

# **Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon**

6520 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Visit our website: [VOMRotary.org](http://VOMRotary.org)

Volume XXIII Issue No. 24 David Beach, President January 25, 2024



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

The **Four-Way Test** of things we think, say or do:

Is it the **Truth**?

Is it **Fair** to all concerned?

Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?

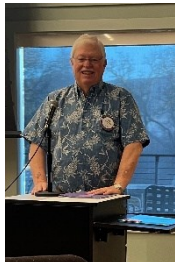
Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

President **David Beach** rang the opening bell at 8 a.m. **Fred Merrill** led the flag salute.

## **VISITORS:**

Sgt-at-Arms **Fred Merrill** announced visitors Carolita Carr, our speaker, Howard Sidorsky, and Karen Ritter (**Chris Severson**).

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**



**John Derby** entertained us with a “Kids Say the Darndest Things”-type piece.

An Elementary School Teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom with the 1st half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you.

While reading, remember that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

Don't change horses:  
until they stop running.

It's always darkest before:  
Daylight Saving Time.

Never underestimate the power of:  
termites.

You can lead a horse to water but:  
how?

You can't teach an old dog new:

math.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll:  
stink in the morning.

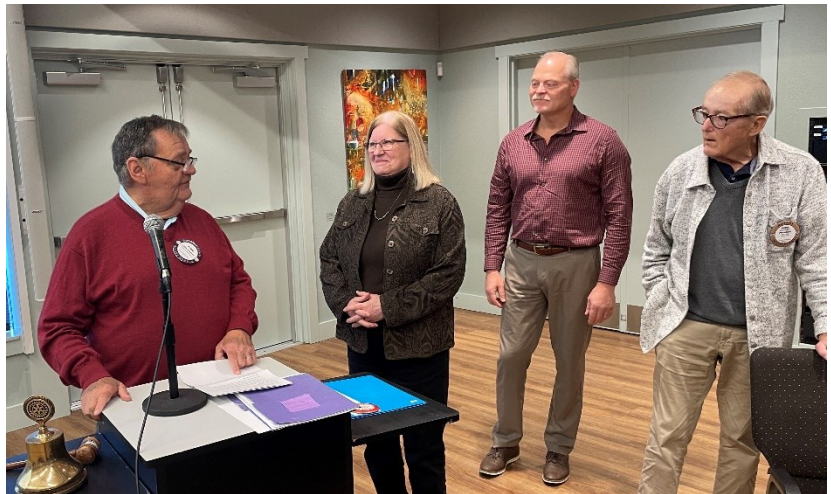
A bird in the hand:  
is going to poop on you.

The WINNER and the last one!

Better late than:  
pregnant.

### **PRESIDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Kevin Johnson** called guest **Karen Ritter** to the podium along with her sponsor, **Chris Severson**, and inducted her into our club. Karen grew up in SoCal, but moved to Michigan, then to Texas, and now here. She was previously in the Lions Club. She said she was grateful to be here. Chris pinned her (with our terrific magnetic backs) and she made her way around the room to shake hands with our members. WELCOME, KAREN!



**Jim Allen** spoke again about the Healdsburg Rotary cleanup at the Russian River on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. to Noon. Let him know if you want to help out.

David Beach confessed that he had the date of 2/29/24 on the sign-up sheet for Greeters. Oops, we need greeters for the next 4 weeks! He'll pass it around again.

### **CRAB FEED UPDATE:**



**Daymon Doss** reminded us that it's less than a month until the Crab Feed. **Frank Sites and Jim Allen** will be getting the crab cracked and cleaned for our consumption. Crab season finally opened back up last week and the crab is looking fat & sassy. The deadline to get ads into the program is coming up soon. Things are moving right along.

## **DON'T FORGET TO BRING IN YOUR NICE BOTTLES OF WINE FOR THE WINE WALL!**

### **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**



**Daymon Doss** celebrated his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday with a terrific party with his kids and grandkids. He's now past the National average age for men and is declaring himself "Old"! (Nah, Daymon, don't think so!)

### **HAPPY/CRAPPY DOLLARS:**



**Kevin Johnson** spent a few days in Las Vegas. He loves the restaurants there, so he checked his membership card to see if he had any free meals, but he only had \$2.00. Don't think that gets you much in Sin City!

### **RAFFLE:**

**Chris Severson** drew **Phil Wigen's** number for the \$134, but he didn't draw the Joker.

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Fred Merrill** introduced our speaker, Carolita Carr.

Carolita retired from the San Juan Unified School District in suburban Sacramento as a curriculum specialist in history-social science. Before that assignment, she taught history for 30 years in the same school district. Now a resident of Oakmont, she is a member of the Democratic Club, is on the board of the Boomers, is an avid Wii bowler, and stages the Arts and Crafts Faires for the Craft Guild. She can be found dancing anywhere there is live music.



Carolita got us interested right away by remarking that it might seem odd for a non-Jew to be giving a talk about Jewish American Identity.

She gave a very in-depth 2500-year history of Jews in her high school teacher voice and then gave each table an exercise to complete. We felt like we were back in school. The room was abuzz. Each table had its own handout for one member to read to the rest describing a Jewish/American person and asked for us to come up with a key sentence or phrase from each; what elements of identity did you notice; and, why do Jew/Americans not fit neatly into a category? Some of the people described in the lesson were Norman Lear, Diane Feinstein, Joe Lieberman, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg. The answers were interesting.

She read from a Fact Sheet on Jewish-American Diversity. These are just a few:

- The Jewish people originated about 3,000 years ago in Southwest Asia, in the land of Israel.

- Jews do not fit neatly into predefined categories and meet the criteria for being both a religious group and an ethnic group.
- American Judaism has a range of religious denominations, including Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox, with various observances and practices. At the same time, Jews are united by shared sacred texts, like the Torah, by celebrations, traditions, and a feeling of connection to other Jews around the world.
- Traditionally, a person was considered Jewish if born to a Jewish mother. Reform Jews among others consider a person with a Jewish father to also be Jewish.
- Jews consider a person who converts to Judaism (remember Sammy Davis, Jr.?) without Jewish ancestry, to be as Jewish as any other Jew.
- Jews are part of the Jewish American community by birth, adoption, marriage, and by throwing their lot in with the Jewish people through conversion or being part of a Jewish family.

Like I said, these are just a “few” quotes from the Fact Sheet.

Carolita asked, “Why do Jewish Americans not fit into categories?” and got many answers. Art Fichtenberg was born and raised in Jewish tradition and his niece is an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi. He added a common joke, “Two Jews, Three Opinions!”

Carolita prefers to not call America a “melting pot”, but a “tossed salad”.

Carolita stayed after to field questions and President **Beach** thanked her for this timely talk when our country is in the throws of antisemitism.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**President Beach** adjourned our meeting at 9 a.m. and we recited the Four-Way Test.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAM**

2-1-24 – Smart Train, Matt Stevens

2-8-24 – Hearthstone Village, Jen Dalton

2-15-24 – SRPD Fraud Detail

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

**Share Rotary with your friends.** We should invite business friends and neighbors to a meeting. Who do we do business with, what neighbors do we know, and what former Rotarians could be asked to join us? Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club’s expense.

When introducing your guest at a meeting please do not introduce them as a prospective member. No one can be a prospective member until the Board votes on their application. Just introduce them as my friend or neighbor or whatever is appropriate.

**MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE JOINED ROTARY HAD SOMEONE ASKED THEM!**

## **ERRORS & OMISSIONS**

**Editor:** Star Power

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**Publisher:** Valerie Hulsey

**Photographer:** John Derby

### **Club Officers:**

**President:** David Beach

**Immediate Past President:** Art Fichtenberg

**President-Elect:** Fred Merrill

**Secretary:** Valerie Hulsey

**Treasurer:** Liz Moore

### **Directors:**

**Community Service** – Marcel Coder

**International Service** – John Derby

**Youth Service** - Jackie Ryan & Lydia Harris

**Club Service**– Daymon Doss

**Environment** – Jim Allen

**Membership** – Kevin Johnson