

Rotary

Club of Oakland



We Care Corner

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

Areas of expertise include:

Home care information
including equipment & supplies
Post surgery help
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

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

October 2
Alexis Madrigal

October 9
Ursula Jones Dickson

October 16
Bill Sokol

October 23
Tami Mucahy

Service Projects

LIVE OAK September 28, 2025

Next Club Meeting – October 2, 2025 – Alex Madrigal – Oakland and the Modern world

Ahmad Anderson announced our next speaker is Alex Madrigal. An award-winning journalist and author of "The Pacific Circuit", he will reveal how understanding Oakland explains the modern world.

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 25, 2025

Call to Order

President Joe Goralka, aka "Coach Joe", called to order the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland, the 3rd oldest Rotary Club in the world, at 12:30 pm. **President Joe** welcomed members and guests attending in person and online and reminded us that Oakland Rotary is where members come together to take action for local and global impact, and have fun together.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Martha Goralka, Delta-Antioch Rotary Cub was online. In the ballroom was **Past President Jon Gresley**, now from the Rotary of Truckee. **Jon** exchanged club banners with **Coach Joe**.

John Claassen and **Past President Mary Geong** introduced their guests.

Thought for the Day – Phil Campbell

Phil Campbell gave a Toast for the Day: about having bread to share that the world shall not know hunger, love so every person shall have dignity and comfort, and wine so that joy and prosperity may reign forever.

New Member – Rodolfo Ornelas

Coach Joe invited **Keith Uriarte** to the podium to introduce our newest member.

Oaktoberfest – Beer Booth

October 4 and 5

Contact Tom Limon for information

Tree Planting Project With City of Oakland

November 1

Prescott Market

Food Insecurity Volunteer Tray-line Meal Assembly

October 13 – 9:00 – 11:15 am

SOS Meals on Wheels

Second & Fourth Mondays

Contact Karen Friedman to participate.

St. Vincent DePaul Holiday Party

December 13

Special Events

Oakland Rotary Golf Club

October 8 at

Sequoiah Country Club

Limit of 24 players, all

skill levels welcome

Contact Dudley Thompson

for more information.

Piedmont Montclair Rotary Pickleball Tournament

October 11

Oakland Hills Tennis Club

District 5170 Avenues Of Service

October 16

Columbo Club

Halloween Party

October 30

Chapel of the Chimes

Holiday Party

December 6

Home of Fred Morse

Rotary International Convention

Rodolfo Ornelas grew up in Sacramento and is the first in his extended family to attend college. He owns a consulting company that works for the Oakland Unified School District. He loves to cook, travel and explore.

President Joe welcomed **Rodolfo** and presented him with his new member badge, Rotary pin, roster, 4-way test and other Rotary goodies and told him to never hesitate to say “hey coach put me in!”



Overview of Club Funding

Ruth Stroup, Chair of The Rotary Foundation Campaign, offered a comprehensive view of what members give to make Rotary work. The first is dues which provides funding for the Club’s operations, meeting fees, lunches, etc.

The second is The Rotary Foundation. The Club conducts the annual fund-raising campaign in the fall to provide funds for Rotary International programs globally.

The third is the Oakland Rotary Endowment, which provides funds for the Club’s philanthropic grants. Its campaign is conducted in the spring.

Self Introduction – Sam Davis

Sam Davis gave us his three-minute plus self-introduction. He has a passion for education and is a former teacher. Currently he is an Education Database Consultant for the UC Office of the President. He came to Berkeley at age 18 and enrolled in UC Berkeley, where he met his future wife – at a student protest. They have been happily married for 24 years. He served on the Oakland Unified School District Board for four years and was Board President his final year. He describes himself as a

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

Committee Meetings

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



“recovering politician”.

Business Development Mixer

David Kersten took the microphone to announce the upcoming Business Development Committee’s Oktoberfest Mixer on October 9th at Minuteman Press and encouraged all Rotarians to attend. Cost is \$20 and tickets are on sale.

September Birthdays

Pres. Joe saluted all of the members celebrating their birthday in September. He had the Rotary Birthday Hat in hand and gave it to **Sam Davis** to wear since today is **Sam’s** Birthday. Everybody sang Happy Birthday, after which **Sam** quickly returned the hat to **Pres. Joe** for safe-



keeping!

Back to School Quiz

Past President Michael Bruck invited everyone in the ballroom to test their vocabulary with a quiz of the meaning of seven words. Each table had a list and five minutes to choose the correct meaning. At the end, not one, but TWO tables, won. Each person received a Rotary on the Run coin from **Coach Joe**.

The quiz is as follows:

What does “collywobbles” mean?

27 – Ricka White
29 – Jesse Schmidt

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

- a. A type of dance from the 1880's
- b. A strange craving for pickles
- c. Stomach pain or queasiness CORRECT
- d. Victorian insults

What is a "snollygoster"?

- a. A type of sea creature
- b. A shrewd, unprincipled person (especially a politician) CORRECT
- c. A 19th century hat style
- d. A food made from boiled goose feet

What does "gobbledygook" mean?

- a. Nonsense or meaningless language CORRECT
- b. The sound a turkey makes
- c. A made-up language
- d. Baby talk

What is "cattywampus"?

- a. A type of tree fungus
- b. Diagonally or askew CORRECT
- c. A playful cat fight
- d. A made-up curse word

What does "widdershins" mean?

- a. Against the direction of the sun (counterclockwise) CORRECT
- b. A mythical creature that guards libraries
- c. A sneeze during the full moon
- d. A broken windmill

What is "bumfuzzle"?

- a. A tangled ball of thread
- b. A nonsense spell from folklore
- c. A beard with food crumbs in it
- d. To confuse or fluster someone CORRECT

What is a "fopdoodle"?

- a. A decorative soup garnish
- b. An insult for a silly or insignificant person CORRECT
- c. A type of powdered wig
- d. A dessert made of figs and noodles

President Joe presented **Michael** with a Rotary on the Run Medal for his many leadership duties in the Club including Board of Directors Secretary for 10 years, President's Special Committee Chair, co-chair of the Medellin, Columbia project, etc.

Announcements

Business Development Mixer

District 5170 Avenues of Service

As directed by Don Corleone, **Elida Scola** invited Rotarians to attend the District 5170 Avenues of Service on Thursday, October 16th at the historic Colombo Club. Learn about community service projects and humanitarian activities, enjoy cocktails, and a delicious Italian Dinner and hear from a mystery speaker (hint-think SF 49ers). Check the club website for more information and registration.

Golf Tournament

Next up **Past President Dudley Thompson** shared with members that when he first joined Rotary it was because he wanted to play golf. Only later did he realize the amazing impact of Rotary projects and opportunities for networking. So, true to **Dudley's** original goal of playing golf, he invited Rotarians to join him on October 8th at Sequoia Country Club for an afternoon of golf. The event begins at noon. The cost is \$130 for those that are not members of Sequoia. Proceeds from the event will support Polio Plus. Register on Eventbrite.

Rotary Pickleball Tournament

Additionally, **Dudley** announced the Rotary Pickleball Tournament to end polio hosted by the Piedmont-Montclair Rotary Club scheduled for October 11th at the Oakland Hills Tennis Club. All levels are welcome. A special pre-tournament clinic is scheduled for beginners. Again, the proceeds will support Polio Plus and registration is through Eventbrite.

Other Events

President Joe announced that **Linda Hamilton's** group will be playing at Corner Pocket this Friday. The District Governor's visit to the Club is October 2, and the Club's Halloween party is October 30 at Chapel of the Chimes.

Speakers for the Day — Julie Berge

Randy Arnold announced that September is wine month, and introduced our speaker, Julie Berge. Julie is Vice President of The Wine Institute of California. The Institute was formed in 1934 and has 1,000 members. It advocates at the state, federal and international levels.

Julie Berge discussed the headwinds the wine industry is facing. In 2023-2024, the Institute monitored the 224 bills introduced in the legislature that would affect the industry. 95% of the wineries are family owned or family operated. California is the largest producer of wine internationally behind France, Italy and Spain.

The biggest challenges are Mother Nature, Canada's ban on all U.S. wines, Dietary Guidelines regarding health and alcohol and meeting the demand of the next generation (Gen Z).

In the coming months, the Institute will launch initiatives to bring people together in real life., to share information and learn together.



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

Bellringers

Joe Goralka rang the bell in honor of **Ralph Sklar**.

Randy Arnold rang the bell in honor of Julie Berge.

Adjourn

Pres. Joe thanked those that helped put on today's meeting and adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm. He reminded everyone that through Rotary world peace will come someday, and we will end polio too.