

Rotary



Club of Concord

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

George Calhoun

December 3rd

Ingrid Hempell

December 4th

Luis Alkon

December 4th

Tania E.

Brugger-

Blanchard

December 9th

Tina S. Akins

December 10th

Niko

Anagnostopoulos

December 13th

Alfred L.

Kappadahl

December 13th

11-15-24 Concord Rotary Meeting

By Rick Ernst

Welcome to Concord Rotary

Having just completed the largest ever dictionary distribution to 8 elementary schools here in Concord (570 books), thirty Rotarians convened at noon to enjoy the fellowship that accompanies a good day's work. Give a cheer to project leader Luis Alkon, who coordinated the logistics of this mammoth project; and to Dave Litty, who capably served as 'emcee' at each of the schools, making a real connection with the youngsters. Great job, fellas!!



The two Ron's (that would be Leone and Melvin) delivered flawless editions of the pledge to our flag and Rotary's iconic 4-Way Test. And with that, our November 15 meeting was off and running. Although we had no invited guests this week, a young man named 'Coulter' appeared to be a self-invitee who questioned - and even challenged - what Rotary is all about. We're not quite certain why Coulter attended our entire meeting. However, President Jim did a laudable job in his efforts to have this young man be "seen, not heard" throughout the meeting. Turns out he is quite interested and signed up for Home Team already!

HAPPY BUCKS AND SUCH...

This was **Niko Anagnostopoulos'** first experience in our dictionary distribution, and he made a contribution for being able to join in during the week.

Nick "aka proud grandpop" Virgallito reports that his grandson's team is "on the move;" and for the second consecutive year, their football team is playing for the division championship this weekend against San Francisco's Archbishop Riordan High. Congrats!!



Scott Singley enjoyed the dictionary project and, as an unexpected bonus, the opportunity to meet Kacie Bowers, Harry's daughter, who is a 3rd grade teacher at Silverwood Elementary - - one of the classrooms we visited this week.



Ron Leone's daughter, in exploring for new residency abroad, has just purchased a home on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and will be relocating there once construction has been completed. That's quite a commute from Concord to see the grandkids, Ron!

Greg Grassi informed us he will be turning over the club treasurer reigns to **Bill McQueen**. Not sure if the rousing cheer from the gathered crowd was for his departing that role, or for Bill taking it over. Perhaps a bit of both perspectives. Greg felt that warranted \$5 in happy bucks and reminded us he will continue serving as treasurer for our Concord Rotary Endowment. **Chris Moulis** shared his concern that he feels an audit would be appropriate to oversee this huge change in finance leadership. Another rousing cheer to that!

Major Gwyn Jones happily reports that his son, now The Salvation Army band director in Oregon, received a surprise pay raise after being 'on the job' for just 3 months. Nice going, young man! And be assured, his folks will be expecting a nice Christmas gift now that he has deeper pockets.

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

A few service anniversaries were noted - among them past president **Rick Ernst** (37 years) and **Bill Bobetsky** (44 years). Did these veteran Rotarians join when they were just teenagers??

POLIO PLUS UPDATE

Polio Plus update by chairman **Nick Virgallito**: disappointed to report new paralysis cases have surfaced in several countries, including Pakistan which had reported only 6 cases last year, now 39. Tragically, their government is not permitting the vaccinations; it's a gender issue, as they are especially forbidding administering the vaccine to girls and women. On a brighter note, we recently vaccinated five-hundred thousand youngsters in Gaza.

As a footnote to his report, Nick informed us that our individual donations to Polio



doing this for years.

Plus will *also* count towards our Paul Harris accounts. Simply designate that preference on the submission form. Rotarians can also designate a monthly auto-pay in modest amounts as low as \$10. It all adds up! A few of our fellow Rotarians have been



PAST EVENTS

Fri. Nov. 8 Last week's speaker was Bill Yarborough, who spoke about the CIA's MK-Ultra program, his childhood experience with it and the resulting novel. **Inge Yarborough** chimed in that the paperback will have an official release date of December 10th but can be ordered on Amazon already now.

The project of the week was the aforementioned dictionary distribution, which went on for 5 mornings. When asked who had participated, half the room stood up. It was gratifying to see!

An important takeaway from the project was learning about the diversity of these kids: they were from South America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Mexico – maybe 15% were from the US, if that many.



Major Gwyn Jones took time to recognize all that our Rotary club does for The Salvation Army by presenting an engraved plaque to Concord Rotary at a recent breakfast meeting. It was also shown at our luncheon to all present. Thank you, Gwyn.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES FOR OUR ROTARY CALENDAR

- Fri. Nov 22 Club meeting at CMEC - program will be Tina Akins familiarizing us with Rotary's DACdb contact software
- Sat. Nov 23 Home Team - contact Inge Yarborough (925) 766-6896
- Fri. Nov 29 Thanksgiving holiday: No meeting this Friday
- Tues. Dec 3 Sorting at the Food Bank: 6:00pm - 8:00 pm

sign-ups with Parmod Kumar (925) 383-1972
 Fri. Dec 6 Club meets at CMEC: program to be announced
 Fri. Dec 13 Holiday Luncheon at Concord Historical Center.
 Sign-up details by Josie Leiva to be announced shortly
 Fri. Dec 20 Club meeting at CMEC - speaker program TBA
 Last date to bring unwrapped) toys for tots; Thank you!
 contact is Rita Corbinook. (925) 323-7166
 Sat. Dec 21 Salvation Army Bell-ringing: Safeway Walnut Creek, and
 Sam's Club: contact George Calhoun (925) 890-6806
 Fri. Dec 27 Christmas holiday: no meeting this week
 Fri. Jan 3 Club meeting at CMEC: speaker program TBA

Today's Speaker & Program

It's every speaker's nightmare - - it's now 'showtime' and their PowerPoint presentation doesn't launch or the wrong file has been uploaded. Well, for whatever the reason, this dilemma happened to John Shelton, our program speaker, this week. To his credit, John did an admirable job of introducing his newly founded local 501c3 - Temple Bread. This is a tax-exempt non-profit. They serve fine dining and nutritious, gourmet-inspired meals to the homeless community in Concord.

They also provide clothing, shoes, hygiene, and emergency supplies. With no visuals during his time at the lectern, John deviated from his planned remarks and focused on the ever-growing crisis of mental health, teen suicides and a few of the local, state, and federal programs that are being addressed and occasionally funded. He provided a lot of interesting statistics and stated that one of the main obstacles is people not wanting to change their lifestyle. For the minority who do, they also connect them to necessary resources to get clean and find jobs and housing.

In his closing remarks, John informed us he has a link with Café Gratitude here in Concord. That site can be used as a drop-off point for clothing, blankets or other supplies needed by the homeless. Temple Bread is a member of the Concord Chamber of Commerce and can be contacted through them. Thank you for joining us today, John Shelton!

Quote of the day presented by President Jim.....
"Growth and comfort do not co-exist." (author unknown).

Drawing: The winning ticket was drawn by Dave Litty, but the elusive black marble remains hidden for another day. And with that, our November 15th meeting adjourned promptly at 1:30pm. Have a great week, everyone!



Upcoming Speakers

Club Leaders



[Jim Kohl](#)
President



[Bryan E. Keding](#)
President-Elect
Community
Service Chair



[Sandra J Newman](#)
Secretary



[William P. McQueen Jr](#)
Treasurer

[Gregory M. Grassi](#)
Treasurer

[Celia Veronica Valencia](#)

[Anthony A. Akins](#)
Rotary Foundation

[Sean Duffey](#)
Membership Chair



Endowment (T)



Fundraising



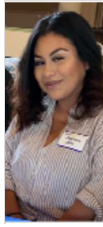
Chair



Dave Litty
Vocational Service



Rick Ernst
Membership
Service



Josephine Leiva
Club Service Chair



Elizabeth E. Willer
International
Service Chair



Memory A.
Woodard
Youth Services
Chair



Wanda D. Waltman
iPast President