

Mr. San Diego 2014



Craig Nelson
Editor

Principals to live by, holding the author a secret until the end...her father Tom, the recipient of today's award. The the Pledge of Allegiance and *Star Spangled Banner* were led by **Steve Hubbard** and accompanied by **Suzy Spafford**.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer took the stage with some glowing words for one of his mentors, and to declare it Tom Hom Day in the City of San Diego. Upon learning that Tom had once been re-elected to the City Council with 87% of the vote, Kevin suggested a follow-up meeting may be in order!

The venerable **Bert Wahlen** presented the news and it was all bad – the Dow was off, ISIS plotting, Holder ousted. The only good news was Bert's joke and that we were here to celebrate Tom Hom.

Past President **Fred Frye** was brought to the dais. In the essence of time and as the model of efficiency. Fred may have set the new standard for welcoming the visiting Rotarians. He asked them to stand in unison; we clapped; they sat. Bravo!

Fred did a marvelous job of explaining the history of the Mr. San Diego award. After 27 years of selecting Mr. San Diego in a shadowy smoke-filled room at the Grant Grille, **George Gildred** and the past Club 33 Presidents took over the duty of selecting Mr. San Diego in 1976. Of the 61 who came before Tom Hom, an impressive 13 were in the audience today:

- ***Betty Jo Williams**
- ***Bishop George McKinney**
- ***Deborah Szekely**
- ***George Gildred**
- ***Cecil Steppe**
- ***Hal Sadler**
- ***Yvonne Larsen**
- ***Bob Payne**

President Michelle called the meeting to order before a huge crowd in anticipation of the celebration of Mr. San Diego – Tom Hom. The Inspirational Moment was delivered smoothly by **Gayle Hom** who recited several prin-

- ***Joe Craver**
- ***Peter Ellsworth**
- ***Steve Cushman**
- ***Darlene Davies – widow of Lowell**
- ***Betty Peabody – widow of Homer**

It's fortunate that the Hom family has a long history in real estate because Tom is going to need a new wing at his home for all of the plaques and awards he was given. In addition to the Mr. San Diego Award and the "Tom Hom Day" plaque from Mayor Faulconer, **Ron Roberts** presented him an award from the Board of Supervisors, one from Toni Atkins on behalf of the State Assembly, and one from Susan Davis on behalf of Congress.

Last year's recipient Steve Cushman took to the podium to pass the torch and to reflect on a 50-year friendship with Tom. There is quite a history between the Cushman and Hom families and you could tell how much joy Steve took in being able to present the award to his lifelong friend.

The more difficult part for Steve had to be whittling down the speakers list to **Tyler Cramer, Joe Horiye and Will Newbern**, each of whom did a fantastic job of relating Tom Hom stories. But I imagine there were dozens more who would have liked to be at the podium telling their stories as well. Tyler had a great story of Tom's calm in the face of adversity and crisis. Joe spoke of Tom's fundamental belief that one person can make a difference, and in speaking of Tom, referred to him as a "mentor and a friend" – perhaps the most repeated phrase of the afternoon. Joe shared the impact of one of Tom's 18 guiding truths: "The main thing in life is not security, it's courage" and what it meant to Joe.

Having spent 42 years with Tom, Will Newbern could probably have told stories for days but a couple really showed Tom's vision as well as his grace and style under pressure. Recounting Tom's ability to bring together City Government, established powers, sleazy bar owners and porn vendors to make Gaslamp a reality was a bit surreal – perhaps even for a visionary like Tom.

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NEXT MEETING

October 2

Beyond a Drought: Water Reliability for the San Diego Region

With drought conditions worsening, how is the San Diego region working to ensure we will have the safe, reliable water supplies needed in the future to sustain our dynamic economy and quality of life? A panel of local water leaders will address the issue, discussing the region's history of water reliability investments and new sources in development such as the Carlsbad Desalination Project and the Pure Water San Diego program.

Moderator:
Maureen Stapleton
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

Speakers:
Dennis Cushman
Assistant General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

Peter MacLaggan
Vice President
Poseidon Resources

Halla Razak
Director of Public Utilities Dept.
City of San Diego



Peter MacLaggan
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

Grotarian Committee Meetings

Effective October 2, the Grotarian Committee meetings will take place on the first Thursday of every month, instead of on the 2nd Thursday.

Please go online to our website to register for the **Fall Tennis Tournament on October 1st at 5:00 pm.**

COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Helping at Both Ends of the Leash Committee (formerly the Animal Appreciation Committee) will be having their first event on Saturday, October 25th at the San Diego Humane Society from 9 am –12 pm. Join us for a morning of fellowship and animal enrichment. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lisa Miller at lsmiller@san.rr.com

The club's cost for lunch at Liberty Station is \$30. **As such, we are increasing the price of lunches for our guests to \$30** which is a breakeven point for the club. The lunch price for members will remain subsidized at \$28.

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Arnhym	Sept	30
Christy White		30
Mike Morton, Jr.	Oct	1
Buddy Thomas		1
Greg Augustine		1
Mark Stuart		1
Cindy Marten		3
Tom Gehring		3
Mary Lyons		4
Claudia Johnson		4

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continued

The trials and tribulations of besting 9 suitors to become the first Asian-run TV station in San Diego was highlighted by Tom's brokering a deal by asking all the attorneys to leave the room so they could strike a deal. Even the attorneys thought that was funny.

Finally, we heard from Tom himself. He recounted his father's immigration to San Diego, his upbringing as one of 12 kids, and the lessons they were taught growing up that stick with him to this day. The mentors in his life included a school principal who taught him he belonged, and a war hero who supported his dream of becoming a public official. It was obvious that he held those mentors in great esteem and value, and he paid that forward by becoming a mentor to so many people in the room today, as well as those not able to attend. Ever the humble civic servant, Tom recounted looking at the iconic list of the 61 Mr./Mrs./Ms. San Diego that had gone before him and asking himself, "Do I belong on this list?" Then displaying his quick wit he quipped "I'll take it!" It was the first time all day Tom Hom had been wrong. Sitting in the middle of the room I'm not sure I have ever experienced an award ceremony where the audience was palpably so happy and satisfied that the recipient truly deserved the honor bestowed upon him. The question was not "Does Tom Hom belong on this list?" It was "what took so long?"

As the program concluded and I headed to the parking lot with the impossible task of squeezing all this into the Rotator, I was thinking Tom Hom's list of accomplishments, accolades and awards were several pages long all by themselves – how was I ever going to get this to fit? Executive Director **Paul Devermann** even jokingly asked, "Did you get all that?" You bet. You see at age 87 Tom Hom had already bailed me out by writing a book on his life. It's titled "Rabbit on a Bumpy Road" and I'm buying it on Amazon tonight when I get home!

MEMBERSHIP

The following applicants were recommended to the Board of Directors by the Membership Committee and will be approved for membership unless objections are received at the Rotary office by October 8.

- Sam Rinaker - "Spray Painting Equipment Supply"
- Rod Smith - "Consultant - Defense IT -AA"

CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LIBERTY STATION CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Oct

- 2 *Water Diversity and Drought Panel*
- 9 *Chris Van Gorder - CEO, Scripps Hospital*
- 16 *Gary Gallegos - SANDAG*
- 23 *Honorable M. Margaret McKeown - U. S. Court of Appeals*
- 30 *Steve Fisher - SDSU Basketball Coach*
- Nov
- 6 *Salute to the Military - Breakfast aboard the USS MIDWAY*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

"SCOTT JOPLIN'S NEW RAG" presented by the award-winning and critically acclaimed **Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company**
Friday, October 10, 2014
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Location: The Tenth Avenue Arts Center

Please visit our website at www.sandiegorotary.club for more event details and to register.

Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106

Michelle Candland, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943

Phone: 619/299-3309 Fax: 619/299-3340 ♦ e-mail: paul@rotary33.org ♦ website: http://www.sandiegorotary.club

FACES IN THE CROWD



President Michelle greets Mr. San Diego recipient Tom Hom.



Last year's Mr. San Diego, Steve Cushman, congratulates Tom Hom on his award.



Mayor Kevin Faulconer congratulates Tom Hom as Steve Cushman looks on.



Supervisor Ron Roberts shares a laugh with Tom Hom.



Gayle Hom, daughter of Tom, gave the Inspirational Moment.



Chair of the Day Fred Frye kept the program on track.

FACES IN THE CROWD



The room was a near sell-out with Club 33 members and guests.



Tyler Cramer shared his experiences of working with Tom on various projects for over 20 years.



Joe Hiroye shared how Tom inspired him to pursue his goals.



Tom reacts to the comments about him by the speakers.



Son-In-Law Will Newbern gave an emotional tribute to his mentor, friend and father-in-law.



Past Mr./Mrs./Ms. San Diego recipients pose for a photo.

Grotarian KPBS Event

On Tuesday, September 23rd, over 40 Grotarians were treated to a behind the scenes tour and reception at KPBS.



Club 33 Singers visit St. Paul's Villa

The Club 33 Singers, with Bryan Verhoye, gave a "Hits Through the Years" performance for the residents of St. Paul's Villas. There was lots of toe-tapping!



The Club 33 Singers serenaded the residents of St. Paul's Villa .

Suzy Spafford's parents were among those in attendance.

Military Affairs Committee

On Friday, September 19, members of Club 33 Military Affairs Committee held their quarterly barbecue at the Lindbergh Field USO. The military personnel and their families who were passing through the USO appreciated the good food and camaraderie that our members provided. Kate Carinder chaired this event and was joined by Rick Huenefeld, Penny Robbins, Ellen Tracy, Lynn Congemi, Bob Russell, Rick Jackson, Chris Rink, Jim Wynkoop and his guest Alison, Roy Bell, and Peg Eddy. The masterful shopping and supply efforts were completed by Pam Luster and Mike Caruso.



Club Golf Outing

John Peele won the golf outing at San Diego Country Club on September 19th. However, Mark Burgess won the attendees over with his ability to ride a Harley with a full compliment of golf clubs aboard.



Denver Challenge

We need your help. We are only at 42% of member pledges, and need to reach 100% by the end of October. You can give as little as \$25 to RI, but are asking that members also make their annual contribution to the club for a total minimum of \$250. If you haven't yet donated, please email paul@rotary33.org with your pledge.

Denver EREY Challenge

