



THE ROTATOR

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SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

Balboa Park and Rotary: San Diego's Two Treasures



David Oates
Editor

It's of no surprise to most of us Rotarians how much of an impact our club has and continues to have in the region. Thursday's presentation by our own **Betty Peabody** alongside Professor Nancy

Carol Carter certainly illustrated that well, but more on that in a moment.

President **Michelle Candland** opened up the program by passing the baton to **Marc Tarasuck**, whose Inspirational Moment celebrated the leadership role women currently hold in preserving San Diego's greatest treasure, Balboa Park, despite being kept out of helping to organize the Panama-California Exposition a century earlier. **Brandon Horrocks** followed by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of *You're A Grand Old Flag* accompanied by **Larry Showley** on the piano. Dodger fan (Boooooo!) **Stan Lawrence** then read off the day's top stories courtesy of **Buddy Thomas** and his firm, Superior Planning, Inc.

President Michelle then took back center stage to welcome all visitors and also thank **Ron Eisenberg** for a terrific Gro-tarian cooking lesson event at his Great News cooking school. She then challenged all of us going to various Rotarians at Work projects on Saturday to take and submit some cool pictures of their activities. The one determined to be the best will win a nice, non-Two-Buck-Chuck bottle of wine! Michelle finished her remarks by thanking those on the MOST Committee for their incredible work the previous weekend in Mexico, where the team performed more than 300 surgeries and changed the lives of so many people in need!

The program then kicked into gear with a number of announcements that included:

- **Cheryl Wilson** giving us a great overview of the Senior Services Committee and all the important work they do, including bringing many seniors to our annual holiday program, much to the delight of our visitors and fellow Rotarians.
- **Jenni Prisk**, Peace Committee Chairperson, who reminded us that applications for the September 17 inaugural Peace Award program are due to the office by May 31. Information is available [here](#).
- Welcoming our newest members: **Janet Fagan**, whose primary sponsor was the bow tie-sporting **Andy Hewitt**; and **Mark Neville**, whose primary sponsor was **Kimberley Layton**.

President Michelle then came back to the podium to introduce Betty and Nancy who then provided us a comprehensive overview on how San Diego Rotary and Balboa Park have been partners for more than 100 years. Before getting started, however, brothers **Phil, Jr.** and **George Gildred** surprised Betty by handing her a special medallion that was minted by their father, Phil Gildred, Sr., on the occasion of the park's 1935 Exposition. George and Phil had it engraved with Betty's name in honor of her tireless work on behalf of Balboa Park. What a great tribute!

Betty and Nancy highlighted the times when San Diego Rotary worked in support of the park. Among these were when Rotarians welcomed visitors to the 1915 Panama-California exposition, and when our club and park officials supported the Red Cross survival training lessons during World War I.

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NEXT MEETING

April 30

Mike Dee

*President & CEO of the
San Diego Padres*

Mike Dee was named President and CEO of the San Diego Padres on July 17, 2013. Since his return to San Diego, Dee has led the effort to revamp the organization's baseball operations philosophy, has overseen ownership's commitment to renovate and improve Petco Park, has spearheaded the club's successful bid for the 2016 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and has focused on transforming Petco Park into a 365-day year-round facility with a variety of different events beyond Padres baseball.

Prior to his return to San Diego in 2013, Dee served as President & CEO of the Miami Dolphins and Sun Life Stadium from 2009-2013.



**Chair of the Day
Tom Seidler**

QUICK BITS

THE SOUTHEAST ROTARY CLUB WILL BE CLOSED TO VISITORS ON APRIL 2— Their regular meeting schedule resumes on May 6.

SPRING TENNIS TOURNAMENT—May 6 at 5:00 at the Barnes Tennis Center in Point Loma. All skill levels welcome. Entry fee is \$25. Any questions, contact [John Peelle](#). Register on our website.

MAY 15 CLUB 33 GOLF TOURNAMENT - If you are interested in playing in the final round of this annual tournament at the San Diego Country Club, please contact [Marten "the Golf Guy" Barry](#) immediately.

BIRTHDAYS

Roy Bell	April	27
Jamie Moraga		28
Terry Moore		28
Judy Thompson		28
Darlene Davies		28
Brage Golding		28
Mark Allan		29
Dodie Rotherham		29
Jen Weissman		29
Budd Rubin		30
Bob Kelly		30
Duke Sobek		30
Dick Jackson		30
Larry Showley		30
Steve Cairncross	May	1
Skip Starkey, Jr.		1
Ron Eisenberg		3
Jim Groen		3
Deborah Szekely		3

Balboa Park and Rotary: San Diego's Two Treasures *Continued*

One of the most visible partnerships, though, was when San Diego Rotary took on the task of renovating the neglected Alcazar Gardens in 1961 when then President Philip Klauber stated, "Rotary will lead the way" in showcasing how the public can and should be directly involved in ensuring that the park remains one of the city's most treasured asset.

Turning to today, Betty rightfully lobbied for a renewed commitment by the club toward the preservation of Balboa Park. Much needs to be done to keep it as vital as it was back in 1868, where the 1,400 acres were originally set aside by San Diegans who numbered only 2,500 at the time. An estimated \$500 million of deferred maintenance is needed and another projected \$500 million must be spent to make the park as accessible as possible to all. Landscaping is also in need of upkeep and the significant homeless problem in the park must be addressed, according to Betty.

Though daunting, Nancy and Betty quickly pointed out that the problems are solvable and can be a product of the will by organizations such as San Diego Rotary to do something about them. Our club has already taken one step by committing time and resources to revitalize Alcazar Gardens once again. If there are just a few others with the same passion and commitment as Betty and Nancy, then Balboa Park has a very bright future.

There were two final notes at the end of the meeting. The first was a call for help by President Michelle who asked if anyone has a refrigerator they'd like to donate to the Tecate Medical Clinic that built by members of our own club, as the one on site recently stopped working. No less than 20 minutes later, **Randall Densley** offered up a replacement. Thanks Randall! President Michelle also invited San Diego Rotarians to watch our district's 4-Way Speech Contest that is featuring two Hoover High School Interact students. If you haven't been to one, you are missing out witnessing some truly inspiring young people! Registration is available at [here](#).

I hope to see you all next week for San Diego Padres President, Mike Dee. Until next time, I'll see you all in service!

CALENDAR

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

April

30 *Mike Dee, President
San Diego Padres*

May

7 *Honoring Mothers—
Special Mother's Day
program*

14 *Guadalupe Valley: Baja
Wine Country*

21 *Douglas Myers—
San Diego Zoo Global*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

MAY 19 HIGH TECH HIGH TOUR & RECEPTION

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Cost: \$20 per person

**Location: Pt. Loma campus at
2861 Womble Street, San Diego,
92106**

Come join the Grotarians for a tour inside the mind of the genius of the founder and creator of High Tech High, Larry Rosenstock. He will personally take us through the High Tech High Pt. Loma schools with a thorough, detailed explanation of the way the school is structured and the successes of their students. Known internationally, HTH also now has an interact Club sponsored by us! Food and beverages will be available after the tour. Friends and family are welcome! [Click here](#) for more info.

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

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FACES IN THE CROWD



Our greeters today were **Ricardo da Rosa, Will Rivera, Ron Eisenberg, Nancy Scott and Ray Higgins.**



Dick Murphy and Christine Kehoe joined us today.



President Michelle with new member Janet Fagan and her sponsor Andy Hewitt.



President Michelle with new member Mark Neville and his sponsor Kimberley Layton.



George Gildred and Phillip Gildred, Jr. presented Betty Peabody with a 1935 commemorative medallion designed for the California Pacific Exposition held in Balboa Park.



Guest speakers Betty Peabody and Nancy Carol Carter highlighted the history between Rotary and Balboa Park.

President Michelle with our SDSU Rotaracts.



New Members

Please welcome our newest members to the club.



Janet Fagan - "Telecommunications-Service Provider." Janet is the Senior Account Director for One Source Networks. She is responsible for business capture in the large Enterprise accounts and military bases in the Southwest. Andy Hewitt, **Steve Green** and **Jerry Jessop** were her sponsors. (B) 858-945-7390
janetefagan@gmail.com



Mark Neville - "Associations-San Diego Bowl Games." Mark is the Executive Director of the San Diego Bowl Game Association. They are a non-profit community enhancement organization that produce the Holiday Bowl and Poinsettia Bowl each year. Kimberley Layton, **John Wertz** and **Nikki Clay** were his sponsors. (B) 619-283-5808
mneville@sdbowlgames.com

FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH FINALS



We need Four-Way Test Speech Finals supporters!

The club and the District need your attendance and support at the up-coming contest on April 28th at the California Center for the Arts. We want to give our own Hoover Interact finalists Dulce and Jennifer a fantastic showing of support and solidarity.

Don Teemsma, our club's Four-Way Test Speech Contest Vice-Chair, pledges the *Don Teemsma Guarantee*...that if you do not have a good time and do not leave inspired, he will pay for your event ticket by way of a Rotary fine.

[Click here](#) for event details and registration on the District website.

GROTARIAN EVENT

Thank you to everyone who attended the Grotarian event at the Great News Cooking School. It was another full house! A special thank you to Ron Eisenberg for hosting this event.



The Brie appetizer was encrusted with the Rotary wheel!



ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY 2015 *cont.*

