

## Archi's Acres



**Tom Gable**  
Editor

**President Michelle** called the meeting to order. **Will Hage**, a third generation Rotarian, provided an Inspirational Moment linked to saluting our military for all their contributions.

**Colin Weid**, accompanied by **Larry Showley**, led us

through the pledge and *God Bless America*.

Michelle presented Paul Harris Fellow pins to **Linda Crogan**, **Kimberley Layton** and **Ake Persson**. After introducing two visiting veterans, **Phil Blair** was fined for being the subject of major coverage in U-T San Diego. The club welcomed new members, **Gil Cabrera**, and **Will Rivera**. **Pat Caughey**, landscape architect and Chair of the Day, awarded the visiting Rotarian from the greatest distance, Texas, with a seedling Torrey Pines tree and various landscape literature and paraphernalia.

Pat introduced Karen Archipley, wife of the namesake for Archi's Acres, a sustainable organic hydroponic farm north of Escondido that also teaches farming to veterans. Her husband Colin retired as a Marine sergeant with three tours of Iraq to his credit. In between the second and third tours, he and Karen bought three acres in avocado country north of Escondido. After his retirement, they settled in to be growers and were stimulated to consider hydroponics upon receiving the first month's water bill of \$800, versus \$50 at their previous non-agricultural residence in Los Angeles.

Hydroponics is the process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil. Colin and Karen began learning about the approach and set out to create a sustainable organic farming business and also develop a business to help other veterans achieve ownership.

Over eight years, Archi's Acres has become a profitable, sustainable, organic farming business. The USDA-certified organic greenhouse operation grows basil, cut kale, chard, and other produce. Its fresh products can be found in farmer's markets, Whole Foods and other stores in the southland.

Archi's Acres has also become a launching pad for a new breed of farmers – military veterans who may have had trouble transitioning from military to civilian life. The couple created a program for teaching veterans to become farmers. It is affiliated with Cal Poly Pomona, which offers a certificate and 17 units of credit for those completing the six-week Veteran's Sustainable Agriculture Training (VSAT) program. The tuition is \$4,500, which can be covered under G.I. Bill benefits.

Karen was joined by Lt. Col. Stephen Griffiths, a former helicopter pilot, who said he didn't find a big demand for helicopter pilots when he was planning retirement. He was introduced to Archi's Acres and began learning about the potential for farming and heard the success stories of other veterans.

He took classes at Archi's and learned to go from seed to market. The process included being trained in hydroponics, drip/micro irrigation, environmental control, soil biology, composting, greenhouse management, and developing his own plan to become a farmer and distributor. He was introduced to a network of alumni and also buyers, such as from Whole Foods. Since retiring from the military in August 2014, he has gone from zero to producing products that people throughout the east county buy under his Ruby Ranch label.

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## NEXT MEETING

**February 5**

**UCSD Robotics**

**Professor Tom Bewley**

Robotics is being radically transformed by modern cellphone electronics and software, 3D design tools, 3D printing, custom printed circuit board fabrication, and crowdfunding. Professor Tom Bewley will explore how situational awareness and feedback control can help small, simple vehicles overcome large, complex obstacles, and how new algorithms for coordinating squads of agile robotic vehicles can help protect human life, grow food, and better respond to environmental hazards like fires, contaminant plumes, and hurricanes.

Professor Bewley directs the Flow Control and Coordinated Robotics Labs at UCSD.



**Craig Blower**  
Chair of the Day

### CPR/AED Training—Feb 12

We are having a free "hands-only" CPR/AED in-service training for anyone who would like to stay after the program on February 12. The training will take approximately 30 minutes and will be conducted by our guest speaker, Maureen O'Conner. Please let the office know if you plan to participate.

## QUICK BITS

### ROSTER PHOTOS-FEB 19.

If you do not have a roster photo on file with us or would like to take a new photo for the 2015-2016 Directory, please arrive before the meeting or plan to stay after to have Stan Lawrence take a photo.

Also, if you have new contact information that needs updating, please [click here](#) for the update form and return it to Mary.

### ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY

Save the date for this year's RAW on **Saturday, April 25**. If you are interested in hosting one of the projects for this annual event, please contact [Craig Nelson](#) or [Emily Rex](#).

### VISITING VETERANS

**Captain Tom Mulhern, Marine Corp**  
**Major Phil Kendro, Marine Corp**

If you would like additional information on the veterans introduced at our January 29 meeting, please contact [Phil Blair](#) with Manpower.

## BIRTHDAYS

Jenni Prisk	February	4
Eric Schweinfurter		4
Ron Oliver		5
Craig Brown		6
Aimee Faucett		6
Jack Anthony		6
Russ Kirbey		6
Craig Blower		6
Gary Weitzman		8

## Archi's Acres

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Steve started with two acres and is expanding, thanks to help from different government loan programs tied to agriculture. He said the USDA's Farm Service Agency can lend up to \$300,000. He is working with a micro loan of \$35,000. Karen said the programs help future farmers start a business without a need for investors.

"If you want to make more than a banker, become a farmer," she quipped. She said research shows each farm job adds 2.7 more jobs to the economy for delivery, clean up, distribution and other services. The program appeals to the military because 46 percent of those in the armed forces come from rural backgrounds. Karen teaches agriculture as part of a transition program at Camp Pendleton.

Karen said Archi's has more than 200 graduates, including successful farm owners and workers, soil-testing pioneers, restaurateurs, and owners of food companies. They have success stories from throughout the U.S. to Guiana, where a graduate is helping on a rubber plantation.

Future growth will be driven by the local farm-to-table trend, including delivery services that get fresh produce to residences. She said Archi's is talking to one company that is targeting a six-hour delivery of fresh produce after an order is placed. Precise, accurate and timely delivery will be assured if the company hires veterans to help.

## NEW MEMBER NEWS

Please welcome our two newest members to the club.

**Gil Cabrera** - "Law—Litigation Practice, Additional Active." Gil is the Owner and President of The Cabrera Law Firm, APC.  
**Bill Earley, Andrew Poat and Craig Benedetto** were his sponsors.  
(B) 619-500-4880  
[gil@cabreralfirm.com](mailto:gil@cabreralfirm.com)



**Will Rivera** - "Banking—Statewide, Additional Active." Will is Branch Manager of California Bank & Trust. **Mia Harenski, Brian Harvey and David Kvendru** were his sponsors.  
(B) 619-521-4010  
[william.rivera@calbt.com](mailto:william.rivera@calbt.com)



## CALENDAR

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

### Feb

- 5 **UCSD Robotics**
- 12 **CPR/AED Happy Heart Program**
- 19 **Disaster Preparedness**
- 26 **Brown Bag Luncheon**

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

### **NIC MCGUIRE'S GLASS STUDIO**

**Tuesday, February 10**  
**5:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**\$30 per person**

Tour the studio of one of the country's famous glass artists and see him transform molten glass into spectacular art. Includes dinner and beverages.

### **WINTER FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Tuesday, February 24**

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Location: Academy of Our Lady of Peace**

This free event is open to Grotarians only (please, no guests or spouses.)

Please visit our website at [www.sandiegorotary.club](http://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



Will Hage inspired us to continue to support our veterans in any way we can.



Guest speakers Karen Archipley and veteran Lt. Col. Stephen Griffiths spoke about the VSAT Program at Archi's Acres.



Ake Persson, Kimberley Layton and Linda Crogan received their 2nd Paul Harris Fellow pin presented to them by President Michelle.



Rachel Inmon, Phil Blair and Barbara Noerenberg smiled big for our camera.



Veterans Captain Tom Mulhern and Major Phil Kendro joined us for lunch.



Guest Carol Clarke and Jenni Prisk also joined us today.



New Member Gil Cabrera introduced himself to the Club.



Mia Harenski, President Michelle and new member Will Rivera

# SMALL CLUB JOINT VENTURE COMMITTEE

Please join the Small Club Joint Venture Committee in showing their support of the Southeast San Diego Rotary Club by attending this event. Contact [Jenni Prisk](mailto:Jenni.Prisk) if you have any questions.

ROTARY CLUB SOUTH EAST SAN DIEGO P.O. BOX 740589 SAN DIEGO, CA 92174  
PHONE 619-267-0893 FAX 619-475-7083 SESDROTARY@YAHOO.COM



## ROTARY BUSINESS MIXER

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 6PM

FELIX'S BBQ WITH SOUL

MARKETCREEK PLAZA

342 EUCLID AVENUE

SAN DIEGO, CA 92102

COST: \$20 (HOURS DEVOURS WILL BE SERVED)



**JAMES JACKSON**  
PRESIDENT, SESD ROTARY 2014-2015

MEET US AT FELIX'S ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH 2015 IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR OBSERVANCE OF BLACK-HISTORY MONTH, THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH-EAST SAN DIEGO WILL HOST A BUSINESS MIXER. COME OUT, AND MEET KEY MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY, EXCHANGE BUSINESS CARDS AND NETWORK WITH BUSINESS OWNERS AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS. NETWORKING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE RESTAURANT AND ON THE PATIO. FIND OUT WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE CAN PARTNER IN ENSURING THE BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY AS VOLUNTEERS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS. **SHERYL REICHERT**, CEO OF THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU WILL BRIEFLY ADDRESS BUSINESS CONCERNS AS WELL.

RSVP TO CLUB SECRETARY DIANNE CRAWFORD AT  
(619)267-0893 OR  
SESROTARY@YAHOO.COM

# GROTARIAN EVENT

Thank you to everyone that joined us for the January 27th Grotarian event at the San Diego History Center.



# STEM

The STEM Committee held a family event at Adams Elementary School that featured the “Amazing Space” theme of the Fleet Space Museum. The event was very well attended including students, parents, teachers and administrators from Adams. Sylvia McGrade and Christine Boatman of Adams both spoke effusively of the San Diego Rotary support. Four other Adams teachers were also there to facilitate the program in addition to Club members **Beatriz Valencia** (with Cardinal Interact students), **Dick Eger**, **Don Wilkie**, **Peter Duncan**, **Lewis Linson** and **Doug Arbon**.

At right are Lewis Linson, Dick Eger and Don Wilkie at the Adams Elementary Family Science Night



# ROTATOR SPONSOR-NATASHA JOSEFOWITZ

Congratulations to Natasha Josefowitz on her induction into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame.  
Please contact her if you have any questions about this event at [natashajo@gmail.com](mailto:natashajo@gmail.com)



To purchase a ticket,  
please go to  
[www.womensmuseumca.org](http://www.womensmuseumca.org)  
and specify the  
Natasha Rotary group.

## 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees:

Dr. Natasha Josefowitz, *EMPOWERER*

Sara Moser, *ACTIVIST*

Starla Lewis, *BRIDGEBUILDER*

Viviana Acosta, *HISTORIAN*

Dr. Anita Figueredo, (1916–2010) *TRAILBLAZER*

Lee Ann Kim, *SPIRIT OF THE HALL OF FAME*

## 14th Annual San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception Sunday, March 1, 2:30–6:00 P.M.

An annual event established to honor San Diego women for their life-time contributions to the community.

On March 1, six women will be recognized and inducted into the SAN DIEGO COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME for their life's work, at a compelling ceremony at the Joe and Vi Jacobs Center in San Diego.

The deadline for tickets is February 19th.  
[www.womensmuseumca.org](http://www.womensmuseumca.org)