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Rotary in Action: Backpacks, Home Team, and Sunflower Hill!

The Danville San Ramon Rotary Club had a busy and rewarding stretch of community service this summer.

On Friday, August 1, Rotarians completed the second phase of our backpack project for Shelter Inc. Members provided 31 boxes of essential school supplies, which were then sorted and assembled into backpacks for students from pre-K through high school. Thanks to everyone's efforts, 100 backpacks are now in the hands of local children who need them most.



The very next day, Saturday, August 2, our bi-monthly Rotary HOME Team was out helping seniors with minor home repairs and odd jobs. From spackling and yard work to moving heavy items, removing paint cans for recycling, and giving practical advice on small plumbing fixes, our volunteers visited four homes in total. We were also joined by three enthusiastic Cal High Interact students—future Rotarians in the making.



Earlier, on July 19, a team of Rotarians (and a few honorary helpers) assembled four convertible benches that transform into two picnic table sets for Sunflower Hill. Funded by a \$1,500 Community Service Grant from the DSR Rotary Foundation, these benches were installed on August 9 at Sunflower Hill's garden in Livermore. That day, 12 volunteers also pitched in with three hours of gardening to beautify the space.



All of these projects were made possible through the leadership and dedication of our Community Service Chair and longtime Rotarian, **Allen Mueller**—proof that with teamwork, compassion, and a little elbow grease, Rotary continues to make a difference.

Rookie of the Year: Vanessa Berastain Takes Danville San Ramon Rotary Club by Storm

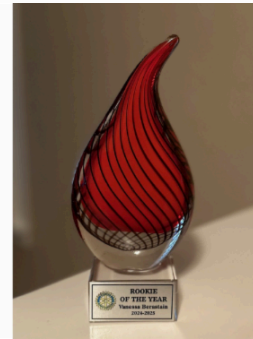
In the esteemed world of Rotary, where tradition, community service, and selflessness form the core values, it is truly inspiring to witness a shining new star emerge and brighten the entire club. That star is none other than Vanessa Berastain, our Danville San Ramon Rotary Club's well-deserved 2024-25 Rookie of the Year.

In less than a year, Vanessa has made an indelible mark on our club—bringing energy, enthusiasm, and a contagious spirit of service that resonates through every activity. From passionately boosting our social media presence to diving headfirst into service projects and

fundraising efforts, Vanessa's contributions are boundless. Her warm, genuine personality creates an inviting atmosphere—whether she's greeting guests with a bright smile, helping to set up and take down for meetings with efficiency and cheer, or making sure everyone feels included and valued. It's no exaggeration to say that the seat next to her has become one of the most sought-after spots at every gathering!

Vanessa is an unstoppable force on our communications team, consistently demonstrating her creativity and dedication. Her ability to connect, inspire, and energize others exemplifies the Rotary spirit of "service above self" in the most heartfelt way. Her unwavering enthusiasm, quick willingness to lend a hand, and genuine kindness have not only enriched our club but have also rekindled our collective passion for service and fellowship. Vanessa's remarkable journey in such a short time proves that great things indeed come in small, spirited packages.

Congratulations, Vanessa! Your light shines brightly and we are excited to watch your continued growth and leadership.



Rotarian in the Spotlight

Erik Yewell's Rotarian in the Spotlight was a delightful blend of his professional expertise and worldly wisdom, delivered with a touch of humor. Having earned his Blue Badge, Erik took us on his journey from Silicon Valley to Paris, revealing his impressive bilingual skills and his identity as a Third Culture Kid (TCK)—someone who's as comfortable navigating French baguettes as he is with bytes and binaries. Between sharing stories of living in France, studying in California, and baking sourdough bread (a family third-generation tradition!), he showed that behind his tech-savvy exterior is a genuinely adventurous soul with a love for cooking, wine, and community service.

Erik's exploration of the TCK experience and the iceberg model of culture added depth and levity to his talk. He explained how living between cultures creates a unique identity that's neither fully one nor the other, much like trying to decide between French wine and American craft beer—both have their charms.



His emphasis on recognizing diverse cultural backgrounds among members and youth reminded us that underneath surface traits, deeper values shape who we are. With humor, humility, and a generous spirit, Erik demonstrated that embracing our differences, just like good bread or fine wine, makes our community richer and more fulfilling.

Support Education - Join the 2025 Online Auction for Education!

The Danville San Ramon Rotary Club, in proud partnership with the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, is excited to announce the 2025 Online Auction for Education, taking place November 1–9. This long-standing community tradition raises critical funds for educational programs and support that serve learners of all ages throughout the San Ramon Valley and beyond.

We're currently seeking donations and sponsorships—and there are many ways you can get involved! Whether you're a local business looking to promote your services or a community member wanting to support a great cause, your contribution will help ensure the success of this impactful event. All proceeds from this event will be directed exclusively to educational programs and initiatives that foster lifelong learning and create meaningful, measurable impact for all learners, regardless of age.

Auction donations may include:

- Cash donations/sponsorships
- Sports tickets or memorabilia
- Hotel stays or travel packages
- Golf outings
- Gift cards for local shopping, dining, or services
- And much more!

Why participate?

Your business or organization will receive exposure to more than 50,000 community members and supporters through email campaigns, social media, event promotions, and community partnerships. It's a powerful way to show that you care about education here in the San Ramon Valley and beyond —while building brand recognition in a meaningful way.

Let's make this year's Online Auction for Education the most successful yet! Together, we can continue to foster lifelong learning and opportunity for all students in our community.

To learn more or to donate, please visit our [Auction Website](#), or email: auction@danvillesanramonrotary.org

Demotion Party Appreciation

We had an absolute blast at the Demotion Party for our 2024–2025 Danville San Ramon Rotary President, Chris Gayler. He was honored, he was gifted, and yes... he was thoroughly roasted

A huge thank you to Del and Nancy for graciously hosting the party at their amazing home! Their hospitality, warmth, and beautiful setup made everyone feel right at home—well, maybe even better than at home! We couldn't have asked for a better venue or a better host to celebrate Chris's successful year. They truly went above and beyond, and we are so grateful for their generosity.



Speaker Calendar

August 19 at 7:30-8:30 am – Guest Speaker: **David Behring**, former president of the Seattle Seahawks (1993–1997). Get ready for a behind-the-scenes look at the high-stakes world of the NFL! David will share what it was really like to run a professional football team—managing draft day decisions, team operations, and the challenge of keeping both players and fans engaged during some of the franchise's most turbulent years. Don't miss this rare insider perspective on NFL leadership.

August 26 at 12:00-1:15 pm – Guest Speaker: **Deborah Wiener**, 2024–2025 Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury member, international speaker, best-selling author, and business consultant. Deborah, now in a PR leadership role with the California Civil Grand Jury Association, will discuss the Civil Grand Jury's role in local government oversight. She'll be joined by **Charles Cerjan**, President of the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Association, to share insights on its impact in the community.

September 9 at 12:00-1:15 pm – Guest Speaker: **Kyle Lawhorn**, Marketing Director of Clare Computer Solutions. Kyle will share insights on the history of AI and its everyday applications. Don't miss this engaging look at how artificial intelligence is shaping the world around us!

Volunteer Opportunities



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

Join us for a visit to the Trinity Center in Walnut Creek!

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025

Trinity Center - Walnut Creek
1888 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek
12:00pm - 1:00pm

During our visit we will be given a tour of the site, including the **Rotary Technology Center**. After the visit, we will hand out donated gift cards to Trinity Center Members.

"Trinity Center Opens doorways to opportunity, offering vital safety nets services, case management and housing support for adults experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Trinity Center empowers individuals in their journey toward housing, financial stability, and overall wellness."

We are requesting donations of new items only, in any quantity:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. \$25.00 Target gift cards | 6. Q-tips |
| 2. 12oz/8oz hot paper cups | 7. White crew socks |
| 3. Disposable razors | 8. Medium mens/womens underwear |
| 4. Laundry detergent pods | 9. Ball caps |
| 5. Combs/Hairbrushes | 10. Backpacks (new or gently used) |

Bring gift cards or donated items to any meeting, or deliver/ship them to:
Karen McNamara 2547 Paddock Drive San Ramon, CA 94583
(Online purchases can also be shipped directly.)

[**Sign Up Here**](#)



THANK YOU

Auction for Education Sponsors!

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



Steve McKae

David Behring



BRONZE

Mike Conklin

Dennis Harvey & Kerry Richard

Art Kubal



Gary Sloan

Glen Weber





Meetings are held
at **Roundhouse
Conference Center**
2600 Camino
Ramon, San Ramon

**Meetings are the 1st/3rd Tuesdays of the month at
7:30 to 8:30 AM and 2nd/4th Tuesdays at 12:00 to
1:15 PM**

8/19 - Club meeting - 7:30 am
8/26 - Club meeting - 12:00 pm
9/2 - DARK (no meeting - Happy Labor Day!)
9/6 - District Bocce Ball Tournament - 9:30 am
9/9 - Club meeting - 12:00 pm
9/16 - Club meeting - 7:30 am
9/23 - Club meeting - 12:00 pm
9/24 - Trinity Center Visit - 12 pm
9/27 - Home Team
9/30 - Club meeting - 7:30 am
10/7 - Club meeting - 7:30 am
10/14 - Club meeting - 12:00 pm

Rotary International Mission & Vision

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.



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