

The Orange Peel

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

Next Meeting Friday, May 2, 2025

Speaker - - Ashley Shult Langdon - Local author who wrote "Midly Scenic - A Trail Guide to Sacramento's Lower American River

Greeters - Lorie Rheams, Tommy Peno

Invocation - Jim Buntin

Vocation - Heracio

Prospector - Keith Wright

Raffle tickets - David Shepard

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?

Sacramento Literacy Foundation

Brad Squires introduced **Messiah Millares** and **Rigo Tovar** of the **Sacramento Literacy Foundation**. Brad met Messiah through the Sacramento Venture Philanthropy Fast Pitch completion. Messiah's pitch for Literacy won last year.



Messiah Millares (left) and Rigo Tovar (right)

Messiah is the Fundraising Associate and Rigo is the Program Associate. April L. Javist, the Executive Director couldn't join them today because she is unwell.

Recap of the Meeting Apr 25, 2025

Guests

Rigo Tovar and Messiah Millares- Sacramento Literacy Project

Derek Maldonado - guest of Deanna Maddock

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor

Steve Turner
2024-2025

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

Brad helped Messiah hone his fast pitch message which Messiah started his talk with today. Did you know that 62% of third-graders in this county are not reading to their grade level. If you can't read, you can't participate in society. For example, you can't read the ballot in the voter booth; you can't advocate for yourself. The foundation supplies books and advocates teach reading using a scientific method.

The foundation gives a student five books a year, starting in kindergarten. The books are culturally relevant to them.



As an example, Messiah described an Afghanistan refugee who was given a book entitled "Moon's Ramadan". Those were the first word the student read and he was very excited. (Ramadan is the holy month of the Islamic calendar.)

Illiteracy is a statewide and countrywide issue but it is solvable. Post Covid saw chronic absenteeism - 50% pf children in the county were not going to school and therefore, they missed the early reading intervention.

Messiah checked the reading level at the Orangevale schools and he said that 58% of the students are reading at grade level, but approximately one out of two are not. Looking at Citrus Heights, only 30% of students are reading at grade level.

The literacy crisis is not isolated to one city or one school district. Looking at the 13 school districts in Sacramento County, the San Juan School District is in 8th place. This information about the current literacy level comes from the results of statewide testing. The Sacramento Literacy Foundation joins with other literacy programs in the county to give away over 100,000 books. The Sacramento Library is one of their biggest partners.

The books are selected to demographically align with the students needs. The culturally relevant books are selected to reach out to the under-represented students, the bilingual, the Title I students, the children living in poverty.

May 12 is the day of the book give-away. It takes five books in the hands of children at home to retain their literacy skills during the summer . The books are given every school year so that the students end up with a home library of 25 books. For the bilingual Spanish speaking students, three of the five books that receive will be bilingual.



The Foundation has applied for grants to fund a program to give books to children ages zero to five years old when they go in for their medical check ups. The foundation is also applying for grants to put 50-book libraries in each first through third grade classrooms.

In grades one through three, children learn to read. From then on, they read to learn. The evidence-based literacy instruction (EBLI) in those early grades shows the best reading results. EBLI is a system of research-backed reading, spelling, and writing instruction intended to help students of all ages and ability levels effectively and efficiently reach their highest literacy potential. The major components of EBLI are Phonemic awareness instruction, Systematic Phonics instruction, Fluency instruction, Vocabulary instruction, and Comprehension instruction.

The Sacramento Literacy Coalition has been attending school board meeting throughout Sacramento County and advocating evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs. Assembly Bill 1121 would require adding evidence based reading instruction to California classroom curriculum.

Ninety-five percent of brains can learn to read with the Science of reading:

SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION  The graphic below defines each area of Literacy and suggests activities that parents, teachers, tutors, and mentors can do to support it.

 ORAL LANGUAGE	 PHONEMIC AWARENESS	 PHONICS	 FLUENCY	 VOCABULARY	 COMPREHENSION
<p><i>The ability to talk and hear.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Talk to your child and listen responsively. Ask and answer questions.</p>	<p><i>The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate sounds in spoken words.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>When you say a word to your child, sound out every letter: c-a-t and then rhyme it with a few others: h-a-t, b-a-t, s-a-t.</p>	<p><i>Recognizing the relationship between sounds and letters, letter combinations, and words.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>When in doubt, sound it out! Sound out a word your child is struggling with and show them how it's done.</p>	<p><i>The ability to read with speed, accuracy, and appropriate expression.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Ask your child to read to you and then talk about what you read.</p>	<p><i>Understanding words, their definitions, and their context.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Try and introduce new words to yourself and your kids every week.</p>	<p><i>Learning to understand and make meaning of a wide variety of texts.</i></p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Read to your child as much as you can and find opportunities to put books in their hands.</p>

The state of Mississippi used this approach and EBLI to raise their literacy rate from 20% to 85%. We can too! Reading is a bipartisan issue - every child should be able to read at their grade level.

To learn more the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, visit SacramentoLiteracy.org or call 916-836-3540 for more information.

After Messiah and Rigo finished their talk, President-Elect Deanna thanked them and presented them each with a hand crafted wooden pen (Made by Bob Kurtz).

Announcements

President-Elect Deanna Maddock filled in for President Catrina. Deanna started off the meeting by saying “Welcome to the best hour of your week!”

Deanna described the making of the dance video in front of the Food Bank farm stand. Several Rotarians came out for the video and it should be a fun entry in the Rotary District contest.

Monday, June 9, the **Rotary District awards** will be handed out at the Safety Center, aka Satety-ville on Bradshaw Road. Mark your calendar.

Thursday, May 1, the **Orangevale Farmers Market** will open its new season. Our club is one of the sponsors of the stage and music. Rotarians are asked to help pour beer and wine at the Beer and Wine garden.

Phyllis Macdonald passed around a signup for Orangevale Rotary Swag. On Wednesday, she is traveling with her husband Donnie on a month-long trip to Scotland. **Dave Shepard** will take over the swag signup while she is gone.

If you are saving metal cans for the Petal Connection, **Janet Cahill** will collect them from you at the meetings. Phyllis makes a once-a-month delivery of the cans to the Pedal Connection and they are grateful to receive them.

Dave Shepard reminded everyone that next Friday, May 3, is the first Friday in May so its our turn to work at the food bank. Check your email for an invitation.

On Saturday, May 31, we will have a **Pasteur Elementary School track clean up**. For the new members, we installed a cross country track at the school and in the spring we clean and weed the track.

Bill Wagner passed around a baseball pool for the new season. You can sign up for wins and or losses for the Giants, the Athletics, and/or the Dodgers.

Bill is looking for volunteers for the **Special Olympics** event on Saturday, May 10. He needs help cooking lunch for 1,500 people!

Don Russell, the club chairperson, said that today is International DNA Day. Why did DNA have no fashion sense? It always wears the same old genes! What do you call an old bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!

On Saturday, May 3, Licia Green is hosting the **Spring Fling** at her home. Don passed around a signup. Indicate the number of attendees and what dish you will be bringing.

The next **Dine-Around** will be on Tuesday, May 13. Out of Bounds is one suggestion for the outing. Any more suggestions that we can vote on?

Brad Squires reminded everyone that the **Big Day of Giving** is coming up on Thursday, May 1. The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is one of 850 non-profit organizations that is looking for help. Think about making a donation to them, the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank and The Swing Masters (Sacramento's Best Big Band experience; Jim Buntin is a member). Also think of giving a donation to CCHat, the program for Deaf Children.

Patty Wolff passed around a birthday card for former member **Ann Hively**. For the new members, Ann was a past Rotary president. She was a french teacher at Casa Roble and a long time member of this club. She was very active in the Rotary Youth Exchange program (RYE). She moved back to Minnesota to live near her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

Bert Smith brought the rubber chicken back to the meeting and Deanna told her the she had to keep it and let President Catina decide what to do with it next week.

Big Day of Service

May 17 is the **Big Day of Service**.

The event schedule is as follows:

- 7:30 a.m. – Community Fair Opens at Bella Vista High School
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. – Check in, t-shirt pickup, and grab-n-go breakfast (pastries, fruit, etc.)
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. – Community Rally
- 9:30 a.m. – Meet with leaders and head to projects
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Project time!

Join our club in these two projects.

Rally Crew Needed.

Volunteers are needed for the welcome and logistics crew at Bella Vista High School! Help with event set up, t-shirt distribution, breakfast, and clean up after the rally. **Volunteers should arrive at 6:30 a.m. to set up.**

Dog Park Project.

Dog Park improvements at Pecan Park for Orangevale park goers and their furry friends. Improvement projects include:

- Install a new dog-wash station within the dog park so dogs can rinse-off after a hard day at play
- Install DG in low areas of the dog park to improve drainage and overall terrain
- Install a new bench
- Other general improvements will be made in and around the dog park
- weed the butterfly garden
- **Volunteers should arrive at 9:30 a.m.**

Be sure to sign up on both Big Day of Service Site and Rotary Club Runner

Dave sent invitation in emails he sent on April 7. That is the Club Runner sign up.

Visit <https://www.bigdayofservice.us/> to sign up on the Big Day of Service website.

Vocational Talk

Lorie Rheams was born on Long Island, New York. She left in 1969 and married her high school sweetheart Bob King who was an Air Force enlistee. They moved around a lot and first he was stationed in Selma, Alabama and then Mather field here in Sacramento County. He went on to be a “Fly Boy” in Korea. He got out of the Air Force after ten years.

They moved to Citrus Heights, bought a home and raised a family. Unfortunately, Bob was struck and killed by a drunk driver in 1987. This left Lorie with five children, ages seven to seventeen, to raise on her own.

She remodeled her home and moved in her parents. There was only one car driver in the home and it was Lorie. She told her teenagers this about learning to drive - “No Bs, No Keys”!



Lorie went on a retreat for widows and divorcees. There was a certain presenter that she became friends with (Russ). He invited her to a New Year’s Eve party, but because her husband died at the hands of a drunk driver, she didn’t drink. So instead, they went to dinner to learn about each other. Six weeks later Russ proposed and they were married in July 1989. Between them they have eight children. Bob was the love of my youth. Russ was the love of her craziness. Lorie says she does crazy things and describes herself as nuts.

In February 1990, Lorie and Russ started Orangevale Copy on a dream and a prayer. They retired in January 2013 and sold the business to Michelle Famstead, a member of this club.

What drives her, is feeding people who are hungry. (Editor note - For years, Lorie has been feeding people on Thursday evenings at her church and has run the Christmas Food Basket program.)

Lorie spent 12 years in Catholic schools and has always volunteered. She first volunteered as a Candy Stripper. Joining Rotary was a natural stepping stone to a life of volunteering.

What she really learned was “I’m loved and I’m worthy of all that is good. Life happens. Sometimes not good.

What Lorie most cherishes is faith, family, and friends. What she forever tells Russ is that “If I die tomorrow, I want you to know that I love you today.”

“The most important values I’ve learned in 75 years is that life is short, use it all with the people you love and leave your phone in your pocket when visiting - you might not get another chance”.

Prospector

This was **Licia Green’s** last time to prospector this month. She started with some easy fines - Bert was late and Derek made a rude comment.

Today is National Telephone Day. She had quiz questions about telephones

What was the first telephone greeting? **Ahoy**

What year was the first telephone call? **1876**

There are more telephones than “what” on the earth? **People**

The longest long distant phone call? **President Nixon** called Apollo-11 astronaut Armstrong when he was on **the moon**.

It is also National Arborist Day. Licia had quiz questions about trees.

What are the tallest trees in the world? **Sequoias**

The oldest living tree on earth? **A Bristlecone Pine is 5,062 years old.**

The fastest growing tree? **Bamboo**

Next up, Licia had movie quotes. Name the movie.

“I’m going to make him an offer he can’t refuse” - **The Godfather**

“Go ahead, make my day” - Clint Eastwood in **Sudden Impact**

“I’m King of the World” - Titanic

“You’re going to need a bigger boat” - Jaws

“I’ll have what she’s having” - **When Harry Met Sally**

What is the most famous movie line? Frankly Scarlet, I don’t give a damn. From **Gone with the Wind**.

Happy Fines

Bill Wagner was happy that his biggest Insurance contract was just signed.

Mairy Droese was happy that she and her husband enjoyed their 2-week Viking cruise from Florida to Nova Scotia and down the St Lawrence River to Quebec City and Toronto. And that she got to join two Orangevale Rotary meetings vis Zoom while they were at sea.

The Prospector job was auctioned off to **Keith Wright** for \$40. So send dirt to him as he gets ready to prospect next week.

Licia finished her prospecting by tearing the red sticker off her badge. She is done with probation period of the red badge program!

The Orange Ball Raffle

There were 8 balls and \$66 in the pot. This week, **David Shepard** had the right ticket but he was unlucky when he pulled the white ball out of the basket instead of the orange ball. He will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting!



The Thought of the Day

From Dr. Suess - “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you will go.”

Have a great week...and go out and share “The MAGIC OF ROTARY”

Photos from the Vocational Tour to the CCHAT Center.

