



# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

## Hanna Malak — Okizu

Hanna Malak visited our Rotary Club today to share his story about Okizu. Hanna was born and raised in San Mateo, CA and was first introduced to Okizu 20 years ago when his older brother was diagnosed with leukemia. Thankfully, his brother is healthy and just became a registered nurse. Okizu played such an important role in Hanna's life and helped him deal with his brother's illness. Hanna is now on the Board of Directors of Okizu and is an active volunteer. Hanna was here to help spread the word!



Okizu actually means unity. The mission of Okizu is to provide peer support, medically supervised respite, mentoring, and recreational programs to meet the needs of all members of Northern California families coping with childhood cancer. The program has been serving families since 1982 and has helped over 10,000 kids and family members. Hanna is passionate about what Okizu has to offer and shared by utilizing several videos, providing us valuable information and telling us heart-warming stories about Okizu. He shared a very touching story about Sawyer and camp Okizu.

Summer camp, located in Berry Creek, CA, offers three full weeks of camp experiences to kids undergoing cancer treatments. The camp also offers four weeks of camp experiences to siblings of kids with cancer — giving them a chance to “shine” since often the focus is on the ill child rather than the sibling. There are also family camps (9 weekends), Teens-N- Twenties camps, and even a bereavement teen weekend camp. Doctors and nurses are on duty 24-7. Camp Rule #1: Have fun...be safe first.

To watch a short video about this camp, visit <https://youtu.be/Tlk5W9MfFNE> or <https://youtu.be/BcypEqq-1EM>. Cheryl Jennings, ABC7, has been reporting about this camp for many years and there are a variety of videos available on YouTube to help you learn more about Okizu.

This past year, Okizu offered 9 weekend camps, served 1348 families, and had 332 volunteer staff members for the weekend camps. Okizu also offered 7 summer camps, served 692 campers, and had 453 volunteer staff members. **So what can we do to help?** Donate. Volunteer at a camp session. Volunteer at a work weekend. Volunteer at a fundraising event. Host a fundraising event. And help spread the word! Thank you, Hanna, for sharing your passion and love for this great camp! Hanna's email: [hanna@Okizu.org](mailto:hanna@Okizu.org). The Okizu webpage is: [www.okizu.org](http://www.okizu.org)

## Noteworthy

- \* The Benicia Library will be hosting a **Trivia Bee** on **February 24** from 6:00 - 9:30 PM. Our Rotary Club will again provide the bar service. We have two shifts: 5:30 - 7:30, and 7:30 - 9:30. Your help is needed. See Mario Giuliani for more information or to sign up for a shift! BTW — Eric Hoglund will be the emcee at this event.
- \* A reminder: Our club will be meeting at our regular time at **12:15 PM**, but at the **Camel Barn Museum** on **February 13**. NEXT week! Don't forget!
- \* Another reminder: Our club will NOT be meeting at our regular time but will meet at **5:30 PM** on **February 27** at **Estey Real Estate** (216 First St). Appetizers will be provided. Bring your beverage of choice.
- \* The **Rotary Night of Honor** for Firefighters is scheduled for **Friday, March 23** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfield, CA. No host at 6:00 PM, and dinner at 7:00 PM. Our club sponsors a table, which means we have tickets for you to use! If interested, contact Diane Smikahl.
- \* The fourth annual **Swing for Success Golf Tournament** for Liberty High School is **Wednesday, April 18** from 1 to 6 at Blue Rock. 9-hole tournament with dinner included! For more information or to sign up and help support this great event, contact Christ Winder at [cwinder@beniciaunified.org](mailto:cwinder@beniciaunified.org).
- \* Our big fundraiser golf tournament is **Friday, August 10**. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! So even if you plan to play, please plan to help, too. More information is coming, but in the meantime, mark your calendars.

## Happy Dollars!

- \* Susan Hurl was our Sergeant-at-arms today as Jim was away. She didn't have a bucket to collect the fines since Jim must have taken the bucket with him, so she just used her purse!
- \* Susan immediately fined Jack Bell, as she felt he said the pledge too quickly, Scott Reep for making some smart remark, and Jim Lessenger, probably on general principles.
- \* It was Scott Reep's birthday last week, so he went to San Diego to visit daughter Alex for his birthday. Since he was 57, he was \$57 dollars + \$5 dollar (smart remark) happy for a total of \$62

- \* It was Scott Reep’s birthday last week, so he went to San Diego to visit daughter Alex for his birthday. Since he was 57, he was \$57 dollars + \$5 dollar (smart remark) happy for a total of \$62 dollars. Jack Bell led a birthday song for Scott.....again with a quick cadence.
- \* Steve McClure asked if anyone remembered who sang for Scott last year? Of course, it was Steve... solo. (I still have it on video!) That was worth \$5 for Steve.
- \* Jim Lessenger also had a birthday and received a GOOGLE jacket from the Google Company Store since his son-in-law is employed by Google. He also turned 70 so he was \$70 happy.
- \* Sue Hutch was \$5 happy as she had visited EscapeSF with hubby, daughter, and daughter’s beau. This was a Christmas gift to the kids — a puzzle room that you have one hour to figure out the puzzle and “escape.” A very fun time!
- \* Bill Pugh was fined \$5 as he could not remember where our club is meeting on February 27.
- \* Mario did not get a fine because he was aware of the location of our February 27 meeting. (I think that means Jim Trimble pays since Mario got this answer correct .....
- \* Darrell Doi was happy as his daughter turned 16. The family went to SF and took the daughter and her friend “thrift store” shopping which was quite an event. He was \$5 happy.
- \* Jon Dwyer was \$20 happy as Benicia now has a new Rotary sign across from Baskin Robbins. He also talked briefly about his Governor event that he recently attended — about how the women were given scarves — and that there had to be hundreds of ways to wear them!
- \* Steve McClure added another \$1 to his previous \$5 donation as he was emcee at the Benicia Chamber dinner recently. There was a dessert auction and over \$4000 was raised.
- \* Scott Reep donated more money — \$2 for help given to him by fellow Rotarians for Camp Royal and Interact. He also gave \$5 for Marlene Straberger’s announcement.
- \* Marlene Straberger, our inward bound student, has an **Improv Show** at Benicia High School on **February 23**. Also, she helped with a fundraiser for Mary Farmer Elementary school by helping with a play and dinner. She said it was *very* fun!

The Rotary Clubs of Solano County  
Present  
**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
A NIGHT OF HONOR**  
To Recognize The Firefighters Of The Year  
From Solano County Fire Departments

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 23, 2018

FAIRFIELD  
HILTON GARDEN INN



No-host Cocktails 6:00 pm  
\$40.00 per person  
Dress — Business Casual  
\*Table Sponsor: \$400 eight seats  
No tickets will be sold at the door.

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:**

Cordelia.....Candy Pierce.....	707-953-3735
Dixon.....Steve Bird.....	707-685-5217
Fairfield-Suisun.....Tom Myers.....	707-439-6980
Vacaville.....Mike Vieira.....	707-592-4118
Vacaville Sunrise.....Chris Kistner.....	707-483-7803
Pio Vista.....Lee Williams.....	707-689-3960
Fairfield-Suisun.....Ed Lydon.....	707-333-8390

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\* All proceeds used to defray expenses. This donation may not be 100% tax deductible.

**4th Annual  
Swing for Success  
Golf Tournament  
Liberty High**

April 18, 2018  
1-6 pm

Blue Rock Springs Golf Course  
655 Columbus Parkway Vallejo CA  
more information or register with  
Chris Winder at [cwinder@beniciaunified.org](mailto:cwinder@beniciaunified.org)

