



ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



President: David Brown **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595 D5160 Club 461

Notes: Anne Hetland

Photos: James Olson/John Rice May 3, 2023

Club Website: www.rossmoorrotary.org

District Website: www.rotary5160.org

MEETING NOTES: 05/03/23

Call to Order: Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Day. Patriotic Song: The Star Spangled Banner. Visiting: Maya Geurtson and Debbie Koo, our speaker, both are from Moraga Rotary.

Sunshine: Connie is getting over her pneumonia and bronchitis; Scott is back; Hogey is out with a cold; and we all miss Tillie, who died at age 103.

Thought for the Day: Carolyn gave us a Rule of Life. Let it Go: never ruin a good day by thinking about a bad yesterday.

Happy Dollars: there were many Happy Dollars, including Mitzi, who is now able to walk; Carolyn, for John K, who put in her faucet; David, for many things plus remembering Tillie; Debbie, our speaker, for being with us; Eddie, who is to have carpal tunnel surgery; Joy, for the excellent presentation today; Scot, who earlier gave a very impressive donation because he is back, feeling better; and Patrice, who said she was named after Patrice Lumumba, Congolese leader who tried to bring democracy to the country, and was assassinated in 1961.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon gave a check to Maya for \$9,000, proceeds from our Gala, which is in addition to the \$1,000 she had been given earlier, all for the Alzheimer's Association.

There will be a gathering for Tillie on June 4 from 1 to 5 at her manor in Rossmoor, 1317 Leisure Lane, #7, Entry 10.

Birthday: Happy Birthday, Rita.

Anniversaries of Rotary Membership: A slide showed the many anniversaries this week.

Awards: John B. presented our president David B. with his 4th Paul Harris pin. And John announced that donations made to The Rotary Foundation or the Rossmoor Rotary Foundation, through him now, will receive double points toward the Paul Harris pin.

New Member: Jim introduced our newest member, Stan Hornberger. John R. is his sponsor. Sharon recommended the Hope Walk and Community Fair on Sat, May 20, 2023. This is for cancer support in the Bay Area. The walk will be at Heather Farms, and can be as long as you wish. Joy and David will be there staffing a table. Please participate if you can.

Raffle: Our guest Maya G won a bottle of white wine, and John King won \$183 for his daughter's college fund.

PROGRAM

Our subject today is the Lumumba Children's Library and Learning Center. Our speaker, Debbie Koo, is a member, and past president, of the Moraga Rotary. She is now Rotary's International Service Chair. Moraga Rotary sponsors the Lumumba Children's Library and Learning Center (LCL), in Goma, DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). It is located near Green Lake and is three minutes from downtown Goma. Goma is a city of 1.5 million people, but has no library. Many there have never even held a book. The Center's goals are literacy, trades, and critical thinking. It is to be a tech center and community center.

Moraga's undertaking is in conjunction with the Goma Rotary Club, spearheaded by Fidel Bafilemba, who founded the Goma Rotary and is considered a local hero for all his contributions to the community. He worked before on Rotary's polio elimination programs. During the pandemic, he distributed masks made locally, as this was cheaper than having them made in the US and then sent to Goma. He embodies Rotary's motto: Create Hope in the World.

The Center is located at the foot of one of the world's most active volcanoes, Nyiragongo. It erupted on May 24, 2021, and there were mass evacuations. The Moraga Rotary sent volcano relief to the Goma Rotary Club, corn and sugar. Fidel helped people navigate this crisis, damage from which led to relocation of the planned Center. Construction finally began on a new site in July 2, 2022. The cement blocks used for the building are made individually on site. No big construction equipment here. But there are experienced engineers. The grounds are terraced, making learning gardens, for the over 200 edible plants in the Goma area. Native art is being painted on the inside of the Center's security walls.

The area is a growth hub. It is close to Rwanda, and has camps for IDP's (Internally displaced Persons). The Center will have potable water for the community. Pictures from April 30, 2023, show how much progress has been made building the Center.

For more information, Fidel has written a book, *Congo Stories*. And Facebook has pictures under Congo Library.

The Center is applying for Global Grants, and could use our financial help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10	10:30 Club Board of Directors meeting
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May 10	Ann Peterson – Managing Editor Rossmoor News
May 17	10:30 RRF Trustee Meeting
May 17	Claire Castell – Rossmoor Storytellers Club

PHOTOS



