



Proposed for Membership

An application has been received from the following individual. If no objection is received within five days, the application will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Bob Lee
Owner / President
CMIT Solutions
1901 Harrison St, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA
Sponsor: **Ruth Stroup / Jesse Schmidt**

James Morris
First VP of Amalgamated Bank
255 California St Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94111
Sponsor: **Wil Hobbs**

Southern California Wildfire Relief

If you would like to give a gift to support the wildfire relief efforts, go to:
<https://rotary5280.org/page/2025-wildfire-disaster-relief/>

We Care Corner

A confidential email has been set up for members to alert the We Care Committee to reach out to a member and connect.

Home Care -- Shared Experience Corner

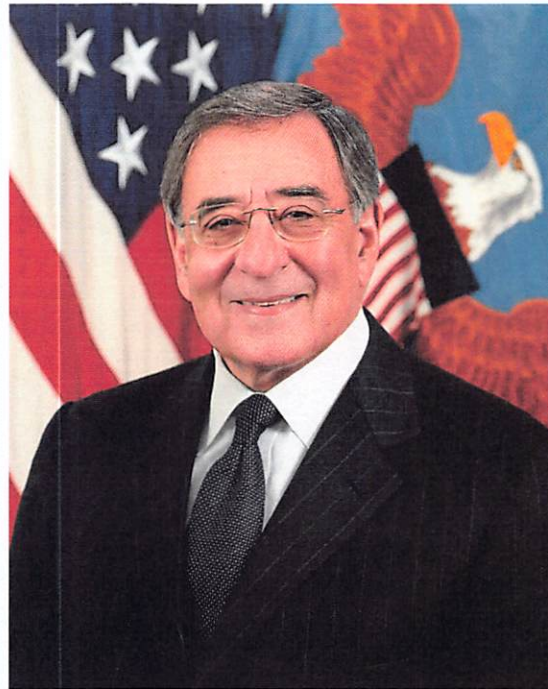
Need information about home care including

Stories

Next Club Meeting – January 30 – Leon Panetta

There will be no meeting in the Ballroom on January 23rd.

Past President David Stein announced that the next meeting speaker on Jan. 30th will be the distinguished **Leon Panetta** who has served as California US Representative from 1977-1993 as well Director of the Office of Management & Budget, White House Chief of Staff, Director of the CIA, Secretary of State and co-founder of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy.



On February 6, our speaker is Mary C. Daly, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. On February 13, the speaker is Ray Bobbitt, Founder and Managing Member of the African American Sports Entertainment Group who will talk about the Oakland Coliseum Deal.

equipment and supplies?
There may be fellow Rotarians who can give helpful tips based on personal experience.
Send a confidential email to the We Care Committee address (listed below) and we will provide you some information or one of us will get in touch.

Other Needs

Need help:
Post surgery?
Logging on to Zoom?
A ride to the weekly Club meeting?
Choosing a committee?
Some cheer during a rough time?

We will reach out with sensitivity and be sure we offer the appropriate support.

Rotary is here for you. Let's stay close and connect!

The email is:
RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com
The password is Rotary\$9453

Special Events

BDC Mixer

Jan. 23 – 5 – 7 pm
The Terminal at
Line 51 Brewing Company
303 Castro Street
Register on Club
Eventbrite site

Lunar New Year Dinner

Feb. 13 – 5:30 – 8 pm
Peony Seafood Dinner
Register on Club
Eventbrite site

Rotary Night at Warriors

March 10
Chase Center, S.F.
Go to Club Calendar
on DACdb to register

Service Safari Annual Gala

Apr. 10
Lobby at
1111 Broadway

On February 20, Gary Meyer, founder of Telluride Film Festival, will join us to provide insight into the Oscars.

If you are attending in person, please use Rotary Eventbrite to sign up so our team will make sure we have sufficient lunches and seats in the ballroom.

The meetings will be in-person as well as on Zoom.

[Rotary Meeting Highlights for January 16, 2025](#)

Call to Order

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President Shannon Hackley called to order the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakland, the 3rd oldest Rotary Club in the world, at 12:34 pm, with over 90 members and guest in the Ballroom. She welcomed everyone and especially those attending via Zoom.



Guests

Sadly, there were no visiting Rotarians today, but there was a Visiting **Former Oakland Rotarian, Michael Valva**, who continues to volunteer with the Club while residing in Cloverdale. Michael is the author of the over 300 birthdays, anniversaries, and get-well cards sent to Oakland Rotarians. Also in attendance was **Former Oakland Rotarian Danny Mai!**

There were many visitors in the ballroom.

Ana-Marie Jones traduced Kira Pascoe of Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation.

John Holmgren introduced new soon-to-be inducted member Jim Morris.

Linda Hamilton introduced her husband Doug Hamilton

Isaac Kos Read introduced Carlos Plazola, CEO of BuildZig Construction.

Keith Uriarte introduced **Casey Farmer's** mother, Michelle, who is applying for club membership.

President Shannon introduced her son, Jack Leal.

Past President Michael Bruck introduced Spencer Michel's guests: Roberta Michels, Ron and Sue Bachman, Elaine Bachrach, John and Valerie Matzger.

Michael's guest was his wife, Carolyn.

Details to Come

Service Projects

Food Distribution at Laney College

Every Wednesday during the academic year
Two shifts: 10 – 11:30 and 11:30 am to 1 pm
Currently on hiatus due to construction on the Laney campus.
Contact Karen Friedman for information on next distribution date.

HOT Squad

Volunteer Service Projects serving the community as scheduled.

African American Read-In Week, Oakland Unified School District

Feb. 10-14, two sessions
9 – 11 am; 10:30 – 2 pm
Particular need on Feb. 12
Rotarians needed as reading volunteers.
Contact Kerry Hamill if you want to participate.

Committee Meetings

Public Relations

Jan.20 – 10:15 – 10:45 am
Also Jan. 27
Contact Marie Sescon for meeting information.

Karl Stucki World Community Service

Jan. 21 – 5 pm – 6:30 pm
Contact Peter Sherris for meeting information.

Enterprise Institute

Jan. 29 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating are:

January

- 02 – Katie Hall
- 02 – Peter Turner
- 03 – Elida Scola



Thought for the Day – Alex Poulsen

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Alex Poulsen shared a thought in honor of today’s speaker’s topic on Journalism.
 “The members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy.” Their Code of Ethics may remind you of our own Four Way Test:
 -Seek Truth and Report it
 -Minimize Harm
 -Act Independently
 -Be Accountable and Transparent

Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance

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Steffany Dignum from Living Jazz spoke briefly on the ways that Living Jazz works to continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK had a vision of a beloved community that embraces social change, courage, unity, teaches respect, is resilient and always changing. Music uplifts and heals community.

Steffany reminded Rotarians of the MLK Tribute Concert this Saturday night, January 18th, at the Paramount Theatre. Tickets are still available.

Third Thursday Bell Ringers

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President Shannon invited Rotarians to share a special moment, kindness, event or whatever is important to them by ringing the bell. Multiple Rotarians rang the bell in honor of life events.

04 – Ramona Chang
 04 – Cal Stanley
 05 – Maria Alvarez
 06 – Rick Draper
 07 – Stevan Alvarado
 08 – David Allen
 09 – Mark Epstein
 09 – Garrett Riegg
 09 – Dudley Thompson
 14 – Diane Schaffer
 16 – Tom Love
 19 – Gary Flaxman
 23 – Sonja Fitz
 26 – Davey Warner
 27 – Linda Hamilton
 27 – Randy Reed
 29 – Randy Arnold
 30 – Ed Silva
 31 – Marie Sescon

Membership Anniversaries

Thank you for your years of service to Rotary Club of Oakland and the community!

January

Carla Betts – 37 years
 Dana Sack – 28 years
 Daniel Cheng – 27 years
 Greg Gilbert – 20 years
 Linda Boessenecker – 17 years
 Karen Friedman – 14 years
 Wil Hobbs – 12 years
 Kathy Dwyer – 12 years
 Gary Hall – 8 years
 Gabe Bruck – 6 years
 Katie Hall – 6 years
 John Malick – 5 years
 Jesse Bowdle – 4 years
 Greg Knight – 4 years
 Kevin Hunter – 3 years
 Jennifer Shanoski – 1 year
 Kathleen Uribe – 1 year
 here

Shannon rang the bell twice: for her son Jack Leal returning to college in Barcelona, and for the opportunity to spend Christmas in Barcelona with him.
John Claassen rang the bell for the friendship of Rotary members.

Steve Blair rang the bell in memory of Steve Goldenberg.

Linda Boessenecker rang the bell in honor of her and **Jim's** youngest son's recent marriage proposal.

Linda Hamilton rang the bell for her husband Doug, and **Jason Wizelman's**, who together with **Linda** are members of Corner Pocket Band, which will be performing on January 31st at Riggers Loft in Richmond.

Jack McAboy rang the bell in honor of Jack Leal, who he suggested was named for him.

John Holmgren rang the bell of his wife's return to good health and their trip next week to Kauai.

Fred Morse rang the bell in memory of Steve Goldenberg, a member of the bike club.

Michael Valva rang the bell in honor of his identical twin granddaughters' 2nd birthday this week.

Joe Goralka rang the bell in honor of his youngest daughter, Jane, and the young people who are in Altadena helping to clean up after the fire.

Barbara Beery rang the bell for serving as a speaker on the RI Webinar to connect Rotarians worldwide working on HPV to eliminate cervical cancer.

Rick Draper rang the bell 4 times, one each for his three grandchildren Ada, Harold and Everett, and once for **Michael Valva** for sending 300 birthday, anniversary and get-well cards a year to Oakland Rotarians.

Peter Sherris rang the bell for Kaiser Permanente for completing two very successful cataract operations.

KinderPrep Update

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KinderPrep Chair John Holmgren shared a visual thank you from the OUSD Transitional Kindergarten teachers. He shared photos of the children playing with toys funded by Rotarians as well as thoughts on the field trips our funding provides. Speaking of Field Trips, there are several on the calendar that Rotarians are invited to participate at:

Oakland Zoo—March 18 & 19

Children's Fairyland—April 17

Chabot Space & Science Center—March 7 & April 23

Bay Area Discovery Museum—March 12, 13 & 14

More information will be coming.

Hot Squad – African American Read-In Week

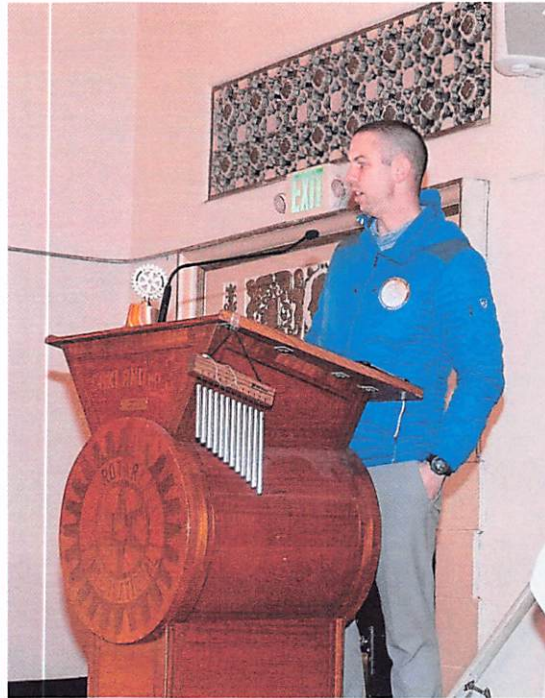
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Kerry Hamill announced the Oakland Unified School District African American Read-In Week being held from February 10-14. Rotarians are needed as reading volunteers from 9:30-11 or 10:30-2. There is a great

need on February 12. Let **Kerry** know if you are interested.

[Business Development Committee Mixer](#)

Jesse Schmidt then made his way to the microphone to encourage Rotarians to attend the BDC mixer next Thursday, Jan. 23rd, 5-7 pm at Line 51 Brewing. Enjoy a beverage while networking with your fellow Rotarians and guests.



[Enterprise Institute](#)

Enterprise Institute Co-Chair Trisha Connors announced that 90 High School students have signed up to attend Enterprise Institute from March 14-16 at Camp Monte Toyon in Aptos. What's needed? You! Sign up with **Kerry Hamill** or **Trisha Connors**.

[Climate Action Summit](#)

Robert Raburn joined Oakland Rotarians and Rotarians from throughout the District at an Environmental Summit. He learned three surprising facts.

1. West Coast Rotarians are second only to SE Asia with almost 500 members in Climate Action Committees.
2. The world's largest cobalt mine is represented by old smart phones in everybody's junk drawer.
3. Less than 5% of US plastic waste is reused. Plastic recycling is a myth!

Ten speakers, including our own **Joel Parrott**, presented on the actions their clubs are taking. Although reforestation does not get us to net zero, trees absorb carbon pollution.

Speaker for the Day – Spencer Michels

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Past President Michael Bruck introduced our speaker, Spencer Michels. Mr. Michels is a San Francisco native and a journalist for over four decades. A graduate of Princeton he began his career at the Palo Alto Times and has spent time in Los Angeles and Sacramento before prior to joining the PBS News Hour where he has been since 1991. He now resides in Marin County.

Spencer shared the state of "News" today, especially in light of the election of Donald Trump. President-elect Trump has announced that he plans to get even with news organizations. He continually refers to news organizations as "the fake news". President Biden spoke to the nation yesterday and emphasized the importance of a free press. However, the frightening fact is that the free press is crumbling. Combined this with the fact that social media outlets no longer "fact check" content we are in a dangerous place. Mr. Michels compared this to when he began his career. He looked up to Huntley Brinkley and Herb Caen. Newspeople were encouraged to tell it like it really was.

During his career he interviewed Ronald Regan, Robert Kennedy, Elon Musk (while speeding in his Tesla) and covered many high-profile trials including Patty Hearst, Angela Davis, and Dan White. The expectation was that the coverage was fair and was not biased.

Today's news is greatly impacted by technology. There are many cities that no longer have a local newspaper. There is no "true" daily newspaper in the East Bay. News outlets are closing, jobs are lost, and national news outlets are facing reductions. The San Francisco Chronicle closes at 4 pm so the news happening later in the day is not reported until the next day. Sports scores are not covered. We are poorer for it.

Trump's attacks on corporate and public media as well as his success in lawsuits on the media has engendered fear among the corporate leaders and owners.

Fox News promotes a biased view. However, this is not the norm. MSNBC and CNN do a better job of including diverse opinions. The quality of discussions is high. Viewership on MSNBC and CNN, however, has dramatically decreased since the election while Fox News viewership has surged.

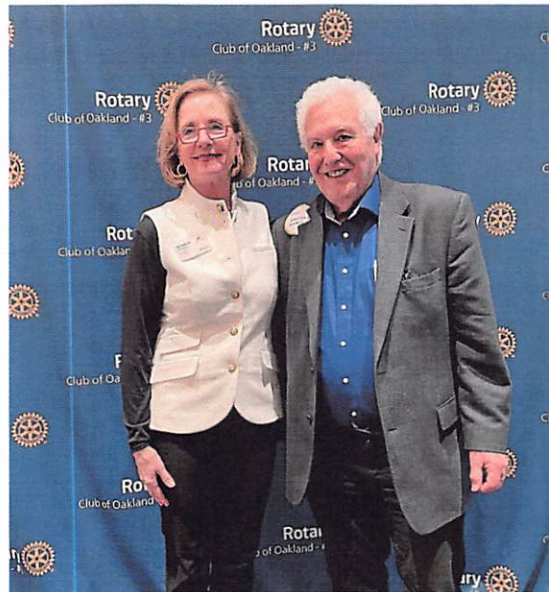
Pew Research indicated that a growing number of Americans get their news digitally (66%). The good news is that a large number of Americans still have

positive views of news organizations. The research indicates that podcasts are replacing the local news sources.

There was time for Spencer to answer several audience questions.

President Shannon thanked Spencer and shared that a contribution to Polio Plus has been made in his name.

President Shannon reminded us that there is no lunch meeting on January 23rd. Instead, Rotarians are invited to attend the BDC mixer at Line 51 Brewing and bring a guest – or two.



Thank You

President Shannon thanked those that helped put on today's meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 1:31 pm and encouraged everyone to go out into the world and make magic.