

# The Orange Peel

2025-2026 | President Deanna Maddock | Show up, Give back, Get things done, and Have fun!

## Next Meeting Friday, Sept 12, 2025

**Speaker** - 5180 District Governor **Megan Ellinghouse**

**Greeters** - Mike McKibbin

**Invocation** - Audrey Smith-Wiberg

**Vocation** - Johnathan Spangler

**Prospector** - Bob Kurtz

**Raffle tickets** - Catrina Womack

## 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?**

## Wide Open Walls

**David Soban of Wide Open Walls** was introduced by Speaker Chairperson **Brad Squires**. Wide Open Walls is a non-profit organization in Sacramento which promotes diversity through artistic expression and thinks that art should be a



part of daily life. In the last nine years, 450 murals have been painted on buildings, in alleys, and on schools. During David's talk, he show photos of some of the murals.

David has always had art in his life. He was raised in a home with art and his parents took him to visit art museums. When he turned 21 years old, he went to Europe and visited every art museum that he could. While he was there, he saw a lot of public art. There were murals painted in alleys and on the sides of buildings. The art in public space made a big impression on him.

Ten years ago he began noticing art in the wild in

## Recap of the Meeting Sept 4, 2025

### Guests

David Soban - Wide Open Walls

### Visiting Rotarians

None

### District 5180 Governor

Megan Ellinghouse  
2025-2026

Rotary International  
President 2025-2026  
Francesco Arezzo

The 2025-2026 Rotary  
International presidential  
theme is "Unite For  
Good"

Sacramento. He was out walking his dog and he found a mural and then another. They were mostly spray painted "murals" in alley ways. He counted 400 "murals", most of which don't exist today. He decided that Sacramento deserved art.



He talked to a friend with the Sacramento Art Commission about having a mural art festival. The Art Commission was excited about the idea and the first mural festival was founded in 2016

with eleven murals painted throughout the Midtown and Downtown area. Half of the artists were local and the rest were from outside the Sacramento area. It was held over a ten day period.

Although the festival was a success, the Commission decided to do it only once. David wanted to keep it going and he started the organization Wide Open Walls. Today it has grown to a multiple day festival with concerts, gallery shows, movie premiers, artist talks and more.

When he started, he had to focus on fundraising so he could bring artist in from around the United States. He was excited that with the money he raised that he could get his first international artist. The festival got a lot of PR and the demand for more murals grew. The festival and murals were shown on TV, in magazines and talked about

around the world. Every year the festival got bigger. Wide Open Walls is responsible for over 450 murals .

The year that Greta Gerwig's film Lady Bird was nominated by the 90th Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director, David got a mural painted to celebrate the nominee.

You may have noticed the mural at the corner of Sunrise Blvd and Fair Oaks Blvd. Its a picture of a chicken saying "Woof". This used to be an empty ugly wall that said "No Parking". Taggers change the sign to say "No Barking" so when the chicken mural was painted, it had to say "Woof".

Each year, David is busy fundraising and the money is used to bring the artists to Sacramento, to provide them with lodging, food, paint and sometimes a stipend. There is a waiting list of 200 artists that want a chance to paint a mural during the festival. Some of them have never painted a mural. A couple of artists that got selected in the last few years gained enough experience painting a mural that they have gone on to become mural painters.

Wide Open Walls gets involved with commercial projects as a means to raise money for the festival. One of the largest project was painting three sides of a building on 16th Street. The area painted covered 18,000 square feet. It took nine artists 28 days to paint the building!

All murals tell a story. Some murals are political and some are whimsical. On 555 Capital Mall, there is a 110 foot long mural that spells out the word Sacramento. The 35 foot tall mural involved several artist and looks like an old fashioned postcard.

The Johnny Cash mural on the side of the Marriot at 16th Street and L Street is 18 stories tall. The artist used stencils and \$10,000 worth of paint. It would have cost \$60,000



to have it painted, but the artist did it for free. Now the hotel is referred to as the “Johnny Cash” Hotel.

The future of Wide Open Walls is focussing on the needs of the underserved youth. WOW:US, Wide Open Walls Uplifting Schools is committed to painting a minimum of 12 murals at all Sacramento Unified School District campuses. The murals are unique to each schools needs. To date, 217 murals have been painted.



David gave a colorful and interesting talk. President Deanna Maddock presented him with a hand crafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

## **Announcements and Committee Reports**

**President Deanna Maddock** announced that **District Governor Megan Ellinghouse** will be visiting the club next week. The next Club Board Meeting will be held Monday, September 8 at Chamber of Commerce.

On Friday September 12th, the Orangevale history museum is having a black and white themed charity event. It will be held on the museum grounds and the tickets cost \$35.

**Janet Cahill, Community Service**, reminded everyone that today is the first Friday of the month and it’s our turn to help at the Food Bank. You can show up tp help even if you didn’t return her RSVP.

Saturday, September 6, we will be cleaning up our mile of the American River Trail. She handed out parking passes and said that the start time is 8:30am.

**Bill Wagner, Rotary Foundation Chair**, asked everyone to think about making a donation to The Foundation before next Friday. **District Governor Megan Ellinghouse** will be visiting the club next week and she always like to present a Paul Harris. Contact Bill to see how close you are to finishing paying for your first of next Paul Harris.

**Don Russell, Club Service Chair**, said that the recent ice cream social at Donna's home was a great success. She is her neighborhood's "mayor" and she took us on a tour of the club house in her development.

The coffee meet-up last Friday was held at Pete's coffee and several Rotarians showed up for coffee and fellowship.

The next Dine Around is Tuesday, September 9 at 5:30pm at Pitch and Fiddle.

Don will be hosting his annual Halloween Bonfire night in his front yard. Dress up, bring a snack and a chair. Friday, October 31.

**David Shepard, Club Treasurer**, asked members to pay the invoice he sent for club dues. Dave handed out the club "swag" we ordered (shirts, hoodies, etc). He said he would send an invoice for the items we received.

**Lorie Rheams** said that David Shepard who lost his mother recently. She passed around a sympathy card for everyone to sign.

Lorie also passed around two wooden plaques with the names of Rotarians in our club who have passed away. Recently she had the names of Bill Newton and Chris Lauritzen added.

This week, Rotisserie the chicken was passed to David Shepard. Let's see where Dave take him during the week!

## Vocational Talk



**Mike McKibbin** has been reflecting lately and he has lived an enormously privileged life! He made a list of all the jobs he has had in his 82 years. He is a graduate of Purdue University so his list starts with jobs after his graduation. His criteria for the list was that he had to have held the job for more than a year and the jobs included other duties as assigned. He came up with a list of 17 jobs!

His first job was with the Peace Corps where he was

sent to India to teach people how to raise chickens. Before he could get to India, he was sent to Israel to work on a Kibbutz.

Mike worked in California Governor Wilson's administration when the Governor announced a class size reduction in all public schools. This action left the state with an immediate 65,000 teacher shortage. Mike's job was to hire those 65,000 teachers!

Mike ran out of time to describe more of his jobs so he will save the list for his next vocational talk. He concluded by saying that he learned a lot of his jobs by doing!

## Prospector

**Prospector Bob Kurtz** asked a lot of questions about the man shown on the cover of the latest Rotarian magazine. It's a photo of the **2025-26 President of Rotary International - Francesco Arezzo**.

He switched to happy fines and **Mairy Droese** who recently returned from a 60-day, 8,000 mile RV trip with her husband had a rotary Story to share. Long story short she won \$150 gift certificate in a Wyoming Rotary turtle race (its like a rubber duck race). She gave the certificate to her friend in Wyoming who runs a museum in Worland, Wyoming and it will be used for a fundraising auction.

## The Orange Ball Raffle

There were 10 balls and \$25 in the pot. This week, **Catrina Womack** had the winning red ticket and she pulled out the white ball. Too bad, so sad. She will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.

## The Thought of the Day

Just as Wide Open Walls turns blank spaces into vibrant works of art, Rotary turns challenges into opportunities to serve. Both remind us that when we come together with creativity and purpose, we can transform our communities into something truly inspiring.



## ***Photo Gallery!!***

### ***Coffee Time on a dark Friday - Aug 29***



### ***Working at The Food Bank on Friday, Sept 5***



***More pictures on the next page***

## ***American River Clean Up on Saturday, Sept 6***



## ***Dine Around at Pitch & Fiddle on Tuesday, Sept 9***

