



# Rotary **ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS**



**President:** Carolyn H    **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595    D5160 Club 461

**Notes:** Anne H    **Photos:** Paul W    Nov 13, 2024

**Club Website:** [www.rossmoorrotary.org](http://www.rossmoorrotary.org)

**District Website:** [www.rotary5160.org](http://www.rotary5160.org)

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## MEETING NOTES: 11/13/2024

**Call to Order:** President Carolyn H at 12:30 p.m. David B led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Star Spangled Banner was sung.

**Guests and Visiting Rotarians:** Former District Governor Clair R and other members of her Lamorinda Sunrise Club; Jean and Jack O, who have been a few times; and a friend of Gary P.

**Thought for the Day:** Nancy R read enlightening thoughts of some of our Presidents, such as John Adams: "Try and fail, but do not fail to try," and Reagan: "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

**Happy Dollars:** Sue was happy that Clair gave us a thank you for her polio cause; Bill was happy he spent time with his 2 great grandchildren in Arizona; Ruth was happy to spend time with her twin grandboys; Stan, happy he outbid Norm at the auction and happy for the turkey we won from Sue's realty auction; David B for the lamps he got at the silent auction; John S happy he is going on a cruise to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco for his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Jim O won a champagne tasting party for 20 which he wants to share with us; and Jeff K is happy that he attended the Cal Alumni dinner with the marching band and Oski the bear. Stan was also pleased he won a Mercedes for 2 days for a trip to Santa Barbara, with his own car being detailed while he is away. He will give this gift package to his niece, to whom he owes lots of favors.

**Sunshine Report:** Scott P had a stroke that affected the left side of his body. He is in rehab in San Jose so he can be close to his son. We all wish him well! Merilee H is doing better. Eddie F is with us today, but still feeling the aftereffects of Covid. Longtime member Beth Riseman has passed away. She was 81.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn announced a meeting for new members, especially members from other clubs, who can be welcomed and can share ideas new to us from their previous clubs. She has a sign-up sheet at the podium. She also wants to start a buddy system, where current members can team with a new member and welcome him or her and help to acquaint the new member with our club.

Thank you: Clair R gave an award to our Rotary Club and our past president Sue A for our participation in Clair's chosen charity, the End Polio Now campaign, for her 2023 - 2024 year as District Governor.

John S spoke to us about his trip to Jamaica to provide dentures to 17 people who had not had teeth for years. (51 people showed up.) He thanked us for our part in a \$5,000 donation which made this possible. He plans to go back again next year.

John R reported that the gala made about \$67,000 or \$68,000, a little better than last year. The volunteers were efficient and the checkout smooth. He then reported that we are doing the See's candy sale. We will be selling 11-23, 11-30, 12-7, 12-14, 12-21 and also 12-4 at Waterford. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers at our next general meeting.

Lamorinda Sunrise members told us about their Car with a Cause fundraiser, and offered us \$100 tickets (only 600 tickets to be sold) to bid on the car. The car was outside so we could see it.

**Birthday:** David L.

**Anniversaries:** Earl A, Sharon L, Connie P, and Paul W.

**Raffle:** David B won, but gave his ticket away; Fumi S won a free lunch.

## PROGRAM

Our speaker Gary Parker was unable to appear, but Richard Nicoli was able to speak to us instead. Richard was introduced by Elliot B, who first gave us with some lovely thoughts about sharing the beauty surrounding us and being stewards of the land.

Richard Nicoli is a docent with the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Center. He is a volunteer, as are all those who work with the Center. His background was business manager of a unified school district. He told us about the Mt. Diablo State Park, home to Native Americans for 10,000 years.

The Interpretative Center is in Mitchell Canyon, in the Park. From there you can hike to the summit of Mt. Diablo, about two miles round trip. It is a tough hike, but doable. Mitchel Canyon is a very popular public space. It has waterfalls (especially after rain), wildflowers, birds, butterflys, even tarantula exhibits, hiking, picnicking, and lots of parking.

But right now, there is only a 20-year-old trailer being used as a visiting center. The Center wants a permanent, state of the art Center, with indoor and outdoor spaces, and has taken steps in that direction. They have architects and a Master Plan for the whole site, accessible for the disabled. The Center is planned to be nearly fireproof, made of stone with steel roofs, and, to save birds from flying into the glass, there are some bubbles in the glass which alert the birds.

The current road to the Center is not suitable for school buses, so parents have to drive their children to the Center. The disadvantaged can't take the time from work, or have transportation, so now the Center mostly serves the affluent. There is \$10,000 a year planned to pay for transportation for all children to the Center.

Overall 4.5 million dollars is needed. The Center has raised nearly that amount, but needs more donations. Many Rotarys in the area have helped. Some Rotary clubs are making joint contributions. Richard asks us to spread the word – [www.MDIA.org](http://www.MDIA.org) – and perhaps donate. The hoped-for start of the new Center is 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 20	Alysia Santo – Early Alert Canines Services
Nov 22	DARK
Dec 4	Janette Kennedy – Food Insecurity in Contra Costa County
Dec 11	10:30 Club Board of Directors meeting
Dec 11	Holiday Party

## PHOTOS



Carolyn and Robert Nicoli



John Swearingen



Sue and Clair