

The Orange Peel

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

Next Meeting Friday, Nov 22, 2024

Speaker - To be announced

Greeters - Mairy Droese, Becky Herz

Invocation - Patty Wolff

Vocation - Diana Newman

Prospector - Russ Rheams

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?

Serial Killers - An Overview: How Do They Hide In Plain Sight? How Are They Made? Should Mental Health Be a Defense?



Brad Squired introduced Dr. Andrew Mendonsa, a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist. Andrew said this is a topic he is passionate about. He has worked in prisons with death row prisoners and he tried to get into their minds. The Netflix series "Mindhunter" does a good job on depicting the development of profiling serial killers.

(Note from the Newsletter editor - much of this article is copied from the slides that Andrew

Recap of the Meeting Nov 15, 2024

Guests

Dr. Andrew Mendonsa,
Forensic Psychologist
Jesse Henandez - former
Orangevale Rotarian and
Angie Hernandez's father.

Rotary Guests

None

**District 5180 Governor
Steve Turner
2024-2025**

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

presented in his talk).

Andrew's disclaimers:

The opinions shared today are mine and mine alone and do not necessarily represent those of any agency, firm, or department I am associated with, work for, or have work for.

Due to privacy laws, I am unable to speak about cases where I have rendered mental health treatment to the offenders. Doctor-client privilege remains after death.

Andrew has been passionate about this topic since he was quite young. And he scared his parents! His career has spanned the public and private sectors including the position of Chief Psychologist with the State of California.

He has worked with serial killers throughout his career. He worked with law enforcement agencies and task forces throughout the US which are aimed at catching these individuals.

Andrew has served as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) on civil and criminal cases across the nation. He has been in practice in over 30 states. He teaches and supervises Master and Doctoral forensic and clinic students at the California School of Professional Psychology and at Pepperdine University.

Let us level set the definition of a serial killer. According to the FBI, a serial killer is someone who murders two or more people in separate events, often for psychological gratification, thrill, attention, or financial gain, with a "cooling off" period between crimes.

Joseph DeAngelo, know as the East Bay Rapist hide in plain sight. He had three killing grounds that law enforcement knows about. For years, the law enforcement was silo and didn't connect with other agencies. Now crimes are tracked in a nation-wide database.

How prevalent are serial killers? The FBI estimates that there 25-50 active serial killers in the USA at any time, with many still uncaught. Annually, about 20 serial killers are responsible for around 10 deaths each. Serial killings make up less than 2% of all homicides in the U.S.

Why are the number of serial killers on the decline? There are several theories on reduced serial crime.

- Enhanced Forensic Techniques: Advances like forensic genealogy increase detection risk.
- Ubiquitous Surveillance: Cameras and technology make anonymity harder to maintain.
- Higher Capture Rates: Increased likelihood of being caught and linked to crimes; stricter sentencing deters repeat offenses.
- Improved Connectivity: Cell phones and parental awareness reduce opportunities for victim targeting.
- Interagency Collaboration: Faster information sharing among agencies accelerates suspect apprehension.

The killers are being caught quicker than in the 1960s or 1980s. There is better forensic technology and surveillance cameras everywhere. The law enforcement can triangulate with cell phone towers to figure out where suspects are. Everyone carries cell phones and their cars are smart.

What makes a serial killer?

- Sorry, the researches and profilers all agree that there is no one generic profile of a serial murderer. Research is mixed as of now.
- There is no genetic profile either - we can't identify them at birth ... yet!
- Many serial killers are survivors of early childhood trauma (studies have put it around 14% for psychological abuse; 42% physical abuse; 70% witnessed sexually stressful events).

But then you have the exception - Dennis Rader, aka BTK, had an ordinary upbringing and overall he had an unremarkable life. Ted Bundy had a cold mother. But coronation doesn't mean causation.

How do they hide in plain sight?

"Many people believe that serial killers are loners and losers, unable to maintain careers or relationships. They're supposedly undereducated, narcissistic, and searching for short-term gratification. The public wants monsters to be obvious, and many popular culture productions reinforce that naive hope that they're largely on the fringes of society. But monsters do live among us— easily and with little detection, because the clever ones know how to adapt and to deflect suspicion." - Katherine Ramsland

What does hiding in plain sight do?

Duping Delight: Many serial killers experience "duping delight" — a sense of pleasure from successfully deceiving others while blending into normal life.

Thrill of Control: The act of hiding in plain sight provides a powerful sense of control and superiority, as they manage to deceive those around them, fueling a craving for dominance.

DeAngelo refuses to talk but if we could get into his brain, we would learn a lot. Serial killers either don't talk (and die in prison) or they kill them selves. Andrew thinks the DeAngelo won't talk because it's his way of keeping in control.

Psychopathy is a personality disorder manifested in people who use a mixture of charm, manipulation, intimidation, and occasionally violence to control others, to satisfy their own selfish needs. Dr. Robert Hare and his associates developed the Psychopathy Check List Revised (PCL-R) and its derivatives, which provide a clinical assessment of the degree of psychopathy an individual possesses. The relationship between psychopathy and serial killers is particularly interesting.



Is mental health a defense? During the 1960's and 1970's there was a regular attempt to pursue the insanity defense based on "irresistible compulsion to kill is a form of temporary insanity." When a killer demonstrates careful planning, evasion, and organized crime scenes, this defense becomes harder to justify, as these actions suggest a clear awareness of their actions and intent to avoid capture.

Understanding Right and Wrong: Psychopathic serial killers know murder violates societal laws and norms but choose to ignore them for personal gain.

Awareness of Rules: They understand society's rules yet disregard them to fulfill selfish desires. Psychopathy is not a DSM-5 diagnosis; the closest related diagnoses are Narcissistic Personalit Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder.

All psychopaths do not become serial murderers. They can become a successful part of society. The things we see in Steve jobs are the same things we see in DeAngelo. Serial killers understand right from wrong but killers choose to do wrong and they enjoy doing it. Andrew said that if he was a serial killer, he'd be worried. The DNA technology is catching the serial killers.

President Catrina thanked Dr. Andrew and Brad Squires for mixing it up. It was such an interesting topic and speaker. Catrina presented him with wooden pen made by Rotarian Bob Kurtz.

Announcements

President Cartrina Womack was happy to report that there was a large turn out of Rotarians at the Mode Brewing + Kitchen. It was a successful fund raiser to benefit the Orangevale History Center. Thank you for attending.

Tickets are on sale for the Orangevale Teen Council (OTC) Friendsgiving on November 21. December 14 will be the Orangevale Light Parade.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be a Rotary meeting on Friday, November 29. Sean Palmer will be hosting coffee at 7:30am.

Lorie Rheams spoke about the upcoming Christmas Basket program. It will be held at Divine Savior Church (instead of the Orangevale Grange) on Saturday, December

21. Our annual Christmas Basket program will be rolled into the church's program and it will serve 150 families. Please consider hosting a family.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 20, 9am, to pack extra food bags at the Food Bank. Those bags and other food will be delivered to the church on Saturday morning.

Rotarians are needed to arrive at 8am at the church on Saturday. The host families will be dropping off the food between 8am and 11am. There will be a break for pizza lunch between 11am and 1pm. The receiving families will pick up their baskets between 12noon and 3pm.

Mike McKibbin will have Interact volunteers work two shifts - 8am to 11am and 12noon to 3pm.

Steve Blair will be sending out invoices for meals shortly.

Bob Kurtz gave an update about **Bryan Daniel**. He is feeling better and at home. The doctors have not found the source of his sepsis.

Don Russell said that today is National Drum Day. What's the absolute best present? A broken drum - you can't beat it!!! The upcoming Christmas party will be on December 14 at Don Glover's home; 7701 Greenridge Way, Fair Oaks.

David Shepard said that the next Miner's Bar cleanup will be Saturday, December 7.

Dennis Sarkisian said the Friday, December 6 will be our next chance to serve at the Orangevale Fair Oaks Food Bank. Mark your calendar.

Vocational Talk

The Vocational speaker was **Mairy Droese**. Last summer, Mairy and her husband Dick, traveled in their RV up the coast of California and into Canada. They visited farming friends outside of Edmonton, Alberta.





Next they drove to Calgary, Alberta to join an RV tour with RV Fantasy Tours. Twenty other RVs were on the tour. It started with three days at the Calgary Stampede. Mairy's favorite event was watching the wagon train races!

The group of RVers drove down to a campground outside of the Canadian national park named Waterton Lakes National Park. It is a continuation of the US Glacier National Park.

The group of campers took a boat ride on the Upper Waterton Lake which is a mountain lake in southern Alberta and northern Montana. The long skinny lake runs north and south and the lake is divided by the Canadian-United States border.

As we traveled past the border, we could see the border. It was a clearcut line of land through the forest. It looked similar to the clearcut under power lines that you can see in our Sierra Mountains the USA. No passport needed; no border patrol.

There were signs declaring this area the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The borderless international park was conceived by two rangers - one from Glacier and one from Waterton. The Cardston, Alberta and the Montana Rotary Clubs played a significant role in the park's establishment. In 1931, they drafted a resolution calling on both groups to petition their respective governments to establish a peace park.

An agreement was agreed upon by the Canadian Parliament and the US Congress in 1932. The union of the parks was achieved through the efforts of Rotary International members from Alberta and Montana on June 18, 1932. This became the first Peace Park in the world. It was dedicated by President Herbert Hoover and Prime Minister R.B. Bennett.

In 1976 it was designated the International Biosphere reserve. Later, in 1995, it was became a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

On Mairy and Dick’s recent cruise to the Caribbean, they saw the Rotary 4-Way Test on highway signs and on the cardinal points of a round-about. Evidence that Rotary is truly international is all around the world.



Prospector

Sue Frost filled in for **Russ Rheams**, this month’s prospector. She rattled off some quick fines - Deanna Maddock for tricking her into prospecting, Tommy Peno for talking over the president when she was being introduced. Don Glover paid a \$3 scooter fee.

Sue asked questions, table by table, about the close connection of Orangevale Rotary with Rotary International.

- What year did rotary start and where? February 23, 1905 in Chicago, Illinois.
- Where was the first Rotary club in California located and what year? The first rotary clubs were established in the western united states starting with San Francisco in 1908.
- What central valley club was sponsored by the San Francisco rotary club and in what year? The Rotary Club of Folsom was chartered in 1953.
- Which rotary club sponsored Orangevale Rotary and in what year? The Folsom Rotary Club sponsored the Rotary Club of Orangevale in 1960.
- So our club’s parentage is Chicago —> San Francisco —> Folsom —> Orangevale.
- What is the name of the Orangevale Rotary’s first president? Richard Bacon who owned Orangevale Glass.



Happy Fines

Jim Buntin is happy because his wife **Joan** received an Inter Wheel International Award. She was awarded the Margarete Golding award her 30 years volunteering with Canine Companion. It was also almost Jim Buntin's birthday and so the club broke into it's broken version of Happy Birthday!

Phyllis Macdonald was happy that her husband **Donnie** and his musical partner **James Keigher** will be having a concert at Stegman Hall on Nov 19.

Deanna Maddock was thankful that everyone helped with the Orangevale Museum fundraiser.

Bert Smith advertised a free Jazz concert at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church on December 13.

Mairy Droese was happy about her recent cruise to the Caribbean.

The Orange Ball

There were 7 balls and \$92 in the pot. This week, **Jim Buntin** had the right ticket but he pulled out the white ball. I guess he'll be selling raffle tickets next week.



The Thought for the Day

“Let's leave today with a fresh appreciation for the inner workings of the mind - and maybe a few tips on spotting a fibber! Here's to understanding people better. or at least knowing when to politely nod and smile.”

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