



# THE ROTATOR

Vol. 102, No. 16, October 22, 2015

SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

## The Future of Opera in San Diego



**Patti Roscoe**  
Editor

Our program Thursday on the San Diego Opera was a bit reflective of the tone of our meeting – actors running about, on and off the stage, trying to keep their lines straight. **President Peter** had his talented hands full.

**Ben Motton** presented a lovely, thoughtful Inspirational

Moment after which **Brandon Horrocks** and **Greg Zinser** led us through our patriotic paces – and we sounded pretty good. Past president **Bert Wahlen** brought us up-to-date on the news as only his sonorous undulations can. Thank you to this week’s news sponsor **Mike Conner** of Phoenix Water Management. President Peter then tap-danced through a plethora of announcements.

Congratulations to the Grotarians for a successful event on Oct 20th featuring an interfaith panel discussion on religious diversity. District 5340’s *Millions for HOPE* (Health, Overcoming Poverty, Education) campaign goal was \$15,000,000. At the Foundation Gala on 10/17, they not only met that goal, but had an anonymous donor match it, raising \$30,000,000 for such important causes. Outstanding!!!

Club 33 made Rotary Int’l news in the Rotarian again. Our *Don’t Wait, Vaccinate Committee* was featured. Thanks to **Amnon Ben-Yehuda** for his tireless work in creating this committee so many years ago.

In 1985, Rotary launched its Polio Plus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. **Dr. Richard Coutts** updated us on results of Rotary’s global effort to end this scourge. Tremendous gains have been made. In January 2014, India, once considered the hardest place on earth to stop polio, was certified polio-free. In September, the World Health Organization declared Africa’s last polio-endemic country, Nigeria, polio-free. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan refuse to cooperate. With 100,000 children born each year, it’s critical Rotary and others continue efforts to immunize every child and raise the \$500,000,000 needed to finish the job. Thanks to Richard, **Lewis Linson**, **Judy Thompson** and **Mike Conner** for their work and support to help extinguish polio.

**Roger Haines** offered a \$350 fine to speak about

another worthy program, Alliance for African Assistance’s *Night of Giving Gala* on 11/14. Monies raised will help rebuild a war torn community in Northern Uganda, an area which **Walter Lam** knows well, having been raised there. If you can attend or can help sponsor a Ugandan child, go to [gala@alliance-for-africa.org](mailto:gala@alliance-for-africa.org).

Doctors **Tom Vecchione**, **Doug Arbon** and **Gene Rumsey** recently returned from a MOST trip in Chiapas, Mexico, supported by the San Cristobal club. Dr. Tom reported that the MOST team performed 308 life-changing surgeries. You make us all proud, gentlemen.

After such serious topics, it was time for some light entertainment. Fishermen extraordinaire, **Bob Fletcher** and **Rick McElvain** retired the *Gene Rumsey BIG FISH* award, which, according to Prez Peter, didn’t qualify because it featured a dolphin. The new keepsake is the *Ferd Fletcher Perpetual Fishing Trophy*--yes, complete with a beautiful glass figure of an actual fish! Bob spoke excitedly about the recent and very successful fishing trip. They returned with a boatload of fish – the limit – two Bluefin Tuna per fisherman. And guess who won the prize for the biggest – a 42 lb. beauty? Wait for it ... none other than...Bob Fletcher. How fitting that he should win the first Ferd Fletcher trophy. Like father, like son, I guess. Congratulations, Bob.

Last, but certainly never least, **Phil Blair** introduced four visiting veterans, each looking to start a new career. Phil announced that of the last veterans he introduced, three are now gainfully employed, thanks to leads from Rotary. Great work, Phil!

Up next at the podium was our Chair of the Day **Dr. John Hattox**, who was chagrined that there were no visiting Rotarians so he took his gift home for next time. As a retired anesthesiologist, we can just imagine what it was. John introduced our speaker, David Bennett.

To traditionalists, grand opera will always be the only true art form of the genre. In many cases, however, opera companies that exclusively present traditional programs are falling by the wayside, financially and with shrinking audiences.

Continued on page 2

## NEXT MEETING

October 29

**Robert DeLaurentis**

“The Zen Pilot”

**Flying Thru Life: Global Service on a Wing and a Prayer (and a Malibu Mirage)**

Flying around the world in a single piston plane on a record setting flight to 23 countries and five continents in 98 days in a plane called the “Spirit of San Diego” isn’t what you think of as the typical business classroom environment or service organization. But then applying spiritual concepts to a 22-year-old business and growing it 300% in 5 years isn’t typical either.

Join Robert DeLaurentis as he shares inspiring—and at times terrifying—adventures and insights from his recent circumnavigation of the earth. Whether in the air at 23,000 feet at 230 miles per hour living in a neoprene survival suit or on the ground meeting people from all walks of life, Robert’s discovery that we are all citizens of the world with a purpose and dream bigger than we know will forever change the way you look at life.

Robert, the “Zen Pilot,” is a successful author, real estate entrepreneur, five-year instrument- and commercially-rated pilot with 1200 hours of flight time, philanthropist, and Navy Gulf War Veteran.



**Guy Maddox**  
Chair of the Day

## 2015 AUCTION



### ANNUAL AUCTION NOV 19

We need your help and participation in this annual fundraiser that supports over 30 of our club projects. Please consider a donation towards our silent or live auction. You can find the donation form on our website or by [clicking here](#). **Auction items must be delivered by Nov. 6.**

Thank you to those who have already donated items!

**San Diego Zoo Global**

**Chris Yanov**

**Diana MarJip-Chuh**

**Linnea Arrington**

**Paul Hartley (2 items)**

**Jim Hughes**

**Steven Mueller (2 items)**

**Cheryl Wilson**

**Paul Nestor**

**Amnon Ben-Yehuda**

## BIRTHDAYS

### October

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Woody Ledford      | 26 |
| Tom Gammieri       | 27 |
| Laura Nichols      | 27 |
| Jim Hughes         | 28 |
| Frank Urtasun      | 28 |
| Bink Cook          | 28 |
| Garry Ridge        | 29 |
| Paul Chacon        | 30 |
| Matt Hom           | 30 |
| Natasha Josefowitz | 31 |

### November

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Nikki Clay         | 1 |
| Dick Baxter        | 1 |
| Carl Hilliard, Jr. | 1 |

## The Future of Opera in San Diego *continued*

Neither David Bennett, San Diego Opera's new General Director, nor its new board of directors are, in this editor's mind, traditionalists. San Diego operagoers will see three grand shows this coming season: *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Great Scott*, a new opera about a city with a struggling opera company and Super Bowl-bound football team. (Talk about juxtaposition!)

Operas are expensive propositions. With a reduced budget of \$11,500,000, the feat of presenting these three operas and additional programming will be accomplished with the assistance of other national opera companies collaborating by sending sets, costumes, etc. Why? Because they want to see San Diego Opera succeed.

In an effort to become more relevant to our community and to attract a more plural and diverse audience, we were told to prepare for creative and innovative performances and festivals in non-traditional spaces during non-traditional times of the year. Other companies around the nation have staged performances in such places as a planetarium, by a swimming pool, an art museum, a botanical garden, and outdoors, using nature as part of the scenery, as does the Santa Fe Opera. Our beautiful city has so much to offer that we will look forward to our Opera's inventiveness.

When Mr. Bennett decided to join the San Diego Opera, he did so because he was impressed with the community that not only welcomed him, but considered opera as a resource and an asset as well. He also appreciated the work done by the new board to determine the future of opera in San Diego and with the impressive arts community we have. In his three months here, he has forged relationships with other arts organizations: The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, and SD Symphony, all with relatively new leadership. The goal in mind is to cooperate on future productions, possibly with revenue sharing in mind. Collaboration—what an enlightened prospect. Mr. Bennett is also reaching out to arts companies in Orange County, the desert communities, and Tijuana to determine possible cooperative ventures. San Diego Opera now has a program wherein students can attend full dress rehearsals, in an attempt to reach the youth audience.

When asked during Q&A if we might experience a flash mob (or what his Philadelphia colleague calls *a random act of culture*), Mr. Bennett smiled and told us we'd just have to wait and see. And so we shall. What fun!

## CALENDAR

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

### October

**29 Robert DeLaurentis, Flew Solo Around the World**

### November

**5 Women Peacemakers**

**12 Salute to Military— Guest speaker Capt. Derek Herrera**

**19 Annual Auction**

**26 DARK**

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

**Mission Fed Junior Achievement Finance Park**

**Nov. 10, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

The Mission Fed JA Finance Park is a paperless, high-tech learning center that helps students imagine who they want to be and gives them hands-on tools and skills to plan for a financially secure future.

We will have a tour of the facility, learn about the programs and students, and how to volunteer. Food and adult beverages will be served.

[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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# FACES IN OUR CROWD



Thank you to Greg Zinser who entertained us with his musical talent today.



Ben Motten delivered today's Inspirational Moment.



Chair of the Day John Hattox, guest speaker David Bennett and President Peter.



Tom Vecchione briefed us on MOST's recent trip.



Bob Fletcher officially retired the Gene Rumsey Big Fish trophy and was presented with the new Ferd Fletcher perpetual trophy by Rick McElvain, last year's winner.



# MEMBERSHIP

Save the date!  
Thursday, November 12 at 11:30 am

## *Give The Gift of Rotary*

### San Diego Rotary VIP Reception

You and your prospective member are invited to a pre-lunch meeting reception at the Liberty Station Conference Center for an opportunity to introduce your member prospect to some of our club Rotarians and Board Members. The club will provide a complimentary lunch for your guest.

—ADMISSION REQUIREMENT—  
Bring one prospective member!

—Registration is required—  
Please visit our website to sign-up  
<http://www.sandiegorotary.club/event/>

## SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL WARM CLOTHES DRIVE

The Senior Services Committee will be holding their annual Warm Clothes Drive on **November 12**.

The Committee is looking forward to great participation from our club!

**Hundreds of low income seniors are in need of your generosity.** Plan to bring your donations to the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A drop-off table will be set up in the lobby.

Some shopping ideas: White crew socks, gloves, beanies, sweatshirts, warm neck scarves, jackets, slippers, blankets/throw blankets and rain ponchos.

Clothing sizes - X-Small to XXXL.

**Only new items, please.** Thank you.



## 2016 PADRES SEASON TICKETS

**Craig Nelson** has an opening for baseball fans to join his **Club 33 Padres Rotary Season Ticket Syndicate for 2016**.

Seat Location: There are 4 seats together behind home plate just a shade to the Padres side of the plate on the isle, Section 103 Row 13, seats 1-4.

Face Value / Our cost: Face value on the tickets is \$86.25 (higher for a few games: \$97 for LA & SF, up to \$199 for NY Yankees! ) Our full season discount works out to \$53 per ticket, or \$212 per game (set of 4 tix), 5 games = \$1060; 10 games \$2,120; 20 games \$4,200, etc.

Please contact Craig Nelson at [bankoncraig@gmail.com](mailto:bankoncraig@gmail.com) for more details if you are interested in joining us!

# GROTARIAN EVENT

Attendees at the October 20 Grotarian event at the First United Methodist Church heard Stephen Price, the church's organist, give a terrific introduction to the complexities of the largest organ in North America. They got to listen to him play from the sanctuary and then come up to watch him play up close.

The discussion from the guest panel about religious diversity was enlightening and educational! Thank you to **Craig Brown** for organizing and hosting this event.



# GOLF NEWS

The first round of the Rotary Golf Tournament for President Peter's year was held on Friday, October 8th at the San Diego Country Club. A packed field of 8 (yes, you read that correctly) golfers enjoyed a wonderful day of camaraderie and fun.

With two rounds to go, **Tom Wilson**, our resident PGA professional, shares the lead with **Guy Maddox**, who both shot net 76s. The closest to the pin contest was won by **John Anewalt** who put his tee shot a mere 4'5" away from the cup from a distance of 137 yards! Alas, John missed his birdie putt and had to settle for a ho-hum par.

**SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 20**

**Our second round is scheduled for Friday, November 20th** and included on this day will be a special treat for Club 33 golfers who participate—an appearance by the SDSU Women's Golf Team! Lucky Rotarians may get to play a round with individual members of the Lady Aztecs. **Marten Barry**'s money is on the SDSU women to out-score every Rotarian, with the possible exception of our golf professional Tom.

Please contact Marten Barry [mbarry@naisandiego.com](mailto:mbarry@naisandiego.com) or Alli Lucas [alucas@naisandiego.com](mailto:alucas@naisandiego.com) if you would like to play in this next round of our tournament.