**Rotary Club of Castro Valley – Meeting of November 16, 2021**

**Birthdays**: Margie Ramos (Nov 16) and Gary Howard (Nov 17)

**Announcements**:

* ***President-Elect Nominee***
* Gary Howard announced that the Club is beginning its search for the President after Lytrel Carter.
* Any member who is interested in or curious about the position should contact Gary Howard, Dwight Perry, or Past Presidents for information or consideration.
* Per the Club By-laws, three non-past presidents were selected to serve on the nominating committee. They were Ray Wallace, Margie Ramos, and Jake Medcalf.
* ***Wheelchair Project***
* President Dwight again discussed the Wheelchair Project for Mexico and Syria and encouraged members to participate.
* ***Grants***.
* The Board approved the Grant Committee recommendations that include $1,000 each for Billy Bradford (Bad Business Model Bikes), Spectrum, and Redwood Christian Schools.
* ***Redwood Chapel***.
* Redwood Chapel has a social program for high school students every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with the program should contact Bruce Johnson.
* ***Christmas Lights Train***.
* Clubs in Areas 3 & 4 are sponsoring an evening ride on the Niles Railroad. Anyone interested in riding the train should contact Dwight as soon as possible.
* ***Club Christmas Party***
* The party will be on December 11th at the home of John and Bobbie Aufdermauer. Please be aware that parking is limited.
* The cost is $40 per person, which will be invoiced. Children are free.
* There will be the traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange. Gifts should not exceed $20.
* Invitations were sent the week of November 22 with December 3 the deadline to RSVP.

***Six-Minute Speaker***

Gary Bosley introduced Nicole Easterday, the owner and operator of [FARMcurious](https://castrovalleymarketplace.com/merchants/farmcurious/), the cheese shop at the [Castro Valley Marketplace](https://castrovalleymarketplace.com/merchants/farmcurious/). Nicole has operated FARMCurious for and began because she wanted to “connect people to food.” They need to know from where eggs and other food items come. She became enthralled with cheese and all there is to know about cheese making. Nicole teaches science-focused cheesemaking and fermenting classes for enthusiasts, chefs, and for team building at the Castro Valley Marketplace and in the Berkeley. She offers a class on cheeses once a month at the Marketplace as well as offering virtual workshops. Nicole is a traveling cheese educator who is an American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional, ACS Subject Matter Expert and public speaker, and currently serves on the item writing committee for ACS’s CCP certification program. Nicole received her artisan cheesemaking certificate from the College of Marin in 2011 and received her ACS Certified Cheese Professional certification in 2019.

Watch the video of her presentation [here](https://vimeo.com/650079409).

***Main Speaker***

President Dwight Perry introduced his good friend, Russ Hobbs, who has had a long career of service in Rotary in many different roles in [District 5170](https://rotarydistrict5170.org/) including District Governor. Russ pointed out that he joined Rotary simply because someone asked him and strongly suggested that all members remember to just ask people to become a member of the largest service club in the world.

Using his long career as a Rotarian, Russ illustrated how [The Rotary Foundation](https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation) (TRF) does such wonderful work throughout the world. His experiences include projects in distributing wheelchairs in Mexico, helping a vocational school in Cambodia, hurricane relief in Haiti, and distributing polio vaccine in Africa in which the Rotary team and he gave polio vaccine drops to 5.2 million children in a single day. Russ also worked on other projects in Africa, India, China, Laos, and more.

Since November is The Rotary Foundation month, Russ encouraged every member to make a contribution. The Rotary Club of Castro Valley has had a great history of outstanding generosity as one of the leading contributors to TRF.

Watch the video of his presentation [here](https://vimeo.com/650082432).