

THE WALNUT LEAF

Rotary Club of Walnut Creek



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 5160 CLUB 465

2019-2020 Theme:

"Rotary Connects the World"

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Tuesday January 21, 2020

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**Today's Speakers: Marjorie "Maggie" Kane on "The History of Greyhounds" and
Stuart Homer from "Golden State Greyhound Adoption"**

A POLIO MINUTE FOR 2020

Let's go back in time to the early 1950's – when Frank Sinatra, Nate King Cole, and Patti Page filled the airwaves. The time when polio was at its worst. As reported in the book, Polio, An American Story, "The public was horribly and understandably frightened by polio. There was no prevention and no cure. Everyone was at risk, especially children... Every summer, polio would come like the Plague. Beaches and pools would close... Children had to stay away from crowds... banned from movie theaters, bowling alleys and the like... Every stomachache or stiffness caused a panic. Was it polio?"

The worst for a kid were the "...awful photos of children on crutches, in wheelchairs and iron lungs. And coming back to school in September to see the empty desks where the children hadn't returned."

Can you even imagine this today? In America? No. But what about the two countries that still report new cases of polio – Pakistan and Afghanistan? Think about it.

Back in 1955, April 12th to be exact, word spread across America that the Salk vaccine was

successful. Without cell phones, the internet or 24/7 news, people rose up together in celebration. As recounted, "Church bells tolled and factory whistles blew. People ran into the streets weeping. President Eisenhower invited Jonas Salk to the White House, where he choked up while thanking Salk for saving the world's children – an iconic moment." It was like the stories we've heard and movies we've seen of the end of WWII. Imagine, for a moment, when Polio is eradicated world-wide. Imagine the stories you'll share with your grandchildren. As a Rotarian, you're making history.



Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Jan 28 Judge Michael McCoy on "Our Constitution"



**Rotary Club of Walnut
Creek Crab Feed Fundraiser**
This Saturday January 25,
2020 5:30pm at the Pleasant
Hill Community Center,
320 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill CA

“Roll Out the Red Carpet For Rotary”

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