



# ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



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

**Notes:** Kathy and Pete S    **Photos:** Paul W    **Jan. 22, 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: 01/22/2025

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

### Four-way Test:

- a. Is it the TRUTH?
- b. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- c. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- d. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### Guests and Visiting Rotarians:

- Nancy B – guest of Norm's
- Tom G - going to be at our meetings through May (lives in Rossmoor part-time)
- Susan S – prospective member
- Tom and Vicky – to hear our speaker

### Thought for the Day:

Ed F – things to make us feel old:

- Bonanza began in 1959
- Beatles announced they would split in 1970; actually was 1974
- Wizard of Oz movie is 86 years old
- Elvis died 48 years ago
- Mickie Mouse is 56 years old
- John Lennon died 45 years ago
- Back to the Future movie was 39 years ago
- Ed Sullivan show ended in 1972 (53 years ago)
- Corvette came out in 1953 and cost \$3,500 (now is \$85,000)
- Mustang came out in 1964 and cost \$2,400 (now is \$32,000)

## **Program: John Bateson – the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent Barrier**

John Bateson was the executive director of the Contra Costa Crisis Center for 16 years, and also has been the executive director for three university-run counseling centers. He served on the steering committee of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline) and was appointed to a committee that created the California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention. He spoke to Rotary about the suicide prevention net on the Golden Gate Bridge, which was installed in February, 2024.

John is the author of several books which are available at local bookstores and on Amazon:

- *The Final Leap*
- *The Last and Greatest Battle*
- *the Education of a Coroner*
- *Suicide: Understanding and Ending a National Tragedy*

Website: [www.john-bateson.com](http://www.john-bateson.com)

When John Bateson was the executive director of the Contra Costa Crisis Center, he learned in his first few days that every painting that included the Golden Gate Bridge was removed because of the impact of these paintings on the staff because of the painful memories of the suicides. He was inspired to learn more and write the books.

- The original bridge net was \$120,000 (\$2 million today) to string it the length of the bridge
- Death toll is 2,000 plus people. To demonstrate this number, there is a picture of the shoes for those who died.
- Demographics:
  - 75% male, 25% female
  - Most under 40 years of age
  - Students are #1 and teachers #2
- Why so many deaths:
  - Magnetic appeal of the bridge
  - Mistaken belief that this would be a quick and relatively painless death (actually most die of drowning which is painful.)
  - Access is relatively easy
  - Railing is so low – only 4 feet and easy to get over
- Arguments against a barrier and counter-arguments:
  - Cost (spent \$5 million on bicycle lane and \$30 million on a median without a similar loss of lives)
  - Aesthetics (Block Street Bridge in Toronto erected in 2003 was designed to prevent all suicides and still looks good)
  - Effectiveness (most effective is raising the railing)
- Harvard Study:
  - Most of those who attempt suicide do not die from suicide (only 4-10%)
  - 38 people who survived attempts regretted it immediately and most said they did not have a “plan B”
- The impact of these individuals who attempt and commit suicide adversely impacts witnesses and first responders; some children are thrown overboard before a parent jumps.
- Current Net – quite rigid and 20 feet below the roadway and has been effective, reducing suicides that ranged from 30-45 a year to only 8 in 2024 (hoping to get to 0 in 2025)
  - Build Rail Foundation is a volunteer nonprofit organization and advocate for the nets and is looking into other spots to build preventative structures.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn H announced we have a new coffeepot. Jeff, our prior custodian, was very appreciative of our club's gift. Carolyn went to the improv show at Lescher and enjoyed it. The Fab 5 luncheon is still available for club members to sign up (25 are signed up so far) and checks can be given by next Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Ed F and Carolyn both shared that the Rossmoor Rotary Foundation will match our club's donations for the Los Angeles fires, going directly to the district impacted. Norm A announced that the St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, with more details soon. (John R will create the ability for online payments; checks also will be accepted.) Peter V. shared that there will be a fundraising committee for new ways for the club to make money to provide donations to our favorite causes. (This committee is looking for volunteers.) The meeting of the committee will be next Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m.

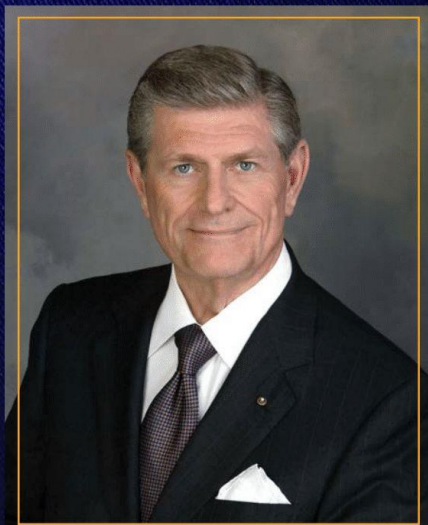
**Birthdays:** Connie P. and John K.

**Raffle:** Guest Marne won wine or a gift card; Peter V. won the big prize of \$157;

### **Happy Dollars:**

Peter V donated the \$157 because he was happy to have won. Bill B had a great week with his son. David F is planning a train trip. Marne is happy that Dick O. invited her. Patrice is glad that Carolyn took Tom off her hands for the improv evening. Elliot is glad to be back at Rossmoor after his trip to Mexico. Eddie F is happy to put in happy dollars and hopes the club members will donate to the Rotary district affected by the Los Angeles fires so our Rossmoor Rotary fund can match those donations. Joy thanks John K for helping her and John S was happy to be skiing.

**Induction of new member by Jim Olson:** Congratulations to John Swearington. And he has agreed to become our presidential nominee.



You're invited to the

# RICHARD D. KING TRIBUTE DINNER

BENEFITING

## THE RICHARD D. KING ENDOWED FUND FOR ROTARY PEACE CENTERS

PRESENTED BY



**Sunday  
February 2, 2025**

No Host Bar 5:00 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

### The Blackhawk Museum

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, CA

**Tickets: \$150**

#### SPECIAL PRESENTERS



Gary Huang  
R.I. President  
2014-15



Stephanie Urchik  
R.I. President  
2024-25



Mark Maloney  
R.I. President  
2019-20

**Please join us** in honoring the incredible legacy of Past Rotary International President Richard D. King. His unwavering dedication to Rotary service and leadership has touched the lives of Rotarians worldwide, inspiring us all to carry forward his commitment to Rotary's mission.

#### AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Dinner with Stephanie Urchik in Pittsburgh, PA
- African Safari trip
- Arizona Getaway in a beautiful home with golf outings; dinner and airfare included

We will also be hosting a Fund-a-Need for "The Richard D. King Endowed Fund for Rotary Peace centers"

SCAN HERE



RICKKINGTRIBUTE.COM

For more information on registration and ticket purchases, presenters, live auction, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website by scanning the QR code.

#### FOR RESERVATIONS

Please make checks payable to:

Rotary District 5170 Foundation with "Richard King Tribute Dinner" in the memo line

#### MAIL TO

DRYCO Construction, Inc (Attn: Daren Young)  
42745 Boscell RD  
FREMONT, CA 94538

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daren Young - Email: DarenY@DRYCO.com

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Jan 29	Alison Simon - AMTRAK
Feb 5	FAB 5 Luncheon (Events Center)
Feb 12	10:30 Board of Directors Meeting 12 noon: Sharon Jenkins and Mike Thomas – John Muir Health
Feb 19	10:30 RRF Trustee Meeting 12 noon: Adam Cleary and Jackie Carlisle – Fitness and Aging
Feb 26	Anne Bevilacqua: Advertising

## PHOTOS

