

What do Rotarians do

The weekly Tuesday meeting starts at 12:15 and meets at the garden center at Heather Farm city park. {1545 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek) There is a buffet lunch, a 30 minute business meeting and a 25 minute presentation by outside experts covering topics generally of interest to Rotarians. The meeting adjourns promptly at 1:30.



At left, Rotarians Darren and Milt show Rotarian Quent on an iPad. Quent attended the meeting via internet due to a knee operation. At right, Rotarian Bob sells tickets for the annual crab feed.



Walnut Creek city manager and Rotarian Ken describes financial concerns of the city while assistant Gayle and Rotarian Bob listen.

What do Rotarians do



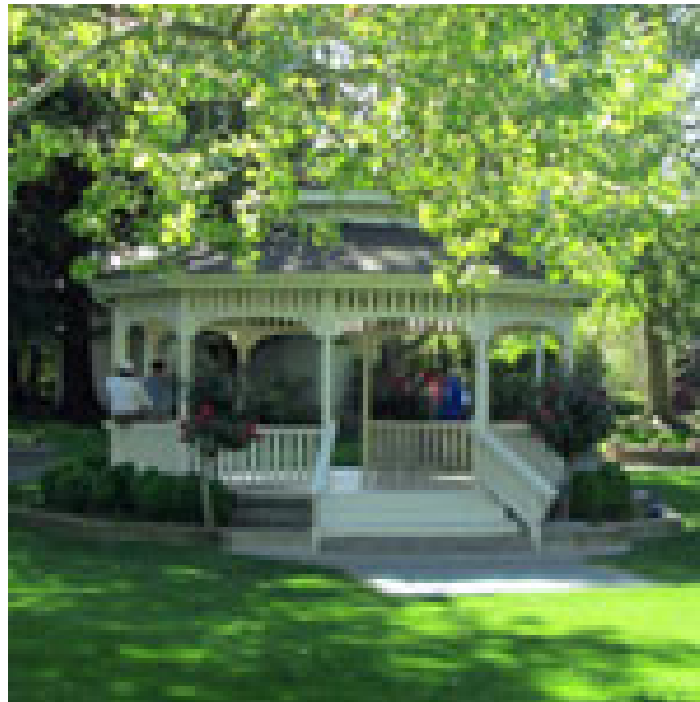
Bart Director Gail Murray discusses challenges to the Bart board at a lunch meeting (left). Center, there is often fun entertainment at the lunch meetings. At right, Mayor Pro-tem Bob Simmons briefs the club on a controversial issue before the City Council.



District Governor (“Aussie”) Steve Lack entertains the club (at left). At right, the DG visited the club on the same day as a group of Rotarians from Germany.

What do Rotarians do

Rotarians contribute money and volunteer labor to a variety of City of Walnut Creek Facilities and activities as well as regional facilities.



In conjunction with the Sunrise Rotary Club of Walnut Creek, a bandstand was constructed in the center of Civic Park in down town Walnut Creek. The club also contributed to purchase of a state of the art audio enhancement system for hearing impaired at Leshner Center for the Arts contributed to a media center at the new Walnut Creek Library, and is a major contributor to the Walnut Creek Centennial Ceremony.

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Borges Ranch City Park

Borges Ranch is a restored California ranch from the mid 1800's. It is the site of many educational visits and a glimpse of Walnut Creek's early years. Each year on "Heritage Day", Rotarians act as guides and docents for the many visitors who come to learn about life in early Walnut Creek. Throughout the year, Rotarians support the park with maintenance and repair projects.



A group of young Rotarians pose after replacing the wooden water tank in the right background. Rotarians Jack and Marty rebuilt the turn of the century water tank and this team of Rotarians managed to place it back on the elevated wood platform.

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At left, part of a Rotary work party maintained an amphitheater the club constructed at Borges Ranch. At right, another crew sets poles for a new fence at the amphitheater.

Heather Farm Park

The home of the meeting place of the Walnut Creek Rotary is a large city park on the eastern side of Walnut Creek. The club meets in the Garden Center there. The Rotary Club of Walnut Creek has supported Heather Farms park with funding for benches and other amenities. It also built and maintains several structures within the park including “Rotary Bridge” which provides access to two of the many trails in the Park. Heather Farm is also the site of the clubs annual “Fishing in the City” learning experience for elementary school children in the city.

The club has also contributed to several other facility improvements including park benches in the famous rose gardens at Heather Farm.

Creek Cleanup Day

Once a year, the city holds a “Cleanup” day to keep Walnut Creek clear of debris. Below, Rotarian Rem emerges from the bush with his load of trimmings.



What do Rotarians do Monument Crisis Center

The Rotary Club of Walnut Creek supports the Monument Crisis Center (a help center for less fortunate families) in a number of ways. Several Rotarians spend countless volunteer hours working with MCC clients and the club also supports the center financially.



El Presidente Roberto and Rotarian Raj stand next to the large number of backpacks (filled with school supplies) partially donated by the club.



Scouts from Troop 1990. Rotary partially funded and assisted in chartering a new scout troop at Monument Crisis Center. The Club also contributed a computer lab for new premises of MCC.

Challenge Day at Northgate High School

For many years, the club has subsidized and provided volunteer labor for Challenge Day. The Challenge Day mission is to provide youth and their communities with experiential programs that demonstrate the possibility of love and connection through the celebration of diversity, truth, and full expression. It has been very successful at Northgate.

High School Scholarships

Annually, Students from Northgate and Las Lomas high school receive club funded scholarships for studies beyond high school. These are presented in the spring in conjunction with the schools.

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Rotarians Jerry, Carl and Raj take a break after working at Challenge Day. President Roberto presents a check from the club.

What do Rotarians do International House Day

The Rotary Club of Walnut Creek annually sponsors an Agricultural Tour of Contra Costa County for International students and visiting professors staying at the International House (“I-House”) at UC Berkeley. This tour allows these people from all over the world the opportunity to see a little more of the US than they get to see in Berkeley, and hopefully, creates a little international good will. We take them on to several agricultural stops and finish the evening with a barbeque dinner, cooked by Rotarians, at Borges Ranch.



Rotarian Sabine and an I-House resident watch world-class rodeo champion Jack Roddy rope a calf at left. At right, Jack Roddy explains his cattle ranching operation and what it means to be a professional cowboy.

Toys for Tots

Each Christmas season, Walnut Creek Rotarians make a significant contribution to the Toys for Tots drive managed by the Walnut Creek Police Department.



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Tokyo-Kohoku Matched Club

The Rotary Clubs of Walnut Creek and Tokyo-Kohoku have had a “matched” relationship since 1967. The two clubs have an exchange student program. Each year, a college-age student visits during the summer months. Rotarians from each club visit each other during the year. The understanding, goodwill and fellowship generated through this program enhances Rotary International’s philosophy of making the world a better place in which to live.



A group of Walnut Creek Rotarians wait at SFO for the arrival of friends from Tokyo.



At left, Rotarians welcome exchange student Chiaki. Far left is Sergio who was an exchange student to the Tokyo club. At right, members of the Kohoku club watch a computer presentation. They visited to help the Walnut Creek club celebrate it's 75th anniversary.

What do Rotarians do

Tanya, daughter of Rotarian Richard Hsu, and the welcome committee at Tokyo Airport upon Tanya's arrival during the summer of 2014. The welcoming committee was quite surprised to find that Tanya spoke Japanese.



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International Projects

Agua Nicaragua

This international project partners several Rotary clubs within the Mt. Diablo region, Rotary International (the parent organization) and Villanova University to provide simple to install and simple to maintain water supply systems for impoverished remote villages in Nicaragua. Money raised by local Rotary clubs and multiplied from Rotary District 5160 of Northern California and Rotary International provide the resources to help local Rotary clubs and village residents in Nicaragua to install the systems. For more information, see www.waterforaslala.org

Burkina Faso

The Rotary Club of Walnut Creek participated with a number of other clubs in the Mt. Diablo region to build and furnish a cement school room and water well in this remote African nation.

Smiles for Kenya

Simon Saigilu, a government official from Kenya explains the “Smiles for Kenya” project which was a highlight of District Governor Laura Day’s term in office. Simon helps educate young Kenyans on using the dental hygiene kits provided by the district wide International Project. He was visiting UC Berkley on an exchange program.



Simon in his Native Warrior garb