

Rotary Club of Oakland



Club Meetings

February 19
Congresswoman
Lateefah Simon

February 26
Rotary Speech Contest

March 5
Maria Bonneville
California Institute
for Regenerative
Medicine

March 12
UCB Chancellor
Rich Lyons

Service Projects

**Alameda County
Community
Food Bank**
Feb. 22 – 8:30 – 11:30 am
Register on Club Calendar

SOS Meals on Wheels
Feb. 23 – 9:15 – 11:15 am

**Tree Planting Service
Day**
Feb. 28 – with Oakland
Parks & Recreation Fdn

Special Events

Lunar New Year Dinner
February 19 – 5:30 pm
Peony Seafood Restaurant

District Conference

Next Club Meeting – February 19, 2026 – Congresswoman Lateefah Simon

On Thursday, February 19, we will meet at Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts. There will be a reception for the Club's Past Presidents starting at 11:30 am. Our keynote speaker will be Congresswoman Lateefah Simon. It will be in person as well on Zoom.

For those joining on Zoom, use this link [Thursday Club Meeting](#)

Also don't forget to sign up for the delightful dinner that evening that **Past President Mary Geong** has arranged for us to celebrate the new Chinese Year of the Horse at the Peony Seafood Restaurant. Use this link to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/rotary-club-of-oakland-39700067693>

Rotary Meeting Highlights for February 12, 2026

Call to Order

At 3:00 p.m. on a lovely sunny afternoon, we gathered at the Oakland Museum for a special tour of the Museum's exhibit entitled "Black Spaces: Reclaim and Remain". **President (aka Coach) Joe Goralka** kicked the ball off by saying that the tour was a special feature of Black History Month, which calls upon us to celebrate black leaders and the history of this country's mistreatment of African-Americans and their struggle to overcome the obstacles and trauma of this racism.

Program for the Day – Lori Fogarty

Coach Joe then passed the baton over to **Past President David Stein** who introduced Lori Fogarty, the Museum's Executive Director and CEO. For our future planning, Lori began by informing us that the Museum has extended hours on Thursdays and emphasizing the family friendly activities that will be available when the Museum opens on Fridays starting next April. See the Museum's website for specifics.

Overview of Exhibit

Lori then led us to the entrance of the Black Spaces Exhibit where she set the tone by informing us of the tragic history of Russell City. This was a thriving black community located in the unincorporated part of Hayward. It was also one of the

May 1 - 3, 2026

Reno, Nevada

Go to Club Calendar
for registration link.

Rotary International Convention

June 13 – 17, 2026
Taipei, Taiwan

Committee Meetings

KinderPrep

Feb. 18 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

We Care

Feb. 19 – 5 – 6 pm

DEI

Feb. 24 – 5 – 6 pm

Membership

Feb 25 – 5 – 6 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

February

02 – Kittie Adams

02 – Maren Amdal

02 – Sarah Chavez-Yoell

02 – Isa Chu

02 – Warren Chu

02 – Jill Loh Kearns

02 – Lesley Weaver

07 – Stephanie Bolden

09 – Karen Friedman

13 – Ahmad Anderson

14 – Catherine Coleman

15 – Aaron Smith

16 – Charlie Adams

17 – Nancy Williams

24 – Linda Bradford

27 – Derek Barnes

27 – Keith Uriarte

Membership Anniversaries

few areas in California where blacks were permitted to buy residential property. In the mid 1960's, the County's Board of Supervisors decided to evict Russell City's residents to make room for an industrial park. After the decision was effectively made, the Board held a few public hearings to give the decision a democratic fig leaf. The result was that the community was dismantled and its residents were paid significantly less-than-adequate compensation for their homes and businesses. In short, they were forced to move elsewhere where they mostly became renters due to ongoing housing discrimination and the lack of funds to purchase replacement homes.

Tour

Lori then turned us over to one of her very able Experience Guides who led us through the different sections of the Exhibit. There are four broad themes: 1) The black migration to the Bay Area from the South especially during the WWII years during which the migrants took on jobs in the war industry and founded culturally rich communities in Oakland, Russell City and other locations. 2) The discriminatory government policies that destroyed all or parts of these communities as evidenced by what happened to Russell City and the loss of major portions of West Oakland as a result of evictions to make room for new freeways and industries. 3) The rich heritage of art, literature, music and social activism that was produced by African Americans' many efforts to build safe, thriving communities and their fight to preserve them. And 4) The positive vision of black artists and professionals for a better future where all can live in harmony without the painful constraints of racism.

Conclusion

This Exhibit is definitely worth a visit. It's packed with historical facts and data. You'll also enjoy the art works on display, including the art of Adrien Burrell, and the visionary building plans of architect June Grant. For a deeper historical dive, spend time inspecting the valuable historical archive produced by the Archive of Urban Futures in collaboration with Moms 4 Housing.

Adjourn

Coach Joe liked the Exhibit so much, he gladly bestowed Rotary Four-Way Test coins on CEO Lori and our Experience Guide. As another symptom of his boundless energy, **Coach Joe** invited everyone to join him after the tour for a 'Huddle' at the Brooklyn West Winery, which is owned by member **Stew Epstein**. Brooklyn West Winery is at 200 2nd Street at Jackson in Oakland.

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

February

Ken Richardson – 43
years

Joel Parrott – 40 years

Shannon Hackley – 38
years

Sean Marx – 33 years

Rick Baskin – 21 years

Bob Breecker – 14 years

Emily Morgan – 9 years

Bryan Morgan – 9 years

Isaac Kos-Read – 8 years

Pauline Fox – 6 years

Sam Miller – 6 years

Ed Silva – 5 years

Nancy Williams – 5 years

Ama Torrance – 4 years

Nuno Ferreira – 2 years

Odalys Ordonez – 2 years

Bob Lee – 1 year

Mack McFadden – 1 year

Yesenia Sanchez – 1 year

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