

Rotary



Club of Concord

Events

No Events
found

Birthdays

Gregory M.
Grassi
April 19th

4-19-24 Concord Rotary Newsletter

By Inge Z Yarborough

After a warm welcome, **Pres. Wanda** asked Gene Voelkel to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Paul King** to recite the 4-way test.

GUESTS:

We had several guests that day:

Michael Barrington re-introduced **Susan Wood**, our Pleasant Hill fellow Rotarian and consummate photographer, who will help chauffeur our guests from Turkmenistan around again and capture their activities. She offered photo cards from her trip to Honduras for sale. That's when she went with Michael to record our wash-project.

We also welcomed **Sue Greenfield** again, another visiting Rotarian from Washington State, who is getting ready to move here in support of her daughter, who unfortunately has breast cancer. We wish you a smooth transition, Sue, and your daughter a full recovery!

Bryan introduced us to Joel Smith, who shared that he was a recovering tax preparer, who now has a small business helping people with their taxes.

Bill Bobetsky had us meet Vedrana Veranovicz and Ron Malkovicz and I want to apologize to both of them for probably butchering their last name here and missing their details other than Vedrana working for NY Life.

HAPPY BUCKS:

Lots of Happy Bucks! **Scott Singley**, who is keeping up his uninterrupted run of Happy Bucks announcements, told us proudly about his new Tesla Y, which may be smarter than he is. It comes with a 30-day self-driving test but, alas, it insists on keeping the speed limit.

Dave Litty, gave Happy Bucks for a successful and enjoyable District Conference in Redding. Apparently, the organizers did a great job mixing fun with information and he had a blast.

Bryan Keding finished the new large showroom at K-Floors in time for our next RMB Meeting and also is now a certified flooring inspector, which should reel in some insurance business.

Sometimes, Happy Bucks are really Sad Bucks, as **Rick Ernst** shared visiting **Lee Sharp** from our club at an acute rehab center in Pleasant Hill at Main& Oak Park. Lee tripped and fractured his femur and would probably appreciate visitors.

Intrepid **Wanda Waltman** was happy to have hiked all the 9 miles to the top of Mt Diablo. She didn't mention the number of floors her Fitbit recorded for that elevation gain.

Helen Crump just returned from a drive to Dallas to see the eclipse, followed by a trip to Peru. An eventful month, Helen!

BIRTHDAYS:

Greg Grassi and **Larry Sly** both shared their birthday on April 19th with none other than Paul Harris albeit not the same year. **Greg** celebrated with a \$75 donation. **Larry** was absent, but **Ingrid Hempell** told us that his daughter has now taken over his former leadership position at the food bank. The apple doesn't fall far.

ANNIVERSARIES:

This month produced an impressive number of Club as well as Wedding Anniversaries.

Nelson Meeks joined in 2020, Celeste Graham in 2018, **Susan Cohen-Colman** in 2009, **Tanya Brugger-Blachard** in 2008, **Tony Akins** in 2002, **Elisabeth Andreason** in 2001 and **Chris Moulis** wait for it in 1979, 45 years ago! What a record!

As for weddings, **Rick & Dianne Ernst** got hitched on April 21 (39 years ago), **Dale & Kathy Adams** as well as **Marcus & Natalie Pierre** on April 25 and **Letty & Dave Nicolini** on April 28, though none but **Rick & Dianne** were present to tell us the year these memorable events took place.

Paul King also celebrated his 6-year wedding anniversary today though, somehow, he did not make it on to our anniversary list. And neither did new member **Jose Cordoba**, who also had an anniversary. Congratulations to all!

EVENTS IN REVIEW & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April 12 our speaker last week was author Lori Lynne Armstrong, an opium addiction survivor who has written a book on the subject and gave a moving and informative talk.

April 13 - Interact met with seniors for an inter-generational gathering at Montecito and Oakmont, 2 senior homes &

assisted living facilities.



Delegation Arrives
Friday April 26th
Departs Saturday May 4th



Contact Michael Barrington
for questions or information

510 396-8496

April 26-May 4 – Our club will host delegates from Turkmenistan for the Open World Project. They are journalists, and we will take them around to various institutions and media outlets.

May 2 – at 6:00pm we will meet for Rotary Means Business at K Floors again, moved up from our original 3rd Thursday of the month to include our guests.

May 4 – at 6:00pm Concord Diablo Rotary is holding a Star Wars-themed bowling bash that we are invited to at Clayton Valley Bowl, 5300 Clayton Rd. The cost is \$40 a ticket and includes bowling shoes, food & drink plus a no-host bar. For more information email concorddiablorotary@gmail.com.

May 5 – The Walnut Creek Rotary Club is hosting a fundraiser on the USS Potomac. This cruise of the San Francisco Bay leaves at 12 noon from 540 Water St. in Oakland to return at 3:00pm and includes Gourmet Hors d'oeuvres by Scott's Seafood and a No Host wine & beer bar. Each \$195 ticket includes a \$50 donation to the Wheel Chair Foundation. For more information, contact Marcia Gerg at 925-7084625 or mgerg@summitbanking.com.

May 10 – will be our next Friday meeting; until then we will be dark on Fridays due to all our hosting/driving responsibilities towards our visitors. The speaker for that day will be Wayne Cantrell of Cantrell's Information Technologies updating us on cyber security.

TODAY'S SPEAKER:

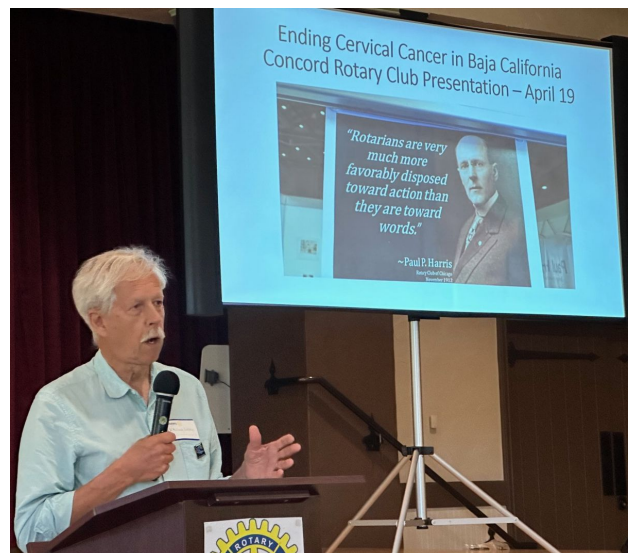
Memory Woodard announced our speaker, surgical oncologist Dr. Richard Godfrey. A fellow Rotarian in the Nile's Rotary Club, former Peace Corp participant and RotaCare physician, Dr. Godfrey likened his mission to eradicate cervical cancer to our work on eradicating Polio. That was a success story even if there are still a few small pockets of the virus left.

In our medically advanced society, almost no women die of cervical cancer anymore because we have routinely used pap smears to screen women, so we can catch it early. Not so in low economic and/or underdeveloped countries. Therefore, cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cause of death for women.

Cervical cancer is caused by the sexually transmitted HPV virus and is a very slowly progressing disease. Dr. Godfrey stressed that most of us carry the HPV virus and our immune system just takes care of it. For the unfortunate few where it does not do the job, the cancer can easily be killed with a "40-second-treatment" called Thermal Coagulation - if it is detected early enough. But that requires screening. It is a travesty that in 2022 about 302,000 women world-wide died - mostly because they didn't even know they had the disease – and 602,000 were diagnosed with it.

Fortunately, there is now a new, easy and cost-effective self-test called Ampfire that women can apply without having to travel long distances to a healthcare center for a pap smear, and it is even more accurate. So, Dr. Godfrey is working with various Rotary clubs and other organization to institute a 3-prong approach in vulnerable communities.

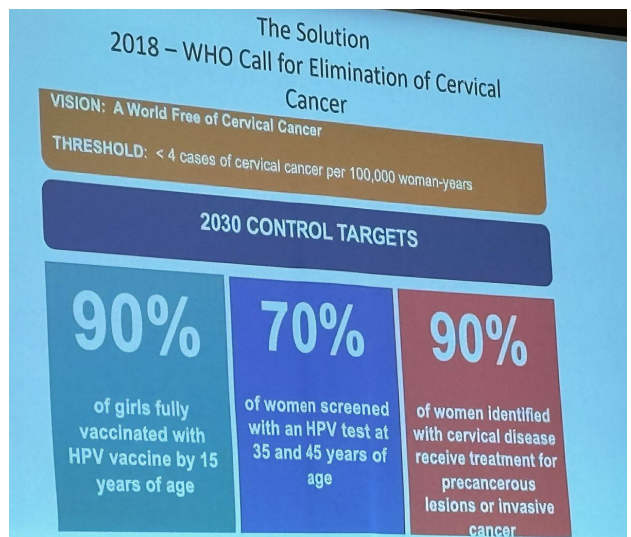
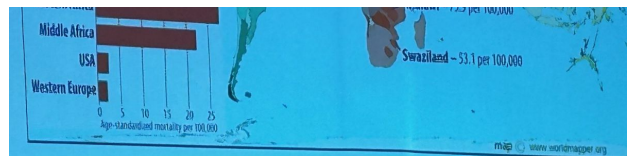
The 2030 target is to protect 90% of children with the HPV



vaccine before they reach the age of 15, to screen at least 70% of women for the onset of the cancer and treat 90% of the women that are identified as positive. He has the support of the World Health Organization on this, which set the goal to eliminate cervical cancer in 2018.

Dr. Godfrey's presentation was followed by a brief and lively Q & A session, and we understand that our health services are no longer routinely testing women over 60; probably because they would likely die of something else before the cancer becomes lethal. Men & boys are not off the hook, though the cancer presents differently in them as it would be hard-pressed to find a cervix to nest in.

We concluded with Bryan Keding drawing the white marble and accepting his consolation prize in the form of a Starbucks card.



Upcoming Speakers

Club Leaders



[Wanda D. Waltman](#)
President



[Jim 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



[Dave Litty](#)
Vocational Service



[Leslie Chapman](#)
Youth Service - Interact



[Memory A. Woodard](#)
iPast President