

The Orange Peel

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

Next Meeting Friday, Feb 28, 2025

Speaker - Jacob Giorgi -
House 2 Home Moving
Company

Greeters - Don Glover,
Joni Cyr

Invocation - Audrey
Smith-Wiberg

Vocation - Licia Green

Prospector - Audrey
Smith-Wiberg

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?**

Permaculture Fair Oaks

Brad Squires introduced **Eric Seider** who is a Permaculture expert and co-founder of Permaculture Fair Oaks.



Eric said that Permaculture Fair Oaks is a 501c(3) nonprofit community group whose mission is to promote community resiliency, food & future security and abundance through permaculture education and demonstration.

Eric said that permaculture is also about making connections. He met Brad at the Farm & Garden club.

Eric talked about his left experiences leading up to today. He work in international aid work was difficult to to fit into the permaculture box. Permaculture is a whole system, not just a single project. Some of the projects he worked on would last 2 to 3 years and it didn't solve the systematic problems. Permaculture encourages people to help themselves.

Recap of the Meeting Feb 21, 2025

Guests

Eric Seider and Laura Schaub - Permaculture Fair Oaks

Donna Detmeks - future member

Derek Maldonado - guest of Deanna Maddock

Visiting Rotarians

Janice Haworth - her last visit before moving to Texas

District 5180 Governor

Steve Turner
2024-2025

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

Eric worked in a small muslin village in Jordan which is an arid, water-poor country. After that work, he came to appreciate water and not to take it for granted.

The last international project he worked on was on Vanuatu near Fiji. The village was poor and the housing primitive with the cook fire inside so there was soot everywhere. The island only has one-half meter of top soil and the farmers grow crops in little plots that they carve out of the forest. When they deplete the soil, they move on to another plot. With the increasing population, land has become more crowded and the people need to stay in one place.

Eric was showing the villagers how to cycle the resources on site to improve the soil. The demonstration farm was at a school and the first thing he had to do was fence in the farm because farm animals wander freely and eat the crops.

Permaculture is an ethical design science for creating sustainable human environments. the term Design science refers to a rational and systematic approach to design. the concept was introduced in 1957 by R. Buckminster Fuller who defined it as a systematic form of designing.

Sustainability is a system that produces more energy than it consumes, enough in surplus to maintain and replace that system over its lifetime. Just to stand still, you need to generate a surplus.

Permaculture Ethics are

- earth care - we need a livable planet
 - people care - which starts with self care.
- (Remember to put on your oxygen mask before



helping others.)

- return of surplus - help people by having a surplus to share.

The prime directive - the only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children.

Permaculture is a system of principles. Each element performs many functions. Each important function is supported by many elements. For example, a chicken provides eggs and meat but also eats pests and provides manure. If one thing goes out, then use another function as a back up.

When Eric was working in Dallas, Texas, he was helping a farm with many animals. There was a three day freeze and the pipes delivering water to the animals froze. There was no infrastructure to handle that. He ended up filling barrels with water from the swimming pool. The farm should have had multiple sources of water and multiple delivery methods.

Efficient energy planning means putting elements in the right relationship to each other. For example, if a farmer needs to visit a chicken pen twice a day then it makes sense to have it closer to the house.

Energy cycling should be based on how easy it is to replenish. Solar is easy to replenish each day. The things that are hard to replenish should be treated like a savings account.

Small-scale intensive systems are used in permaculture. A factory farm is like a mine. It may be located far away and the food transported. If you look around your community you will see a lot of grassy areas that could be used to raise gardens for food. He suggested growing food where we live instead of trucking in food.

Plant diversity is how nature works. With large farms, a disease or pest can wipe it out. When you have a diverse planting of crops then if there is a disease that harms one crop, there are other crops which are back ups and you can eat them. Messy plant beds with a lot of plants confuses the pests.

The problem is the solution is a favorite saying of Eric. Permaculture was started in Australia. A town decided to grow fruit trees outside a community center. Before long, people stole trees in the night. So the community center, put trees out in pots and allowed people to take the trees home to plant. The goal was to have more fruit trees in the community and by allowing people to take the trees home, the goal was met and there were more trees in the community.

Member Janet Cahill is from Australia and her father's farm doesn't look neat. It's full of weeds intermixed with flowers and veggies. She grew up with solar, composting, gathering rain water off the roof into water tanks resulting in zero waste. So her father is living on a permaculture farm. Now she has a name for it.

Someone asked Eric what he thought about exploring other planets and would permaculture apply to exploration. Eric said that until we learn to live on this planet, we shouldn't be exploring other planets.

Eric submitted a project for the Big Day of Service and that is to plant a "public food forest". A food forest has multiple layers including the overstay tree layer, the understory tree layer, the shrub layer, the herbaceous layer, the root layer, the ground cover layer and the vine layer. All layers can benefit humans. The idea of a food forest is to set it up and let it take care of itself. In Australia there is a ten year old food forest that everyone can get food from throughout the year.



With Eric's non-profit organization he designs people's property to get them into agriculture. To learn more visit

Permaculture Fair Oaks deeply believes that people are the only critical resource needed by people. We ourselves, if we organize our talents, are sufficient to each other. With Eric's non-profit organization he designs people's property to get them into agriculture. To learn more visit PermacultureFairOaks.org

Eric shared packets of poppy seeds with a QR code on each packet for his website. And stickers too. Past-president Rob Auernig thanked Eric for his interesting talk. Rob presented Eric with a hand crafted wooden pen (Made by Bob Kurtz).

Announcements

Past President Rob Auernig filled in for **President Cartrina Womack** who was on vacation. He recognized **Janice Howarth** who is here for her last visit before moving to Texas.

The **VIP Basketball Tournament** is designed especially for athletes with disabilities who enjoy competitive basketball. The tournament was held last Sunday, February 16. **Rob** volunteered to help with scoring and he had a great time. “You’ve got to see these athletes! It was rewarding and fun!” **Audrey Smith-Wiberg** said that a female athlete who has one arm threw the ball and made a basket. She cheered very loudly at her dunk! **Bill Wagner** and the Knights of Columbus prepared over 500 meals! He said that one athlete ate three meals!!

Bill Wagner and the Knights of Columbus is having a golf tournament on July 28. He is looking for sponsors and players.

Dave Shepard sent an eVite to the members to sign up for the American River clean up party on Saturday, February 22 at 9am.

Dave will also send out a sign up for the Rotary House. The current tenants will be moving out soon and we need to clean the inside of the home. For the new members, Dave explained that Orangevale Rotary was one of eight rotary clubs who got together to build a two-bedroom home near UC Davis hospital. Families that have a loved one in the hospital with a long care issue can have a place to call home. They stay free of charge. The Orangevale Rotary club has an obligations to clean the house as needed and the yard quarterly.

Rob Auernig has schedule a vocational event for the members. It is a trip to the Sacramento Gun Range. Look for an eVite in you mailbox.

Don Russell the club chairperson said that it was International Mother Language Day. What speaks every language? An echo! What do you call it when a microscope crashes into a telescope? A kaleidoscope!

The next Dine-Around will be on Tuesday, March 11 at the Pitch and Fiddle, located at 8525 Madison Avenue. 5:30pm.

Don was wearing a blood donation tshirt and he asked everyone to Donate Blood.

Vocational Talk

The Vocational speaker was supposed to be **Don Glover** but he was a no show.

Prospector

Audrey Smith-Wiberg wanted to find out how well we know each other.

Which Rotarian met his spouse at a bar in Tahoe City? **Dave Shepard.**

Which Rotarian was an AFS exchange student to Argentina? **Licia Green.**

Which Rotarian was an avid scuba diver when he was younger? **Rob Auernig**

Which Rotarian was considered a serious contender to make the Olympic Swim Team? **Janet Cahill.**

Which Rotarian raced Hobie Cats in the San Francisco Bay? **Don Russell.**

Audrey said that it was Real Bread Week. She made a beautiful loaf of sourdough bread and she auctioned it off. Rob was the high bidder with \$20.

Happy Fines

Dennis Sarkisian was happy the Janice Howarth has sold her home after a lot of work.

Bill Wagner was happy that The Fountains in Roseville made a \$6000 donation to the Knights of Columbus golf tournament.

Lorie Rheams is happy that she and Russ are leaving for a trip to Florida, then a cruise to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

Jim Buntin is happy to be playing with his jazz band this evening.

Mairy Droese is happy to be leaving on Tuesday with her husband Dick on their annual RV trip to Mesa, Arizona.

Audrey Smith-Wiberg followed up with a Crab Feed story of giving leftover cake to the servers and how much they appreciated it. Audrey is also happy that she has a new grand niece baby.

Phyllis Macdonald was happy with the repair of her Honda Civic by Rob.

Bob Kurtz was happy that **Bryan Daniel** survived surgery this week and that Bryan was at the meeting.

Steve Blair is happy to see videos of his grandchildren, ages 5 and 7, out on the slopes skiing.

Jeff is proud of his grandson's interviewing skills. Big Block Benji is 7 years old and he like to interview drivers at the car races. He had been interviewed on KNCI. A listener to the radio station attended the Chili Bowl Race and bought signed swag for Benji. The radio station is trying to get a hold of Kyle Larson to talk to Benji. Kyle is a local driver and Benji's favorite.

It was time to auction off the prospector job. After bids for Steve Blair and Rob Auernig, the job went to **Audrey Smith-Wiberg**.

The Orange Ball Raffle

There were 6 balls and \$106 in the pot. This week, **Mike McKibbin** had the right ticket but he pulled out the white ball. Better luck next time!! Mike will be responsible for selling raffle tickets at the next meeting!



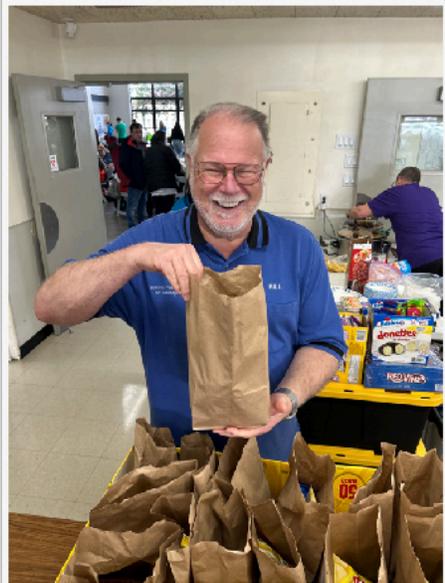
The Thought of the Day

Under the category of "It's all how you look at things" comes this quote from Bill Mollison - "You don't have a snail problem, you have a duck deficiency!"

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

On the next page are photos of the VIP Basketball Tournament (courtesy of Licia Green)

Score keepers - Linda Valtman, Bob Green, Rob Auernig, Mike McKibbin, Becky and Dennis Sakisian.



Ring leader Audrey Smith-Wiberg. Lunch preparation headed up by Bill Wagner and assistants Licia Green and Don Russell.

