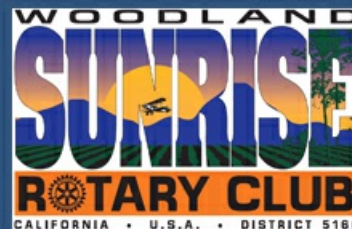




# Woodland Sunrise Wake Up Call



## Wake Up Call

### WOODLAND SUNRISE ROTARY WHERE WE PUT SUNSHINE IN YOUR LIFE!

Notes by: Bob Hulbert\*  
April 11, 2024

\*NOTE: Including content provided by Karl Diekman, President of the Rotary Club of Woodland.

**President Tom Wendt presiding.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Greg Stille**. The Rotary Grace was sung by the Woodland Sunrise Singers with **Jim Hilliard** directing.

**GUESTS:** Guests introduced were members of the Noon Club, **Jim Nolan, Tom Schwartzgruber, and Rob Beggs** who announced their club's upcoming fundraiser on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at [The California Agriculture Museum](#), located at 1958 Hays Lane, saying he had raffle tickets available for anyone interested and tickets are available [HERE](#).



## PROGRAM - VISITING UKRAINIAN DELEGATION PRESENTS:

### "WAR CRIMES AND PROSECUTING WAR CRIMINALS."

Due to today's full program, President Tom dispensed with the normal routine and welcomed the Ukrainian Delegation visiting us as part of the Open World program sponsored by Congress, partnering with Rotary International, to show our democracy and culture to former Soviet Bloc countries in Eastern Europe. The theme of the delegation's exchange and today's presentation is "War Crimes and Prosecuting War Criminals". Host families from the sponsoring Rotary Club of Woodland include **Jim and Barbara Nolan, Gary Wegener and Joan Tauzer, Mike and Randi Chandler, Dan and Virginia Stroski, and Tom and Gail Schwarzgruber**. Also opening their home for the farewell dinner are **Craig and Yvette Roy**.

## Speakers

**April 18, 2024**

[Keenen Worrell](#)

Restoration of the former Holy Rosary Church at Walnut/Court St

**April 25, 2024**

[Rajan Merchant, MD](#)

Allergies

**May 02, 2024**

[Rick P](#)

Meeting Structure and Programs

**May 02, 2024**

[Don Sharp](#)

Real Estate Update

**May 09, 2024**

[Pete Martin](#)

Wolves of the Sky

## Events

No Events found



[rotary.org/rotary-clubs](https://rotary.org/rotary-clubs)



# OPEN WORLD PROGRAM



The Open World program offers clubs and districts in Rotary a way to enjoy meaningful international exchanges while giving professionals from Eurasian countries personal experiences with U.S. democracy.

“Rotary actively promotes world peace and understanding, and the Open World program is an excellent vehicle to accomplish this.”

— Alvaro Pisoni  
of the Rotary Club  
of Parker, Colorado,  
USA



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP

Rotary



**INTRODUCTIONS: Stanislav Cherednyk**, Deputy Head, Center for Research



of Captured and Advanced Weapons and Military Equipment, Ministry of Defense.

Mr. Cherednyk has significant experience in information-analytical activities and strategic planning. His Center conducts research on the armament and military equipment of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, fragments of enemy air attacks, and works to identify cases demonstrating the use of prohibited weaponry. His Center tracks air attacks and artillery strikes on civilian infrastructure in cities and villages, which constitute violations of international humanitarian law and fall under the category of war crimes. Under his



humanitarian law and fall under the category of war crimes. Under his leadership, a database on the use of prohibited means of warfare during armed aggression against Ukraine has been created and is constantly updated. The results of this work have been highlighted during informational briefings for representatives of military-diplomatic Missions that work in Ukraine.



**Inna Zavorotko**, Deputy Head, International Law Department, Department of Legal Support, Ministry of Defense. Lt. Colonel Inna Zavorotko is the Deputy responsible for the implementation and enforcement of norms of international humanitarian law within the Ministry of Defense. For this purpose, she actively participates in the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel, international events, and scientific conferences dedicated to international law and the role of Ukraine's military in documenting war crimes. Ms. Zavorotko holds a doctoral degree in international law and is highly motivated to acquire new knowledge, as well as business and communication skills. The experience she will gain during this program will be valuable for effectively carrying out the tasks of the Department within the Ministry of Defense.



**Vitalii Saschuk**, Head, Second Division of Procedural Management of Pre-Trial Investigation and Prosecution, Department for Combatting Crimes, General Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Saschuk's main tasks include ensuring the effective procedural management of pre-trial investigations, resolving legal issues during criminal proceedings, overseeing compliance with laws during investigative actions, participating in judicial proceedings, and supporting public prosecution by regional prosecutor's offices in criminal proceedings related to war crimes and crimes of aggression. Mr. Saschuk has provided

procedural guidance in criminal proceedings related to the involvement of mercenaries from 33 countries in the armed conflict in Ukraine, and the identification of places of illegal detention (torture chambers) conducted by Russia. Participation in the program will enable Mr. Saschuk to learn about the organization of war crimes investigations in the United States, the tools and technologies used for crime detection, and how investigations of war crimes are conducted. The acquired knowledge, networking, and contacts developed will be valuable for his work during investigating war crimes in Ukraine and ensuring the rule of law during war crimes investigations. During the program, Mr. Sashchuk will be able to inform others about how investigations of war crimes are conducted in Ukraine, the most significant crimes committed to date, and the results of national investigations into war crimes.



**Mykola Mazur**, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Ukraine. Justice Mazur sits on the Cassation Criminal Court of the Supreme Court. He graduated from the Luhansk Academy of Internal Affairs with a degree in Law. In 2010, he obtained a scientific degree of Candidate of Legal Sciences, and in 2011, he was awarded the title of Associate Professor. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he has been involved in issues of international humanitarian law and international criminal law, particularly concerning criminal liability for war and other international crimes. He also is engaged in the development of a training course on compensation for damage caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine. The knowledge gained during the familiarization visit will be used to enhance the capacity of the Ukrainian judicial system to handle complex cases of war crimes.







**Olena Balzhyk**, Judge, Izmail City Court. Odesa Region. Judge Balzhyk sits on the Izmail City Court in the Odesa region. She is also a Lecturer at the National School of Judges. Since 2019, she has completed several training programs for judges as part of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union on the application of international humanitarian law in Ukraine in the context of the armed conflict. She is currently a member of the High Council of Justice working group on the reform of procedural legislation, the judiciary, and the status of judges, as well as the parliamentary working group on reforming procedural legislation, the judicial system, and the status of judges under martial law. Knowledge gained during the visit will contribute to building the capacity of Ukrainian courts to administer justice and improve national legislation in this area.

Accompanying the delegates was **Uliana Pashynna**, legal advisor and organizer of the delegation.

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE:**

Following introductions and individual comments about their work relating to war crimes, the delegates sang a traditional Ukrainian folk song, and we were shown an impactful video on Ukraine: Before and After the current Russian invasion.



**HISTORY:** From the video and delegate's presentation we learned that Ukraine is the second largest European country. Only Russian Europe is larger. Ukraine has eleven million hectares of forest and 71,000 kilometers of rivers and streams. People have lived in Ukraine since about 1500 B.C., but the Slavic ancestors of today's Ukrainians did not occupy the area until the seventh century A.D. Kievan Rus was founded in the eighth and ninth centuries by Slavic and Norse tribes. Russia did not occupy Ukraine until the reign of Catherine the Great in 1775. Ukraine briefly gained independence in 1917, but was forcibly incorporated into Soviet Russia in 1922 and suffered horribly under Stalin in the 1930s. Ukraine gained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed. The current war actually began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and the Russian support of militias, engaging in armed conflict with the Ukraine army, in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Eastern Ukraine.





**WAR:** The full-scale invasion began February 24, 2022. Over 130,000 instances of war crimes by the Russian army have been identified. A few perpetrators have been caught and prosecuted. Most have been prosecuted in absentia. Russian President Vladimir Putin is now an international war criminal because of his authorizing the taking of children from the occupied territory and relocating them to Russia. Some of these children have been reunited with their parents, but it is very difficult to identify and recover orphan children. Mykola, who is from the Luhansk region and lost his home, said that it is a fiction that the majority of people in Eastern Ukraine favored becoming part of Russia. (At the conclusion of the program when presented on Tuesday to the Noon Club, Tom Stallard read and presented to the delegation a proclamation from the City of Woodland honoring them and Ukraine and pledging support for Ukraine.)

**QUESTIONS:** Nic Ponticello asked if the Russian Orthodox Church was being used as a tool in the current conflict. A: The delegates confirmed that this is the case and, as a result, (most) Russian Orthodox churches within Ukraine have become Ukrainian Orthodox to distinguish their identity and allegiance. Another example cited among Ukrainians is that many who used to speak Russian now only speak Ukrainian.

When asked why the delegates came to Woodland instead of Washington, DC, they said that this is a people-to-people exchange, and though other delegates have gone to our nation's capitol, it's important that on a personal level all Americans across the country realize the gravity of Russia's invasion.

**CONCLUSION:** The delegates expressed their gratitude for support received from the U.S. in defense of Democracy and presented President Tom with a Ukrainian flag, traditional plate, and poster, asking that we don't forget the people of Ukraine.





President Tom thanked the delegates on behalf of the club and members gave a standing ovation. President Tom then rang the bell and adjourned the meeting as the delegates left for their next presentation at UOP McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.