

# Rotations

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Meetings:  
Thursdays 12:15 pm  
Oakwood Athletic Club  
4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette, CA

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John Sherry opened the meeting. Chuck Vogel provided the thought for the day.

Visiting Rotarians: Don Jenkins, Orinda. Guests: Jeffery Gary, cook at the recent Rotary dinner.

Sandi Mitchell reported that the "Dinner for Eight," a prize from our Holiday Party raffle, was held at Bill Eames' home and was an amazing dinner event. She thanked Bill Eames, Daniel Barnes, Polly Bernson, and Lee Deily for their help, and presented Jeffrey Gary, the chef, with a photo from the event.

John Sherry recognized Tom Courtright for a newspaper write-up and photo.

John also mentioned the Rotary Club of Rossmoor's Evening of Art auction, May 20, 5:30 pm. The Moraga Rotary Club needs a room in someone's house or garage space to store equipment for a project in November.

Don Jenkins had Taste of Lafayette raffle tickets that will support the Lafayette Community Foundation. The \$25 tickets have very good odds. He also announced a Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation lunch on May 29 at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Speakers will address the Top Ten Small Business Trends for 2009. Contact the Lafayette Chamber office for tickets.

Bob Shusta provided a final update on the May 16 concert and reminded Rotarians to wear their shirts to the event.

Sandi Mitchell reminded us that the Club Visioning meeting is next Thursday, May 21, and there will be no lunch meeting.

Mike Heller said 26 people have confirmed so far for John

Sherry's Debunking that will be at Postino's, on Sunday, June 7.

Jay Lifson said that public meetings on the Lafayette downtown plan are next Monday and Wednesday nights, May 18 and 20.

If you would like to volunteer to find club speakers for a month, contact Debbie Cooper to sign up.

**SPEAKER:** Rosemary Cameron, Asst. General Manager, Public Affairs, of the East Bay Regional Park District, said they are celebrating their 75th anniversary. Back in 1928, when walking in the hills was called "tramping," EBMUD declared a surplus of 10,000 acres. In 1933, Governor Rolf signed a bill authorizing a park district, and in 1934, seven cities voted to create the park district. Tilden, Temescal, and Sibley were the first three parks.



In 1964 most of Contra Costa County joined the park district. From 1968 to 1987, Richard C. Trudeau, a resident of Lafayette, served as General Manager. In 1988, Measure AA passed, adding 35,000 acres of parkland. The East Bay Regional Park District now has 65 parks, with 98,000 acres, 1,100 miles of trails, and 14 million annual visits. It is the largest regional park district in the U.S.

Last November, Measure WW passed. The \$500 million bond measure extends park funding from measure AA in 1988. One major future project will be the development of new parkland in the area of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.





Photo: Eric Rudd

Bloomington North club president Kirk White (left) presents Allan Akamura with a club banner. Club member Ira Zinman (right) is making a documentary about Allan and the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School in Uganda.

### INDIANA ROTARIAN ASSISTS AIDS ORPHAN FROM UGANDA

Peter Schmidtke, Rotary Int'l News – 13 May 09

Allan Akamura's friends used to push him to school in a homemade wheelchair.

Now the 13-year-old from Uganda, who has cerebral palsy, pedals himself around on a tricycle through the corridors at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He received surgery there to correct problems with his hips, knees, feet, and hands, with help from Ira Zinman and his club, the Rotary Club of Bloomington North, Indiana.

Allan, who lost his father to AIDS when he was a year old and now lives with his uncle, attends the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School in southwestern Uganda. Zinman became acquainted with him while working on a documentary about the school.

"I was in Indiana watching footage, and I see kids at the school walking and running and kicking a ball, and here is this boy crawling," says Zinman, who was reviewing film from a cinematographer he had sent to the school for the documentary. "He didn't say he wanted to walk or run. He said that when all the students at the school would stand up to sing or pray, he wanted to stand up with them."

When Zinman learned that the medical procedures that could improve Allan's condition were unavailable in Uganda, he enlisted the help of the Children Waiting Everywhere Foundation to lobby University Hospital to provide the surgery free of charge.

Allan flew to Michigan in November for the surgery and is staying with a host family while he undergoes physical therapy to build his strength and flexibility and to develop neuromuscular connections. Doctors are hopeful that he will be able to walk.

In March, Allan's host family took him on a visit the Bloomington North club, during which he traded smiles and laughs with Zinman and other club members. The club has contributed \$5,000 for travel and other costs associated with Allan's surgery, and it has committed to providing \$3,000 annually in support of the Nyaka school.

Zinman hopes to accompany Allan back to Uganda in mid-November and is planning to shoot footage of him returning to school. The film will tell the story of the school and its 260 students, all of whom have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS, in a country with over one million children orphaned by the virus.

### THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Dong Kurn Lee . . . . . RI President
- Jim Campbell . . . . . Dist 5160 Governor
- John Sherry . . . . . President
- Sandi Mitchell . . . . . Vice President
- Bob Shusta . . . . . Secretary
- Greg Vaisnor . . . . . Treasurer
- Chuck Vogel . . . . . Club Service
- Don Anderson . . . . . Community Service
- Mike Kearney . . . . . International Service
- Terry Camp . . . . . Vocational Service
- Ron Wake . . . . . Past President
- Andy Schek . . . . . Sergeant of Arms
- Geoff Zimmerman . . . . . Sergeant of Arms

### GIVE HOPE - GIVE A HAND



The Rotary Club of Lafayette donates an LN-4 Prosthetic Hand in the name of our speakers each week. The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand transforms lives and empowers those who have lost hands and limbs due to land mines, birth defects, and other catastrophes.

### MAKE UP MEETINGS

See 'Where Clubs Meet' for meeting times and locations of nearby clubs:  
[www.rotary5160.org/clubs/meetings.php](http://www.rotary5160.org/clubs/meetings.php)

The Rotary motto Service Above Self conveys the humanitarian spirit of the organization's more than 1.2 million members.

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

- 05/21 **No noon meeting**, see Club Visioning
- 05/28 Jim Eaneman, Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury
- 06/04 Paul Menaker, Ph.D., Traffic Engineering
- 06/11 **No Meeting** (Debunking)
- 06/18 Gary Smith, StinkinThinkin
- 06/25 Kirk Baily, The Ghana Rotarian Project

### LOCAL & DISTRICT EVENTS

- 05/19 Adopt-A-Poll, special election
- 05/20 An Evening of Art, Fireside Rm, Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor, 5:30
- 05/21 **Club Visioning Project**, La Finestra Ristorante, 100 Lafayette Circle, 5-9pm
- 06/07 Sherry Debunking, Postino, 5pm
- 06/09 Board Meeting, Chamber, 5pm
- 06/26 Diablo View Mixer
- 07/11 District Installation Dinner & Awards Banquet, Corning, CA
- 10/01-04 Dist. Conference, Lake Tahoe
- 11/07 Rotary Day at the Races, Golden Gate Fields

### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- 06/21-24 RI Convention, Birmingham, England
- Aug Membership and Extension Month
- Sept New Generations Month
- Oct Vocational Service Month
- Nov Rotary Foundation Month

### BIRTHDAYS

- 05/01 Jay Lifson
- 05/28 Peggy Harbarth
- 05/31 Don Anderson

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 05/04 Anna Stevenson
- 05/16 Ron Wake

### GREETERS

- 05/29 Charlie Vitale
- 06/04 Barry Toomajian
- 06/18 Ron Wake
- 06/25 A.C. Webb
- 07/02 Jesse Wellen

