

Rotary

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill



The PLEASANTREE
APRIL 24, 2025



[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE](#)



**THIS WEEK'S MEETING
OFFSITE
STEVEN'S PRINTING**
2489 Estand Way, Pleasant Hill
Gather 4 PM



• **Step into History:
Discovering the Heart and
Heritage of Rodgers Ranch**
Step back in time and discover the remarkable story of Rodgers Ranch—a true Pleasant Hill treasure with roots stretching all the way back to 1867! **Denise Korsolv** from Rodgers Ranch recently brought its vibrant history to life, sharing how this beloved ranch began when the Rodgers family built their farmhouse on a sprawling 149-acre property.

Patrick and Mary Ann Rodgers, community-minded pioneers, settled here in 1868 and nurtured the land until the early 1900s, raising crops, supporting local schools, and helping shape the area's future.

After Patrick's passing in 1891 and Mary's in 1904, the ranch changed hands several times, even hosting a famous author, Alice Hobart, before Dr. and Mrs. Kaho Daily took over in 1942 and kept it a working ranch until 1978. When suburban development threatened its existence in 1987, the Pleasant Hill Historical Society and passionate locals rallied to save this slice of history. Their efforts led to the formation of the Friends of Rodgers Ranch in 1991 and, after years of fundraising, the farmhouse was finally placed on a new foundation in 1997. Rotary Club member **Steve Wallace** became a "patron saint" for the cause, building a new porch and restoring the home's interior.

Rodgers Ranch has blossomed into a vibrant community hub, with the Rodgers Ranch Urban Farm established in 2012 and countless Eagle Scout and Rotary projects adding to its legacy. Today, visitors are invited to stroll through peaceful gardens, relax on shaded benches, or enjoy a picnic in the calm oasis the ranch provides.

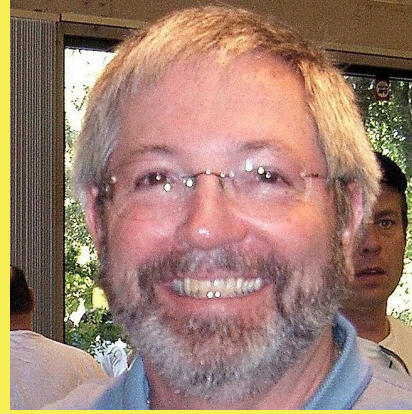
Owned by the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, Rodgers Ranch is open to everyone from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Step inside the historic farmhouse every Friday from 10am to 3pm for tours and fascinating stories—no reservation needed! And don't miss Museum Day on the last Sunday of each month (11am–3pm), featuring hands-on history with artifacts, vintage photos, and live demonstrations like yarn spinning and 1800s clothes washing.

Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or just looking for a quiet spot to unwind, Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center is a living reminder of Pleasant Hill's rich past—and a welcoming place for the whole community to enjoy.



**HAPPY DOLLARS &
HAPPY TIMES**





JOHN BURGH

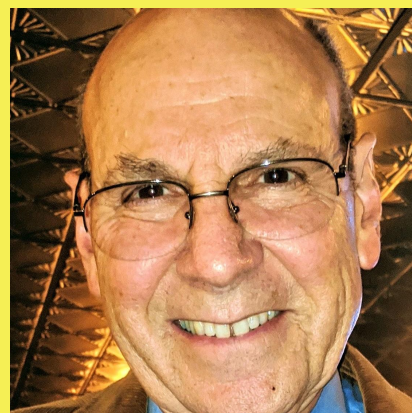
With a big heart and a generous spirit, John donated \$200 toward his next Paul Harris Fellow award—showing his gratitude for the club’s awesome response to his call for volunteers! Thanks to everyone who stepped up to be a “one-a-week” driver and delivery hero for our Meals on Wheels route. Your willingness to help means so much to our community.

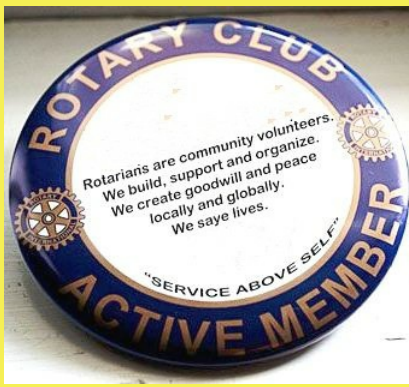
A huge shoutout to all who have already signed up for May and June—let’s keep the wheels (and the good vibes) rolling!

ALLEN VINSON

With a big smile and even bigger heart, Allen generously transferred 100 Paul Harris Fellow Recognition points to Cara’s PHF account—celebrating the incredible energy and dedication she’s brought to our club and community! Cara jumped right in as an engaged Rotarian, and we’re thrilled she’s stepping up as Chair for our 2026 Nite of Irish Merriment Fundraiser. On top of that, she’s volunteered to be a CASA Advocate, making a real difference in the life of a young person in need.

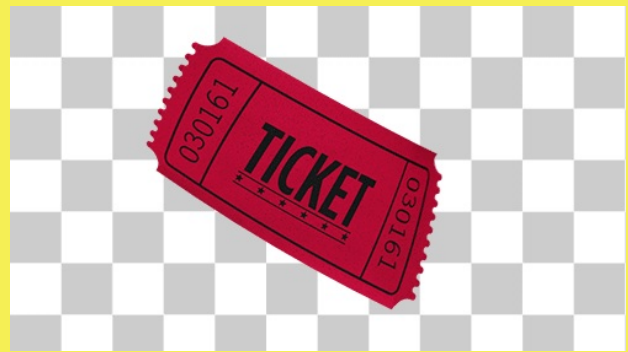
Cara, thanks for inspiring us all and showing what Rotary spirit is all about!





OLIVER GREENWOOD

Congratulations to Oliver for earning his Blue Member Badge! He zipped through all 7 steps to make the leap from Red to Blue—talk about hitting the ground running! Welcome to the team, Oliver. We can't wait to see all the great things you'll accomplish as a Pleasant Hill Rotarian. Cheers to new adventures ahead!



RICK FLIER

He snagged the winning raffle ticket—woohoo! But alas, he only picked one of eight white golf balls, so his prize was a modest \$5. Better luck next time!

Next week, the odds get better with just 7 white balls and 1 winning yellow golf ball in the mix.

Will Rick pull off the impossible and win the raffle two weeks in a row? Inquiring minds can't wait to find out!

HEALING



IN REMEMBRANCE



*Wishing You a
Speedy Recovery!*



JIM NUNES

Jim Nunes had a bit of an unexpected tumble last week—ouch! Thankfully, no bones were broken, but he did end up with some pretty bruised ribs. He's currently on the mend at home, and already counting down the days to return to our club meetings—even though his doctor gave him an 8-week recovery timeline (classic Jim!).

We're all wishing him a smooth and speedy recovery, and can't wait to see his smiling face back with us soon!



HELEN DAVIS

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Helen Davis, beloved wife of our longtime member and friend, Raleigh Davis.

They have been cherished members of our Pleasant Hill Rotary family for over 40 years. During that time, Raleigh served as Club President in 1990-91, with Helen always by his side. Helen brought warmth, laughter, and joy to every Rotary event—from Demotion Dinners and Holiday Parties to District Conferences—where she truly was the life of the party.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Raleigh as he grieves the loss of his life partner.

A memorial service to honor Helen's life will be held on Sunday, June 1st at 1:00 PM at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 339 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek.

May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

Upcoming Events

Rotary



Activity Schedule

**SAT
APRIL
19**

DIABLO VALLEY 8 (DV8)

BBQ-SOCIAL
SUGARLOAF PARK
WALNUT CREEK

**THUR
APRIL
24**

OFFSITE MEETING

Steven's Printing
Pleasant Hill

**THUR
MAY
1**

REGULAR MEETING

Terry Mullin
PACE Healthcare

**Fri-Sun
MAY
2-4**

DISTRICT 5160 CONFERENCE

Marriott Hotel
San Ramon

**THUR
MAY
8**



SPECIAL WORK MEETING

Stephanie Prescott
LadyBug Program
LadyBug Kit Assembly

**TUE
MAY
13**

BOARD MEETING

WiseGirl Restaurant
5PM

**THUR
MAY
15**

REGULAR MEETING

Dresda E. Mendez de la Brena
Women Forward International

UPCOMING EVENTS



The poster for the RE/CONNECT 2025 District Conference features a central white background with a light blue border. At the top left is a circular image of a glowing blue tree. At the top right is a circular photo of a man and a woman smiling. In the bottom left is a circular silhouette of a person in a wheelchair with arms raised. In the bottom right is a circular image of Star Wars characters. The text is centered and includes the Rotary District 5160 logo, the event title 'RE/CONNECT 2025', the subtitle 'OUR ROTARY FAMILY REUNION', the dates 'May 2-4, 2025', the slogan 'FORCE MULTIPLIERS FOR GOOD!', a 'REGISTER HERE TODAY!!!' link, a QR code, and a section titled 'RE/CONNECT 2025 AT A GLANCE' with the tagline 'It's time for a big, spectacular, awe-inspiring'.

Rotary
District 5160

A "DON'T MISS" District Conference

RE/CONNECT 2025
OUR ROTARY FAMILY REUNION

May 2-4, 2025

FORCE MULTIPLIERS FOR GOOD!

[REGISTER HERE TODAY!!!](#)

RE/CONNECT 2025 AT A GLANCE
It's time for a big, spectacular, awe-inspiring

Never been to a Rotary District Conference? *Now's your chance!*

Your Board of Directors has approved a special District Conference Subsidy Program just for you! **ANY club member** who has been member of our club for less than 10 years but have never attended a Rotary District Conference are will receive 50% off their 2025 D5160 Conference registration— that's up to \$192.50 in savings!

Interested? Just let Prez Diane know you'd like to apply. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to experience the fun, inspiration, and fellowship of a district conference!

Special Guests and Keynote Speakers



SYLVIA WHITLOCK

Educator, Humanitarian and Rotary Pioneer



WILLIAM K. WESLEY

National Financial Lecturer, Life Coach, Management Trainer, Keynote Speaker & Author



ROBERT BREWER, JR.

*US Attorney, Southern District of California, 2019-21
Airborne Ranger, Vietnam*



BROOKE DETERLINE

*Founder & CEO of Courageous Leadership
TEDxTalk: Bridging Divides*



DR. ANNE MATTHEWS

*RI President's Representative
Educator, Author,
Public Speaker*



DENNIS KYRIANOS

*Conjuring Wonder
Professional Magician, Speaker,
Actor/Director/Writer, Martial Artist*



ROBBIE MESSER

*Founder, Autism Quest
Accept, Understand, Teach,
Inspire, Support & Motivate*



BRIAN RUSCH

*CEO of Out for Equality
Vice Chair, RI's Joint Advisory
Council for DEI*

Break-out Session 1 - 9:45-10:30 am

Women Pioneers - Rotary and Beyond

Sylvia Whitlock

Anne Matthews

Brian Rusch moderates a discussion with Sylvia Whitlock, the first woman Rotary Club President, and RI Representative Anne Matthews, the first woman to serve as Executive Vice Presidents on the Rotary International Board.

Are You Happy?

Author, national speaker, content creator and fellow Rotarian, William Wesley, knows the importance of well being for ourselves, those we love and those we serve. Explore the four factors of daily happiness that enhance our joy.

The Children's Foundation

Learn about the work the Foundation is doing in Uganda Africa to change the lives of children, women and villages. All programs can be shared and duplicated in developing countries. Their motto? "A hand up, not a hand out."

Positive Peace is a Super Power

This session focuses on harnessing the power of positive peace. See how the 8 pillars of positive peace can be used to build stable and resilient environments that can withstand and mediate the conflicts that are the human experience. - personal, professional and societal.

Break-out Session 2 - 10:45-11:30 am

Becoming a Voice for the Voiceless

Be inspired by award winning filmmaker Paul Freedman as he shares his journey of

bringing a voice and face to human rights struggles around the world. His stories bring out the humanity of people facing genocide, coping with PTSD, losing a parent, struggling to make a life living on the streets, and so much more.

Changing the world one Teen at a Time

Youth Exchange is where Rotarians build peace through goodwill and friendship every day! Hear from our now and future peace builders as they share their experiences and impressions exchanging with the US from Germany and Bolivia; Taiwan from the US; and getting ready to head out to France..

CIVIL DISCOURSE

How can we connect or reconnect with those with different opinions and viewpoints of matters big and small? In our homes, our places of employment, with friends and colleagues alike? Listen and HEAR! Civil Discourse is an undertaking Dan leads monthly in his Rotary club. Learn their secret!

What is AI? (Hint: It's not Allen Iverson)

Is it time to learn a little bit more about Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Maybe see in real time how AI can make every day tasks we undertake as Rotarians quick and easy? If you have a fundraiser to plan, are searching for new service project ideas, or developing a new membership plan - This session is for you!

Building a more vibrant, inclusive rotary

Learn about Rotary's commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion from a founding member of Rotary's DEI Join Advisory Council. Learn how to gauge where your club is on its journey of inclusion, how we can meet club members where they are, and how we can all do something so people feel they belong.

Break-out Session 3 - 1:45-2:30 pm

The Wheelchair Foundation

Have you ever distributed wheelchairs to those in need? Hear stories from those that have and be ready to sign-up! Through District Governor Dan's embrace of wheelchair distributions for our 2024-25 International project, our members have raised funds, matched by the Foundation, to fill 5 containers of chairs.

Healing our divides

Through demonstrations and practice, participants will see how evidence-based tools to lower distress and strengthen connection & goodwill, as learned during lunch, work to build connections across our differences - whether those differences are personal, professional or societal. Practice connecting conversations from your own life to support

The Philippine medical Society

Partnering with other organizations that share our goals is one critical way to expand our reach and increase our impact. The Philippine Medical Society of Northern California is one such organization. Learning about their history and good works, as you imagine the power of connections. Teaser: Do you know the role the Philippines played in our Polio eradication efforts?

A mother's journey with autism

Learn through Margaret's unique perspective as she shares the challenges of raising a child with autism. Her son, Robbie Messer, will be joining her. Robbie,

Pleasant Hill **NIGHT MARKET**

*Inaugural + AANHPI
Celebration*

MAY 2, 2025

5:00-9:00 PM

CHILPANCINGO PARK

PLEASANT HILL, CA

IG: @pleasanthillnightmarket

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING

FEATURING 50+ VENDORS,

FOOD, BEVERAGES, LIVE

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES,

AND MUCH MORE ...



Additional event parking at DVC

**21st Annual
Art, Wine & Music Festival
May 17 & 18th, 2025**

**Saturday & Sunday Booths, Vendors & Entertainment from 10 AM to 6 PM
SPECIAL SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT AT 6:30 PM**

PLEASANT HILL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ART, WINE & MUSIC

— 20 — FESTIVAL — 25 —





Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick

District 5160 Governor Dan Gerald

District 5160 DV8 Assistant Governor Cathy Durfee

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill Board of Directors 2024-25

President Diane McRice **President Elect** Jocelyn Reite

Past President: Michael Moore **President Elect Nominee** Michael Kasin

Club Treasurer: Kim Grossberg

PHR Foundation Chair Mark Hinds **TRF Chair:** Jim Bonato

Secretary - Michelle Lacy

SGT at Arms: Lou Rossi & Jan Passanisi

Membership Co-Chairs - Allen Vinson & Mike Maxwell

International Service Chair: Susan Wood

Environmental Service Chair: Bonnie Hazarabedian

Community Service Chair: Bonnie Hazarabedian

Youth Service & Interact: Matt Rinn & Troy Jones

Public Image: Faye Donaghu

Vocational Service Chair: Jeff Clark

Social Chair: Cara Leyva

Action Plan Champion: Mike Maxwell

Newsletter Editor: Steve Lack **Historian:** Jim Nunes



Try email marketing for free today!