

The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

Next Meeting Friday, Aug 14, 2026

Speaker - Rebecca
Ingerman - Childrens Law
Center of California
Greeters - Catrina Womack
Invocation - Lorie Rheams
Vocation - Russ Rheams
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?**

Folsom's Hope



Speaker-chair Licia Green introduced **Salwa Kasabian** founder and director of **Folsom's Hope**. Licia met Salwa at a Fast Pitch get-together. Salwa has lived in Folsom for 28 years.

Salwa said that she has spoken at three Rotary Clubs and this is the liveliest club she has visited. She is a morning person and for her, this is a great time to meet with Rotarians.

Parents in Folsom want their children to go to the best public schools in the area. They don't want their children to attend **Theodore Judah Elementary School** because of low test scores. Salwa was of that same opinion. Due to where she lived, her children were required to attend Judah. She was able to enroll her oldest daughter in another school, but her son alternate school request was denied. She decided to transfer her daughter to Judah the same year that her son entered. That was in 2008.

Salwa was at a crossroad in her faith journey. She visited the school and was struck by the needs of the children. She decided to help out and she asked the teachers what they needed. She expected to hear the need for school supplies but instead she learned that the students had special needs and they needed strong mentors.

Salwa got her church involved and they adopted the school. She launched the Judah United Mentor Project (JUMP) which paired an adult to a child. They meet once a

Recap of the Meeting May 15, 2026

Guests

Salwa Kasabian - Folsom

Hope

Ernie Womack - spouse of
past president Catrina
Womack

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor

Dave Veden

2026-2027

Rotary International President 2025-2026

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

**The 2025-2026 Rotary
International presidential
theme is "Create Lasting
Impact"**

week for lunch and it gives the child a loving role model. It's a one year commitment but most mentors continue year after year. It's important for the mentor to show up consistently and to listen to the child. The children are surprised that the mentor keeps showing up and that is what they need.

The lunch buddy program initially started with five adults and five children. The success of this program encouraged another church to partner with **Blanche Sprentz Elementary School**.

In 2010, she started the **Students Together Achieving Results (STARs)**, which is an after-school program offering a safe, supportive environment between 3–6 p.m. when children are often alone and at risk. She looked at similar programs in the arch Cordova schools and she modeled STARs on their success.

In 2014, as the program grew, donations were needed and that is when Folsom's Hope became an official non-profit organization. The program ran out space at the school and Salwa was able to move into a space at a church across from the Twin Lakes Food Bank.

People think that everyone in Folsom is rich but that is not the case. Why is there a need for these programs at the elementary schools? There are no Title 1 schools in Folsom. A Title 1 school is a federally funded school that receives additional resources to support students from low-income families and help close achievement gaps

For a school to be designated a Title 1 school, 40% of the children must come from economically disadvantaged families. Rancho Cordova has schools that are Title 1 school. In a 2025 study, the poverty level was 39.9% at Blanche Sprentz and 31% at Theodore Judah. The levels were too low to received the Title 1 designation and support. And that is why Folsom's Hope is so important.

The parents of the Lunch Buddy and STARs programs are helped too. They are invited to a "Dinner and Dialogue" where topics are discussed to encourage them in their support of their children. The parents are required to attend at least 5 out of 9 dinners to continue their child's enrollment.

Reading specialists are paired with the students who are struggling. In addition, they help with social and emotional learning which gives them self confidence and teaches them

responsible decision making.

One group of children were involved with a lemonade stand and they had a goal of raising \$50. One child in the group wanted to sell a mango drink along with the lemonade. This accommodation was made and it was a successful venture. The students made 79\$

In the summer, Folsom's Hope provides Summer Clubs and field trips. On one trip, the students picked wild blackberries and learned to make blackberry pie. They practiced measuring and learning about the costs of making a pie.



Salwa ended her talk by saying that her children were successful at the Judah and now others children are too. Folsom's Hope provides love, dignity, and a sense of belonging. Salwa wrapped up her talk by inviting Rotarians to visit the website <https://www.folsomshope.org/>. President Steve thanked the Salwa for her talk and presented her with a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Lorie Rheams passed around "You and Me" lists to everyone. The list matches each member to another member. The idea of the matchup is to keep track of each other. For example if Mairy Droese is going to be out of town and will miss a meeting, she will let her "You", Mary Shear know that she is going to be away. Please sit your partner at an upcoming meeting.

The "You and Me" program started when a member was out sick for a few weeks and no one knew that the member needed help. Your partner assignment is in place for the next six months. So, let's keep track of each of other.

Russ Rheams sent an email about a backpack drive and reminded everyone that School starts next week, and we are collecting backpacks for needier students. If you can afford it, think about donating one (lots under \$25 at Walmart, just as an example).

Maybe you could mention it to friends and neighbors, too. And, please feel free to fill them up with pens, paper, crayons, etc. Just bring them to the meeting this Friday or next.

David Shepard, Club Treasurer, sent everyone an invoice for club dues (\$187). Pay by Zelle, credit card, or check.

Jim Buntin passed around a thank you note from Opportunity International which the club donates \$1000 to every year. The money is used for micro loans to small woman owned business around the world.

Auernig, Rob	Palmer, Sean
Buntin, Jim	Rheams, Lorie
Cahill, Janet	Rheams, Russ
Cyr, Joni	Russell, Don
Daniel, Bryan	Sarkisán, Dennis
Droese, Mairy	Shear, Mary
Glover, Don	Shepard, David
Green, Licia	Smith, Bert
Herzl, Becky	Smith-Wiberg, Audrey
Hill-Morris, Cindy	Squires, Brad
Kurtz, Bob	Valtman, Jeff
Macdonald, Phyllis	Wagner, Bill
McKibbin, Mike	Wolff, Patty
Maddock, Deanna	Womack, Catrina
Morris, Don	Wright, Keith
Hernandez's, Eileen	Blair, Steve

Dear Orangevale Rotary Club Members,

Thank you for your recent gift and for your faithful partnership with Opportunity International since 2011.

For more than a decade, your Rotary Club has helped create opportunities for families working to build brighter futures. Your on going support has made a meaningful difference, empowering entrepreneurs, strengthening communities, and creating lasting change.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and continued commitment to this work. Thank you for standing with Opportunity International year after year.

With sincere appreciation, Maggie Schulhoff

Dennis Sarkisian talked about Youth Protection. With any Rotary activity involving young people, we must maintain a safe environment, free of abuse or harassment. Further, if we witness or become aware of a young person being abused or harassed, we have any obligation to report it to club and district authorities. If you are interested, Rotary International has prepared an excellent self-paced online course, titled **Protecting Youth, Program Participants 2026-27**. To access, log on the My Rotary website and locate the course in the Learning Center. It takes about 30 minutes to complete. If you have any difficulty locating the course, please let me know.

<https://my.rotary.org/>

Mary Shear sent an email with assignments for Greeting, Vocational and Invocations. Let her know if you need to change the dates.

Don Russell, Club chair, said that today is National Lighthouse Day. Don asked "Where do bees go to get public transportation? - The Buzz stop!" There was a good turnout for The National Night Out. Saturday, August 8, **Joni Cyr** will host a backyard party. Bring an appetizer and drinks. The next Dine Around is August 12 at The Corner Grill in Folsom. "What building is easy to lift? - a lighthouse".

Vocational Talk

Catrina Womack talked about her road trip with Ernie and Lily, their dog. She showed lots of photos from her trip. There were two reasons for the trip - to take Lily to visit her breeder. The other reason was to go to a punk rock concert in Tennessee.

The drove straight through to Fort Bridger, Wyoming at 1am. This was the first long-haul of their new travel trailer. The campground was empty and they spent the night in beautiful Wyoming.

Date	Greeter	Invocation	Vocational Speaker
7/24/2026	Deanna M	Audrey S.	Janet C.
7/31/2026	Janet C.	Jim B.	Jim B.
8/7/2026	Jim B.	Phyllis M.	Catrina W.
8/14/2026	Catrina W.	Lorie R.	Russ R.
8/21/2026	Russ R.	Bill W.	Mairy
8/28/2026	Mairy	Mary S.	Mike M.
9/4/2026	Dark Friday		
9/11/2026	Mike M.	Patty W	Derick
9/18/2026	Derick	Bert S.	Deanna M.
9/25/2026	Deanna M	Audrey S.	Mary S.
10/2/2026	Mary S.	Jim B.	Bert S.
10/9/2026	Bert S.	Phyllis M.	Sean P.
10/16/2026	Sean P.	Lorie R.	Bill W.
10/23/2026	Bill W.	Bill W.	Joni C.
10/30/2026	Dark Friday		
11/6/2026	Joni C.	Mary S.	Rob A
11/13/2026	Rob A.	Patty W	Steve B.
11/20/2026	Steve B.	Bert S.	Janet C.
11/27/2026	Dark Friday		
12/4/2026	Janet C.	Audrey S.	Bryan D.
12/11/2026	Bryan D.	Jim B.	Don G.
12/18/2026	Don G.	Phyllis M.	Licia G
12/25/2026	Dark Friday		

They stopped in Green River, Colorado to visit a friend. They are both realtors and belly dancers. They visited the Garden of the Gods near Monument Valley.

Catrina loves Fluevog shoes and they stopped at Denver's Fluevog store where she bought shoes! They drove on to Santa Fe, New Mexico where they camped at the Santa Fe Skies RV Park. They have a nice dog park that Lily enjoyed.

They stopped at the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas and fueled up at Buc-ee's. They visited Sue Frost in Berryville, Arkansas and she has a lovely cabin for visitors. Then it was on to Tennessee to visit Lily's breeder and her eight house dogs. They visited Gatlinburg and Dollywood. They loved the Smokey Mountains and staying at Camp Stonefly Campground in Johnson City. From there they went to the punk rock concert which they enjoyed so much. The next stop was Stone Mountain, Georgia and then it was onto Prattville, Alabama. They stopped to see the house where Catrina was born. On the way home, they stopped over in Las Cruces, New Mexico. It was a great trip.



Happy Fines

Bob Kurtz paid \$6 to get his plastic container back from Deanna's demotion party.

Jim Buntin was happy to celebrate his 62 year wedding anniversary.

Mike McKibbin went to a reunion and everyone looks like their mothers and fathers.

Mary Shear was happy to celebrate her first year in Rotary.

Phyllis Macdonald is happy because she is having an engagement party for her daughter and fiancé.

Licia Green is happy to have a girls weekend planned in Mendocino.

Patty Wolfe is happy to help everyone.

Bert Smith is happy because she is about to take a cruise to the Balkan States and Scandinavia.

Horacio Oropeza took his family to New York City. They flew on Jet Blue. When they boarded to come home, a big storm caused their flight to be cancelled. Two more big storms came through and their flight home was delayed three days. He was glad to finally get home.

The Orange Ball Raffle

This week there were ten golf balls and \$40.

David Shepard had the winning ticket and he pulled a white golf ball out of the basket. Looser! That means that David will be selling tickets next week.



Thought for the day

“There is nothing better than a Buddy, unless its a Buddy with chocolate.”

Photo Album

