

Rotary



Club of Concord

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

Wanda D Waltman
January 26th
Elisabeth M.
Andreason
January 28th
Monica L Bullet
February 3rd
Rick Ernst
February 10th
Guy S. Bjerke
February 14th
Marilyn McClaskey
February 17th
Carolyn S. Anderson
February 20th

01-19-24 Concord Rotary Newsletter

By Rick Ernst

Welcome to Concord Rotary!

It may have been a chilly winter day here in the Bay Area. However, 37 Rotarians and guests, gathering at the Concord Museum & Event Center, enjoyed the warm fellowship of Rotary and mild weather (compared to many other parts of our country that are braving sub-zero temps and record snowfalls.) So glad we live in northern California!! Right on-time, president **Wanda Waltman** and her BBB, (that's **Big Brass Bell**) brought our meeting to order with a salute to our country's flag, and recitation of Rotary's 4-Way test, recited by past president **Ron Leone**.

HAPPY BUCKS

Carolyn Anderson reported the 2-week escape to their condo on Kauai included hubby Russ, and the families of their two sons and daughter.

Michael Barrington shared Happy Bucks about an article being printed today in the UK - this time it's a fantasy story about England's iconic Stonehenge.

Scott Singley contributed five "cranky dollars" to recognize what he referred to as a "bad day on the golf course." Cold, windy, muddy and "cart path only" restrictions contributed to the crummy outing. However, a birdie on a par-5 hole "made his day."



Dave Litty and partner Jeff Nelson were recognized for their 23 years together by making a generous \$100 donation to the Concord Rotary Endowment. Thanks, Dave!

Major Gwyn Jones is anticipating a quiet weekend in his Clayton home since his brood is enjoying winter sports in the Lake Tahoe region. Hmm, might be the

beginnings of "empty nesters" as a couple of those in the Jones family are getting to that age where more independence is more frequently sought.

Art in the Box:

The Rotary Club of Clayton Valley / Concord Sunrise is partnering with the Mt. Diablo **Homeless Outreach Program for Education (HOPE)** that brings art supplies to disadvantaged students experiencing homelessness in our community. Personal size boxes are filled with age-appropriate art supplies to be distributed. Each box costs about \$25 to produce and is filled with art tablets, construction paper, colored pencils, art erasers, etc. Children smile and their eyes light up when they see "Art in a Box" and are overjoyed when they receive one.





Their club's delegation at our meeting today included project coordinators Lois Nelson, Joan Donofrio and Clayton Wordell. The \$15,000 grant provides funding for these kits. Following their story of how this project came about, and how it can be beneficial to youngster's development, President Wanda presented our visitors with a check for \$1,000. That is our club's participation as one of the Diablo Valley Eight (DV-8) group of Rotary clubs. There is hope and expectation this project will be one that continues beyond this initial launch.



New Member Career Talk:

Red Badger **Celia Valencia** did a fine job in sharing highlights of her career and accomplishments, accompanied by an excellent video program she had prepared. A graduate of Carondelet High School and the University of San Francisco (USF), Celia earned her Bachelor of Science degree in applied economics. Celia is an interior designer for K-Floors, the firm owned by her sponsor and fellow Rotarian, Bryan Keding.

A talented young lady in numerous fields, Celia is also a licensed optician and phlebotomist. She is the proud single-mom of a 11-year old daughter active in school sports and who recently won national's in competitive dancing. We're delighted to

have Celia on-board and participating in our club projects, including serving on the Celebrate Love committee and as a volunteer on **Elisabeth Andreason's** Habitat for Humanity team. Welcome, Celia.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Dianne Ernst announced that all 75 hearts for the upcoming **Celebration of Love** have now been purchased. Yippee!! As Dianne proclaimed. So, while the hearts may be SOLD OUT we still have seats at the event that need to be filled by fellow Rotarians and their invited guests. If you've not yet signed-up to attend the Feb 10 event, expect to receive a friendly phone call from our Love committee.



Upcoming Community Service and District-wide projects:

Our next Food Bank outing will be Monday evening, Feb 5th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Let's have a great turnout (at least 12-15 Rotarians) for this long-standing community service project that benefits so many. For more info, contact project leader **Parmod Kumar. (925 383-1972)**



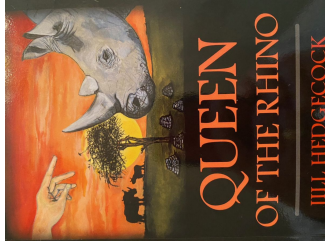
Our "Home Team" of talented "handy-persons" is calendared for Saturday morning, January 27th. Project leader Inge Yarborough asks that you convene at 8:30am at the Starbucks adjacent to Kohl's Department store on Monument Blvd. Need more info? **Contact Inge at 925-766-6896.**

Our District 5160 Conference with a "Field of Dreams" theme is April 26-28 in downtown Sacramento. For details or to register, see past president **Memory Woodard at 925-457-3086.** Care to attend a more exotic location to experience Rotary on a global level? Register for Rotary International's conference in Singapore. to be held May 25-29.



TODAY'S SPEAKER PROGRAM:

Author Jill Hedgecock was invited to be today's program speaker by fellow author **Michael Barrington**. Jill writes monthly articles for the Gazette. Not just a writer, Jill is a global traveler, a painter, a poet and author of several novels. She can speak with authority on a number of topics. Or as Michael would say, Jill brings "a full bag of tricks" to today's gathering. She spoke to us about the plight of the world's rhinos and how devastating this is.



The author of *Rhino In The Room*, is the story of vanishing wildlife happening on our watch. It's a plight that may see the total extinction of the black Rhino during our youngsters' lifetimes. Early in her remarks she shared this quote from David Brewer "We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Rhinos are living dinosaurs and have been around for some 55 million years. They've survived predators and the ice age. It's hard to believe, but at one time there were nearly one hundred species; that figure is now down to just five. Hers was a most informative talk, followed by the

opportunity to have this renowned author personally sign copies of two of her books on the topic of Rhinos. The book cover on display is the other one that Jill is promoting.

WEEKLY DRAWING:

Frequent golfer Scott Singley drew the lucky numbered ticket; alas, his luck did not enable him to draw the elusive "black marble."

And with that, President Wanda adjourned our January 19 meeting at 1:35pm, reminding everyone that our annual fundraiser, *Celebration of Love*, is just 3 weeks away.



Upcoming Speakers

Club Leaders



[Wanda D. Waltman](#)
President



[James Kohl](#)
President-Elect



[Sandra J. Newman](#)
Secretary



[Nickolas Peterson](#)
Treasurer Club



[Gregory M. Grassi](#)
Treasurer
Endowment (T)



[Anthony A. Akins](#)
Rotary Foundation



[Sean Duffey](#)
Membership Chair



[Rick Ernst](#)
Membership
Service



[Bryan E. Keding](#)
Community
Service



[Michael Joseph
Barrington](#)
International
Service



[David Allen Litty](#)
Vocational
Service



[Leslie Chapman](#)
Youth Service -
Interact



[Memory A.
Woodard](#)
iPast President