



Les Ottolenghi

Fortune 500 Senior Technology & Cybersecurity Executive



Les Ottolenghi is a seasoned Fortune 500 senior technology and cybersecurity executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in publicly traded corporations and high-growth startups. Currently, he serves as the Chief Commercial Officer for Lee Enterprises Inc. His prior roles include Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Caesars Entertainment, where he led digital transformation initiatives that significantly boosted EBITDA and pioneered innovative loyalty and marketing systems. Les also co-founded BlackFire, the world's largest business innovation center, and held key leadership roles at Stride Inc., Las Vegas Sands, and Carlson Wagonlit, earning recognition as CIO of the Year by CIO Magazine, Gartner Group, and others.

Les has deep expertise in digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. He serves as an independent board member for Codere Group Inc. and Neurun Inc., advising on advanced product strategies and digital innovation. Earlier in his career, he founded startups like AgentWare, which evolved into Kayak.com. A Woodruff Scholar, Les graduated magna cum laude with an MBA in Decision Information Analysis from Emory University and a bachelor's degree from Duke University. He continues to contribute to industry advancements as a board advisor to leading tech firms and venture capital groups.



Our last message of the first half. We end the "Golden Age" of Hollywood with Maureen O'Hara, a renowned Irish-American actress with a long and successful career in Hollywood. O'Hara was known for her strong, independent female characters, often in Westerns and adventure films. She starred alongside iconic actors like John Wayne, James Stewart, and Charles Laughton. Some of her most famous films include "The Quiet Man," "Miracle on 34th Street," and "Rio Grande."

Known as the "Queen of Technicolor", her striking red hair and vibrant personality made her a perfect fit for the Technicolor films of the 1940s and 1950s. In 2011, O'Hara was formally inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame. She was also named the president of the Universal Film & Festival Organization (UFFO), which promotes a code of conduct for film festivals and the film industry.

In November 2014, she was presented with an Honorary Academy Award with the inscription "To Maureen O'Hara, one of Hollywood's brightest stars, whose inspiring performances glowed with passion, warmth and strength".

With this, we end the stars of Hollywood comparison of hard work, ethics and a charitable heart. Next half we'll tie stellar female authors to Rotarians and the accomplishments of our international organization. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you!

Let's Build Something Together!

December 19, 2024

WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

What We Have Accomplished.

DID YOU KNOW?

SEPTEMBER

- **Community Grant issued to Opportunity Village for \$2,000.00 for their Pre-ETS Program.**

OCTOBER

- **Community Grant issued to Nevada Sunshine Organization for \$5,000.00 to help fund summer camp for kids living with Autism.**
- **Community Grant issued to CORE for \$2,500.00 for their STEM Education Kits for youth scholars.**

THE LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB'S MISSION:

Teaching Youth to Succeed through Literacy, Education & Life Skills Development

THE LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB

CLUB OFFICERS 2024-2025

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Kirk Alexander

President Elect

Janice Lencke

Immediate Past President

Toni Kern

Secretary

Susan Ziobro

Treasurer

Rita Burton

Elected Directors

Dan Adamson

Niki Bates

Tina Bishop

Carey Grohs

David Jones

Greg Maguire

Melanie Jo Muldowney

John Palley

Sarah Thornton

Past President Representative

Randy Donald



President Kirk and Speaker Antonio Castelan receiving his Sole Power Award



Gregg Townsend from the Summerlin Club and Palo Verde HS Principal Daniel Liles



Head table speaker Antonio Castelan, Tarby Bryant and Susan Ziobro



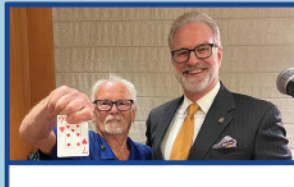
Bob Werner welcomed an international guest from Austria



Happy Birthday Bill Stieren, David Jones, Randy Donald and Jimmelle Trijo



RYE student Anika Sinclair, President Kirk and Anika's mother, Tania



No joker for Bob Werner!



Don Holland, Randy Campanale and Brock Fraser volunteer at the Magical Forest



The last 25 Club meeting of the year

SCRIBE – DECEMBER 12, 2024

President Kirk called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

Shawn Sennett gave the Invocation and **Larry Goldstein** led us in singing verse and chorus of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Newly elected Board Member **Don Holland** was Sergeant-at-Arms and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **President Kirk** led us in the reciting the 4 Way Test.

In today's Rotary Moment, **Sarah Thorton** shared her experience as host family for our Rotary Youth Exchange student from New Zealand, Anika Sinclair, who is finishing her year program.

President Kirk thanked all who helped in today's meeting and introduced at the Head Table our guest speaker Antonio Castelan of Brightline West, **Tarby Bryant**, and **Susan Ziobro**.

Recognizing Guest of Rotarians, **Sarah Thorton** introduced Daniel Liles, Assistant Principal at Palo Verde High School, who had beaming praises of Anika Sinclair, including being President of the Palo Verde Interact Club. **Mijung Lombardi** introduced a colleague as her guest. **Kimberly McMahon** introduced RYE Anika Sinclair's father, mother, and two brothers in attendance today. **Toni Kern** introduced a retired CCFD Chief. Greg Townsend was visiting from the Summerlin Club. **Greg Maguire** introduced Jason Engel from **Westcare Foundation**.

For International Guests, **Bob Werner** introduced Bryan Wylkes visiting from Vienna, Austria.

At the Birthday Table today was **Jimmelle Trijo**, **Randy Donald** who is celebrating 26 years in the club, **David Jones** who birthday is this Sunday, **Bill Stieren** who is "carbon-dated" at 19 years in the club. **Tarby Bryant**, seated at the Head Table, was fined \$500 for not being at the Birthday Table. **David Jones** led us in singing Happy Birthday! to all.

At the Education Table today, **Gwen Hall** recapped on the latest Breakfast With Books, and introduced Bracken ES Principal who gave a special thank you to the club. **Michael Williams** introduced Walter Long ES Principal who was accompanied by a Reading Teacher and thanked the club for the candies for their fall event. **Stu Lipoff** introduced Hollingsworth ES Assistant Principal who was accompanied by a 5th Grade Teacher and gave an update on grant money recently awarded.

President Kirk recognized all who take part in Rotary Youth Exchange, and introduced our RYE student Anika Sinclair who presented her year-long program as the "best year of my life!" Anika's mother, who herself had a life changing RYE experience in 1997, gave a warm thank you to Rotary and a special thank you to the club for hosting her daughter. In lieu of a banner exchange, Anika's mother presented the club a special set of wine glass from the Davenport Rotary Club in New Zealand.

In the raffle, **Bob Werner** did not pull the Joker, and **Bert Reiner** won Lawry's Bucks.

Tarby Bryant introduced our guest speaker Antonio Castelan, Director of Public Affairs at Brightline West, who talked about "the most exciting project in America today" with Q&A.

President Kirk presented Antonio with a Sole Power Award, gave closing words from RI President Stephanie Urchick, and adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.

25 CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Rodney Tucker

Vice President:

Debi Howard

Secretary:

Liz Rothwell

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Executive Director: Shawn Noorda

CALENDAR

LAS VEGAS ROTARY FOUNDATION 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

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Vice President:

Pete Samuolis

Secretary:

Brian Sorrentino

Treasurer:

Rosalee Hedrick

Immediate Past President:

William Stieren

Senior Members:

Randy Campanale

Steve Casey

Paul Maffey

Lawrence Rouse

Thomas Thomas

Gary Vause

Trustees:

Kirk Alexander

Mike Ballard

Janice Lencke

David Thorson

December 19 – Les Ottolenghi, Technology & AI Impact on Resort Casinos

December 26 – (DARK)

January 2 – (DARK)

January 9 – Lt. Governor Stavros Anthony, State of Nevada

January 9 – 25 Club Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

January 11 – Highway Cleanup - 9:00 a.m.

January 16 – Financial Literacy for our Children and Young Adults,
Ray Wilson, Silver State Schools Credit Union

January 23 – Reid Int'l. Airport and Ivanpah Airport Plans,
Rosemary Vassiliadis, Clark County Dept. of Aviation

January 30 – Four-Way Speech Contest

February 6 – Judith Pinkerton, Music for Life

February 13 – TBD

February 20 – Dan Stover Music Competition

Current Raffle Amount \$3,302.00

PAST PRESIDENTS

Michael Hoover	1980-81	James R. Tucker	2002-03
Donald L. Aikin*	1981-82	Kathy Dalvey*	2003-04
Joseph J. Buckley*	1982-83	Steve Casey	2004-05
Irwin Kishner*	1983-84	Ned Phillips	2005-06
James Cashman III*	1984-85	Brock Fraser	2006-07
Mike Meyer	1985-86	Randy Campanale	2007-08
Doug L. Peterson*	1986-87	Russ Swain	2008-09
M.J. Wiens, Jr.	1987-88	Karen Whisenhunt	2009-10
Keith W. Bassett*	1988-89	Tom Axtell	2010-11
Kenneth E. Miller*	1989-90	Sharon McNair	2011-12
James M. Gamett	1990-91	Randy Donald	2012-13
Robert L. Moore	1991-92	Ginger Anderson	2013-14
Robert L. Forbuss*	1992-93	Steve Linder	2014-15
Gary A. Martin	1993-94	Mary Ann Avnet	2015-16
John A. Smith	1994-95	David Thorson	2016-17
Caty Crockett	1995-96	Dr. Michael Gordon	2017-18
Clifford R. Beadle	1996-97	James Kohl	2018-19
Ralph J. Rohay	1997-98	Jacqueline Thornhill	2019-20
Dr. James M. Jones*	1998-99	Richard Jost	2020-21
Tom A. Thomas	1999-00	Mike Ballard	2021-22
Tom J. Krob	2000-01	Caty Crockett	2022-23
James E. Hunt	2001-02	Toni Kern	2023-24

The Four-Way Test OF The Things We Think, Say Or Do.

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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<http://fifthwheel.lvrrotary.us>

December Rotarian Birthdays

<i>Tarby Bryant</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Robert Marshall</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Steve Dixon</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Rob Pistone</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Randy Donald</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Brian Riley</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Elliotte Fajardo</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>William Stieren</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Jason Frederico</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Jimmelle Trijo</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>David Jones</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>15</i>			

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