Manuel Cunha, Jr., President, Nisei Farmers League
"Immigration Reform"

Manuel Cunha Jr., President of Nisei Farmers League will discuss the economic importance of immigration reform and how it affects our Valley’s businesses. He will discuss the national efforts of advocacy and business groups working together to pass immigration reform and how those efforts are being implemented both nationally and locally for 2017.

Phil Meyer, President & CEO, Valley PBS
"Today's Program is Brought to you by the Number 40!"

Fresno Unified School District launched the educational television station KMTR, now known as ValleyPBS, on April 10, 1977. Forty years later, over 200,000 households from Merced to Bakersfield watch ValleyPBS every week. ValleyPBS is the Valley’s Preschool Classroom, Stage for the Arts and Lens for Exploration. Please join us to take a look back at the last 40 years, but also find out what is in store for the Valley’s only public television station. Blood drive today!

John Chiang, California State Treasurer
"California’s Financial Challenges"

Join us as we hear about a day in the life of California State Treasurer John Chiang: forging fiscal issues into tools for social change to improve conditions for all Californians. Make sure to register guests online for this exciting visit!

Business Awareness Day (BIZ Day)
"Celebrate Local Business"

Sign-ups are required in advance. Sing up online, at a meeting or Call the Rotary Office 559-453-2404. For many years, the Rotary Club of Fresno takes one Monday a year to emulate the early days of Rotary when Paul Harris and other community leaders “rotated” from office to office to have lunch and learn about other Rotarians businesses. Business Awareness Day (BIZ Day) is for Rotarians to learn more about fellow Rotarians and their businesses. Your host will provide lunch and a tour. This event will be in lieu of one regular Monday meeting and the lunch cost of $16.50 will reflect on your account (Those on lunch payment plans will not be charged for one lunch). Space is limited.

Express Guest Registration - register online so a printed name tag can be prepare or email office@fresnorotary.org before 10:00 a.m. on Mondays. If your guest is unable to attend, your account will not be charged for lunch.

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In Fresno County, one of every nine babies is born prematurely, which is one of the highest rates in California. Preterm births can cause serious physical and mental disabilities or even death before the baby’s first birthday, causing emotional and financial distress for families, which affects the overall health of the community. Each year across the world, one million preterm babies die within the first 28 days of life. Of the 14 million preterm babies who survive, many are faced with a lifetime of serious health complications. Prematurity is an epidemic with devastating consequences. Being born before 37 weeks of pregnancy is the leading cause of death worldwide in babies and children under age 5.

One of Rotary International’s six areas of focus is Maternal and Child Health and is the focus for the month of April. An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of 5 die each year due to malnutrition, inadequate healthcare and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented. Rotary provides education immunizations birth kits and mobile health clinics. Rotary programs improve women’s access to skilled health personnel: doctors, nurses, midwives or community health care workers. The Rotary Foundation reaches mothers and children in need by giving communities the help and training they need to take control of their own infant and maternal care. “If mothers are empowered and healthy, so are their families, leading to an alleviation of poverty and hunger” according to the founder of the Rotary Action Group for Health. Rotary projects to address the issues of Maternal and Child Health focus on sustainable projects with the largest collective impact.

The issue of Maternal and Child Health is not a “third world” issue. It is a “real world” issue, and as we have seen is a major issue right here in the Central Valley of California. Fresno County is one of six sites selected for the Preterm Birth Initiative, is part of a larger $100-million, 10-year Preterm Birth Initiative, led by the University of California, San Francisco, and funded by Lynne and Marc Benioff and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Alameda County and San Francisco are the other two U.S. locations, with international sites that include Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

As members of the Rotary Club of Fresno, do we have a role in addressing this major health issue? As “Rotarians serving Humanity”, we should support Rotary International efforts toward improving the quality of Health not only around the world but in our own community. One important way we support the Rotary Club Community Projects is through our Annual President’s Gala. We will gather April 22, 2017 at the Fasi Estate Winery, to enjoy fine wine and fellowship and listen to great music as we raise funds for various community projects. Please come and enjoy an evening at the Winery as we celebrate and raise funds for our community projects.

D. Duane Oswald
President 2016-17
Open the Gates to the Future

Support the New Entry at the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park

The Rotary Club of Fresno is at the end of a five-year plan to create a safe, elegant new entrance at the Rotary Amphitheater.

Now you have a chance to show your support!

The project has still needs substantial funds before construction can begin and your charitable donation will help bring this needed project to a close. Please consider a donation. You or your organization will receive recognition on the Leadership Circle and your gift is tax deductible.

For more information, please contact Gilbert Nye at 559.431.0101.

GOT BLOOD?

Join us Monday, April 10th at Cornerstone from 10:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. for this very important public service. If you are unable to donate—encourage a friend to come with you to Rotary that day and donate – their lunch will be on us!

Sign up by contacting John Richers (559) 709-7929 or john.richers@scouting.org

UNCORK THE SPIRIT OF GIVING!

Sat. April 22, 2017
5-9 p.m.

Enjoy FASI WINE tasting & food pairings!
Try your luck at lawn games! Decadent Desserts at sunset!
Dance under the stars to Live music by KING SUGAR!
Raise your Wine glass to support Club projects!

Register at fresnorotary.org or
Name (please print):

☐ Yes! I will be a $1,000 Award of Excellence Sponsor! Includes ten tickets and more!
☐ Yes! I want # _______ tickets at $65 each
☐ Yes! I will be a sponsor of raffle and/or live auction item(s)!
☐ Yes! I will be a $250 Lawn Game Sponsor!
☐ Yes! I will be a Dessert Sponsor!

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March 6
Mike Hamzy, member of the Rotary Club of Fresno, gave an insightful look into the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. He began his presentation with pictures of his father alongside Lawrence of Arabia as they worked to mobilize the revolt against the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, the British and French governments divided the Middle East into new states that the people are fighting over to this day. Today in Syria, Hamzy explained how men and women fight together against ISIS — the dark group that kidnapped Islam and is terrorizing the world. He described the refugee crisis and detailed how millions of displaced families are finding their way to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and corners of the world seeking a safe haven. Global aid is coming in and a serious effort is being made to provide health care and education for the nearly 12 million forced from their homes.

**Ringers:** Mark Townsend (2) was excited to announce the birth of his grandson, Lucas; Michele Cantwell-Copher (2) rang for the success of the most recent Academic Decathlon featuring World War II questions where University High won top honors; and Cliff Henes (3) and his family-run real estate business had celebrated their best year ever.

March 13
Brian Pacheco, District 1 Supervisor for Fresno County, claims not optimist or pessimist with community efforts but a realist. As a fourth generation dairy man, Pacheco described the importance of knowing where you came from so you can see where you’re going. After college he returned home to the family farm and helped it grow into the leading dairy producing facility in Fresno County over the last 10 years. Pacheco sees the issues facing Fresno County as a dynamic uphill climb. The current struggles focus on outdated infrastructure, water regulations threatening the ag community and a weaker justice system brought on by State initiatives. His goals include reaching out to Mayor Brand and the City of Fresno to work on mutually beneficial items to better serve the public.

**Ringers:** Cathy Ferguson (3) had two very young ladies at the platform with her to announce their goals as Girl Scout cookie sales kicked in gear. Mike Hamzy (aka Mr. Romantic) rang three times in gratitude for his wife’s efforts throwing him a surprise 60th birthday party; Gary Renner (2) was a proud papa when he announced his daughter’s recent honor receiving the Daisy Award for outstanding nursing at UCSF Children’s Hospital; Lynette Zelezny (2) challenged Rotarians to help fill the cupboards at Fresno State during their “March Match -up” to support the food needs of students; and Paula Castadio (2) gave her support for Fresno State’s food-drive efforts to raise the funds for 50,000 student meals and hygiene products.

March 20
Secretary Diana Dooley of the California Health and Human Services Agency was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. Secretary Dooley oversees 13 state departments in a wide range of services in the areas of health care. She is the bridge between the governor and the legislature and detailed how important it is for citizens to get involved day in and day out to help lead our country. Her focus is transparency and responsiveness in efforts to make public info easily accessible to earn the trust of the people. She is curious to see what comes of the Affordable Care Act after the upcoming vote.

**Ringers:** New member, Dave Clark, rang two times to invite folks to attend his 9-year-old daughter’s ballet competition against world-class adults; Lynette Zelezny (1) informed the group that enrollment for the Life-long Learning Program at Fresno State for men and women in their prime has begun; and Katie Rigby (2) was front and center to scramble golfers to sign up for the upcoming Golf Tournament on April 24 benefiting the Craig School of Business.

March 27
The presentation today featured outstanding individuals who were awarded with the Public Safety Heroes Award. Fresno County Sheriff’s Office Recipient: Deputy Tyler Hitter. Deputy Hitter has been with the department for more than a year and has made a huge impact in a short amount of time. His proactive investigative approach has helped him log 90 felony and 80 misdemeanors convictions. Deputy Hitter is humbled and thankful for the opportunity to serve. Fresno Fire Department Recipient: Captain Kerri Wedemeyer. A firefighter since 1996, Captain Wedemeyer is very deserving of the honor and exemplifies the four-way test. She has the reputation of being a tireless worker with a passion to serve our community. She is “living out her interview” and satisfying the desire to help others and make a difference. Fresno Police Department Recipient: Officer Richard Lujan. Officer Lujan joined the force in 2006. His current focus is home burglary. Through multiple search warrants and 100s of hours of investigation, Officer Lujan apprehended a prolific thief and now crime in that area has seen a significant decrease since the arrest. Officer Lujan is humbled and grateful to receive the award. California Highway Patrol Recipient: Officer Raul Gonzalez. Officer Gonzalez is a devoted father who is hard working and focused on high performance and earning the public’s trust. Backed by a helicopter, Officer Gonzalez was in an intense pursuit — on foot and in his patrol car — to apprehend three suspects and avoid a hostage situation. Through his professional assessment and tenacity, Officer Gonzalez helped apprehend all three and restore a safe environment. He credits his family for his success.

**Ringers:** Pete Pierre III (3) and his son, Pete Pierre (3), rang in honor of the distinction of being the only father/son duo to actively attend meetings and be Life Members. Congratulations, gentlemen.

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Welcome two new Members! **look for the red ring on badges to greet the newest Fresno Rotarians!**

Fred Funch is the owner of F.B. Funch & Company, Inc. (FBFCO). FBFCO is an Architectural Design firm which offers Urban Planning, CAD Management and Instruction. Fred has 47 years of design and urban planning experience; including many years of experience in the planning and expansion of Military Bases across the country, as well as designing homes in the United States and multiple other countries. Fred was the Board President/Executive Director for the Fresno Police Activities League for 15 years, and has four children. Fred’s classification is Architectural Design Planner and he is sponsored by Mike Hamzy.

Bob Nelson is the interim Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District. He has been in education for 26 years. He and his wife, Tiffany, have seven children and are active in other community activities including foster Care and church activities. His classification is Superintendent and he is sponsored by Michele Cantwell-Copher.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** WALT PARRISH – April 11, 2017 and ROBERT OLIVER – April 18, 2017

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** February 28: 260 active (18 new Members, One reinstatement, 10 Resignations and two deaths), 41 honorary. (July 1, 2016 253 active, 41 honorary). **Net SEVEN!**

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:** The wheelchair delivery trip is planned for June or July – those interested should contact Lawrence Preston.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:** The 2017-18 planning retreat is Thursday April 27 from 7:30-10 a.m. at San Joaquin Country Club. The District Club & Leadership Training (CLTA) is Saturday, April 8 from 9-1. The District business meeting is at 2 p.m. Sign up online.

**SPORTS DAY and DINNER** **MONDAY, MAY 8th, 2017**

**GOLFERS:** Fig Garden Golf Course. Tee times start at 11:30 a.m. with 8 minute intervals- $65 each (Includes green fee, cart, range balls, & drink tickets).

**DINNER:** Fig Garden Golf Course, 5:30 p.m. no host bar, 6:00 p.m. dinner, guests are welcome! Come and win a wonderful door prize! $16.50 per person for a Chicken, Steak, or Vegan/Vegetarian Meal. (*Those on meal payment plan will not be charged for one adult meal.*)

**NO MEETING AT CORNERSTONE—THIS DINNER IS THE ROTARY MEETING FOR MAY 8TH!**

**TARGET SHOOTING:** Meet at the Range Pistol Club: 5151 N Gates Ave, Fresno, CA 93722. (559) 277-9800 anytime between 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For this event "The Range" is waiving their fee for the use of the facility. Members can rent firearms and buy ammo or bring their own. First time shooters welcome, Instructors available!

**BOWLING:** Meet at the AMF Sierra Lanes, 6450 N. Blackstone Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (Blackstone & Sierra) from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Cost $: pay the bowling alley

**Raffle Sponsors!** Have your account billed for an amount or bring items to Rotary/Rotary office by Monday, May 1st. The Rotary Club of Fresno, tax id #94-0818249, is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization and contributions are not deductible for federal tax income purposes. However, check with your tax advisor for possible trade or business expenses deductions. Sorry, no refunds after Monday, May 1st.

Visit [www.fresnorotary.org](http://www.fresnorotary.org) to view our calendar, register for events, link to Facebook and more!
April Anniversaries


April Birthdays

# Bulletin Editor
Jeff Rickels  jrickels@nwc.org

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**April 2017**

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<td><strong>12:00P</strong> ROTARY LUNCH, Manuel Cunha, Jr.</td>
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<td><strong>11:00A</strong> COGS Committee Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>7:30A</strong> Amphitheater Committee Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>11:00A</strong> Program Committee Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>9:00P</strong> -9th Annual Presidents Gala at Fasi Estate Winery</td>
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