

2023 - 2024

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Joan D'Onofrio
Photo Essayist: Clayton Worsdell
Copy Editor: Lois Nelson
Historian: Rich Lueck
Reporter: Barbara Reifschneider
Reporter: Bill Selb

DISTRICT 5160

District Governor: Claire Roberts
Assistant DG: Cathy Durfee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bob Sundberg
President-elect: Molly Bacigalupo
Treasurer: Vicki Sexton
Secretary: Ken Nishimori
Sergeant-at-Arms: Russ Anderson
Vocational: Eric Rehn
New Generations: Molly Bacigalupo
RI Foundation: Susie Lim
Membership: Jeff Wilson
International: John Wenzel
Club Services: Barbara Reifschneider
Community Services: Bob Huck

CHARITABLE BOARD

President: Bob Hooy
Vice President: Russ Anderson
Treasurer: Vicki Sexton
Secretary: Mary Kemnitz
Irene Davids-Blair
Jeff Wilson
Bob Sundberg
Bill Selb
Hugh Toloui

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs/Speakers: Mary Kemnitz
Webmaster: John Wenzel
Historian: Rich Lueck
Scholarships: Alison Bacigalupo
Fundraising: Jeff Wilson
DV8 Ambassador: Mary Kemnitz

CONTENTS

Morning Ritual
Announcements / News
International News
Happy Bucks

BOARD MEETINGS

9/12 Board Meeting 7 AM
9/13 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM



Welcome New Member Julia Kitay



President Bob Sundberg and her sponsor, **Hugh Toloui**, congratulated **Julia Kitay** on becoming our club's newest member. Julia graduated from UC Davis in 1990 where she majored in East Asian Studies and served as an English teacher in Beijing from 1990 to 1992. In 1996, she received her MA in TESOL from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and is a retired ESL teacher. Julia loves working with the Boy Scouts of America and makes thousands of hygiene kits for the Monument Crisis Center and DVC Food Pantry every year. She especially likes helping the underserved and working with GROW, the nonprofit organization that provides food, hygiene, and comfort to the homeless. Julia, her geneticist husband, and son live in Concord.

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Membership Director Jeff Wilson Installed our new member Julia Kitay. And here are his words:

"There are several milestones that are life altering. We go through life so focused on career and family. But at some point we realize that we must give back to society, to our community. We believe that joining Rotary is one of those life altering moments.

When I was inducted into Rotary, I thought it was one of the most important decisions that I had ever made. And that set the tone for me as a Rotarian. I hope it does for you also. You have been chosen for membership in the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club because your fellow members believe you to be a leader in your community. We have seen the warmth of your heart and look forward to serving with you.



We look to you to be a liaison between us and the other members of your community and hope that you can carry Rotary ideals and principles of service to your friends, business associates, and the members of your community.

*One of the great privileges of Rotary is fellowship, and the mutual confidence which it inspires. While membership in Rotary is an honor and privilege, it involves corresponding obligations. Good Rotarians must constantly keep before them the primary object of Rotary. **"Service Above Self"** is our motto, and Rotary expects each member to live up to this ideal. If you live by those rules, you will never go wrong.*

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The community will know and judge Rotary through your example in character and service; and we accept you as a member because we believe the principles and objects of Rotary will be safe in your keeping. We know that we will receive much from you in help and service which will enable US to be better Rotarians; and we most heartily offer you the right hand of Rotary fellowship.

On behalf of the Club and Rotary International, and with the presentation of this Rotary pin, I declare you to be a member of the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club. Fellow Rotarians please stand. I present to you our newest member, Julia Kitay."

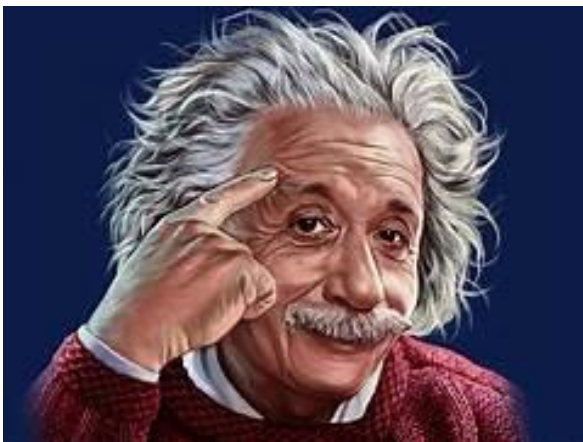


MORNINGRITUALS



Julia Kitay led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Bill Selb** forcefully recited the Four-Way Test. **Vicki Sexton** almost forgot she was the Mystery Greeter while **Ken Nishimori** gave us the Thoughts for the Day.

Thoughts for the Day



"Life is like riding a bicycle. To Keep your balance, you must keep moving ." —Albert Einstein

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough"—Mae West



THE SPEAKER

Kelly Fossan-McKinley and **Andie Altman**, founders of Grass Roots Outreach Warriors (GROW), spoke to us today about the organization they founded that spreads kindness with no judgment and found it's really working. The number of unhoused people in Contra Costa County has increased since 2020, according to the new official Point in Time count. It has gone up 4% and in Concord alone, the county's most recent homeless population count showed a jump from 160 people in 2020 to 241 this year. Kelly has personally never experienced homelessness, but her heart has a calling to help her neighbors in the small way she can. *"I would be able to feed 12 people," she explains, "and then I found out I could feed the same amount of people sandwiches as well for five dollars. So, then it slowly started getting bigger, and all this food is completely donated."*



The project started a year and a half ago as an effort to use perfectly good food that Kelly saw was going to waste. She planted her idea by sharing what she was doing on neighborhood social media pages. Other Concord residents responded to her post and now together, they created the non-profit which stands for Grass Roots Outreach. It takes a village, just for one dinner, which Kelly cooks with donations she gets the same day. Other volunteers drop off dishes they also made that day. Then, she picks up dishes from other volunteers' homes before heading to the park to serve. It is not just food at Kelly's dinners. This is on the menu for whoever shows up: a hot meal, drinks, food for the next day, hygiene items, plus food and supplies for pets. They are thankful and I don't judge if they are having a bad day or whatever they are doing in their life," said Kelly. "And if they don't want it, that's fine, we have food and water." GROW is located in Baldwin Park and Cowell Park in Concord. The non-profit also provides hotel rooms for shelter during past heat waves and atmospheric river storms. They also provide weekly showers and laundry cards for those who attend their park dinners. www.growconcord.com

About the Speaker

Kelly Fossan-McKinley, Co-Founder of GROW, moved to Clayton in 1978 with her family. She graduated from Clayton Valley High School in 1994, her daughter, Natalie, graduated in 2022, and her son, Myles, is set to graduate in 2030. While working as a lunchtime supervisor at her son's school, she was stunned by how much food was being wasted daily. She started bringing home the unused food, cleaned it and put the food in the back in her car. She drove around and found some very hungry people and gave them the food. This started her 'Kindness Mission.' Soon volunteers started coming out and loving the kindness without judgement environment. They have grown by leaps and bounds making a difference to each person they encounter.



CLUBNEWS

COMMUNITY SERVICES: *Home Team*

Bob Huck The Home Team will be every other month. The next one is September 30. There will also be the Concord Community Projects. Let Bob know if you will be participating.
Bobhuck10@sbcglobal.net



CANCER CLINIC: *San Felipe*

Ambassador Larry Hutchings reported that he, **Torsten Jacobsen**, and **John Wenzel** are continuing their search for a used mammography machine for the San Felipe Clinic.

CARS 2nd CHANCE: *Great News*

Mary Kemnitz announced today that the Cars 2nd Chance website launched last Saturday. She said: "We began the website project last February by completing a "Creative Brief" about the organization under Chuck Yaeger's guidance. Chuck is District 5160's Digital Media and Marketing Chair and a member of our project partner, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Tom Guyette/Lamorinda Rotary then led the design team working under Simone Linton's of SML Digital Marketing's guidance. We also relied heavily on Daniel Kodam of D-Code Technology and longtime Danville Sycamore Rotarian and Cars 2nd Chance supporter. Daniel came in when we needed help putting together the donor entry portal and all the coding involved on the back end. We started with a website committee of 5 and for the last couple of months we were down to Tom, Simone, and me. Tom Guyette deserves kudos for the many, many hours he spent on this project and also for his unbelievable organizational skills and attention to detail." Check it out at <http://www.cars2ndchance.org>



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UGANDA: *Nsawo Sewing Center*

Herb Muyinga and **Deb Luyiima** reported: "We are excited to inform you that the Nsawo Sewing Center officially opened on 8-22-23. We shall therefore be able to produce reusable sanitary kits and distribute to girls and young mothers at no cost.

We also received 500 kits from the sewing center in Kenya all courtesy of The Global Uplift project and Melissa Prandi children's foundation both of which are nonprofits based in the US but serving communities in the developing world. We are very excited to partner with them on this project and look forward to doing a lot more together.

We were able to distribute 97 kits to pupils in two primary schools."



HAPPYBUCKS

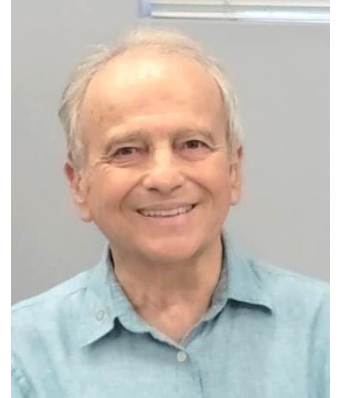
BARBARA REIFSCHNEIDER



RICHARD LUECK gave 100 happy bucks today! Apparently this is the anniversary when he gave his lovely wife Pam, her new kidney. Richard gave one of his kidneys to his wonderful wife.

LARRY HUTCHINGS gave a happy five bucks today. Larry was grateful that his place in Palm Springs was not destroyed but there was a lot of debris flowing everywhere, it will take a while to clean up.

JULIA KITAY had a happy 20 bucks just to say thank you for inviting me to Rotary!

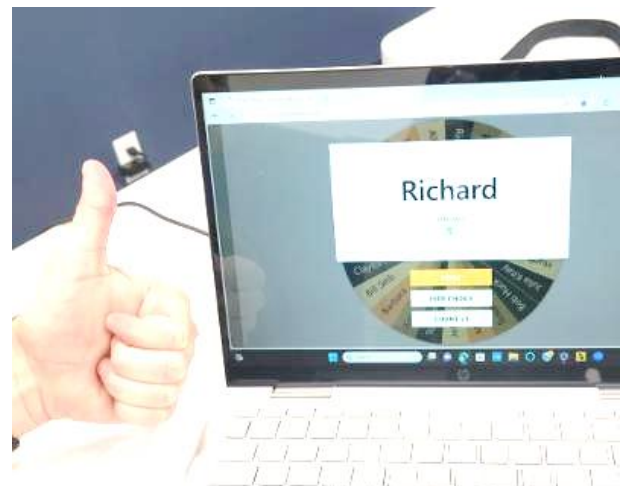


BOB SUNDBERG, our wonderful president, was really happy today! He gave a happy 10 bucks for me because I don't have to be reminded to buy the food for breakfast every Thursday. He also had 10 bucks for Bill Selb, who always goes to the Clayton Library to collect the books that need to be signed by our guest speakers. And thanks to Clayton who is always there Way early to set up the coffee



THE RAFFLE

...and the winner is
RICH LUECK



FRIDAY NIGHTLIVE

What a wonderful evening it was. Aside from perfect weather, delicious grub, and plenty to drink, we all had the honor of celebrating our host **Webmaster John Wenzel's** Paul Harris + 6 award. **President Bob Sundberg** and **Rotary Foundation Director Susie Lim** presented him with the ruby encrusted pin. .



THE GALLERY

Our friends from down under, Bo and John Morse, sent us this photo of the orchids John is growing.



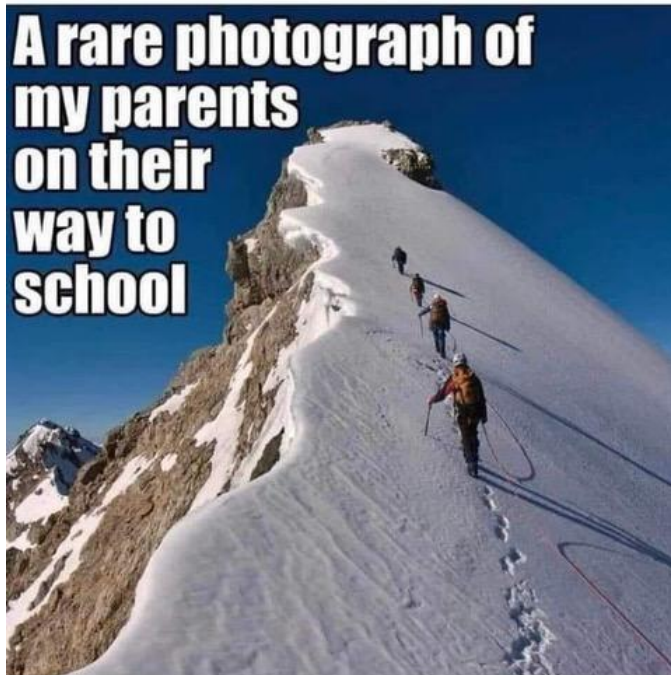
FUNSTUFF

BILL SELB

AT LEAST HE'S TRYING



“The boy is not even as good as the wind.”





Everybody knows somebody that has a car they don't need. Tell your friends about how we administer this vehicle donation program with volunteers so that the charity they choose gets the highest value. Donate online at Cars2ndChance.org or call for more information: (925) 326-5868.

A REALLY COOL FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE PARTY



...That's all folks

