



THE ROTATOR

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SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

East Meets West



Deirdre Maloney
Editor

This week's meeting was filled to the brim with Chinese Lunar New Year festivities, as Club 33 brought in the "Year of the Rooster" like only it could. In fact, the "crowing" began as soon as **President John** rang the bell and quickly presented us with a side-by-side photo comparison of the new head bird with the new head of our country.

Camille Newbern and her Inspirational Moment brought a funny, sentimental feel to the celebration. While Camille only knows about six phrases in Chinese (and three of them couldn't be uttered at our meeting for fear of a profanity fine), she says she still feels very tied to her Asian heritage. The credit goes to her family members, many of whom were present at the meeting, for making her "as Chinese as she can get".

Next up was **Solveig Deuprey** with the Pledge and the singing of *America*, accompanied by **Larry Showley**, followed by **Mark Burgess** and the news, sponsored by **John Neuhart** of Synapses LLC. The video of the week brought us another Rooster appearance, only this time it was John Wayne in his shoot-'em-up portrayal of Rooster Cogburn.

Not to be outdone by the Duke, President John got some extra attention when he instructed us to open the fortune cookies at our table. Turns out these clever confections contained a few special Club-33-related predictions, including the not-so-shocking notions that "**Nancy Scott** will don a hat" and "**Chuck Pretto** will wear no less than three Rotary pins at next week's meeting." (You can read more fortunes at the end of the editorial.)

We then took a slight "rooster rest" to hear a few announcements, including the postponement of the upcoming golf tournament resulting from some rain damage at the San Diego Country Club. **Paul Nestor** climbed the dais to talk about the upcoming Sweethearts Day program on 2/9, which will feature a special performance by SDSU's Master of Fine Arts Musical Theater students. Be sure to let the Rotary office know if your sweetheart can join us!

Chair-of-the-day **Gayle Hom** then brought the New Year's festivities to a whole new level. Gayle, a graduate of SDSU (or the "Yale of the West" as President John refers to his second favorite institution), has a long list of impressive professional roles, including as a board member at the Chinese Historical Museum. Gayle bestowed a bevy of generous gifts on our visiting Rotarian from San Jose, including the inspiring book written by her father, our club's own 2014 Mr. San Diego, Tom Hom.

But Gayle was far from done. She then pulled out a small, red envelope and instructed us to find similar ones at our tables, fill them with money, and give them to a child or a Chinese lion for good luck in the new year. Where to find a Chinese lion, you ask? At our meeting, of course! The drums started beating and dancers dressed in traditional two-man lion costumes made their way around the room, gobbling up the envelopes fed to them by our members. Some of our Rotarians even showed off their own dazzling moves. (Looking at you, Solveig Deuprey!)

Once the feeding frenzy came to an end it was time to meet our speaker, Dr. Lilly Cheng. Among her many accomplishments, roles and accolades, Dr. Cheng is currently the Managing Director of the Confucius Institute at SDSU. She has served as SDSU professor in the School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, and as the executive director at its Chinese Studies Institute.

In her compelling "East Meets West" presentation, Dr. Cheng talked about the importance of true cultural competency, referring to Thomas Friedman's sentiments that those who win at life will be the ones who aren't just smart (with a high IQ), but also have passion (PQ) and curiosity (CQ).

Dr. Cheng believes that cultural competency comes when we are educated about and engaged in another culture, and also when we get to explicitly experience it for ourselves. She proceeded to enhance our education of the Chinese culture with a few fascinating nuggets that illustrate some differences with the American culture we know so well.

Next Meeting

February 2, 2017

Maureen Stapleton
General Manager
San Diego Water Authority

Water, Water, Everywhere... Beyond the California Drought

Water is never a dry subject, and 2017 promises to be another action-packed year in the water world. Maureen Stapleton, general manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, will bring us up-to-date on the important water issues to watch this year. The Water Authority is the region's wholesale water provider and over the past two decades has executed a diversification strategy that has ensured water reliability in support of the region's \$222 billion economy and its 3.3 million people.



Jim Madaffer
Chair of the Day

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QUICK BITS

Feb 3 Golf

Tournament

CANCELLED



The second round of the 2016/2017 Club 33 Tournament that was to be held **February 3rd** has been [cancelled](#) due to severe storm damage to the golf course. Do not worry, the event will be rescheduled to a later date.

Please contact Sarah Anane at sanane@naisandiego.com if you have any questions.



WANTED—Rotary Reader

A Rotary Reader is needed for a Kindergarten class at Cesar

Chavez Elementary School, approximately half an hour a week. For more information, contact [Dick Troncone](#) or [Joe da Rosa](#).

THURSDAY LUNCH REMINDER

If you will not be eating, to ensure that we have enough seats for all of our diners, please join us at one of our two **Beverage Only** tables, or at the seating located at the back of the room.

BIRTHDAYS

January

George Harris

25

George Driver

25

Rod Smith

26

Cecil Steppe

27

Lynn Congemi

27

February

Jenni Prisk

4

Eric Schweinfurter

4

Ron Oliver

5

East Meets West continued

Among them:

- China, as an Asian country, is more about collectivism than the West, which reflects more individualism. (FYI, this is why meals in the East are served in shared bowls while meals in West are served individually...and, in the case of people like this editor, are also modified greatly from the menu).
- The ceremony behind tea, which, if you're invited to one in China, will bring with it an abundance of food, and which has its own special, slow ritual.
- The hundreds of different kinds of soy/tofu (Dr. Cheng grew up with more than 200 varieties) which is as popular and diverse in the East as bread is in the West.
- The dress code, which often features groups of people dressed in similar types of clothing (another example of collectivism).
- The very special and unique Chinese language, which is the only written language where each character has its own semantic and linguistic properties.

Dr. Cheng didn't just illustrate some of the vast differences between East and West, but also reminded us that understanding and experiencing these differences for ourselves will greatly enrich our lives, wherever we happen to be.

Other Chinese New Year predictions members found in their fortune cookies:

"Chico State will name John Morrell Alum of the Century"

"Jim Hughes and Betty Peabody will propose a shopping mall in the middle of Balboa Park"

"The Chargers will seriously regret their move to LA"

"Peter Yarrow will sing at Rotary in May of this year"

"Your lucky number is 33, winning lottery number is 33, 33, 33, 33, 33, 33"

A special thank you to Paul Nestor for donating the custom fortune cookies and for arranging the Chinese lions, and to Diana MarJip-Chuh for providing the Chinese red envelopes. It made the program extra fun!

CALENDAR

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

February

2 **Maureen Stapleton, GM,
San Diego County Water
Authority**

9 **Sweethearts Day Program**

16 **Chris Yanov, President,
Reality Changers**

GROTRIAN EVENTS

Tuesday, February 28

Location: San Diego Art Institute

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$25

Join your fellow Grotarians for a guided tour, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails at Balboa Park's only contemporary art museum.

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

Wednesday, March 8

Location: Connections Housing

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$15 (\$8 for Rotaracts)

The event will be a tour of the facility and of the services which they provide. With the rise of homeless in San Diego this is a very current issue and something we should all be aware of.

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

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

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RYLA



Join the fun and be inspired! Members are invited to be a facilitator at the **District 5340 RYLA** conference being held **April 7-9 in Idyllwild**. Best of all, there is no cost to you or our club to participate.

RYLA is a 3 day leadership conference for 280 11th grade students throughout the district. It's primary intent is to encourage students to become more effective servant leaders. The program includes exceptional speakers, small group discussions and fellowship activities, all within an atmosphere of trust and respect.

If interested, please go to the RYLA website at www.ryla5340.org, click on the facilitator link and follow the instructions to complete the application. If you have any questions, please contact [Paul van Roon](#) or 619/262-7000 x107.

2017 FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Our Hoover High Interact speech contest workshops are well under way. We had 60 students at the first "kick-off" meeting on January 6 and now we are down to about 25 to 30 students who are committed to learning how to write and present a speech for the contest. Thank you to those Rotarians who have had the time to come out and help. We all understand how valuable your time is.

We do need more volunteers and mentors!

Please consider coming out on **Friday, February 3 and Friday, February 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm**. We will need all the mentors we can get because it's all about practice, practice, practice! We really need one-on-one work with the kids to give them feedback and tips. Our goal is to bring out their self confidence and make them shine.

The actual **Hoover High Speech Contest** will be held **Friday, February 24**. The time hasn't been finalized but it will probably be around **5:30 p.m.**

Although the formal Hoover High workshops will end on February 10, the students may still need your help with practicing their speeches after school, at Price Charities (4305 University Avenue, San Diego 92105) during the week before the contest. (Feb. 20-24)



The **Club 33 Speech Contest** for Our Lady Of Peace Academy and St. Augustine High School (2 students from each) will be on **Monday, February 27** around the same time (**5:30 p.m.**) Please be sure to come to both contests and see the students' hard work in action.

No matter how big or small of a part you play in the contests and in the workshops, **you will make a difference in the lives of these young students who are trying to find their way in the world. You will be proud of the time you spent on this committee.**

If you have any questions or would like to participate as a mentor, please contact Jan McDonough at 619-813-8368 or janet.mcdonough.law@live.com

.faces in our crowd



(Left) President John and Dr. Lilly Cheng were greeted by a Chinese lion; (above) members participated in the Chinese tradition of feeding the lions with red envelopes filled with money, for good luck in the new year.



(Left) Camille Newbern presented the Inspirational Moment; (center) Dr. Cheng was gifted photos from the SD History Center taken at the Chinese Mission in the 1930s; (right) Paul Nestor takes a time out from taking pictures to have a photo taken of him for a change.



(Left) Gayle Hom presented a "To Do List" to ensure that you have a lucky new year; (right) President John poses for a photo with the extended Hom and Newbern family, and friends.