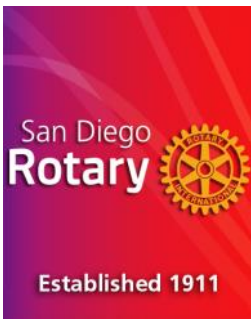


THE ROTATOR

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SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB



Normandy Loves the US...The Untold Story



Jen Weissman
Editor

The Inspirational Moment was given by **Cheryl Wilson** who thoughtfully set the tone with an homage to Memorial Day. The Pledge of Allegiance and “America” was led by **Brandon Horrocks** and accompanied by **Suzy Spafford**.

Peter kicked off the meeting, acknowledging visiting Rotarians and asking if there were any **SDSU Rotaracts** without a social life present, which there weren't. We'll see who has the last laugh as Peter's Roast is right around the corner! **Judy Thompson**, “The Hardest Working Rotarian,” was then acknowledged for her 5th Paul Harris. The club appreciates her work taking over the Diana Venerable scholarship program. **Jenni Prisk** asked the club for help in nominating a deserving person for the 2016 Peace Award [Click Here](#).

Serhat Pala told us about the Adopt-a-Scholar Program, asking for graduation ceremony sponsorships (\$300 or less) for homeless and low-income high school graduates through his fine. [More info here](#).

Now onto the program... We learned the chair of the day, **Jim Wynkoop** loves beer, sailing, and the Padres. He's also into Brazilian jujitsu, plays trombone and is Holtville's time-times champion for the greased pig wrestling contest. It was hard to maintain composure while Jim discussed his profession, which includes colorectal cancer screening, as his company is world leader in the field. Enough said.

Imagine that Americans are loved in France today. It's true, and former Club 33 member Doug Gordon has the pictures and stories to prove it from his many trips to Normandy during D-Day Anniversary Week with his good friend, Jack Port of Escondido, a U.S. Army WWII veteran of the Normandy Campaign.

Doug's slideshow included amazing images of Normandy, such as the church in Sainte-Mere-Eglise with a life-size mannequin of a paratrooper that hangs with a real parachute. The paratroopers of the 82nd airborne division were caught off-guard by a house that had caught fire on the evening of June 5th by air raids which illuminated the night sky and allowed the Germans an easy target.

Members of the 505th, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Edward C. Krause, took the town. At 04:30 the stars and stripes were hoisted over the town and Sainte-Mere-Eglise was the first town to be liberated in France. The town was made famous by the paratrooper John Steele and by the film "The Longest Day." John Steele managed to land on the church and his chute caught on the steeple. He hung there for two hours while the fighting continued on the ground before being cut down by the Germans and taken prisoner. He later escaped. An effigy of John Steele is usually to be seen on the church. Inside the church there are two stained glass windows. One shows the Virgin Mary surrounded by paratroopers and the other depicts St. Michael (patron saint of the paratroopers). The windows were dedicated in 1972. The liberation monument in the square was covered by a parachute during the making of “The Longest Day” as the town mayor would not allow its removal.



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Next Meeting

June 2, 2016

**Alison Holland &
Clint Lusardi**

Zoo Express Program

Zoo Express is a program which was started in 1995. It was started as a way to reach out to children and seniors who might not otherwise be able to experience the wonderful world of animals. Zoo Express is funded by generous donations and the program's focus is on children's hospitals, disabled children and senior homes. The trainers showcase 2 to 6 animals and do an interactive presentation allowing tactile with some of the animal ambassadors while giving information about them, along with a wildlife conservation message.

Alison Holland has been working at the Zoo for 39 years. In 2012, Alison was made coordinator for the Zoo express program.

Clint Lusardi is an animal care supervisor in the Animal Connections division of San Diego Zoo Global. He oversees the Children's Zoo, Free Flight Bird Show, and the Zoo Express program.



Patti Roscoe
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS



The next and final round of the **Club 33 Golf Tournament** for President Peter's year will be held **Friday, June 3rd** at San Diego Country Club, with the first tee time at approximately 11:30 am.

All Rotary golfers are encouraged to play in this fun event, as fellowship is the top priority. The cost to play this exclusive, private course is approximately \$116.50 per player, which includes electric carts, plus each player's pro rata share of the cost of refreshments.

Please contact **Alli Lucas** at alucas@naisandiego.com or (619) 241-2342 to sign up.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UPS for the 2016-2017 Rotary year has begun. [Click here](#) for the form.

Please sign up by June 10!

BIRTHDAYS

	May
Deirdre Maloney	31
	June
Chuck Pretto	3
Julia Brown	5
Doug Arbon	5

Normandy Loves the US...The Untold Story

continued

D-Day, June 6, 1944, saw the largest amphibious invasion in history with over 5,000 ships, 11,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 service men. After years of meticulous planning and seemingly endless training for the Allied Forces, it all came down to this: The boat ramp goes down, then jump, swim, run, and crawl to the cliffs. Many of the first young men (most not yet 20 years old) entered the surf carrying eighty pounds of equipment.

They faced over 200 yards of beach before reaching the first natural feature offering any protection. Blanketed by small-arms fire and bracketed by artillery, they found themselves in hell. When it was over, the Allied Forces had suffered nearly 10,000 casualties; more than 4,000 were dead. Yet somehow, due to planning and preparation, and due to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied Forces, Fortress Europe had been breached.

The World War II Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument is located on a cliff eight miles west of Normandy American Cemetery, which overlooks Omaha Beach, France. It was erected by the French to honor elements of the American Second Ranger Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. James E. Rudder. During the American assault of Omaha and Utah beaches on June 6, 1944, these U.S. Army Rangers scaled the 100-foot cliffs and seized the German artillery pieces that could have fired on the American landing troops at Omaha and Utah beaches. At a high cost of life, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks. Gordon also spoke of his trip with his good friend Jack Port of Escondido, CA, an Army vet in the 4th infantry division who won a Bronze Star Medal for bravery. His heroic achievements took place in the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944, where Saint-Pois was liberated. Jack held his ground for 8 days, and the city has acknowledged him by making him an honorary citizen.

These were just several of the stories Gordon shared with us as we approached Memorial Day—for all of us to remember and give thanks to those who so bravely served our country and for our freedom. We are so very humbled and grateful.

CALENDAR

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

June

- 2 *Zoo Express Program*
- 9 *Dr. Russell Low—A Descendant's Story*
- 16 *Dr. Gary McPherson—Musical Prodigies*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

Wednesday, June 22
California Tower at The Museum of Man
Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$30

The Grotarians are climbing the historic California Tower at The Museum of Man in Balboa Park, and you are invited to join us. From the second floor of the Museum, you go up a staircase hidden from the public for decades. Then you climb seven flights, getting glimpses through narrow windows of the beauty outside. Finally, you climb a spiral metal stairway and emerge into sunlight where you will see a spectacular Southern California vista. Depending on the number of attendees, we will be divided into two groups to climb the tower. Before or after your climb, we will enjoy light appetizers and wine on the museum balcony.

[Click here](#) 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



(Left) Jen Weissman, we see you back there; (right) **Wayne Goodermote** showing his silly side for the camera.



(Left) President Peter with guest speaker Doug Gordon and Chair of the Day Jim Wynkoop; (right) for his fine, Serhat Pala asked for graduation sponsorships for homeless or low income high school graduates.



(Left) President Peter fined the Senior Services Committee for taking over his meetings this month in promoting Older Americans Month; (right) **Simona Valanciute** in turn gifted Peter with 10 lbs of fat and promoted Oasis's programs on healthy living.



(Left) Guest Jack Port, a U.S. Army WWII veteran, was given a standing ovation for his service; (right) Jack visits with guest Dan Breitenberg.

