

# Rotary



## Club of Concord

### Birthdays

Parmod Kumar  
September 28th

Leticia Almaro  
Nicolini  
September 29th

Barry J Gordon  
September 30th

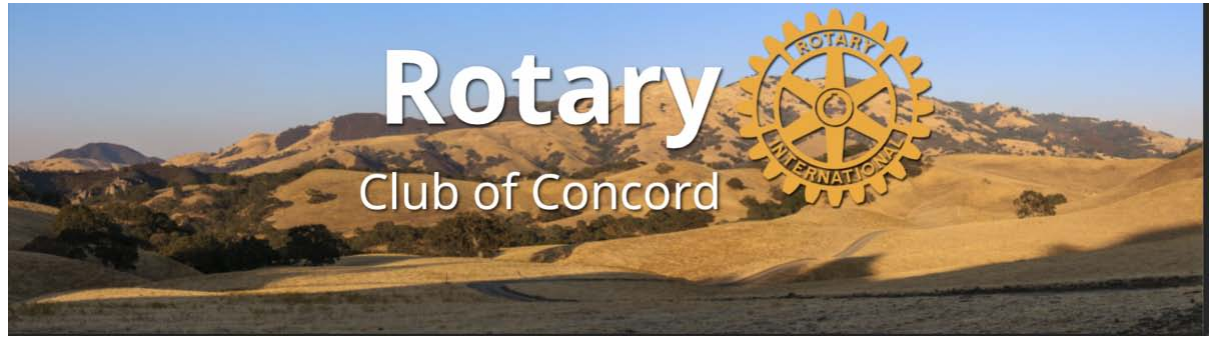
Nelson Meeks  
October 6th

Nickolas  
Peterson  
October 9th

Gerald D.  
Hoobler  
October 10th

Howard Jenkins  
October 17th

William Bobetsky  
October 23rd



## Sept 26, 2023 Concord Rotary Club Newsletter

Meeting Notes: **Rick Ernst**

Newsletter Editor: **Ron Leone**

Read below for 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](mailto:guybjerke@gmail.com)>.

## Rotary Meeting Notes for Sept 22, 2023



### WELCOME TO ROTARY

Hooray! It's noontime on this, the last day of summer - and time for Concord Rotarians to convene at our city's Museum and Event Center and enjoy the fellowship that accompanies membership in this awesome organization, chartered 76 years ago in 1947. With nearly 40 members and guests in attendance today, we had a packed agenda, highlighted by many service-related reports and concluding with a most informative program speaker, BART District 1 Director Debora Allen.

### Welcome, Introductions and 4-Way Test

Several guests and prospective Rotarians joined us today. That included Celia Valencia (K-Floors Sales rep), Rick Rodriguez (Managing Director of Core One Real Estate & Management), and Kerri Harris-Gay, Director of Sales at the Concord Plaza Hotel. Welcome all, and thank you for looking into Rotary as an opportunity to serve your community. We'd love to have you on board. Thanks to **Luis Alkon** and **Bryan Keding** for making the effort to introduce these guests to Rotary.

### Happy Bucks and Special Occasions

In the world of "Happy Bucks," past president **Memory Woodard** was excited to announce that Ygnacio Valley High School teacher, Joseph Alvarico, was named Contra Costa County 'Teacher of the Year.' Joseph is also the faculty member who made robotics at YV such a

successful student development program. He now is a nominee for State of California Teacher of the Year. Memory also was pleased to donate Happy Bucks because husband Dennis, with his 'midas' touch, returned from playing the slots at Cache Creek, \$16,000 ahead. In recognition of Mr. Alvarico's prestigious award and Dennis' success, Memory contributed \$100 to the club and \$200 towards her next Paul Harris Fellowship.

Nick reported that the **Virgallito's** enjoyed an end-of-summer family boat outing in Discovery Bay with their sons and grandkids; Club treasurer **Greg Grassi** reported on his just-returned getaway from Europe, thankful he and Lois were the only travelers in their group to escape the Covid-Monster. Oh yes, Greg also assured us he did not abscond with any Rotary funds to pay for this expensive European getaway. **Kevin Matteri** was recognized for his upcoming wedding anniversary; relieved that it was being announced today, as he had completely overlooked it. Fortunately, the actual date is Friday, so Reyna will probably not learn of the oversight, unless of course, Kevin spills the beans. Next up was **Scott Singley** who contributed \$20 celebrating the return of his Rota-buddy, **Rita Corbinook**, who has just returned from the East Coast; he also carded a 'birdie' in his weekly golf outing. Oh yes, Scott also confessed that he makes weekly "happy bucks" announcements as it insures his name gets mentioned in the weekly newsletter! Scott, we'll look forward to hearing more of your antics each week, accompanied, of course, by an appropriate financial contribution. Past president **George Calhoun** proudly announced that his brother-in-law has recently been inducted in the San Ramon Valley High School Hall of Fame, having lettered in three sports during his years there. **Ingrid Hempell** shared that she's just returned from Germany and enjoyed the visit to her native country. And, happy multiple celebrations to **Barry Gordon** for his 'hat trick' with his birthday, his wife's birthday and their wedding anniversary all falling on the same day, September 30. President Wanda also shared that, among other recognizing 'National Days' on America's calendar, today Sept 22, is National Ice Cream Cone day! A nice gesture, however your humble scribe would like to see that expanded to "every day" being NICC day.



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### Community Service

A group of more than 30 Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors pitched-in on the City's "plant-planting" project on the median of the Olivera Road / Hwy 242 overpass, adjacent to Hillcrest Park. As we all know, 'many hands lighten the load' and our project on that day was completed in just 3 hours thanks to a strong turnout of volunteers. A similar event (tree planting) is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, from 8:00 am til 11:00 am. Arrive and sign-in at Hillcrest Park on Olivera Road.

**The Link Crew** project is in full swing at Ygnacio Valley High School where upper class students serve as mentors to have ninth graders become acclimated to their new surroundings and to find ways to become involved in campus clubs, sports and student areas of interest. Thanks to **Memory** and Interact advisor **Leslie Chapman** for all the volunteer service they both provide to our YV students.

### LadyBug Program:

Looking ahead, our next gathering for bag assembly will be Saturday, October 7th: at St. Monica's Catholic Church, 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga. The ambitious goal that morning will be to assemble 1,500 bags, so a large

# Ladybug Program

In conjunction  
with Moraga  
Chamber of  
Commerce



Saturday  
Oct. 7 - 9:00 AM

St. Monica's Catholic Church, 1001 Camino Pablo,  
Moraga

turnout of volunteers, both ladies and guys will be needed. Please plan to arrive at 9:00am.

## RMB Social

Past president **Dave Litty** announced our next RMB Social (**R**otary **M**eans **B**usiness)

Is this Thursday, Sept 28 at K-Floors. Time: 6:00pm til 8:00pm. Site address is 1000 Detroit Ave. just down the street from Costco. Thanks to our hosts: K-Floor owner, Bryan Keding and Major Gwyn Jones of The Salvation Army. Remember, due to the RMB event, there is no meeting the following day, Friday, September 29.



## Food Bank Sorting

Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6 to 8 PM  
4010 Nelson Avenue, Concord



**Parmod Kumar** announced the next "Food Bank Sorting" will be on Monday evening, October 2, 6:00-8:00pm, 4010 Nelson Avenue, North Concord Industrial Park. We need a higher Rotarian presence to achieve the workload assigned to us for that 2-hour hour time slot. Hope to see you there.

## The Home Team (residential home repairs)

Team leader **Inge Yarborough** announced the next date for the team to convene will be this coming Saturday, Sept 30. Meet-up at Starbucks on Monument Blvd. in the Kohl's shopping center at 8:30am.



Program Speaker - Debra Allen, BART District 1 Director

Arguably, today's was one of the most informative programs we've had this year. Big Thanks to **Nick Virgallito** for arranging to have Director Debora Allen address us today. The topic of BART relates to all of us whether we are commuters or simply those who occasionally use this transit system. And even if we do not depend on BART for any of our regional transportation needs, the decisions and financial consequences of their board's actions have an impact on all of us and the Bay Area's economy.

Your scribe will not attempt to expand on the Director's remarks and the lively Q&A session that followed. Suffice it to say that, in spite of the progress being made on many operational and strategic projects, BART is at a fiscal cliff. To quote the Director, "BART is out of money" and increased ridership is critical to make the budget work. Ridership is at 42% of the level they were operating pre-Covid. At its lowest ridership shortly after the shelter-in-place occurred in the spring of 2020, ridership dipped to a low of 6% of its previous average. In her words, "it was a ghost town." At end of the day, it's really the rider experience that will be the key to the system's survival. Her message was not a "gloom and doom" report - but one that addressed many facets of their system's operation - each of them critical - each of them needing an action plan if BART is to survive in the years ahead. Even before the pandemic, BART had insufficient revenue to meet operating expenses.

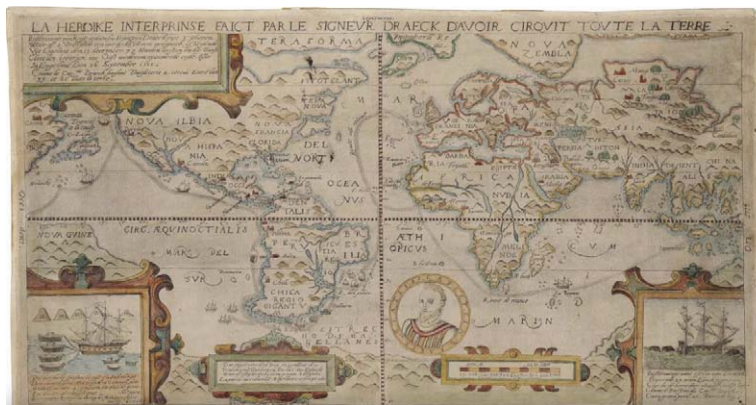
### The Winning Marble

The iconic 'marble draw' had **Kevin Matteri** select the winning ticket and chance to seek the evasive "black marble". With just 2 marbles remaining, it was a 50/50 shot and lady luck prevailed, enabling Kevin to leave with \$332 in his wallet. It's been reported that \$200 is going back to Rotary, \$100 is going towards a nice wedding anniversary outing and \$32 is going to his wallet for when his kids ask for money. (LOL). How generous!

And with that happy news, our September 22 Rotary meeting is 'in the books', and we adjourned promptly at 1:30pm. Oh yes, a final reminder: no meeting next Friday as we have the RMB social Thursday evening, Sept 28th at K-Floors. We hope to see many of you there.

# # #

## On This Day September 26



- *1580 Francis Drake completes circumnavigation of the world, sailing into Plymouth aboard the 'Golden Hind'*



- *1665 Height of the Great Plague of London as 7,165 people die throughout the previous week*



- *1777 British General William Howe occupies Philadelphia during American Revolution*



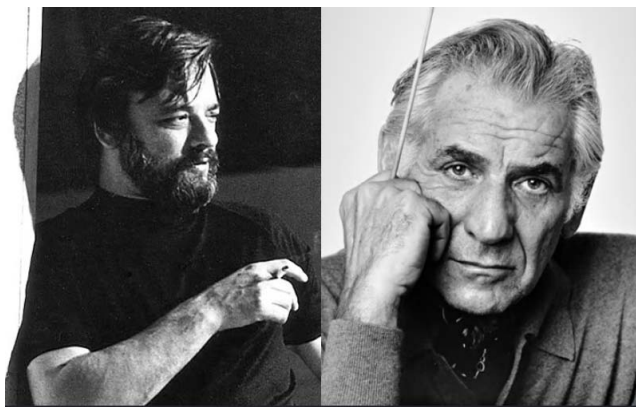
- *1789 Thomas Jefferson appointed 1st US Secretary of State; John Jay becomes 1st US Chief Justice; Edmund Randolph becomes 1st US Attorney General.*



- *1892 1st public appearance of John Philip Sousa's New Marine Band, at Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, New Jersey*



- *1949 Groundbreaking ceremony for the Hollywood sign in Hollywood, Los Angeles; old Hollywoodland sign torn down, reconstruction of a replacement begins with just Hollywood*



- *1957 Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim and Jerome Robbins' musical "West Side Story" opens at the Winter Garden Theater, NYC; runs for 732 performances, wins 2 Tony Awards*

## **Joke of the Day**

*Why did the cell phone get glasses?*

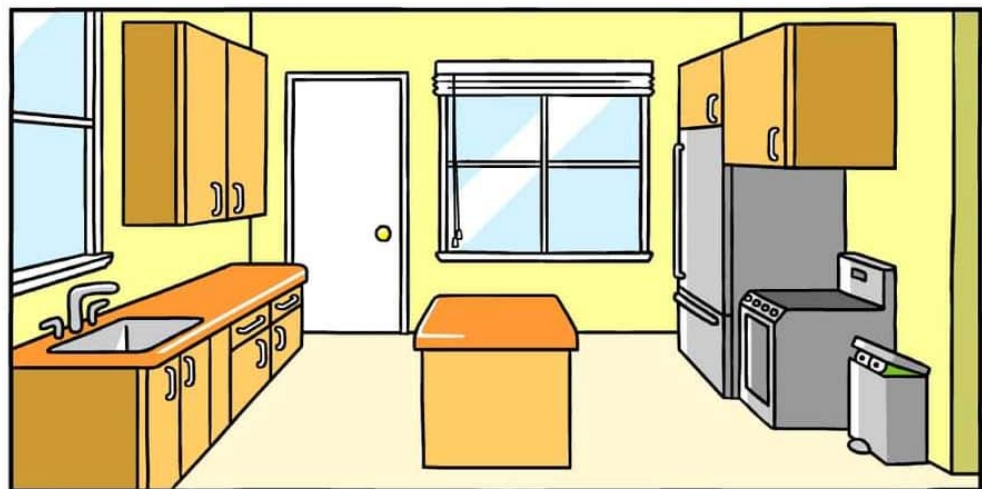
*Because she lost all her contacts.*

## Thought of the Day

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

— *Nelson Mandela*

## Cartoon of the Day



# Next Meeting Program

→ **October 6** ←

**Claire Roberts**  
District Governor



## 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



[Dave Litty](#)  
Vocational Service



[Leslie Chapman](#)  
Youth Service -  
Interact



[Memory A. Woodard](#)  
iPast President



[Cathy Durfee](#)  
Assistant  
Governor