



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

**Notes:** Teddi S    **Photos:** Paul W    Jan 29, 2025

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

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

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## MEETING NOTES: 01/29/2025

**Call to Order:** Bill B. rang the meeting to order at 12:30. David B. led the flag salute. The Patriotic song was "Star Spangled Banner" sung by Pat Monahan. Bill B lead the commitment of the Four Way Test.

**Guests and Visiting Rotarians:** Jackie and Steve O., Sarah who has lived 18 years in Rossmoor and Debbie from Moraga Rotary Club

**Thought for the Day:** Connie P. presented the thought of the Day, Words of Wisdom by Caitriona Loughrey. Enjoy life today, because it is a short trip.

**Happy Dollars:** Bill B. is delighted that his granddaughter has asked him to walk her down the aisle when she marries, John K. happy that on his birthday a new part arrived so he was able to repair his clothes dryer, Connie P. is happy that her husband was able to go to the gym, David B. says he is happy because everyone is so nice, Joy A. attended the international peace conference where there were 200 attendees, Kathy S. happy for her son's 49<sup>th</sup> birthday, Peter V. happy his dog turned 7 years old and guest Steve O. attended a money raising event in AL with his daughter where they purchased golf balls and were then dropped from a plane on the golf course and the winner had the ball closest or in the hole.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting is the FAB 5 Joint Meeting.

FAB 5 Luncheon to be held for the 5 local Rotary clubs will be in the Event Center on Wednesday, February 5. Sharon L. reminded the members that today is the last day to purchase the ticket for the lunch. The L.A. Fire Foundation has offered a 1 for 1 support up to \$5,000 for donations following the fires in the Los Angeles area. The Fund-Raising Committee lead by Chair Peter V. for local fund-raising ideas. They are looking for 2 or 3 ideas to process for the 2025 year by the club for the club.

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Anniversaries: Merilee H. since 02/2014

**Raffle:** won by the guest, Sarah and John R.

## PROGRAM

Alison Simon, PhD, PMP, AICP presented a discussion on the future of Rail in the climate change world. Dr. Simon has worked in the transportation industry for over 30 years, the last 10 of which have been with Amtrak. While with Amtrak, Dr. Simon held several roles in Washington DC including buying and designing new train sets and helping executives think through needed change. The last two years have been in California as Amtrak's liaison with the state. She has incorporated sustainability into her work for the years culminating in a sustainability award from the Association of American Railroads. Dr. Simon has a master's and Ph.D. in Urban Planning which results in big picture thinking, often missing in the transportation industry. When such thinking is combined with her sustainability expertise, the result is what we heard about today.

Climate change is so important and not a competitive form of transportation. 35% of carbon pollution is mostly from cars. Electric train cars are good but only for short distance. Rail transportation is not a competitive form of transportation today because they are not able to take over the 100-500 mile travel slack. The rail tracks are owned by freight railroads and difficult to accommodate passenger trains. Amtrak began on 5-1-1971. All passenger rails are subsidized by the government. The freight trains take precedence over the passenger trains. There are only two places in the country where Amtrak owns the rail and, in that instance, may run 5 trains a day.

Expansion now is the first since Richard Nixon started it in 1970. People need to ride the train and think about the climate change and the most sustainable way to travel. They are not able to put the passenger trains on the freight lines because they need to be electric.

Following the presentation many thoughtful questions were asked by the attendees in the audience.

Dr. Simon was presented with a thank you gift to honor the Trinity Center.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 2	Richard King Tribute Dinner
Feb 5	Fab 5 meeting
Feb12	10:30 Club Board of Directors Meeting
Feb 12	Maureen Stevenson – John Muir Health

## PHOTOS



Bill and speaker Alison