

Rotary



Club of Redwood City

Club Meeting

Redwood City
Meets at Angelica's Bistro
863 Main Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
Time: Tuesday at 12:15 PM

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Chris Beth Updates Rotary on Parks and Rec

By John McAfee on Friday, April 19, 2019

Chris Beth, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department Director for Redwood City visited with the Rotary Club of Redwood City today and discussed the "State of Fun!" in Redwood City. His conversation centered around the Veterans Memorial Building, The Magical Bride Play Gound, Pirate Ship, and downtown parks and visioning.

The Veterans Memorial Building Project is located in Red Morton Park and will completely revitalize the north side of the park. The YMCA will be partnering with the city to eventually move into a new building in the space and will take over the aquatics portion of the project. The project will create 80,000 of new usable space that will fill needs in the community - including a 300 seat theater, recreation and day care facilities. Community outreach workshops were held over the past few years in an effort to address the concerns of neighbors. The cost for this project is estimated at \$60+ million for the 1st phase of the project. The entire project will likely be over \$100 million when finished. Funding is already secured for the entire project! The city is currently undergoing the Environmental Impact Report and will hopefully be looking to send out for bids in the fall.

The Magical Bridge Playground is also going into the South Side of Red Morton Park. This fully accessible park will be an amazing facility that allows all members of the community enjoy the outdoors. Our club has donated \$10,000 to the project and have been recognized with a plaque on a bench in the park. Construction is currently underway and should be completed by the end of the year.

Redwood City will be getting a Pirate Ship next to the Redwood Shores Library. The ship will be located next to the Children's Section of the library and will create a wonderful new venue for kids to play when they visit that branch of the library.

With over 5,000 new residents in the downtown area (due to all of the new apartments) there is a dramatic need for additional green space downtown. The city is looking at taking existing parking lots and turning them into a series of connected parks that will eventually connect the downtown to the bay trail area. There are a multitude of stakeholders and the ideas are just in their infancy at this point. There is a Happy Hour Speakers Forum where the community can come together and learn about different design options. The sessions are moderated and the next one will be on May 8th 6-8 pm at the Fox Forum 2411 Broadway.

Finally - the downtown events are going to continue! There are concerts, movies, festivals, parades, and more - Keep an eye out for the Event List coming out next week. There is also an application available on the Google and Apple stores. There is certainly a lot going on in Redwood City and we appreciate Chris stopping by to go over so many of the projects underway.

Rotarians Sail on the Bay!

By Scott Schwartz on Tuesday, April 30, 2019



Recently Past President Scott Schwartz took Don Gibson and his wife Michelle sailing on the San Francisco Bay. They were joined by San Carlos Rotarian Steve Carlson. The four intrepid adventurers enjoyed an afternoon of sea spray and camaraderie.

Your District Governor's Message

By John McAfee on Friday, May 3, 2019

This month we celebrate Rotary Youth Services. Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education, and learn the value of service. Whether you support Rotaract clubs, Interact clubs, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Exchange or New Generations Service Exchange, you are providing opportunities for the growth and development of our future leaders.

May 18th
Sarah LaTorra
May 28th

Club Leaders



[Sarah LaTorra](#)
President



[Arathi Akshinthala](#)
Public Relations Chair
Secretary



[David R. Rutt](#)
Treasurer



[Barbara E. Bonilla](#)
Club Director



[Robert J. Foucrault](#)
Club Director



[John McAfee](#)
Club Foundation
Treasurer
Webmaster



[Barry Taleghani](#)
Club Director



[Steve Wagstaffe](#)
Club Director



[Robert A. Boland](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Carlos G. Bolanos](#)
Membership Chair



[Roland N. V. Haga](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Scott Schwartz](#)
iPast President

[Watch this video](#) to view a recap of the 2019 RYLA experience from the eyes of RYLA alumni now serving as counselors.

Don't miss some of our district events taking place this month:

- **May 5: Walk, Run or Ride to End Polio at Ryder Park in San Mateo.** [Download](#) your pledge form and join us to raise funds and awareness to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth. The recent outbreaks of measles remind us that continued vaccination and monitoring efforts are crucial to End Polio Now. And remember: every dollar you raise is matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation!
- **May 17-19: Rotary 4-Way Fest (District Conference) at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nevada.** We're just two weeks away from joining Districts 5130, 5160, and 5190 for a truly inspirational weekend with world class keynote speakers, a hands-on service project, a myriad of breakout workshops, fun charitable events, pre-conference activities, music, dancing, and the list goes on. You do not want to miss this event! Registration closes this Sunday night, May 5. [Register at Rotary4WayFest.com](#)

Congratulations to the newly formed ROTARACT Club of San Francisco. [Follow this club on Facebook](#) to stay updated on their activities.

Finally, hearty congratulations to our District Rotarian of the Month for the month of April, [Cityjoon Hebel](#) with the Rotary Club of San Francisco Greater Mission.

Thank you for all that you do for your community and around the world through your Rotary service.

Jayne Hulbert
Rotary Club of Marin Evening
District 5150 Governor 2018 - 2019

Mitch Postel Discussed The Historical Society with Rotary

By John McAfee on Thursday, April 11, 2019

On April 16th, Mitch Postel of the Historical Association stopped by Rotary and gave an informative presentation to our members.

Mitch started his presentation by discussing the Gaspar de Portola Expedition of 1769. On November 4th we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the discovery of the San Francisco Bay from Sweeny Ridge between Pacifica and San Bruno. This was a major finding for the Spanish and signified a huge opportunity for expansion. In 1539, New Spain got a new Governor - Governor Mendoza - who wanted to continue exploring north into what is now the United States.

In 1542, a second exploratory force went by ship up the Western coast of the US. Their goal was to find the Northwest Passage - a mystical sea lane that would connect the North Atlantic and the Pacific. They never did find the passage and so Spain felt that there wasn't a lot of interest in going north again for over 60 years. In the meantime, Spain's position as a great power is diminishing as English power is increasing. In 1602 a private venture was taken on to explore the California Coast. This is when Monterey was named and was declared a great port.

Gaspar de Portola was later instructed to evict the Jesuits from Baja and replace them with Franciscans while heading north into California. He was also to lead the exploration northward and worked to establish an overland route linked by Missions with support from ships. The San Carlos, The San Jose and the San Antonio were the 3 ships and they would meet in San Diego - an existing port. In January 1769 they started their journey north and things didn't go well initially. More than 1/2 of the 300 men who started out never even made it to San Diego.

They arrived in San Mateo county around late October, 1769. They were traveling from Monterey up what was basically the Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1). They came to a large village they named Casa Grande, named because of the large house located in the middle of the village. This village would have been around Waddel Creek. As they traveled north they camped in an indian village where Pacifica is today. A hunting party headed to the top of the ridge they saw "many smokes" coming from the peninsula which were the small fires of indigenous people. On November 4th, Gaspar de Portola's group came to the crest of the ridge and discovered "a large arm of the sea" that created a safe port "large enough for all the ships in the world."

They then headed south toward Palo Alto and they didn't find the golden gate. Portola decides to head south and established the Mission in Monterey. It would be years later before the golden gate was discovered and in 1775 The San Carlos sailed into the bay for the 1st time. This led to mass expansion into the bay and the discovery of the Sacramento River Basin. With this came an even greater foothold for the Spanish in the area.

Thank you Mitch for telling us about this watershed moment in American and California history!!

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