

Rotary

Club of Sonoma Springs



Speakers

May 09, 2024

Jennifer Gray Thompson

"The Era of Megafires and Why
We Have a Responsibility to Hope"

Birthdays

Mary A. Deely

May 20th

Jan Erickson

May 28th

Gayle Arrowood

May 31st

Garland Lamb

June 26th

Club Leaders



Gayle Arrowood
President



Jan Erickson
Club Service Chair
President-Elect



Erica King
Secretary



Sandra Otter
Treasurer
iPast President



Mara Kahn
Public Relations
Chair
CCO-Club Comm.
Offcer



Sarah C. Brown
Membership Chair



Ron Matteson
Community
Service Chair
Service Projects
Chair



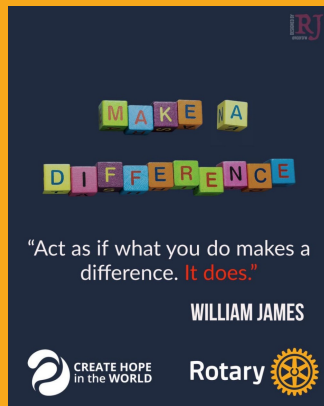
Kathleen Hill
Polio Plus
Ambassador

Club Meeting

The Rotary Club of Sonoma Springs
meets twice monthly on the 2nd
and 4th Thursday from 5:30-7:00



at FAHA Heritage Hall 197 West Verano Avenue, Sonoma. Guest are always welcomed.



FROM PRESIDENT GAYLE

HATS ON FOR THE 150th KENTUCKY DERBY

We did it! Through rain or shine, and lots of puddles to jump, we successfully held our first ever fundraiser! Our thanks to Sonoma Valley Rotarian, Will Murray, for capturing these fabulous pictures of the event. [Check them out.](#)

So many thanks to all who helped make our "Hats On for the 150th Kentucky Derby" a great day.

Thank you to Vanessa and Sarah for their outstanding work as co-chairs of this event. Unfortunately, Sarah came down with the virus that is going around, and we missed her energy and spirit (and time management skills) that day. Here's hoping she is back up and running soon!



Vanessa and Jackie, thank you for pulling off the most amazing decorations for the venue at the Lodge. If you were there, you know!



Thank you to our generous event sponsors. When you see them around town or at a meeting, or when you patronize their business, please say thanks!

We are grateful to Jan, Sylvia, Christa, Garland, and Sandra for getting outstanding donations and sponsors, and to Sandra for getting the silent auction set up that day.



Mara, thank you for coming through with graphics at the drop of a hat. Mara is also our Foundation (our 501c3 non-profit for the Club) Treasurer, and will be tallying all numbers up for us.



Dennis (the sheriff) and Erica sold most of the squares in the Derby "pool"! That was a huge hit and money-maker! Congratulations to Sonny (Sylvia's man), for winning the Derby pool! He will get half of the pot from the sales of "squares", once we finalize the numbers.

Thank you to Sandra and Mara for running the check-in table and to Jan, Sylvia, Erica, and LeeAnn who took shifts selling drink tickets and squares.



Congratulations to our own Ron Matteson, for winning the DapperDude



contest, and to Gigi Pflieger for winning the best hat (decorated with flowers from her garden).



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event's success by donating wine and helping with setup and take-down. We have yet to finalize numbers, but we will share that as soon as we have all expenses accounted for. It looks good!

It took a village, we are a great team!

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

We are honored to have Springs resident, **Jennifer Gray Thompson** as this week's speaker. The topic of her presentation is: **"The Era of Megafires and Why We Have a Responsibility to Hope"**. Jennifer is recognized nationally and beyond as a leading expert on Wildfire Resilience and Recovery. Recently she has lent her expertise to the Island of Maui. Following the 2107 megafires in Sonoma County, she founded the non-profit "Rebuild North Bay". She will present a fascinating visual presentation that is vital, stunning, and even uplifting for those who live in fire country.



Jennifer Gray Thompson, the CEO of After the Fire USA, LLC & After the Fire USA (501c3), has a remarkable journey rooted in community disaster. She graduated from Dominican University and earned a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Southern California's Price

School of Public Policy. In 2017, after devastating fires in San Francisco's North Bay, she became the Executive Director of Rebuild NorthBay Foundation (RNBf), a 501c3 formed to help the region rebuild. In response to the Era of Megafires, a relatively recent chronic climate-based disaster, RNBf created After the Fire USA in 2020. Gray Thompson was named to Forbes' 50 over 50 IMPACT List in 2022 and appointed to the Bipartisan Policy Center Disaster Response Reform Task Force in 2023. As a nationally recognized subject-matter expert (SME) in megafire recovery, she presents at several national conferences, including those hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Fannie Mae, Smart Cities, FEMA, MIT, and National VOAD. Jennifer has also been featured in local, regional, and national news outlets, including NPR's All Things Considered, NBC News, Meet the Press, and CBS Evening News. She hosts the "How to Disaster" podcast, which amplifies best practices, survivor experiences, and mitigation measures to ensure safety. Her commitment to equitable and resilient recoveries empowers wildfire communities and bridges the gap between those on the front lines of disaster and those who create policies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Take advantage of a Master Gardening Class at Larson Park on May 18.

Our joint effort with the Sonoma Valley Club at the community garden in Larson Park to create a picnic and educational space is now open for use. Seth Dolinsky will host a Master Gardener class on Portable Container Gardening on May 18. I am sure it will be a great opportunity to improve your gardening skills.



Community Health Center Back to School Fair

Saturday, August 3 at Alta Mira Middle School. We are a sponsor of this event, so I hope you can spare the time to help and/or contribute to purchasing school supplies.

This is a real "feel good" event!



CLUB SERVICE & SOCIAL

It is that time of year again for another kickoff of the Farmers Market season! Yes, Tuesday Market starts this Tuesday at the Plaza. Please join us for the first of many wonderful gatherings with your friends in Rotary - good fresh food, good music and good friends!!

Kathleen is ordering a wonderful dinner for our Thursday night meeting. Please [RSVP to Mara](#), so Kathleen knows how much to order.



Gratefully,
Jan

TREASURER

Don't forget to remit your 4th quarter dues.

“Look up and not down.

Look forward and not back.

Look out and not in, and lend a hand.”

— Edward Everett Hale

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