

Rotary

Club of Oakland



LIVE OAK

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](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!

Club Meetings

September 18
Robert Rayburn and
Victor Flores

September 25
Julie Berge

October 2
Alexis Madrigal

October 9
Ursula Jones Dickson

Service Projects

Food Insecurity Volunteer Tray-line Meal Assembly
Sept. 22 – 9:00 – 11:15 am
SOS Meals on Wheels
Second & Fourth Mondays
Contact Karen Friedman to participate.

St. Vincent DePaul Holiday Party
December 16

Special Events

Oakland Rotary Golf Club
October 8 at
Sequoyah Country Club
Limit of 24 players, all

Next Club Meeting – September 18, 2025 – Victor Flores and Robert Raburn

President Elect Merlin Edwards announced our next speakers in the Ballroom at noon will be club members and BART Directors **Victor Flores** and **Robert Raburn**. They will talk about how BART's safe, clean and reliable service supports the quality of life in the Bay Area.

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 September 11, 2025

Call to Order

President Goralka, aka **Coach Joe**, called the meeting to order at the magical Children's Fairyland, Oakland's own fairytale park celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. **Joe** thanked **Kymberly Miller** for hosting the meeting and then invited visiting Rotarians and guests to be introduced.



Thought for the Day & 911 Remembrances

Pres. Joe called attention to the 9/11 Date of Remembrance and invited **Rick Draper** to give the Thought for the Day. He is a

skill levels welcome
Contact Dudley Thompson
for more information.

Oktoberfest Business Mixer

October 9 – 5 – 7:30 pm
Minuteman Press

Halloween Party

October 30
Chapel of the Chimes

Holiday Party

December 6
Home of Fred Morse

Rotary International Convention

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

Committee Meetings

KinderPrep

Sept. 17 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

WeCare

Sept. 18 – 5 – 6 pm

Membership

Sept. 24 – 5 – 6 pm

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Sept. 29 – 5 – 6 pm

Community Service

Oct. 8 – 4 – 5 pm

Fun, Sport & Adventure

Oct. 8 – 6 – 7:15 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

September
05 – Syd Saperstein
06 – Vera Hannush
07 – Nikki Lowy
08 – Dominique Enriquez
08 – Carey Clausen
10 – Nancy O'Malley
11 – Elle Fersan
13 – Gabe Bruck
17 – Janice Brickley
17 – Susan Smith
19 – Leslie Hilger
20 – Fred Morse
21 – Greg Gilbert
22 – Pat McMillan
22 – Trisha Connors
32 – Adam Tobin
24 – Erich Harris
24 – Will Hobbs Jr
25 – Sam Davis
27 – Ricka White
29 – Jesse Schmidt

distinguished veteran of the United States Navy, the Army and the Coast Guard. **Rick** reflected on the "Never Forget" 9/11 Memorial Pledge and the need to remember the brave individuals who served their country by paying the ultimate price. The thousands lost in the tragedy remain in our hearts always he said, and he invited all to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. In continuing the 9/11 remembrance, **C J Hirschfeld** was invited to the podium to share her eyewitness experience of the 9/11 attack. **C J** said that she and three of her coworkers in the cable television industry were in New York planning an event that day for 1,500 industry professionals. The news on her hotel room TV that morning of the twin towers attack, only three miles away, was certainly shocking, painful, confusing and tearful. All these emotions would be shared by Americans everywhere. Yet being so near to Ground Zero caused **C J** to reflect on her life and her career after returning home. She soon answered an ad for a job to lead Oakland Fairyland and began a new career that brought her much joy while giving back to the community. After 17 years and many achievements in revitalizing the beloved venue, **C J** retired and handed the reigns over to **Kymberly** while continuing her community service in other ways. **C J** then introduced two of her colleagues in the audience who were with her on 9/11, Paul Fadelli and Clark Franklin. **Coach Joe** thanked **C J** for sharing her experience and presented her with a "Rotary on the Run" Medal for her community engagement.



Joe then asked for a moment of silence before concluding our 9/11 remembrance.

Announcements

RISE

Past President Dudley Thompson invited members to consider participating in Rotary's RISE leadership training program offered by District 5170 in conjunction with other districts in the US and Canada. RISE (Rotarians Inspired to Succeed and Engage) is a robust leadership training program pertinent to Rotarian leadership as well as to those running a business or involved in professional management. Contact **Dudley** for more information about applying to the program.

Rotary Sports

Dudley also announced that the club's next golf outing will be on October 8th at Sequoyah Country Club with further details. Registration is \$125, with discounts available to Sequoia Club members. In keeping with the sports theme, **Coach Joe** announced that our club is also encouraging participation in the annual Piedmont/Montclair Rotary Club's Pickleball Tournament on October

Membership Anniversaries

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

September

Wayne Goodroe – 41 years
Shanna O'Hare – 31 years
Johanna Leonard – 27 years
Rosemary Darden – 23 years
Ginni Ring – 19 years
Keri Butkevich – 10 years
Alex Kaffka – 9 years
Ed Brail – 4 years
Adam Tobin – 4 years
Nema Link – 3 years
Erich Harris – 2 years

11th. Registration is available on their website.

Avenues of Service

Past President Shannon Hackley approached the podium in an Italian gondolier costume to announce that District 5170 was hosting its annual Avenues of Service celebration for the first time in Oakland. It will be held October 16 at the Columbo Club in the Rockridge district, featuring great Italian food and wine to complement the good fellowship among attendees from 61 clubs. More details and registration can be found at <http://dacdb.com/com/Register4>



Rotary
District 5170

Welcome to
Silicon Valley

REGISTER TODAY!!

District 5170
Avenues of Service 2025
Thursday, October 16

UNITE FOR GOOD!
Showcasing What Rotary Does – Service Above Self in Action

DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

*This inspiring event will bring together members from **over 63 local Rotary clubs and members of the Colombo Club** highlighting the impactful **community service and humanitarian activities** we have supported throughout 2025.*

Mystery Keynote Speaker
But here's a hint.



At The Historic Colombo Club



5321 Claremont
Oakland
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Post event Fellowship and Social Hour
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

All for the low cost of \$50 per person

ENJOY

Avenue of Service Project Fair & Cocktails
A Delicious Italian Dinner!

FREE parking



[Click here to register or scan the QR code for more information!](#)

Program for the Day — Kymberly Miller

Fairyland CEO and Rotarian **Kymberly Miller** welcomed everyone and thanked all who have given long time support to Fairyland and its programs. She gave an overview of the park's many unique features and achievements as a safe place for children and families to recreate and dream. Kimberly described the relatively new Fairyland For All Program As a huge success in bringing 15,000 low income individuals into the park who might not have otherwise be able to afford the gate price. Additionally, she and her team are collaborating with the external community and the school district in other ways to assist children. These include consulting on ways to reach children with emotional issues, as it oftentimes is much easier for a child to share their experiences and feelings with a puppet than a real person. **Kymberly** said she appreciates the donor support of the community, including Rotarians. She then introduced Master Puppeteer Randall Metz to present the show Rotarians were about to see.

Randall Metz has been in a professional puppeteering role since he was a young adult and has worked at Fairyland for more than half of its 75-year existence. He is currently the venue's Master Puppeteer filling the big shoes of many who came before him, including Frank Oznowicz, known as Frank Oz, who went on to perform with Jim Henson and The Muppets. Fairyland's Open Storybook Puppet Theater is the oldest continuously operating puppet theater in the U.S., and currently is the only known bilingual one. Randall introduced the park's newest production "Tio Conejo's Wish," a charming bilingual play about a little rabbit who wanted to be bigger. After the play concluded with strong applause, Randall reappeared on stage to explain that all shows gracing the stage are original productions featuring scripts, costumes, music and sets designed by him and his talented team. He graciously answered many questions from the audience and concluded by sharing that puppeteering is so much more than the

hand puppets seen on TV. It was a sentiment proven by the three-foot tall costumed marionettes that are made and staged at Fairyland in keeping with a centuries-old European tradition.







Bellringers, Dinner and Adjourn

Joe Goralka rang the bell in honor of Children's Fairyland with thanks for their hospitality, then invited folks to enjoy dinner in the Merry Meadow catered by Rotarian **Ruth Stroup**, with **Dudley Thompson** mastering the bar.

Elida Scola rang the bell in honor of **Shannon Hackley's** Italian themed presentation.

The meeting then continued over dinner and good fellowship among all, adjourning as the sun set.