

The Making of America—One Rail at a Time



Richard Ledford
Editor

There are many heroes in the making of America. Our program today gave us a reminder of one such group of builders and their contribution to our great nation. In that spirit, our great builder/leader **Prez Peter** called the meeting to order with his usual

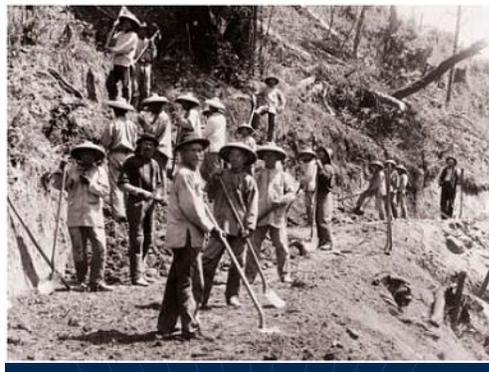
(although some would argue otherwise) wit and charm. **Judy Thompson** chimed in with the Inspirational Moment, challenging us to reflect on what matters in life and to choose a life that matters. Byran “The Voice” Verhoye led us in the Pledge and a rousing round of the *Star Spangled Banner* accompanied our skillful Club 33 Singers. **Stan** “The-News-Man” **Lawrence** poured out all the news that’s new, brought to us this week care of **Eric Schweinfurter**’s Apex Contracting & Restoration Inc.

Next, we were back to Prez Peter and his recognition of the Rotaract members present today as well as an update on the glowing member response to our Club meeting location and food at Liberty Station through our recent survey. **Marc Tarasuck** previewed the June 22nd Grotarian event at the California Tower in Balboa Park. And, wow! What an opportunity for Grotarians! Yes, there are stairs... lots of stairs. But what a view! Marc promises beverages as a reward. Sign up on our website now.

It was also a big day for introduction of new members. The new members include an equestrian, former restaurateur, a really buff guy, a desert buff guy, a really dedicated Scout Dad, and a competitively ranked Gaelic football player (no word of a stadium demand here). Talk about variety! The Club welcomed **Audrie Astebury, Patricia Hodgkin, Greg Sterner, Bill Lawrence, Richard Donnelly,** and **Kendra Mattson.**

Prez Peter finished that off by introducing our Chair of the Day, **Diana MarJip-Chuh.** Given the subject of today’s program, Diana

has some significant history of her own in San Diego as owner of Nine Dragons Inc. which has been a fixture in San Diego for many years. Diana introduced Dr. Russell Low, an accomplished physician who is well known for his research on the Chinese labor used to build the Transcontinental Railroad (TCRR). Dr. Low’s research is personal, as he is a descendent of one of the more than 12,000 Chinese recruited to complete the Omaha to Sacramento leg of the TCRR. These laborers worked for years for a \$1/day in often the harshest of climates to complete a rail line that connected our nation. It took courage and a persistence to achieve those goals. Courage, because historically Chinese labor was not welcome in America, and persistence to overcome racism associated with that. But as Dr. Low correctly pointed out, his family’s story is really one of the classic American success stories. Families that overcame huge social and economic obstacles and succeeded where others failed... we as a nation are greater as a result.



In the words of Dr. Low, “The Chinese were much smaller than the hardy white workers and they had absolutely no experience in building railroads. Initially given menial tasks, they quickly learned and excelled at every job they were given, soon outperforming their teachers. When put up against the best White crews, the Chinese outperformed them at every turn. The Chinese railroad beds were longer and far straighter than the work of the White crews. These Chinese were industrious and tireless.”

Next Meeting

June 16, 2016

Dr. Gary McPherson

*And a performance by
Gavin George,
Piano Prodigy*

The Extraordinary World of the Musical Prodigy

Gary McPherson, Ph.D., Ormond Professor and Director of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in Australia, studies giftedness: the characteristics and development of people who have an unusually high potential for greatness. His presentation will talk about his research on musical prodigies, and the range of natural abilities and environmental factors that lead to extraordinarily rapid musical development. How can this be explained? How are musical prodigies different from other children?

Acclaimed for his musical maturity and virtuosity with a passion for music, 12 year-old pianist Gavin George began formal piano instruction at age three-and-a-half. He made his concerto debut by age seven with the Newark-Granville Symphony performing Haydn’s Concerto in D Major. As a gold medal winner for two consecutive years in the American Association for the Development of the Gifted and Talented International Piano Competition, Gavin has performed multiple times in Carnegie Hall.



**Nancy
Laturno-Bojanic**
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 NOW!**

Please remember to update your estate with the bequest going to our Foundation (Rotary Club of San Diego Foundation.) Sample language can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Paul](#) in the Rotary office.

BIRTHDAYS

June

Jeremiah Doran	13
LeAnne Stefl	13
Al Sibel	14
Carl Brown	15
Don Wilkie	15
Richard Walker	16
Mike Collins	16
Wayne Goodermote	17
Brandon Horrocks	17
Kate Carinder	17
Cathy LeClair	17
Mary Colacicco	17
Steve Mueller	18
Evan Wahl	18
Don Schoell	18
Pete Ellsworth	19

Program Cost

In our recent member survey, you gave very high marks to the staff and experience at Liberty Station. The satisfaction level with the lunch increased, and there was a significant increase in the satisfaction with the service and amenities. We have negotiated a multi-year agreement to remain here into the foreseeable future. **Effective July 1, for those of you that eat, there will be a 3.2% increase which equates to a \$1 per lunch increase.**

Also, as we have mentioned, the weekly cost for us is more than just the food cost for lunch. It includes the room rental, A/V, meeting rooms, etc. (Parking is free!) We surveyed the non-eaters who sit at the beverage only tables or in the seats in back. By a more than 10:1 margin, these members agreed that it is fair that they share the cost of the attendance. **Therefore, effective July 1, there will be a \$5 charge per meeting for non-eaters.**

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

16 *Dr. Gary McPherson—Musical Prodigies*

23 *Dr. Ramon Resa*

30 *President's Roast*

July

7 *DARK*

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

Peter Duncan, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

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MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest members to the club:



From left to right:

Bill Lawrence - “Museum-History Center” - Bills is the Executive Director of The San Diego History Center. His sponsors were **Tom Fetter, Hal Sadler** and **Woody Ledford**. Contact info: blawrence@sandiegohistory.org
Business phone: 619-232-6203 ext. 106

Patricia Hodgkin - “Trust Services” - Pat is the Vice President of First American Trust. She is a Past President of the San Marcos Club. Her sponsor was **Jan McDonough**. Contact info: phodgkin@firstam.com
Business phone: 858-410-5761

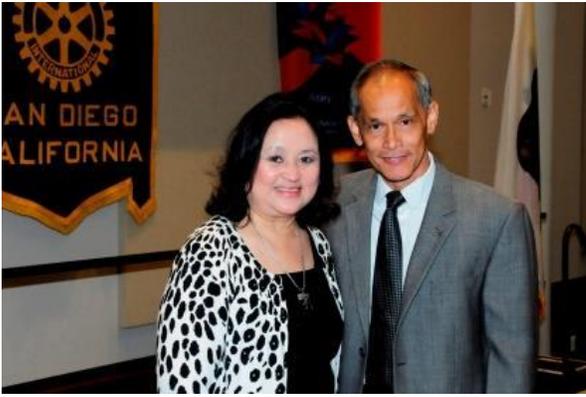
Richard Donnelly - “Investments-Wealth Management, Additional Active” - Rich is the President and Founder of Donnelly Wealth Advisors, Inc. He is a former member of the La Jolla Sunrise Club. His sponsors were **Ellis Smith** and **Michael Collins**. Contact info: rdonnelly@dwa-sd.com Business phone: 858-622-9009

Audrie Astebury - “Strategic Planning” - Audrie is the CEO and Founder of Astebury & Co. Her sponsors were **Peter Duncan, David Oates** and **Glenn Younger**. Contact info: aastebury1@gmail.com Business phone: 619-763-8734

Kendra Mattson - “Investments-Wealth Management, Additional Active” - Kendra is a Financial Services Representative with Foresters Financial. Her sponsors were **David Oates, Jean Young, Mary Colacicco**.
Contact info: kmatts2@yahoo.com Business phone: 858-650-6830

Greg Sterner - “Personal Training” - Greg is the President and Owner of Fitness Together Point Loma. He is a licensed physical therapist. His sponsors were **Sandy Purdon, David Oates** and **Jean Young**.
Contact info: gregsterner@fitnesstogether.com Business phone: 619-756-7500

FACES IN OUR CROWD



(Left) Guest speaker Dr. Russell Low and Chair of the Day Diana MarJip-Chuh; (right) The Club 33 Singers entertained during their monthly visit.



(Left) Marc Tarasuck was greeted by **Bill Earley** upon his arrival; (right) Diana gifted Jordan Maharaj with her “visiting Rotarian” bag of goodies, which **Andy Liska** tried to take.



(Left and right) Dr. Low's presentation reminded us to cherish our ancestry and to make it a part of our legacy.



What a great day to be at Rotary!

Photos courtesy of Steve Mueller

CAROUSE & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Our new Carouse & Commerce committee held their first event at the Karl Strauss Brewery on Thursday, June 9th. Thanks to all who came in support of this inaugural event and to those that brought prospective members. A special thanks to **Ben Wood** who sponsored the food and beer. Look out for info on the next event coming soon!

