



## Events

No Events found

## Birthdays

David Miller  
August 1st  
John B. Kaminski  
August 2nd  
Ronald E. Leone  
August 17th  
Anthony A. Akins  
August 26th  
Luther Daniel  
August 28th

## 8-18-23 Concord Rotary Newsletter

By Anthony A. Akins on Thursday, August 24, 2023



President **Wanda Waltman** called the meeting to order at 12:30. **Memory Woodard** led us in the pledge. **Inge Yarborough** recited the 4-way test.

### Introductions :

**Nick Virgallito** introduced his beautiful bride **Pat**.

**Bryan Keding** introduced us to one of his sales reps, **Celia Valencia**, who is checking out this thing called Rotary.

**Inge Yarborough** introduced a visitor from Germany, **Giuliana Hesener**, a distant relative of Bill's and recent law school graduate.

### Happy Bucks:

**Beth Willer** was happy that her brother, who just had a quadruple by-pass, was finally getting out of the hospital.

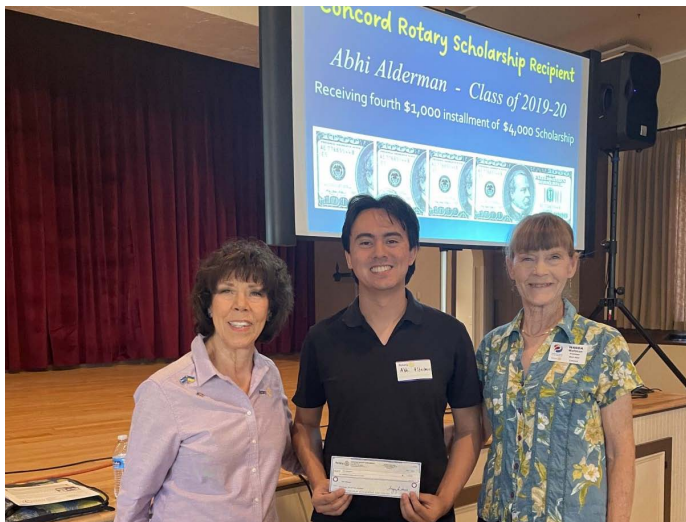
### Birthdays:

**Ron Leone** is in Alaska celebrating his birthday. A smart move!

**Chuck Waltman** is also celebrating his latest trip around the planet. Evidently Wanda didn't let Chuck go to Alaska as he was here, running the audio-visual. But he got a balloon.

### Wedding Anniversary:

**Guy** and **Denise Bjerke** are celebrating their anniversary somewhere other than at a club meeting. Good move, Guy.



### Events and Announcements:

**Memory Woodard** presented **Abhi Alderman**, one of our scholarship recipients, with his 4th \$1,000 check. Congratulations Abhi and good luck on your 4th year of university.

**Nick Virgallito** gave us an update on how to donate to the Rotary clubs in Hawaii for disaster relief. It's an easy process and you can find a QR code on our district website or the Hawaii district (District 5000) website. They even accept airline miles, so check it out and give some aid to our fellow Rotarians.

??????? **Susan Cohen-Grossman** showed some pictures from the recently finished Community Centre in Guatemala City, where she was involved with Lynn Kenney, writing a grant to support the construction and furnishing of said center. Our club is paying for

the multisport court and necessary equipment on the 4th floor.

**Ron Melvin** ran an event for the Special Olympics East Bay Softball Competition last Saturday and got some volunteers from the club to help. Thanks, Ron, and thank you to our volunteers.



This last Sunday, **Elizabeth Andreason** and **Melissa Allen** hosted an event for The RotaCare Clinic, where our club presented the clinic with a \$20 K check.

August 26: There is a Cornhole tournament this Saturday being hosted by The Rotary Club of Delta Antioch. See **Dave Litty** if you would like to be part of this fun event and/or a team member.

August 29<sup>th</sup>: Ladybug bag parties were held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at **Stephanie Prescott's** house in Lafayette where we were joined by members of the Lafayette Rotary club, and are also scheduled at the ReMax office in Lafayette in conjunction with the Diablo View club on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact Stephanie (925-683-7460) for details.



September 8th is "Rotary at The S.F. Giants" Day. Rumor has it the RI Site Selection Committee will be in attendance at this game, as they will be in town looking for San Francisco to host an international convention in the near future. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Speaking of the Site Selection Committee - *What is the status...?* The bid committee made up of representatives from 8 local districts, including ours, submitted a full proposal for consideration to Rotary International. The proposal was reviewed favorably and Rotary International will send a site inspection team this September to review facilities and preparedness to host Rotarians from around the world. We are one of 2 cities scheduled for a site visit.

September 9th is our District Virtual Conference including classes on Membership, Public Image, Marketing and the Rotary International Foundation. Committee chairs please attend, and it is open to all members who want to see what is what in the world of Rotary.

**Today's Program "An Unlikely Hero With Global Impact"**

was presented by Torsten Jacobsen. Torsten is a fellow Rotarian from the Clayton Sunrise club, an M.D. and surgeon who has been on many missions around the world helping those in need.

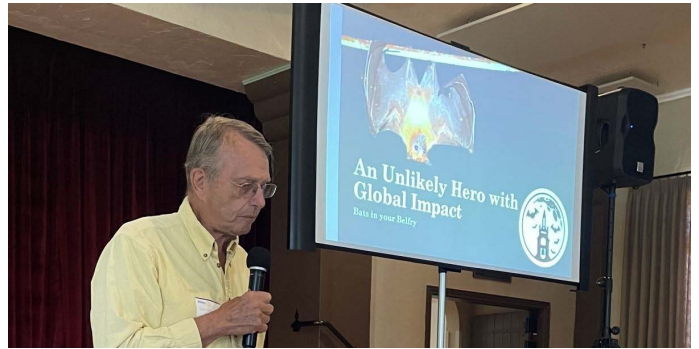
Today he shared with us information about bats.

They have existed for 50 M years and are prolific pollinators, the largest volume seed distributors, and in my personal opinion (I hate mosquito bites) the biggest benefit is that they are insect eaters. The planet would be run over by mosquitoes if we didn't have bats. For example, the Braken Caves in Texas is home to 20 million bats, the largest bat community in the world. Every night, the bats come out and eat 20 tons of insects. They eat about 1,000 insects per hour. That's a whole bunch of mosquito bites stopped. But the pollination and seed distribution of these animals is no small feat either, as they can cover up to 60 sq km in one night. The bat is also the pollinator for agave plants, which can only be pollinated at night, and without the agave cactus we would not have tequila. I think we can all agree "that's a good thing". A lot of work from these



amazing and misunderstood creatures.

There are over 1,400 species of bats and what we fear most, because of myths and horror movies, is not much of a concern. Only 4 species are what we label "blood sucking". These are only located in South America. Humans have given bats disease more than bats have passed on disease to humans. The primary disease we have passed onto bats is "white nose disease", which is a death sentence for the bats.



The threats to bats are serious due to habitat destruction, climate change, including fires. They are the only mammals capable of flight and many species of bats have a wingspan anywhere from 1" to 6'.

See the links below for more information about bats:

Braken Cave: <https://www.batcon.org/our-work/protect-restore-landscapes/bracken-cave-preserve/>  
 Bats Conservation International: <https://www.batcon.org/>

Also, note that there is a Bat Watch every other Wednesday in Sunol at the Sunol Visitor's Center. The next one is August 30th from 7:30 to 9:00pm.

**The Drawing:**

**Nick Peterson** had the lucky number but drew a white marble. The pot builds!

**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](#)

[Cathy Durfee](#)



iPast President



Assistant Governor