl and Vanessa as two dynamic speakers who are deeply engaged in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within our 5170 Rotary District, advising that they will awaken us as to what DEI can look like in Rotary while inspiring us to action and impact. Vanessa is the president-elect of the San Francisco Bay Area Rotary club and District 5170 Interact Chair. Cheryl is past president of the Silicon Valley Rainbow Rotary Club and a member of Rotary International's LGBT Plus Fellowship Board. Speaking of the reasons they have for passion regarding equity, each referenced the Four Way Test with examples of how organizations become more successful by focusing on positive values, transparency, trust and collaboration.

Cheryl congratulated Oakland #3 for inviting women to join very soon after the Supreme Court case mandating equal membership opportunity, stating that a great way to make new club members feel good comes from the example of the international LGBT fellowship group her employer, Oracle, created as an employee resource group.

Cheryl and Vanessa were specific about actions leading to positive outcomes when truth, collective well-being, and credibility are prioritized. Meeting people where they are is key to Rotary success in this day and age - encouraging people to be authentic. The audience was then asked to discuss how we can each be our authentic selves while having a sense of belonging, and what steps the club might take to achieve that goal.

Rotary DEI district resources are available. Members are reminded that in the current climate Rotary is not changing the definition of DEI, which continues to focus on the Rotary Four Way Test.

Members are invited to a Call to Action if we feel passionate about DEI and would like to contribute in any way. **Joe** expressed



the club's gratitude for a fulsome reminder of DEI history and attributes, urging that we be even more welcoming than ever to the wider world. We will welcome new members enthusiastically, while attending to the care and feeding of current members. **Joe** thanked members of the club's DEI committee, **Kym Johnson**, **Wil Hobbs**, **Kerry Hamill** and **Ahmad Anderson**.



### Bellringers

**Joe Goralka** and **Ahmad Anderson** were among several Rotarians to ring the bell.

### Adjournment

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

### Tour of Oakland Airport

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Oakland Rotary members enjoyed a "backstage" tour of the Oakland Airport. They learned about the various aspects that go into making the airport run smoothly as it serves 10 million airline passengers annually.

The group posed in front of airport's monster fire truck which holds 300 gallons of water, has cameras mounted on top of its frame and a special spike to puncture an airplane if it needs access to the interior.

We learned that one of the fire fighters, Captain Atiff Shakur, was the recipient of an Oakland Rotary Club Scholarship as he pursued his post-secondary education.



