

Rotary Club of Livermore



Spur Report 2-26-25

Your Spur Report this week is Linda Stanford.
Thanks to Sonya Sheffield for being a first-time photographer!



President Marc Roberts opened the meeting at 5:30 pm on February 26, 2025 at Del Valle Winery

Pledge was led by: Norm Bregman

Songsters Song: High Hopes was the song sung in honor of our speaker that helps people to reach their dreams with high determination.



Thought for the Day was presented by **Trudi Barnes**- The importance of friendship: Trudi and Dave lived in Menlo Park for many years and established wonderful friendships. Then they moved to Livermore and started more friendships. Trudi has childhood friends that when they get together, they pick up just where they have left off. Friendship is: acceptance and understanding, open communications and laughter and joy.

***Side note: John Linn was the original Rotarian who changed the format from "Prayer of the Day" to "Thought of the Day". We are all wishing for a healing recovery for John.

Visiting Rotarians: Bonnie Schmidt



Visiting Guests: Mary Sweeney, last time attending as a guest, was inducted as a new member tonight. Joan Seppela, wife of Lynn Seppala, Leslie Douglas, wife of Jim Douglas, Carol Beck, wife



of Keith Beck, Mary Martha Swanson (wife of Joel Swanson), Pastor Onk-Yean Kin Jueng, Pastor at Asbury Methodist Church - Alan Burnham's Guest, Zakia Alae, Guest of TJ Gilmartin, and caregiver of several Rotarians in the past.



Announcements:

1. Rotarian Foundation of Livermore: If you are sponsoring anyone (or agency) filling out an application it is due Feb. 28th

2. Anita Thompson announced that Inner Wheel Club raised over \$1300 with support from Rotary

3. CRAB FEED:

- March 22nd
- There are some new live and silent auction items such as: Palm Desert stay on golf course; Flight over the Golden Gate Bridge; Trex Tree Service \$1500 service; Caverleri jewelry
- Barrel of Booze: Items are coming in and members can still bring in bottles and give them to any Crab feed committee member
- Needed: Some high end silent auction items and gift certificates

4. International House weekend is March 29-30th - Let Yvonne know if you can help out

5. Phil Dean Memorial Service March 18th 4-6pm at Bankhead Theater. The service will actually be on the stage.

6. Dennis O'Brien shared that his 3rd grade neighbor was very excited that he got his book from the Rotary Foundation!

7. Sheila reminded us to buy the raffle tickets at the meetings

8. Don Sweeney introduced a new member who Sonia sponsored.





Welcome to Mary Sweeney!



Next Week's Program Speaker: Jeff Watts from TOPCON



Today's Program: Yolanda Fintschenko, of iGATE (an organization supporting technical start-up businesses in Livermore and the Tri-Valley.

Pat McMenamin introduced Yolanda Fintschenko: Yolanda is a scientist who developed marketing products. She has served as marketing and sales for other companies including Sandia Labs. She has authored a book, and many published articles. She currently serves on the planning committee for the City of Livermore. She lives in Livermore with her husband and family.

Yolanda promotes innovation in science here in the Tri-Valley. i-GATE is a nonprofit organization. The mission of i-GATE to create economic vibrancy.

Daybreak Labs offers co-working spaces and resources for startups, particularly through **Start Up Tri-Valley**, which fosters connections and helps build ecosystems for company growth. They currently support 11 companies, including 3 new startups this year, which have collectively raised over \$40 million in investments.

Impact:

- Hosts high school field trips and teacher events.
- Organized an AI series with the City of Dublin and the Tri-Valley AI Summit.
- Launched a 5th season podcast, aiming to expand its 1,900 listeners.
- Gained 19 pieces of earned press, collaborating with Las Positas Community College to create more opportunities.

Vision:

- Expand ecosystem events, advisors, and investor events.
- Develop an accelerator program with corporate sponsorships and a student-run fund.
- Reduce costs and expand facilities with plans for a student-run incubator and second-stage spaces for companies.

Plans for 2025:

- Speaker engagements will focus on AI, health tech, women's health, Tri-Valley Life Sciences, and climate events.
- Collaboration with **Zeiss** for speaker series.

MOU:

- Develop an **Innovation Lab** at Las Positas to continue supporting small businesses.

Additional Notes:

- **i-GATE** offers mentorship to companies that may fail, guiding them to restart.
- Future funding strategies aim to support small companies reliant on government funding, despite challenges due to current funding conditions.
- The \$40 million raised by startups comes from experienced founders.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

Youtube Channel

Meetings are videoed and published on our Youtube Channel. [Click here](#) to explore the most recent as well as every meeting for the past three years!

If the video does not appear in the Club channel, please look in the Nile Rung channel link on our website.

Leave a Legacy

Leave a Legacy Gift to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore (RFL)
Did you know you could leave a bequest in your Will or Estate that would continue your support for the RFL to infinity and beyond?
Please consider following in the footsteps of our dear friend
Marty Plone and make the RFL one of your "heirs"!
Contact any RFL Board member for more information.

Club Meeting

Livermore

Meets at Robert Livermore Community Center
Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue

Livermore, CA 94551

Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



[Marc Roberts](#)
President



[Patrick McMenamin](#)
President-Elect



[Irving Frank Stowers](#)
Secretary-Elect



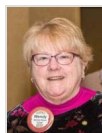
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Club Director



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[Nile Runge](#)
Newsletter Publisher



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[Don Sweeney](#)
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[S. Jeffrey Youngsma](#)
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Vocational Service
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[Stu Frazier](#)
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Year
Youth Services
Chair