

# Rotary Live Oak Newsletter

Club of Oakland #3

## 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.

Dominique Enriquez  
Executive Director  
Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area  
2946 Morgan Ave  
Oakland, CA 94602  
Sponsor: **C.J. Hirschfield**

## 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 equipment and supplies? There may be fellow Rotarians who can give helpful tips based on

## Stories

### ext Club Meeting – February 6 – Sam Singer— The Art of Crisis Management

**C J Hirschfield** announced next week's speaker will be Public Relations Specialist Sam Singer who is renowned in the Bay Area for his crisis management.



**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 30, 2025

## Call to Order

**President Shannon Hackley** called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. She reminded us that we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest Rotary Club in the world of 42,000 clubs in 200 countries. She warmly welcomed guests and members on Zoom. **President Shannon** requested a moment of silence for the victims and their families in yesterday's devastating plane crash in Washington, D.C.

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](mailto:RCOWeCareCommittee@gmail.com)  
The password is Rotary\$9453

### Special Events

**Lunar New Year Dinner**  
Feb. 13 – 5:30 – 8 pm  
Peony Seafood Restaurant  
Register on Club  
Eventbrite site

**Rotary Night at Warriors**  
March 10  
Chase Center, S.F.  
Go to Club Calendar  
on DACdb to register

**A Service Safari  
Annual Gala**  
Apr. 10  
1111 Broadway  
Lobby  
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

Then we recited the Rotary Vision Statement, "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves." Guests of Rotarians and visiting Rotarians were welcomed.



### Peace Conference Team

Rotarians who attended the recent Peace Conference held on January 24-26 took to the stage. **John and Pam Claassen** spoke about the three-day conference with six districts sponsoring, over 400 attending Rotarians with 16 districts represented. Focus of the conference was the eight Pillars of Peace: well-functioning government; equitable distribution of resources; free flow of information; good relations with neighbors; high levels of human capital; acceptance of the rights of others; low levels of corruption and a sound business environment. **Past President Dudley Thompson** remarked that he came away from the conference with a renewed understanding of peace. **President-Elect Joe Goralka** shared that he learned 26 Rotary clubs in Haiti are working with gangs to ensure that peace prevails. All those who attended agreed it was time well spent. "You may not be responsible for world peace, but you are responsible for your piece/peace." Brian Farr, Peace Fellow and Past Chair Rotary Action Group for Peace.

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 – 12:30 – 2 pm  
Highland Elementary  
Rotarians needed as reading volunteers.  
Contact Kerry Hamill if you want to participate.

### **Committee Meetings**

#### **Public Relations**

Feb. 3 – 10:15 – 10:45 am  
Also Feb. 10, 17, 24  
Contact Marie Sescon for meeting information.

#### **Community Service**

Feb. 5 – 5 pm  
Contact Allison Bliss  
Or Teresa Weyand for meeting information.

#### **Speakers**

Feb. 5 – 7 pm  
Contact David Stein for meeting information.

#### **Business Development**

Feb. 11 – 5 pm  
Contact David Kersten for meeting information.

#### **Fun, Sports & Adventure**

Feb. 11 – 6 pm

#### **Membership**

Feb. 12 – 5:30 pm

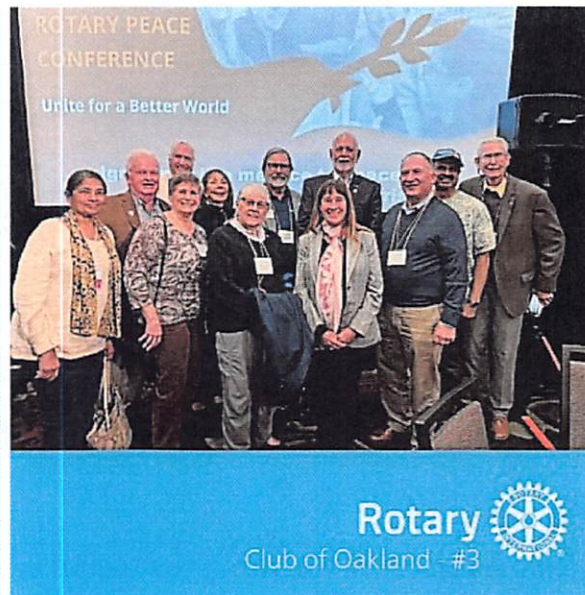
### **Birthday Greetings**

#### **Happy Birthday!**

Celebrating are:

#### February

02 – Kittie Adams  
02 – Maren Amdal  
02 – Sarah Chavez-Yoell



### **Remembrance of Past International President Richard King**

**Past District Governor and Past President Ed Jellen** paid homage to his friend and mentor, Richard King who is the only individual from District 5170 to be a Rotary International President (2001-2002). Rick King joined the Niles Fremont Club in 1968. Mankind is our business was the theme of his life. **Ed** related a story about Rick leading a group in India. He visited a poor village where a doctor who had just performed cataract surgery on a woman removed her bandages and she was able to see her three children for the first time in her life. Rick told **Ed** that the woman was not the only one who had received the gift of vision that day. Rick was an inspiration to 1,000's of people and **Ed** shared this 2016 quote from him, "We help people regardless of their religion, regardless of their politics, regardless of their color, regardless of their language. Every second of the day, we heal the sick, we save lives, we bring hope, and we bring peace. And that's the thrust of Rotary and in doing so, the Rotarian becomes a changed

### **Lunar New Year – Mary Geong**

**Past President Mary Geong** wished us Gong Xi Fa Cai! It is now year 4,723 according to the Chinese lunar calendar. This year is the year of the snake, and this year is about letting go of the past. The Lunar New Year has 13 months and is celebrated in a similar fashion to Thanksgiving and Christmas, because it is about family feasts and celebration of a new year. She invited all of us to attend the club's banquet on February 13 comprising of a 10-course meal at Peony Seafood Restaurant. Go to the Club's Eventbrite page to sign-up by February 11.

02 – Isa Chu  
 02 – Warren Chu  
 02 – Jill Loh Kearns  
 02 – Lesley Weaver  
 07 – Stephanie Bolden  
 09 – Karen Friedman  
 13 – Amhad Anderson  
 14 – Catherine Coleman  
 14 – Thomas Binz  
 16 – Charlie Adams  
 16 – Jackie Senczszyn  
 17 – Nancy Williams  
 24 – Linda Bradford  
 27 – Keith Uriarte

### Membership Anniversaries

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

#### February

Ken Richardson – 42 years  
 Joel Parrott – 39 years  
 Shannon Hackley – 37 years  
 Sean Marx – 32 years  
 Rick Baskin – 20 years  
 Bob Breecker – 13 years  
 Emily Morgan – 8 years  
 Bryan Morgan – 8 years  
 Isaac Kos-Read – 7 years  
 Sam Miller – 5 years  
 Pauline Fox – 5 years  
 Ed Silva – 4 years  
 Nancy Williams – 4 years  
 Ama Torrance – 3 years  
 Bobby Arte – 1 year  
 Victor Flores – 1 year  
 Nuno Ferreira – 1 year  
 Odalis Ordonez – 1 year

### Interact District 5170 Area Director – Saran Tugsjargal

**Interact Committee Chair Greg Annis** introduced Rotary Interact District 5170 Area Director, **Saran Tugsjargal**. She shared her Interact journey, noting that as a neurodiverse individual, she difficulty in fitting in socially until she found Interact. There she found friendships and the passion for leadership. She is the first Mongolian American to be an Interact director. She oversees 9 high schools and 618 Interactors who have contributed more than 1,454 service hours. Additionally, she represents 8,500 Students with disabilities for the California Department of Education as ACSE Student Commissioner. She also is a National Youth Fellow for the U.S. Department of Labor- Center Advancing Employment for Youth ODEP representing 1.3 million students with disabilities. **President Shannon** thanked her for her service and congratulated her for receiving a full scholarship to Rice University.

[Read more...](#)

### Enterprise Institute

**Enterprise Institute Co-Chair Trisha Connors** announced that 30 Rotarians have signed up to attend this year's Enterprise Institute whose theme is "Networking and Career Choice." More members are needed for the sessions on Saturday morning, March 15 at Camp Toyon in Aptos. She is desirous of having Rotarians attend who are in the following professions: Arts, Non-Profit Management, Real Estate, Politics, Sports Management, Engineering/IT, Trades and Hospitality, Food Service/Wine. Contact **Trisha, Kerry Hamill, Marie Sescon or Ana-Marie Jones** if you can participate.

### New Member Induction – Charlene Wang

**Kathy Dwyer** Introduced our newest Rotarian, **Charlene Wang**. **Charlene** was reared by a single mom but spent a great amount of time with her grandmother. She currently lives in Eastlake/San Antonio neighborhood with her dog, Galvi. She graduated from Columbia University and holds a master's in public policy from Harvard University. She currently works for the EPA as an advisor on Environmental Justice and Civil Rights. In her youth she was a violinist with the Oakland Youth Orchestra. And still has her violin. She also happens to be a licensed bartender. WELCOME, **CHARLENE!!**



## A Service Safari

Gala Co-Chair **Stephanie Casenza** announced this year's Gala will be on April the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at 1111 Broadway with Bocanova catering. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or have an auction item to contribute, please contact either **Stephanie** or **Ruth Stroup**.

*Rotary Club of Oakland's Annual Gala*

## **A SERVICE SAFARI**

*A Celebration of Fellowship, Philanthropy & Good Deeds*

📅 Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6 pm

📍 1111 Broadway (in the lobby/foyer)  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

Contact Stephanie Casenza or Ruth Stroup

For Tickets & Donations  
Scan Here



## Speaker for the Day – Leon Panetta

**Past President David Stein** commenced his introduction by noting Secretary Panetta is a man of unwavering character and faith who has led a life committed to public service. Born in [Monterey, California](#), the son [Italian immigrants](#), Secretary Panetta learned service at a young age. In high school he was student body president and in the Key club. In college he served in the ROTC. After graduating from law school, he served as an Army Military Intelligence officer.

Secretary Panetta grew up in California during an age of Republican Leadership that was fiscally conservative, yet socially progressive. After leaving the military he landed a job as a legislative assistant to Republican [Senator Thomas Kuchel](#), who warned him about DC and politics: "Remember, when you get up in the morning you have to look yourself in the mirror." He has never forgotten that.

He served in the [Nixon administration](#) as director of the [Office for Civil Rights](#), where he chose to enforce [civil rights](#) and equal-education laws over

substantial political pressure. This resulted in his being forced to resign. In 1971 he became a Democrat and was elected to Congress five years later. Serving the Monterey area for 16 years, he concentrated on budget issues, civil rights, education, healthcare, agriculture, immigration, and environmental protection.

As Director of the [Office of Management and Budget](#) under President [Bill Clinton](#), he developed the budget package that would eventually result in the 1998 balanced budget. He was President Clinton's [White House chief of staff](#) from 1994 to 1997. President Barack Obama called on Secretary Panetta to serve, first as the director of the [CIA](#), where he played a key role in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden and then as [secretary of defense](#), where he jointly certified, along with the [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#), that the military was prepared to repeal "[Don't Ask, Don't Tell](#),"

Since retiring as secretary of defense in 2013, Secretary Panetta has served as chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, which he co-founded with his wife in 1997. The nonpartisan Institute works to help communities, and our country meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a particular focus of attracting thoughtful young men and women to lives of public service.

Long an advocate for the world's oceans, he cochairs the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. He is a member Council for Responsible Social Media to address the negative mental, civic, and public health impacts of [social media](#).

Secretary Panetta is married to Sylvia. They have three sons and six grandchildren. In 2016, their third son, [Jimmy Panetta](#), was elected to his old congressional seat. When Secretary Panetta and Sylvia became engaged, she gave him a watch. He has worn it ever since, always set to California time, so that no matter where he is in the world he is always reminded of home.

**David** said we are honored to have Secretary Panetta here today to speak to Oakland Rotary on the topic: The Challenge of Leadership – Finding Opportunity in Crisis.

#### Leon Panetta's Remarks

Secretary Leon Panetta's family has a history in Oakland and family members still live here. His son, Jimmy Panetta served in Alameda in the district's attorney's office, as did his wife, Carrie, who became a Superior Court Judge in Monterey.

His father was the 13th child from a family in Italy. His father's older brother located in Wyoming and his father's other brother settled in Monterey. After a frigid winter in Wyoming, his father and mother decided to visit the brother who was in Monterey. His family owned a restaurant, and he recalls standing on a chair to wash dishes at a very young age. Later, his father bought

land in Carmel and raised walnuts. Secretary Panetta and his wife still own the farm and now have a vineyard. He related a funny story about his father, telling him that when he went to Washington, D.C., he would be well prepared because he spent his youth dodging nuts. Secretary Panetta asked his father why he came to America from Italy; it was because he wanted to give his children a better life than he had.

He reflected on his time in the U.S. House of Representatives reaching across the aisle on bipartisan issues with leaders like George Schultz and Rahm Emanuel. And despite politics, people were able to come to consensus on important issues like immigration, passing Social Security legislation and balancing the budget as OMB director.

He noted that we are in challenging times and that chaos and unpredictability appear to be the order of the day, but this could be alleviated with strong leadership and strong alliances with our allies. He is hopeful the president will provide leadership in the crises that we face. There have recently been a record number of executive orders, but executive orders are not government. The only way to govern is through changing laws. From his viewpoint, America faces two alternatives: there could be a renaissance, or we could see an America in decline. There are positives; economic fundamentals are strong and there is new technology so we can teach 21st century skills to young people. Democrats and Republicans need to work together.

Immigration crisis can be solved not through deportation, but rather through legal and legitimate ways to come into this country to work and provide a better future for their families.

A globalized economy needs free and fair trade, which is important for all countries to economically thrive. Tariffs and trade wars are counterproductive. He learned from his experience with OMB that the budget can be balanced.

He also spoke about the necessity to maintain a strong military and a strong NATO so that autocrats who are working together will not destroy our democracy. Building strong alliances with our allies will allow us to prevent Putin from further incursions into the Ukraine.

Despite the many challenges this country faces, he sees opportunities in chaos that and reminded us of Abraham Lincoln's quote, that we attend to the better angels of our natures. As a community, we need to fight so that we have the right leadership in this country.

Secretary Panetta hopes we do not withdraw from the World Health Organization or NATO because isolationism does not work. He entertained questions and remarked that he believes all young people should engage in two years of national service upon graduating from high

school. It does not necessarily need to be in the military. It could be in healthcare or conservation. They would be paid for that service to begin their college career instead of going into incredible debt.

Secretary Panetta received a standing ovation and **President Shannon** announced a donation will be made in his name to End Polio Now and thanked him for his inspirational speech.



### [Thank You](#)

**President Shannon** thanked those who helped put on today's meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 1:31 pm.

### [Rotary International Convention in Calgary June 21-25](#)

Join President-Elect Joe Goralka and other Oakland Rotarians for RI's annual convention.

Embark on an exhilarating journey of connection and inspiration at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary! Engage in riveting discussions, learn from distinguished speakers, and explore enlightening breakout sessions against the backdrop of Calgary's picturesque beauty nestled amid the Canadian Rockies.



Fueled by friendship and a spirit of collaboration, exchange best practices, ignite innovative projects, and form lifelong connections with fellow changemakers from around the world.

Take part in this transformative, one-of-a-kind event and experience the Magic All Around at the 20215 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada 21-15 June 2025.

To learn more, click here [Calgary Convention](#)

Let us know you're going!



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