

THE ROTATOR

Vol. 103, No. 42 May 18, 2017

SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

San Diego
Rotary



Established 1911

The Safety of Seniors in a Disaster



David Oates
Editor

I thought it fitting that on a day we discussed the well-being of seniors, an old-timer presided over the meeting. **Past President Peter Duncan** substituted for **John Morrell** who was off celebrating his wife's graduation from Western University of Health Sciences with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Congrats, Liz!

Absent John and his YouTube video vignette, Peter kicked off the meeting by introducing **Buddy Thomas** who delivered the Inspirational Moment, reminding us that no matter who we are, the future should be bigger than our past. I followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and singing *God Bless America* a cappella. Thanks to **Nancy Latorno-Bojanic** of Mainly Mozart, **Stan Lawrence** then delivered the news—and one surprisingly funny algebra joke.

Past President Peter (henceforth known as "P³"), then welcomed all guests and reminded us of tomorrow's Grotarian event at the Junipero Serra Museum in Presidio Park. Rotarians will have a unique opportunity to climb the tower, a privilege given to very few. You can find the event details on page 2 of the Rotator.

Next, **James Halliday**, California's Director for LRNG, a national effort that networks learning and career opportunities for young people, was introduced as our newest member. Thanks to **John Wertz** for being his primary sponsor. **Camille Newbern** then took a fine for boasting about her grandfather and Past Mr. San Diego, **Tom Hom**, whose more than 70-year artwork will be on display at the Chinese Historical Museum of San Diego. The exhibit will be open to the public through August 20. Camille's penalty did double when she mistakenly — though understandably — questioned P³'s constitutional powers to levy fines. It turns out she was wrong, and our Past President once again felt at home on the dais.

Judy Thompson then took center stage to welcome our newest Diana Venable

scholarship awardees. Yes, I did write that correctly. For the first time, we had two recipients. The \$20,000 honoree was Giana Munoz and our first ever \$5,000 awardee was Courtney House. Both were articulate as they expressed their gratitude toward our club for supporting their higher education dreams. Courtney also gave thanks to her commitment to never letting the fear of striking out keep her from getting in the game. Well said! Diana would have been extremely proud of these two. Thanks to Judy and the entire committee for all they do to make a real difference in the lives of young people!

Cheryl Wilson came to the podium a short time later as our Chair of the Day. After giving gifts to the Rotarian who returned to his former home of San Diego from Sioux Falls, she introduced the panel of experts to discuss how the region has evolved its coordination of caring for seniors residing in assisted and skilled nursing living facilities in the event of a large-scale crisis or natural disaster. We only have to go back a short while ago to the 2007 Witch Fire or 2003 Cedar Fire to know that in this area, our reclaimed desert environment is ripe for catastrophes.

The panel included:

- Justin Weber, Executive Director, Casa de Mañana
- Pauline Thomas, Asst. RN, QAS, Disaster Preparedness, San Diego County EMS
- Scott Tarde, CEO, George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers

Ten years ago there was little interaction between public and private entities within San Diego County to assist. In 2007, skilled nursing facility evacuees were transported to large general population shelters surrounded by chaos and strangers. County staff did not have up-to-date contact information to perform wellness checks or help seniors and their caregivers with much-needed access to medicine and other necessities.

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Next Meeting

May 25, 2017

BI-NATIONAL COOPERATION

Malin Burnham
Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Mayor Juan Manuel
Gastelum

On May 25, we will be joined by Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum for a special presentation to the Tijuana Rotary Club in support of Phase 2 of their Community Center. Both Mayors, along with Malin Burnham, will discuss our mega region and the importance of mutual collaboration. Members from the Tijuana Rotary Club will also be in attendance.



Our Executive Committee, (Paul Devermann, David Oates, John Morrell, Peter Duncan and Suzy Spafford) visited the site of the Tijuana Rotary Club's community center.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP for the 2017-2018 year Rotary will begin this week. Be sure to look out for the email!

QUICK BITS



On September 21st our club will present its 3rd 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 is June 30.**



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.



Don't have the **San Diego Rotary app** yet? You can download the 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. (This app is only for San Diego Rotary Club members.)

BIRTHDAYS

May

Ann Bethel	23
Arnulfo Manriquez	24
Ed Chaplin	24
Rick Huenefeld	25
Charlene Zettel	26
Mike Meaney	26
Jim Brown	26
Mort Jorgensen	26
Judy McDonald	26
Ray McKewon	27

Safety of Seniors *cont.*

Only one person was dedicated to reaching out to the more than 90 such organizations throughout the region.

Thankfully, the lessons were learned, should a natural disaster occur again, seniors in skilled nursing facilities would be taken to similar institutions with familiar caregivers. Their records and needed supplies would also be readily available. The County now updates contact information on no less than a quarterly basis, and several individuals are responsible for contacting the facilities to get updates and conduct welfare checks. These activities would be coordinated through an incident response team manned by staff and trained volunteers.

We're thankful for the efforts of not only County staff, but also private skilled nursing facilities and concerned citizens who will take care of our seniors in need when the next wildfire occurs. They embody the mantra of Service Above Self. I, for one, am grateful.

A reminder to not miss the last meeting in June. President John's Roast, or as P³ coined it, "Chico and the Man" will be one for the books! Until next time, I'll see you in service!

MEMBERSHIP



James Halliday - "Education-Technology."

James is the California Director of LRNG, a national effort that networks learning and career opportunities throughout entire cities and organizations for young people, especially those from underserved communities. Although based here in San Diego, he also works in the Bay area and in Sacramento.

He is a multi-generational San Diegan. He grew up in Mission Hills and attended San Diego High School.

After graduating from Stanford, James spent 12 years in Turkey as a journalist, an entrepreneur, and as an administrator at a top university there, before returning to San Diego in 2014.

John Wertz, Chris Yanov and Judy McDonald were his sponsors.

Email: james.w.halliday@gmail.com

CALENDAR

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

May

25 *Bi-National Cooperation - Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Tijuana Mayor Gastelum and Malin Burnham*

June

1 *Addressing Homelessness in San Diego: Past, Present and Future*

8 *Marilyn Hannes, President SeaWorld*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

Tuesday, May 23rd
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Event: The Junipero Serra Museum in Presidio Park
2727 Presido Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

Cost: \$40 per person

So many of us drive Highway 8 and see this beautiful museum up on the hillside, and now you will finally be able to explore it!

The site is the first permanent European settlement in what is today the State of California. We will tour the museum, including the exhibits, and if you dare, you may walk out onto the top of the iconic tower!

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

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

John Morrell, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943

Phone: 619/299-3309 Fax: 619/299-3340 ♦ e-mail: paul@rotary33.org ♦ website: <http://www.sandiegorotary.club>

FACES IN OUR CROWD



Past President Peter and Chair of the Day Cheryl Wilson with guest speakers Justin Weber, Pauline Thomas, and Scott Tarde.



(Left) Buddy Thomas delivered the Inspirational Moment, reminding us to make sure that our future is bigger than our past; (right) Cheryl recognizes Doug Pay, a former member of Club 33, as our visiting Rotarian.



(Left) President Peter pins new member James Halliday, also pictured with his sponsor John Wertz. (Right) Although questioning Past President Peter's authority to fine, Camille Newbern is still fined by Peter for promoting her grandfather's (Tom Hom) art exhibit.

DIANA VENABLE SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, our Diana Venable Scholarship Committee awards one high school junior a \$20,000 scholarship towards college. It is solely funded through the generosity of members of Club 33.

The Diana Venable Scholarship was started in 2008 to honor the memory of Diana Venable, a Rotarian who had a passion for children. In particular, Diana would find a worthy high school student who didn't have the money to go to college and she would find a way to make it happen. Carrying on her work, the purpose of the Diana Venable Scholarship Fund is to enable low-income students who have a record of superior academic achievement and personal growth, along with leadership potential for both professional careers and civic contributions, to attend college.



The winner of this year's primary scholarship of \$20,000 over 4 or 5 years is Giana Munoz. Giana impressed the committee with her enthusiasm and a lofty, but grounded, goal of opening a home for foster kids. She wants to major in Psychology and go to SDSU, CSU, SM or UCLA.

And for the first time, the committee awarded a second scholarship for a runner-up. The winner of our second, smaller scholarship of \$5,000 over 4 or 5 years is Cortney House. Cortney, coincidentally, also wants to open a "House" (her last name) for foster kids. (Who knows? Giana and Cortney may end up achieving their goals together.) Cortney wants to major in Business and Not For Profits and go to UCLA, USC or SDSU.

Congratulations to two very deserving young women!



(Left) Past President Peter, Judy Thompson, Gianna Munoz with her parents, and Beatriz Valencia;
(right) Courtney House with her parents.

DIANA VENABLE SCHOLARSHIP *cont.*

Judy Thompson, chair of this year's Diana Venable Scholarship Committee, shared some of the thank you letters she recently received from recipients of the scholarship.

January 3, 2017

Raymond Gamez (2014-15 Recipient)

Dear San Diego Rotary,

I am writing to thank you for this generous scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on school. I hope one day I will be able to repay you for your generosity. This semester was certainly an eye opener for me. It opened me to knowledge that I am very interested to learn and to knowledge that I am not so interested in learning. In this up and coming year, I am ready to tackle another semester head on and then finally reach my goal of transferring to a four year university. I wish to transfer with a computer degree. I certainly can't say it's been easy in this journey of being a student and sticking to this road to transferring, however, no one ever said it was going to be easy. I am thankful for this scholarship and that you believed in me enough to fund my education. This is why I want to transfer and graduate in this new year. I cannot and will not let you down.

Sincerely,
Raymond Gamez

Dear Donors and the San. Diego Foundation,

Ever since I started UCLA during the Fall of 2015, it has been an interesting experience. I learned that my capabilities has only grown over time. In the beginning, I found myself almost failing my classes because I believed I could not succeed at this prestigious school. However, over time I slowly increased my performance until recently, I had gotten my first 3.0. What I learned about myself is that I am stronger than I thought. Although I gave up during my first quarter, over time, I had chosen to rebuild myself, even through various adversities. Now, entering my winter quarter, I have the motivation of raising my GPA. Besides academics, I have been in touch with my Vietnamese Culture. I joined Traditional Dance for the Vietnamese Culture Night!

Sincerely,

Linda Do

(2015-16 Recipient)

DIANA VENABLE SCHOLARSHIP *cont.*

Vanessa Valdez-Briceno (2013-14 Recipient)

University of San Diego

If there is one thing I have learned about myself since starting college is that I'm a fast learner, as long as I take a couple of hours to study the material I am trying to learn. This is something that I have especially learned this past semester as it was a very heavy loaded semester and the classes were dense with a lot of concepts that needed to be learned. I felt very overwhelmed at various times and didn't think I would learn all the concepts that needed to be learned. I felt like giving up multiple times, however, I chose to invest time into studying. To my surprise, I was able to learn most, if not all, of the material and ended up with an A on my tests.

Another thing I have learned about myself this past semester is how helpful Yoga can be. This past semester I took a Yoga class at USD and it taught me the importance of taking some time for myself even when things are hectic. In college, it is quite easy to forget about your needs with finals and midterms being a priority. But I learned that taking 55 minutes out of my day to have a Yoga session really helps my mental health and allows me to clear my mind and get refocused.

Despite this past semester being very overwhelming and stressful, I feel like I learned a lot about myself and my abilities. More than anything else, I learned to not underestimate myself.

Inez Encarnacion (2016-17 Recipient)

My College Experience

College has filled my life with amazing experiences, memories, friends, and knowledge, all of which has taught me so much about myself. I learned that I am a light sleeper (my roommates helped me figure that out), I learned that I am a curious person (my professor helped me figure that out), and I learned that I am stronger than I thought (my family helped me figure that one out).

In this semester, I have had some of the most amazing experiences, but also some of the hardest ones. From doing a pre-engineering program, to celebrating a friend's birthday at the top of the campanile, to helping a roommate with her homesickness, to voting for the first time. Berkeley has been a learning experience!

Two months into my first semester of college, my father was incarcerated. This news hit me with surprise and it was one of the toughest things I've had to deal with. In that moment, I just wanted to be held by my mom, so much that I thought of going back home. Thankfully, I was blessed with supportive roommates who helped me realize that there was absolutely nothing I could do to help my dad's situation now, but that in the future, an educated woman with a career could do so much more for her family. So although it was hard at times to keep focused, I went to office hours, studied for hours every day, and attended review sessions. But there was always that thought of my dad being behind bars that distracted me and kept me from giving school my all.

After seeing my grades this semester, I was disappointed in myself because I let life get in between my studies. But just as I did in high school, I will not let life derail my success in college, and I will give it my all in order to set an example for others. The advice I would give myself every time things got hard, is to remember why I started, to ignite my passion for education and give it my all. Nevertheless, this semester was amazing, and there is absolutely nothing I would do differently because I have learned from the good and the bad. I want to say thank you for the financial support this foundation has given me, and I hope to someday be able to do the same for other students like me.