

THE ROTATOR

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SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

Zoo Express



Craig Nelson
Editor

President Peter Duncan called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors to the best Rotary Club on the planet! The Inspirational Moment was delivered impeccably by **Ray Higgins** who quoted Winston Churchill with flair.

Steve Hubbard, accompanied by **Suzy Spafford** on the keys, led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance and *God Bless America*. **Stan Lawrence** delivered the news sponsored by **Glenn Younger** and Grah Safe & Lock. At noon the stock market was up, Hillary Clinton was in town and the mood at UCLA...shocked and somber. Peter welcomed the visiting guests including our own former member Brian Lange, who still counts as our "own" despite moving to the outer limits of the city.

One if by Land, two if by Sea! That's the rally cry for incoming President **John Morrell**, who, while contemplating his upcoming regime, has determined we're gonna need more drinking. His new committee is to be co-chaired by **Ben Wood** who filled us in on the upcoming Carouse & Commerce Committee event on June 9th at 5pm at the Karl Strauss Brewery (find details on page 3). All Rotarians are encouraged to attend this free event with a prospective member.

The new San Diego Rotary GroupAhead App was unveiled and explained by **Jackie Meyer**. You can download it on both Android and Apple devices. I watched fearless **Doug Taber** download it on his phone during lunch...a brave soul is one who opens his phone for any reason during the meeting.

Bill Early is locked in a box somewhere for the Red Cross but he failed to appear on the big screen to give us an update. So we'll just leave him in the box for now and see if we can't tune him in next week. Maybe he needs a private server.

Three new members were introduced by Peter: **Ginny Ollis, Gregg Oggel, & Mark Stuart**. They will each get a chance to tell their story at a future meeting because, hey, the Zoo was here and nobody should

have to compete with the Zoo!

Patti Roscoe took the helm as Chair of the Day and presented a gaggle of Zoo goodies to the visiting Rotarian all the way from India, where Mr. Murtha is a past President of his club. Still unclear of how Patti got the white rhino in the bag, though.

Patti introduced Alison Holland and Clint Lusardi, today's presenters from Zoo Express. Celebrating its 100th Anniversary, everyone loves the Zoo, but not everyone is able to go. Zoo Express was created 20 years ago by two keepers who decided that if you can't come to the Zoo, Zoo Express will bring it to you! They began by driving up to six animals to retirement homes and adult daycare centers.

These trips then led to visits to children's hospitals. Clint poignantly explained—for the old, it's a chance to remember trips to the zoo when they were young; and for the young, it's a chance to forget the cancer, the hospital and the medications.

Funded by grants and donations, Zoo Express delivered smiles and joy to 1,121 adults and 2,224 children last year. It's impossible to convey the happiness you could see in the patients shown in their slide show so Alison (now in her 39th year at the Zoo) and Clint shared a couple of their personal stories.

On one particular day, it was Clint who presented the first animal and he could not help but notice a frail little girl with multiple IVs who just lit up when he brought the animals out. As Clint finished his portion of the presentation he saw the girl's mother slip out into the hallway, and he decided to follow. Approaching her, he saw she was crying and asked what was wrong. "I realized I had forgotten what my daughter's laugh sounded like—thank you," was her reply.

Animals used by Zoo Express are not on exhibit at the Zoo. Many arrive after failed smuggling operations or are rescue animals who have been injured and are unable to survive in the wild.

Continued on page 2

Next Meeting

June 9, 2016

Dr. Russell Low

The Chinese and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad: A Descendant's Story

The building of the TCRR was a feat of unimaginable magnitude that required a Herculean effort. Its completion on May 10, 1869 was celebrated across our nation. Twelve hundred Chinese workers performed the most dangerous work. With nothing more than hand tools, they laid the CPRR through the high Sierra Nevada Mountains. The story of my great grandfather Hung Lai Wah and his 100 descendants is an American Story that spans 150 years and multiple generations.



Diana MarJip-Chuh
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

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

Please sign up by June 10!



On September 22, 2016 our club will present its **2nd annual Peace Award**, and you are invited to submit a nomination for the award. [Click here](#) for the criteria and application form. **The deadline to submit your nomination has been extended to June 30.**

BIRTHDAYS

June

Chuck Nickel	6
Craig Benedetto	6
Chip Goodwin, Jr.	7
Tracy Sundlun	7
Pamela Stambaugh	8
Tom Fetter	9
Martha Gilmer	10
Lambert Hsu	12
Yvonne Larsen	12
Ian Stewart	12
David Kvendru	12

Zoo Express *continued*

That's how you end up with a travelling porcupine!

One of the favorite animals of the traveling zoo is Duke, a 150+ pound Akbash (a rare species of dog that resembles a polar bear.) A nurse asked Alison to bring him into the ICU, not a place they generally go. The nurse explained the frail patient was unable to see, speak or hear so she spoke to the patient in sign language drawing on the palm of her hand and explained Duke was here to see her and was she OK to meet him. She had never touched an animal in her life. Hesitant at first, she threw her arms around Duke and gave him a magnificent hug.

Today, Duke himself is recovering from cancer, but he is well on the road to recovery and Clint & Alison think it will be a great example for the patients when he is able to resume his visits.

If you know of a facility that would like to have Zoo Express visit, just call the Zoo and ask for Clint & Alison at extension 4500.

New App Available

Be sure to download our new San Diego Rotary app on your phone and tablet from the App Store or Google Play. Just search "San Diego Rotary" in the store. The app will make it much easier to access information and keep up-to-date on what is happening in the club.



CALENDAR

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

June

9 Dr. Russell Low—A Descendant's Story

16 Dr. Gary McPherson—Musical Prodigies

23 Dr. Ramon Resa

30 President's Roast

GROTARIAN EVENTS

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

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

Friday, July 22
Marine Recruit Graduation
Time: 7:00 am - 11:30 am
Cost: FREE

This will be a full-on Marine Corps experience and guaranteed to be an inspiring event!

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

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

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MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest members to the club:



From left to right:

Gregg Oggel - “Marketing - E-Commerce” - Gregg is the owner of GO Commerce. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and enjoys mountain biking and snowboarding. His sponsors are his father Steve Oggel, Mike Morton, Jr. and Chris Cramer. Contact info: goggels1@gmail.com Business phone: 760-801-8743

Ginny Ollis - “Real Estate Sales-Residential, Additional Active” - Ginny is a Broker Associate with Woods Real Estate Services and owns Carlson & Ollis Realtors. She enjoys theatre, writing, history, and reading. Her sponsors are Bill Wise, Marc Tarasuck and Paul Van Roon. Contact info: ginnyollis@gmail.com Business phone: 619-517-4983

Mark Stuart - “Real Estate Sales-Residential, Additional Active” - Mark is an Independent Contractor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. On his days off, you can find Mark playing golf, enjoying outdoor activities, cooking, or enjoying a glass of wine with friends. His sponsors are Jim Groen, Chris Sichel and Tom Wilson. Contact info: marks@bhhsca.com Business phone: 858-454-8519

CAROUSE & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Incoming President **John Morrell** has put together a new committee called “Carouse and Commerce,” aimed at helping us recruit new members in a more casual, social environment. All members are invited to attend and to bring a prospective member. We hope you can join us at our inaugural event!



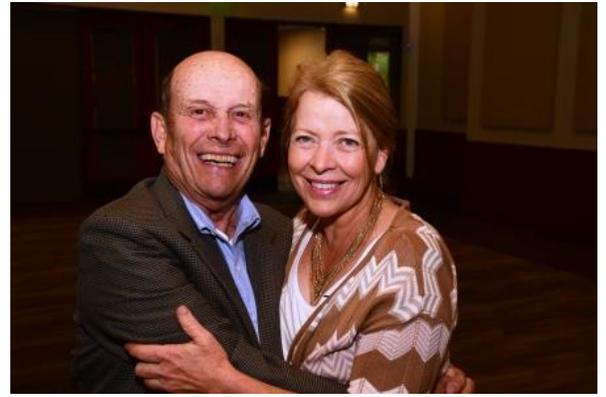
When: Thursday, June 9th @ 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Where: Karl Strauss Brewery in the Barrel Room
Address: Karl Strauss Main Brewery 5985 Santa Fe St, San Diego, CA 92109

Thank you to committee Co-Chair Ben Wood for sponsoring the food and the first 2 beers for everyone!

FACES IN OUR CROWD



(Left) Guest speakers Clint Lusardi and Alison Holland; (right) Alison Holland with San Diego Zoo Global's Chuck Bieler.



(Left) Ray Higgins delivered his first Inspirational Moment since becoming a member last year; (right) Ben Wood announced the first event for the new social committee, the Carouse & Commerce Committee.



(Left) Guest Maria Keckler, Suzy Spaford, **Julia Holladay** and Jackie Meyer; (right) **Roger Haines** and **Past President Chuck Pretto** hosted visiting guests from Engineers with out Borders.



(Left) New Member **Mark Stuart**; (right) **Tyler Cramer** and former Club 33 member **Brian Lange**.

