

Mrs. San Diego - Betty Peabody



Craig Nelson
Editor

President **Peter Duncan** called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors to the best Rotary Club on the planet!

On a sad note, prayers go out to **Paul Nestor** and the Nestor family as they mourn the passing of **Burt Nestor**.

The Inspirational Moment was delivered by past club president **Mark Trotter** who, as only Mark can, managed to pay tribute to the program and inspire us all in one fell swoop. According to Mark, a woman approached the Pope the other day during his Papal visit to the USA and, after tugging at his sleeve, asked for perhaps a little divine intervention in order to help her city currently in crisis. His Holiness leaned in and whispered, "I recommend you call Betty Peabody!" Mark is very humble and when President Peter pressed him for personal info for his introduction, he didn't get much. Did you know that Mark dropped out of professional basketball, formed a rock band and travelled Europe in a pink VW bus? Neither did Mark! (Note to self...when Prez Peter asks for material, give him some.)

The Pledge of Allegiance and *My Country Tis of Thee* were led by **Debbie Day**, accompanied by **Suzu Spafford**.

Sponsored by **John Peelle** of Peelle Wealth Management, the venerable **Bert Wahlen** presented the news...all the markets were down during the Pope's visit (not his fault), and **Betty Peabody** dancing on tables...what? Bert, perhaps we don't yet know "the rest of the story."

Before introducing our Chair of the Day **Dr. Fred Frye**, President Peter introduced our visiting Rotarians from the farthest distance, Izegem, Belgium, and bestowed upon them a nice bottle of wine. Hope they weren't expecting beer & chocolates.

Who better to explain the history of the "Mr./Mrs. San Diego" award than Fred Frye?! President Peter proclaimed him the most interesting man in the world. Fred has carried the Olympic torch TWICE, run 12 marathons, travelled with

his family to Cuba pre-Castro and held a letter from Galileo in his hands.

The crowd was seeded with several illustrious past recipients of the Mr. or Mrs. San Diego award including **Betty Jo Williams, George Gildred, Yvonne Larsen, Peter Ellsworth, Steve Cushman, Cecil Steppe** and **Tom Hom**, as well as the widows of past recipients **Darlene Davies**, wife of Lowell and **Betty Hubbard**, wife of Lee.

The past recipients list is a who's who of historic San Diego philanthropists, but how many of them have their own song? The Club 33 Singers created one, "Unforgettable Betty Peabody", and it was a hit!

Mayor Kevin Faulconer awarded Betty "Mrs. San Diego 2015", and Betty thanked those who selected her for the honor. She then introduced members of her family that were present. Needless to say, the house was packed with so many of her friends who also came in tribute to Betty.

Fred Frye profiled Betty as a woman who saw a need, and filled it. It all began in 1969 when Betty responded to a radio advertisement for docents to teach sex education to 6th graders at the Museum of Man in Balboa Park. Betty has been volunteering in the park almost daily since.

Bob Rogers took the podium and stated he began the day as Betty's favorite nephew, but that there may be a re-vote after his speech. From the start, Bob recalled Betty was a troublemaker in the park when she dreamt up Christmas on the Prado. She was not the most popular with various museum directors who were to be counted on to stay open late and waive admission charges. As usual, Betty had it right, and the event, now called December Nights, draws over 350,000 people to the park. Describing her indefatigable nature, Bob referred to Betty as a "tenacious fool with no quitting sense!" He said her ideas usually start as a headache and end in something to make us proud and San Diego a better place. Well done, Bob. No re-vote necessary.

Continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING

October 1

Dr. James Harris
President,
University of San Diego



Dr. James T. Harris, III, is the fourth president of the University of San Diego, which is a nationally preeminent Catholic university known for educating students who are globally competent, ethical leaders committed to the common good and empowered to engage a diverse and changing world.

Dr. Harris will present an overview of the University and highlight its global impact and importance to San Diego. He will also describe how USD can serve as an anchor institution for San Diego and take a greater leadership role in the community.



Matt Reno
Chair of the Day

In Memoriam

Burt Nestor
1928-2015

Burt was a member since 1966, a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Heilbron Fellow and a member of the Bequest Society.

QUICK BITS

ATTENTION GOLFERS!

The first round of the 2015 Club 33 Tournament will be held on Friday, October 16 at the San Diego Country Club., with the first tee time at approximately 11:30am.

The cost to play this exclusive, private course is \$116.50 per player, which includes electric carts, plus each player's pro rata share of the cost of refreshments.

Please contact Alli Lucas (alucas@naisandiego.com) or Marten Barry if you would like to participate.

For you planners, the tournament's second round is tentatively scheduled for November 20th and we will have surprise guests!

The Fall Tennis Tournament will be on Wednesday, October 21st at 5:00pm at the Barnes Tennis Center.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

BIRTHDAYS

September

Chris Sichel	28
Mike Rowan	28
Bob Arnhyrn	30
Christy White	30

October

Greg Augustine	1
Mike Morton, Jr.	1
Mark Stuart	1
Buddy Thomas, Jr.	1
Cindy Marten	3
Tom Gehring	3
Claudia Johnson	4
Mary Lyons	4

Mrs. San Diego *cont.*

Have you heard of the pageant of the masters? Now began the parade of dignitaries. This was led off by former Senator Christine Kehoe who praised Betty's tireless work in co-founding Friends of Balboa Park. Senator Kehoe said she, Mayor Faulconer, Sheriff Gore, Former Mayor **Dick Murphy**, Police Chief Shelly Zimmerman and Councilman Todd Gloria (all who were present in the room) all directly report to Betty!

Dr. Stanley Maloy, Dean of the College of Sciences at SDSU, likened Betty to the master puppeteer, a gracious connector of people and elegant in her way. Betty had the vision to see Balboa Park as the centerpiece of San Diego and the need to save enough water to sustain the park.

Finally, Betty re-claimed the microphone and began her rebuttal. It was quite an honor for her to follow in the footsteps of her husband Homer, who was named Mr. San Diego in 1997. Homer would have been so proud! Betty exclaimed there is power in volunteering. Keeping her sense of humor, she loves to quip, "The nice thing about volunteering is you can't fire me!" She loves to connect people and projects, particularly those in Balboa Park. In closing and thanking everyone, Betty said she won't let the award go to her head knowing "this year's peacock is next years feather duster." Her line got a big laugh from the audience but it was the only time she would be wrong all day. Betty Peabody is our peacock each and every year. Congratulations, Mrs. San Diego, Betty Peabody.

President Peter closed the meeting and left us all inspired and a bit humbled. As happens so often at Club 33 Rotary meetings, I am left wondering how I ever snuck in to such an amazing collection of San Diego treasures, and perplexed as to how I can ever give back a fraction of what people like Betty Peabody do for our club and community.

CALENDAR

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

October

1 *Dr. James Harris, President, University of San Diego*

8 *James B. DeBello, President & CEO, Mitek*

15 *Dr. Ray Ashley, President & CEO, SD Maritime Museum*

22 *David Bennett, Director San Diego Opera*

29 *Robert DeLaurentis, Flew Solo Around the World*

November

5 *Women Peacemakers*

12 *Salute to the Military*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

First United Methodist Church
An Interfaith Panel Discussion on Religious Diversity
Oct. 20, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm

Our October Grotarian event will be an informative and provocative time of exploring the religious diversity of the San Diego area.

[Click here](#) for more details and to register.

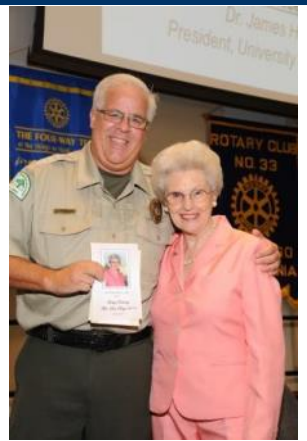
Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106

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Mrs. San Diego 2015



(Left) Todd Gloria, with President Peter and Betty, proclaimed today Betty Peabody Day; (Center) Betty with her family; (Right) Betty with Ranger Kim Duclou.



(Left) Mark Trotter gave the Inspirational Moment on this special day; (Center) Chair of the Day Fred Fry dutifully introduced the Mayor and guest speakers; (Right) Bob Rogers, Betty's nephew, spoke proudly of his Aunt's accomplishments.



(Left) Irwin Jacobs joined us today; (Center) Mayor Faulconer presented Betty with the 2015 Mrs. San Diego award; (Right) The Club 33 Singers performed a special song titled "Betty Peabody Unforgettable."



Former State Senator Chris Kehoe presented Betty with a token of appreciation on behalf of Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins.

(Top left) Guest speaker Dean Stanley Maloy; (Bottom left) Chief Zimmerman and Sheriff Gore; (Above) Betty with past recipients of the Mr./Mrs. San Diego award.

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 7:**

- ◆ Bennet Greenwald - The Greenwald Company - "Real Estate-Investment and Management"
- ◆ Nick Ladany - USD - "Education-Private University-Leadership & Education Services"
- ◆ Anthony Llompert - La Maestra Community Health Services - "Health Care-Community Health Care"
- ◆ Christopher Wright - Kirby Noonan Lance & Hose, LLP - "Law-Litigation Practice, Additional Active"

CLUB FOUNDATION PROJECTS

A Thank You note from the Executive Director of "Quench and Connect"

A new borehole for Kirigwajjo Secondary School

St. Kirigwajjo Secondary School is located in the Kibaale district of western Uganda. Founded in 1997, it has grown to a student population of 900, with 600 boarding students. The school is the academic leader in the county, offering curriculum at both O and A level. 90% of students completing the national UACE examination qualify for future admission to university. Most of the local villagers are peasant farmers, and fees are kept low so students can attend classes. In the past, students got water for drinking, bathing and cooking from a well in a cattle pasture that frequently dried up, or from water catchment tanks on campus that collected rain water from classroom buildings. The roofs were rusted and presented a health threat that included typhoid to students drinking this water. When we told San Diego Rotary Club 33 of San Diego about the need for water at this school, they responded by awarding us a challenge grant of \$4500. With donations from many of you, we met their challenge, and reached the goal of \$9000 so that we could order the drilling of the borehole in February. Now the students at St. Kirigwajjo Secondary school have clean water to drink. At the time the borehole was drilled, it was dry season. The Head Teacher Nsaali Andrew said:

“We have not yet had rain and most of the water sources are dry. You can imagine how exciting it is to have a borehole that is able to give all the water we need at this time with out fail.”

Many thanks to San Diego Rotary for making this possible!

