

**Orange Peel**

**Rotary Club of Orangevale**

**District 5180**

Club Meeting - August 16, 2024

Our members and guests were welcomed with gusto by greeters Bryan Daniel and Bob Kurtz. Club President Catrina Womack rang the bell to start the meeting. Bob Kurtz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Phyllis MacDonald delivered the invocation.

Our guests were Rosario Rodriguez, small business owner and Folsom City Council member who was recently elected to serve as the next Sacramento County District 4 Supervisor; and Ernie Womack, Catrina’s husband and Lead inspector for PG&E gas transmission with Tulsa Inspection Resources, Inc.

Prez Catrina made several announcements. Orangevale Summer Nights August 9th was fun with a good crowd enjoying the band Red Voo Doo’s music. She reminded all that August is Membership Month and encouraged club members to wear Rotary attire when attending local events, like the Helping Hands Orangevale’s Salsa Cook-off fundraiser, Saturday, August 17th at the Grange Hall. Bow Wow Days is coming up September 28th, 9 am to 1 pm at Orangevale Community Park. The Community Food Drive will be Saturday, October 12th at Divine Savior Church, with donations going to the food bank. Catrina imparted good news that our two district grant projects received approval from Rotary International. That means we will end up receiving a total of $6,500 to help cover costs associated with our two major projects for 2024-2025: upgrading the outdoor stage at the Orangevale Grange and purchasing a Conex box to serve as a snack bar for American River Girls Softball League games.

A person speaking into a microphone

Description automatically generated

Fundraiser: Deanna Maddock will again be heading up our annual Crab Feed & Auction. Deanna reminded club members the January event is our only fundraiser and that we need everyone involved. She passed around a list of the various functions to be fulfilled and urged members to sign up.

Mike McKibbin passed out flyers and announced that the Audiology Clinic at Sacramento State University provides free hearing tests at their facilities. Students pursuing degrees in Audiology need patients to hone their skills. For more details or to make an appointment, call the clinic (916) 278-4697.

Community Service: David Shepard informed us about upcoming opportunities to serve, such as the Food Bank on Sep 6, Bike Trail Cleanup on Sep 7, and Rotary House Cleanup on Oct 19. Drop-off locations are being organized for the upcoming Community Food Drive for food bank donations.

Club Service: Don Russell again “riddled” us, inquiring: why are elevator jokes so good? Answer, they are good at many levels! While groans were subsiding, Don recounted how the dine-around at Crawdads was enjoyable. Reminder, next up is the Ice Cream Social at 6 pm. Friday, August 23rd, at Audrey & Don Wiberg’s place. Plans are in motion for a Lobster Fest in September. Don is seeking a host with a suitable driveway, patio, or deck to hold the fest, as well as cooking gear (gas propane tanks, steamers/boiler pots, and/or gas stove). If you are interested in hosting or can provide gear, contact Don. Lastly, Don will again host a Halloween bonfire in his front yard on October 31.

International: Bryan Daniel announced that our club made a $1,000 donation to Shelter Box, contributing to their disaster relief efforts. For details about this organization, their shelter kits, and where they are helping people impacted by disasters worldwide, visit: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/> Our International Service director also mentioned that our club made a $500 donation to Buenos Vecinos organization, which does community development work in Honduras and Guatemala. Bryan reminded us that we are part of an international effort.

Vocational Speaker: Janet Cahill

A person standing at a podium

Description automatically generated

Janet has a varied and quite interesting background, which she shared with us. She grew up in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, where her two younger sisters still reside. Janet’s 88-year-old Dad lives on a 10-acre hobby farm. Janet went to the University of Queensland, studied Physical Therapy and went on to work at a large hospital.

At 22, she had an urge to travel, obtained a visa to work in England, which was extended from one to two and a half years. From England, Janet and Aussie friends were able to explore several European countries, with one highlight being cycling in Ireland. Then she got more adventurous, traveling to the Middle East, spending 3 months farming on a Moshav in Israel, leaving just prior to the Gulf War. Next came Africa, where Janet went overland from Kenya, through Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe to South Africa. Her travel through Mozambique was on the back of a truck in a convoy, since a civil war was going on there.

Upon returning to England, Janet worked at a rehab hospital, but she managed to do one last trip to Germany with an Aussie friend in 1991. As fate would have it, an Irish colleague told Janet her former boyfriend lived in Berlin and would be delighted to host two Aussie girls. That’s how Janet met her husband, Michael, a train engineer with Siemens. They had a long-distance relationship for 7 years, during which globetrotting Janet visited in the US, South Korea, Hong Kong, Germany, and Italy.

Eventually, Michael proposed and in 1997 they got married in Brisbane and went to live in Germany. Michael’s career path with Siemens brought him Sacramento and the family grew with three children. Janet met Jan Shepard while both were picking up young’uns at kindergarten. Their girls spent 13 years together in school. Janet expressed gratitude for the support received from Jan and Dave Shepard.

Prospector: Although time did not permit prospecting at this meeting, Prez Catrina forewarned members that next week it will be resumed.

Guest Speaker: Rosario Rodriguez

A person standing at a podium

Description automatically generated

Rosario Rodriguez shared a bit about herself. She was born and raised in San Francisco. Her late husband, Paul, was from Sacramento. She has lived in the local area for many years. Rosario served in the health care field for 24 years. She mentioned that Sutter Health was a good employer. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Folsom and has enjoyed serving as a Rotarian, supporting and taking part in community service projects locally and beyond.

After completing a career in health care, she decided to go into business in 2015, building a kitchen for a restaurant that became Sutter Street Taqueria, opening in 2016. She enjoyed being self-employed but finds owning and operating a restaurant to be challenging, with difficulties in attracting, hiring, training, and retaining employees, coping with rising food costs, and assimilating and complying with a range of governmental regulations. In 2020, those challenges and an on-going interest in community service drew her to running and getting elected to a seat on the Folsom City Council. As a city council member, she has been active in supporting community development in Folsom.

After Sue Frost announced she would not be seeking re-election, Rosario was encouraged by a mentor to run for Sacramento County District 4 Supervisor. She decided to run and shortly thereafter received an endorsement from Sue, the incumbent, which Rosario greatly appreciated. The results of the March 2024 primary election showed Rosario receiving 51 percent of the votes and thus she was elected. That has given her the benefit of several extra months to prepare for taking office in early 2025.

Supervisor-elect Rodriguez has been meeting with officials from various Sacramento County departments, getting to know about the services they provide and the challenges they are facing. She mentioned some of them, like the Sheriff’s Department and County Coroner’s Office. An ongoing problem high on her list of priorities is reducing the homeless population. She is getting familiar with County programs and sources of funding for addressing homelessness. Also high on her list of priorities are Transportation (i.e. roads), Public Safety, and Economic Development. Rosario wants to help foster a collaborate effort among agencies and civic groups for solving problems.

Two women standing next to each other

Description automatically generated

**Raffle:** With 7 balls and an $80 prize for the lucky one picking the lone orange ball, Diana Newman had the ticket randomly picked by our guest, Rosario. Suspense mounted as Diane stuck a hand in the basket and plucked out . . . a white ball. Better luck next time, Diana.

A person holding a basket and another person holding a basket

Description automatically generated

Next Meeting, August 23rd:

Greeters: Rob Auernig and Janet Cahill

Invocation: Brad Squires

Vocational Speaker: Bert Smith

Guest speaker: Congressman Kevin Kiley

Prez Catrina closed with the thought of the day: “If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

With gavel in hand and set to close the meeting, Catrina discovered that the bell had mysteriously disappeared from the podium. After a somewhat awkward pause, Sergeant of Arms Sean Palmer located the bell and placed in its rightful spot. Then, with proper decorum, Catrina rang the bell, saying “remember it is Membership Month. . . so, go out and share Rotary with your favorite people”.

**A group of people sitting at tables in a restaurant

Description automatically generated**

**Photographs provided by**

**Bob Kurtz and Don Russell**

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

