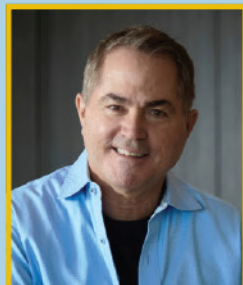




## Len Jessup

### Visionary Leader in Higher Education



"Len Jessup is a visionary leader in higher education, accomplished entrepreneur, and startup investor with a distinguished career spanning academia and business. A two-time university president and business school dean, Jessup has dedicated his life to fostering innovation, leadership, and economic growth.

Born into a family of Italian immigrant entrepreneurs, Jessup inherited a passion for business that shaped his career. He earned a doctorate in Management and Organizational Behavior from the University of Arizona, with a minor in Management Information Systems, along with an MBA and a bachelor's degree in Information and Communication Studies from California State University, Chico. As the first in his family to graduate from college, he is deeply committed to creating opportunities for others through education and economic development.

Jessup's career highlights include serving as president of Claremont Graduate University, where he led a member institution of the prestigious Claremont College consortium, and as president of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where he championed public-private partnerships and spearheaded initiatives to elevate UNLV to a Carnegie R1

research institution. Under his leadership, UNLV expanded its tech transfer and commercialization capabilities, laying the groundwork for the launch of Black Fire Capital, a venture capital fund aimed at university-based startups.

Earlier in his career, Jessup served as dean of the business schools at the University of Arizona and Washington State University, where he built nationally ranked programs and supported groundbreaking initiatives like large-scale business plan competitions and innovative technology transfer models. His expertise in leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, and organizational change has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious CEO Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VII.

After retiring as president of Claremont Graduate University, Jessup returned to Las Vegas, where he serves as a Fellow at the Lincy Institute at UNLV, focusing on building the region's startup ecosystem. He is also the managing partner of Desert Forge Ventures, which will launch in early 2025 to drive innovation in sectors such as AI, health care, clean tech, and biotech.

Jessup's lifelong dedication to fostering economic development and education is rooted in his entrepreneurial heritage. His work continues to transform communities and inspire others to pursue their dreams, just as his Italian immigrant parents and grandparents once did.

His latest book, *Self Less*, published by Forbes, is an Amazon Best Seller, reflecting his philosophy of leadership grounded in service, vision, and impact."

#### LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS 2024-2025

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February 13, 2025

## 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?

##### DECEMBER

- **\$3,500.00 Grant to New Horizon Academy for band equipment and professional outfitting.**

##### JANUARY

- **\$33,333.33 donation made to Santa Clothes by a longtime member, Chris Rodenfels.**
- **\$20,000.00 donated by members to support CA fire victims.**
- **\$1,500.00 Grant made to CASA Foundation, Children's Foundation of Las Vegas for Tutoring of Foster Youth.**

### 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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Margaret Atwood's works delve into profound themes, including gender and identity, religion and myth, the power of language, climate change, and the complexities of power dynamics in political, social, and personal spheres. Inspired by myths and fairy tales from a young age, she didn't attend full-time school until 12.

Her 1985 dystopian masterpiece, "The Handmaid's Tale," remains her most renowned work. This chilling novel explores the terrifying consequences of female oppression, reproductive control, and religious extremism in a totalitarian society. Atwood is a master of dystopian fiction, brilliantly portraying the potential dangers of unchecked power, technological advancements, and environmental degradation.

Recognized as one of the most influential and acclaimed authors of our time, Atwood's works have been translated into over 30 languages and garnered numerous prestigious awards, including the Booker Prize. A passionate advocate for environmental protection, she seamlessly weaves environmental themes into her literary creations.

Atwood's long-term vision of how time shapes human existence, for better or worse, provides invaluable perspective on our current circumstances and the expectations we should have of each other. The Four-Way Test – elegantly encapsulates the core values of care and concern for all that resonate throughout her work.

Have a fantastic week!

*Let's Build Something Together!*

*Kirk*

## SCRIBE – FEBRUARY 6, 2025

**President Kirk** called the meeting to order at 12:16pm. **Tarby Bryant** gave the invocation. New 25 Club Secretary **Hank Huang** was inspired by the recent Bob Dylan movie to lead song with a clip of "Blowing in the Wind." **Tucker Sappington** was Sergeant-at-Arms and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **President Kirk** led us in reciting the 4 Way Test.

**President Kirk** thanked all who set up and helped in today's meeting and introduced at the Head Table our guest speaker and former member Judith Pinkerton, **Tarby Bryant** and **Larry Cohn**.

**President Kirk** then recognized **Jim Tucker** to randomize the Superbowl Board Randomizer.

Visiting Rotarian **Geno Reyes**, President of the Vegas Verde Rotary Club, had a guest musician. Recognizing guests, **Randy Campanale** gave all credit to **Steve Casey's** better half for his wife Karen who is his guest today, and **Stu Lipoff** introduced his son who is visiting. **Melanie Muldowney** introduced a guest of the Club, and followed up with an invitation to all to the New Member Orientation tonight at her new home.

**President Kirk** informed the Superbowl Board is sold out, wished all who are on the Board "good luck," and reminded all to RSVP to Shawn for the meetings.


In announcements, **Gwen Hall** prefaced the recent Breakfast with Books as "the biggest in a long time." **Karen Whisenhunt** introduced Hannah Roth, our RYE student from Austria in attendance today, asked for host families and drivers for the upcoming RYE Las Vegas Tour, and talked about the upcoming District Assembly and District Conference. **Rosalee Hedrick**, Chair of Corporate Tours, talked about the CAE tour on Feb 25. **Don Holland**, Wetzel Awards Chair, invited all to Nellis AFB for the Wetzel Award next Thursday, and gave a brief review of this 25-year program started in 2000. **David Jones** reported the 4 Way Test Speech Contest went great last week, we have student for the upcoming Dan Stover Music Competition, have nine open slots for RYLA, and was able to get a sixth adult volunteer for RYLA approved. **Karen Whisenhunt** shared that RYE Hannah is available for babysitting and similar kind of help to earn funds for their big RYE 20-state Train Tour.

Ambitioned to get the "second half" "back online" "with the Magic of Rotary" to "Build Something Together," **President Kirk** introduced our guest speaker Judith Pinkerton, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Rotarian, who shared her Rotary Moment was experiencing Habitat for Humanity with her brother. **President Kirk** then encouraged all to invite their significant other to our Sweethearts Lunch next week, and recognized at the Birthday Table **Steve Casey**, **Pete Samuolis**, and **Bob Werner**. We sang *Happy Birthday* to all February birthdays.

In the raffle, **Elliott Harris** did not find the Joker, and **Caty Crockett** won Lawry's Bucks.

**Michael Williams** invited all to a movie night, details TBD. **Caty Crockett** auctioned her Lawry's Bucks to benefit Hannah, and Patrick Ballinger's \$80 bid won \$50 Lawry's Bucks!

**President Kirk** introduced our guest speaker Judith Pinkerton, who talked about the "Magic of Music." **President Kirk** presented Judith with a Happy Feet Sole Power award, closed with words from RI President Stephanie Urchick and adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.



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## CALENDAR

**February 13**

Wetzel Awards 3:00 pm

**February 15-17**

Mayor's Cup – Host Families Needed February 11-21

**February 20**

Dan Stover Music Competition

**February 20-21**

Financial Literacy Service Opportunity

**February 25**

CAE Las Vegas Corporate Tour

**February 27**

Chefs for Kids Volunteer Opportunity 7:30 am

**February 27**

Las Vegas Mayor Shelley Berkley

**March 6-9**

Rotary Youth Exchange Las Vegas Visit Host Families & Drivers Needed

**March 11**

Rotary District 5300 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

**April 8**

Beckley Elementary Breakfast with Books 7:30 am



*President Kirk Alexander  
and Elliott Harris*



*Melanie Muldowney  
and Riley Driggs*



*Birthday Table: PP Steve Casey,  
PP Katie Crockett, Pete Samoullis  
and Bob Werner.*



*Head Table: Judith Pinkerton, Tarby Bryant,  
Larry Cohn and President Kirk Alexander*



*Bob Peiser and Lea Heavilin  
helping with raffle tickets*



*PP Toni Kern and Lisa Habighorst  
at The Spread the Word Nevada Gala*



*Guest Speaker Judith Pinkerton  
and President Kirk Alexander*



*Judith Pinkerton  
sharing her Rotary Moment*



*25 Club Members attending  
the New Member Orientation*

# Current Raffle Amount \$4,587.00

## February Rotarian Birthdays

**Steven S. Casey**

**February**

**8**

**William K. Stephan, MD**

**February**

**24**

**Ryan Hamilton**

**February**

**23**

**Robert G. Werner**

**February**

**5**

**John Palley**

**February**

**15**

**John Williams**

**February**

**23**

**Peter R. Samoullis**

**February**

**2**





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