

The Orange Peel

2024-2025 | President Catrina Womack | "Share Rotary"

Next Meeting Friday, Dec 6, 2024

Speaker - Beto
Gonzales,

Options for Youth

Greeters - Diana

Newman, Jim Buntin

Invocation - Bert Smith

Vocation - Unknown

Prospector - Bob Kurtz

The Four-Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to All
Concerned?

Will it build **GOOD
WILL** and **BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL**
to all concerned?

Zion Girls College Preparatory Academy

Brad Squired introduced **Dawn Adams**, founder and CEO of the **Zion Girls College Preparatory Academy**. She met Brad a few months ago at the Sacramento Venture Philanthropy's fast pitch competition. She presented her plans, purpose and goals for the academy.

When Dawn was 10 years old, her father was arrested and he never came home. The next time she saw him was when she was married and had children of her own.

Dawn, being the oldest child, became the second parent and had to be responsible for her siblings. As a consequence, her schoolwork suffered.



Recap of the Meeting Nov 22, 2024

Guests

Dawn Adams - Zion Girls College Preparatory Academy

Jesse Hernandez - former Orangevale Rotarian and Angie Hernandez's father.

Ernie Womack - The First Gentleman

Derek Maldonado - Deanna Maddock's guest

Rotary Guests

None

**District 5180 Governor
Steve Turner
2024-2025**

The 2024-2025 Rotary International presidential theme is "The Magic of Rotary"

Dawn's passion is to help girls with incarcerated parents. There is no community to share with these girls. Many, like Dawn herself, will never see their parents again. They won't experience a father-daughter dance, a father walking his daughter down the aisle or any other special events.

Dawn's mother had to work multiple jobs. She was embarrassed and not forthcoming about her husband's incarceration. Dawn didn't want her friends or school mates to know about her father.

Some lucky girls will be raised by a single parent or grandparents. Many girls end up in foster care. The foster parents stop receiving money to foster the child when the turn 18 years old and they are "thrown out" because they are worthless. They are called "throw away" children. The statistics show that in every classroom, there is one child with an incarcerated parent.

Dawn's good friend of 50 years did not know that her father was incarcerated. The friend though her father was always away working. Dawn never said anything about her father's incarceration. She visited he father at the prison but who could she talk to about her father? She felt shame and encountered people who looked down on prisoners.

She told the story of a friend, not knowing that her father had been incarcerated, who invited them over for dinner. Her father taught the friend how to fry chicken. Afterwards Dawn and her friend were talking about the incarcerated and her friend said that she would never have a felon in her home. Her attitude was that the incarcerated should stay

in prison until they die. Dawn asked, “Are you sure?” “You had my dad in you home and he was in prison for decades.” The friend then had to admit that maybe not all felons are bad. And the siblings and children are not all bad.

Dawn want to help the girls with incarcerated parent to move forwards. Without help many of them fall into drugs, gangs, crime and prostitution. There is no one at home to teach them differently.

Dawn knows there are mentors for these girls - people who were incarcerated who want to reach back and help the behind them. On the academy board there is member whose mother is in county jail and another that has a dad in federal prison.

Society says that the children of incarcerated parents are never going to grow up to be anything. Thirty-six percent (36%) of girls will follow in their incarcerated parents’ footsteps. No one tells them to go to college.



The only way to be relevant is crime. Dawn started steeling at age 12. She stole three dollars worth of crayons and coloring books. She always stole from the same store. One day the manager pulled her aside and called her mother. Luckily he didn’t call the authorities. She realized that someone cared about her.

Dawn works as a fundraiser for California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). She dreamed of starting an after school program for girls with incarcerated parents.

In 2018 she started forming the Zion Academy. She got a lot of help with her plans from colleagues from CSUS. A lawyer friend helped form a 501(c)(3)-nonprofit organization. Her friend encouraged her to think of preparing the girls for higher education.

The Zion academy focuses on mentoring girls aged 13 to 17 years of age. Dawn knows there are mentors for these girls - people who were incarcerated who want to reach back and help the behind them. On the board, there is a member whose mother is in county jail and another has a dad in federal prison.

The academy will be housed at CSUS and will help 48 young ladies. Dawn wants the them to go into college or the military. Just don't do crime. In city of Sacramento there are 400 girls with incarcerated parents but she only has room for 48 girls. In some families there may be three to five siblings but if she can help one, that will make a difference.

The students will be taught to have high self esteem, to value education and to take responsibility for their futures. Dawn wants them to overcome what society says. The ten month program will serve the overlooked and underserved who are forgotten about.

The academy emphasizes these eight Pillars for Progress: Persevere, richer education, overcome challenges, grow and evolve, reflect, embrace change. Stay focused, and strive for success is the foundation.



For more information visit ZionGirls.org

President Catrina thanked Dawn for exposing us to this unknown population and the impact that an incarcerated parent can have on the child. It was such an interesting topic. Catrina presented her with wooden pen made by Rotarian Bob Kurtz. Dawn was so excited to receive the pen that she asked to have her photo taken with Bob.

Announcements

President Cartrina Womack was happy to report that \$5,000 was raised for Orangevale Teen Council (OTC) at the Friendsgiving event.

On December 14 the Orangevale Light Parade will be held.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be a Rotary meeting on Friday, November 29. Sean Palmer will be hosting coffee at 7:30am.

Friday, December 6 will be our day to work at the Food Bank.

On Saturday, December 7, Santa will be at the Orangevale History Museum.

Lorie Rheams spoke about the upcoming Christmas Basket program. It will be held at Divine Savior Church (instead of the Orangevale Grange) on Saturday, December 21. She needs volunteers both to adopt a family and to help on the day of the basket distribution. She needs 12 volunteers to go up and down the rows of baskets to make sure the contents are complete.

Boy Scouts will help with the unloading and loading of the baskets. So far there are 92 families that need baskets and she expects that number to go up to 150 - 170 families. Please consider hosting a family.

Lorie passed around a get well card for **Bill Wagner** who contracted pneumonia and has been home sick since he returned from his cruise.

Bryan Daniel, our International Chairperson spoke about Opportunity International, an organization that provides micro loans to help women start small businesses as a way out of extreme poverty. **Jane Wise** and **Karis Walmer** started supporting the organization with donations many years ago. The organization still knows our Rotary Club and the help we have given over the years. Today Bryan passed around a flyer about the work being done in Malawi.

Deanna Maddock asked us to donate items to the crab feed. She also needs baskets for the raffle and silent auction.

Steve Blair will be sending out a December invoice for meals.

Don Russell said that today is National “Take a Ride” Day. What does a snail riding on a turtle say? Wahoo!!

The upcoming Christmas party will be on December 14 at Don Glover’s home; 7701 Greenridge Way, Fair Oaks. Bring an appetizer, a side dish, or a desert. Bring a gift if you want to participate in the White Elephant exchange.

David Shepard said that the next Miner’s Bar cleanup will be Saturday, December 7.

Vocational Talk

The Vocational speaker was absent and so there was no Vocational talk.

Prospector

It was **Sue Frost’s** last time as prospector and because it was close to Thanksgiving, she quizzed everyone about the holiday, table by table.

- Thanksgiving is an American holiday but what other countries celebrate Thanksgiving? Canada, Germany, Liberia, Brazil Saint Lucia and parts of Australia.
- What Christmas Carol was originally a song for Thanksgiving? Jingle Bells.
- What turkey actually gobbles? The male turkeys.
- What was the weight of the heaviest turkey? 86 pounds!
- What state consumes the most turkey? California.
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!!!!

Happy Fines

Rob Auernig - happy that his mom is moving out of her house after 50 years and that she is still alive.

Jim Buntin leased a new car.

Don Morris - this is the 15 year anniversary of finalizing his daughters adoption.

Joni Cyr is happy that the sale of her mother-in-laws home is final. She is also happy that Bryan’s healthy again and able to attend Rotary.

Lorie Rheams is happy that she turns 75 years old on Wednesday.

Bert Smith’s younger brother needed a blood transfusion and she is thankful for those that donate blood.

It was the end of the month and time to auction off the prospector's job. Some wanted Bob Kurtz as prospector and others wanted Sue to continue as prospector. The result was \$35 for **Bob Kurtz** to be the December prospector.

The Orange Ball

There were 5 balls and \$110 in the pot. This week, **Lorie Rheams** had the right ticket but she pulled out the white ball. I guess she'll be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.

The Thought for the Day

This Thanksgiving, Let's remember: Leadership isn't about where you've been, but where you're going — and who you're dragging along!

Zion Girls Academy shows us small nudges spark big change. Let's keep nudging — with humor and gratitude!

Thank you to our speaker, and to all of you for making this another memorable; e Rotary gathering.

Enjoy your weekend...go out and SHARE ROTARY with your favorite people.

Just before the meeting started, a beautiful rainbow appeared outside!

See below...



