

Rotary



Club of Concord

Birthdays

Carolyn S.
Anderson
February 20th
John L. Pereira
March 2nd
Rita Corbinook
March 4th
Harry S. Luan
March 6th
Sandra J
Newman
March 13th

02/20/24 Concord Rotary Newsletter



Meeting Notes: **Inge Yarborough**

Newsletter Editor: **Ron Leone**

Read below to learn what's going on at your club! Do you know how to add to this newsletter, our Concord Rotary Website or Facebook? Send articles and photos to **Guy Bjerke** <guybjerke@gmail.com>.

Rotary Meeting Notes for 2/16/24

WELCOME TO CONCORD ROTARY



President Wanda invited **Carolyn Anderson** to start our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and had **Jim Kohl** expertly recite the 4-Way test; a job that has gotten significantly easier ever since we decided to include the words in our PowerPoint slides.

Our guests, **Jorge Cordova** and Mike McConnell were only briefly introduced as they played important parts later in our program. Which brings us straight to



HAPPY BUCKS:



Scott Singley, a regular contributor, paid "cranky" bucks "something about the weather."

Carolyn Anderson was happy about being one of the two couples who were "left standing" in the spin-the-wheel contest during our "Celebrate Love" event last Saturday; two finalists among those 75 participants who had bought a heart. Both graciously agreed to split the grand prize.

Greg Grassi paid \$2 for Happy Bucks, in thanks that the event was done, and **Dianne Ernst** topped that with \$5 for the same sentiment. I think the entire Celebrate Love Committee would have agreed too, but were too cheap to contribute Happy Bucks for it.

Last but not least, **Nick Virgallito** paid \$10 for winning one of the smaller "heart" prizes. **Bill Bobetsky** had missed the party, but was back from a successful snowboarding trip.





BIRTHDAYS:

There were three, but only **Rick Ernst** was in attendance and paid \$10 for having it on February 10th, which means it was totally overshadowed by our big Rotary event and a heavy workday for the **Ernsts**.

Guy Bjerke was born on Valentine's Day – a unique Valentine's gift to his parents, I'm sure - and **Marilyn McClusky's** birthday will be Saturday, 2/17.

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Again, there were four anniversaries, but only one member was present. As **Barry Gordon** (2021), **Leticia Nicolini** (2013) and **Guy Bjerke** (2008) were all absent, **Scott Singley** (2008) got the mike again to tell us what brought him and kept him in Rotary. Apparently, his Rotary history started much earlier when he joined the San Ramon club in 1991, later moved to Concord and held positions as president & membership director. **Scott** was very thorough in his report, which earned him some comments along the lines of "too many notes" to which he responded that he thought he was the program. Moving right along!

NO WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

February is obviously not the preferred time to get hitched!



NAME THAT TUNE:

A new entertainment contribution from President **Wanda**, she gave two lyric segments to pop-songs from the 60/70's which both were immediately identified by **Bill McQueen** as "King of the Road" and "Joy to the World" (not the Beethoven kind). Next time I need a teammate for music trivia at a party, I will invite **Bill**!

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION:

This is why I promised you that **Jorge Córdoba** would have a more important part later in the meeting – he is our newest member and was properly inducted into our club. Retired from another non-profit volunteer position, **Jorge** was looking for a way to give back when **Jerry Hoobler** invited him to our group. As he had a "day-job" as a software engineer, there are already some minds spinning about how we can put those coveted talents to work.



EVENTS IN REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Before going to recent events, President **Wanda** drew our attention to some adorable "Thank You" letters that the elementary school kids had drafted in their "or their teacher's" - gratitude for the dictionaries we had distributed earlier this year. My table mate, **Bill McQueen** and I got a kick out of the comment, "I like that it is in ABC order!"

February 5: Last Monday was Food Bank Night and about 15 Rotarians and family members spent 2 hours bagging apples, oranges and pears per a report by **Parmod Kumar**.

February 10: Last Saturday was our Big Annual Fundraiser, the "Celebrate Love" party! The room looked beautiful, the food was a diverse buffet and the DJ was fun and a good dancer. I think everyone had a good time and a number of people went home with some treasures in the form of raffle items, silent auction items and gift certificates from the live auction.

Two big Live Auction items are still up for grabs and as they have the potential to be big money

Two big live auction items are set up for guests and as they have the potential to be big money winners for our club, **Inge Yarborough** gave more details on them:

One is a week in Las Vegas in a 1bd/1ba suite at the Jockey Club next to the Bellagio – any time with a 60-day notice – the minimum bid is \$700.

The other was listed as a 2bd/2ba in Park city for a week, but could really be any room combination at any time of the year in any of the 180+ Worldmark/Wyndham properties across North America worth about 14,000 – credits.

Examples include Hawaii, Palm Springs, Tahoe, The West Coast, Alberta’s mountains, Disneyland/world but also Colorado, Tennessee and more; plus city escapes to Manhattan, Vancouver, New Orleans, San Diego, Melbourne, Australia & more. The minimum bid would be \$1,200 and for most resorts a booking window of 13 months is advisable.

Contact **Inge Yarborough** directly if you want more information, at 925-766-6896 or inge.yarborough@gmail.com. We are considering putting both out for bidding again at the next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 19: Rotary Basics Online will offer online learning about all-things-Rotary every Monday from March 4-25th.



Night Out – East Bay

Thurs, Feb 29th 6-8pm

Join Rotarians & Friends at **La Fritanguera!**
1819 Colfax Street, Concord,



IT'S TAX SEASON & what better way to kick it off than with host **Josephine Leiva** of **Stanza Tax Services** & the Nicaraguan delights of **La Fritanguera** to tease your palette while learning what's new in the 2023 tax law changes!



BRING FRIENDS & BIZ CARDS for DRAWINGS & PRIZES!



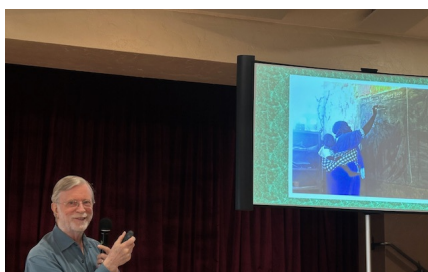
February 29 Rotary Means Business (RMB) from 6-8pm at the Nicaraguan La Fritanguera sponsored by our own **Josie Leiva**’s Stanza Tax Service. This is not to be missed because of the valuable tips on new tax laws. The exquisite food and good fellowship are just a bonus.

A little RMB heads-up from **David Litty**: next month **Ron Melvin** will host our networking meeting at Calicraft in Walnut Creek.

March 8: It’s all about the kids: the Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair is still looking for volunteer judges & more.

March 23: Rotary Assembly held from 8:30-2:00pm in Fairfield. This will be an interactive learning opportunity.

April 2-28: Rotary District 5160 Conference in Sacramento



This brings us to our speaker, Mike McConnell!

Mike had an interesting life as CEO of two different companies in Silicon Valley where he was raised and later as a Peace Corp volunteer in –The Gambia–, Africa. This instilled a deep love for the small democratic country of about 2 million people. Gambia snakes along both sides of the Gambia river and started as a British protectorate. It conveniently uses English as



the official language â€ though the population comprises seven different tribes, each with their own local tongue. Yet, they manage to get along!

During his time there, he was confronted with a problem: school children wanted to have an education but had no money for the uniforms and school costs, so over time he and his friends started to support educational efforts and finally formalized it with a volunteer-run non-profit called Gambia Rising. Our club got involved when Michael Barrington, our International Chair, got introduced to Mike McConnell and learned that one big problem was teacher turnover, as they had no housing other than living with a local farmer. So, our club provided funds to finish a building project in a small village that provided simple housing for teachersâ€ housing largely built with their own hands â€ and we are now looking at repeating the process in another one.

This scribe got teary-eyed when Mike spoke about a girl that had grown up there and was just finishing a PHD program in math at Iowa State. Starting in a community without running water, a 2-mile walk to elementary school, 5 miles to secondary and even fewer â€high schoolsâ€. What an Olympic-sized effort for those kids to carve out a future for themselves â€ and what a culture shock to come to this country!

Iâ€™m sorry to admit that I missed who drew the marble this week, but heard that our next speaker will be Aaron Feldman, talking about â€Catscapesâ€.

Science Fair information: â€For more information about how to volunteer, please contact Linda Mayo at 925-723-1177 or mayolk@aol.com.â€

#

On this day, February 20



- **1958 American future Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Arcaro rides his 4,000th winner on Riding Ban in the 8th race at Santa Anita**



- **1962 John Glenn becomes the 1st American to orbit the Earth, aboard Friendship 7**



- **1963 Future Baseball Hall of Fame outfielder Willie Mays becomes the highest-paid player in MLB, signing a record \$100,000 contract with the San Francisco Giants**



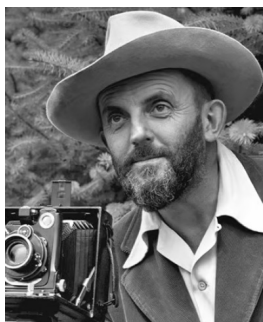
- **1988 Brian Boitano wins Olympic gold medal in figure skating**



- **1992 Ross Perot says he'll run for president on "Larry King Live"**



- **1997 San Francisco Giants Barry Bonds signs record \$22.9M 2 year contract**



- **1902 American landscape photographer and environmentalist (Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980) Ansel Adams, born in San Francisco, California**

Joke of the Day

What do you get when you combine a rhetorical question and a joke?

Thought of the Day

"Sometimes your best investments are the ones you don't make."

- Donald Trump

Cartoon of the Day



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