

THE ROTATOR

Vol. 104, No. 10 September 14, 2017

SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB



Mr. & Mrs. San Diego



Tom Gable
Editor

The annual Mr./Mrs. San Diego program honoring **Mel and Linda Katz** was packed with praise for all their accomplishments. But the couple didn't dwell on the past. During this stimulating meeting, they, and three guest speakers, shone bright lights on what else needs to be done

to make San Diego a better place. This included addressing the homeless and affordable housing issues with bigger ideas and more energy.

Patti Roscoe started the meeting appropriately with an Inspirational Moment. **Debbie Day**, accompanied by **Greg Zinser**, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of *God Bless America*. **President Bob** introduced Chair of the Day **Dr. Fred Frye**, who has been chairing this program for the last four years. Fred provided a quick history of the Mr. San Diego award, which was started by the Grant Club and moved to Club 33 in 1975. The names of past winners offer a who's who of San Diego. The award has now evolved so the winner can be Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. and Mrs.

Fred introduced **Mayor Kevin Faulconer**, who praised Linda for her advocacy for the rights of women and girls of all ages and Mel for his dedication to education and leading the fundraising effort that resulted in building our new Central Library.

Linda set the stage for the program, emphasizing a theme of equity and equality for all, and the importance of everyone trying to make a difference. She quoted Margaret Mead who said, "We should never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world."

She talked about women having a greater economic impact than men, yet women still face persistent disparity in a range of issues, including earning 77 cents on the dollar for what men earn. The gap needs to be closed to increase economic self-sufficiency for women everywhere, with positive impacts on the overall economy, she said to a big round of applause.

Linda called on everyone to rededicate themselves to committing time, talent and treasure to the common good. For different viewpoints on equity and equality, she introduced three speakers: Mark Cafferty, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional EDC; **Darrah DiGiorgio Johnson**, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties; and Ramla Sahid, Executive Director of the nonprofit Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), which helps promote fair treatment and equitable inclusion of refugee communities.

Darrah said Planned Parenthood provides confidential, affordable, and high-quality medical services to the San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties. It works with some 40,000 individuals at its 17 reproductive health care centers. The organization's mission is to ensure broad public access to reproductive health care. Equity and equality guide their work, with preventive care and education being big parts of their efforts to help women, particularly younger ones, manage their reproductive lives.

More than half the workers in the U.S. are women and the ability to plan families is essential to economic gains for each woman, their families and the community. Darrah said reproductive health care is being threatened at the federal level, which will have the biggest impact on younger people, minorities and lower income people who need Medicaid and other support to get access. She said the need is non-partisan and praised Linda and Mel for their support of different organizations seeking to help all, regardless of income, race or other factors.

Ramla said she appreciated Linda for being "such a trouble maker" in supporting her small grass roots organization. While numerous groups provide refugees with services — housing, job counseling, health care — she said PANA tries to educate and organize refugees to shape policies addressing those issues. Its mission is to promote the fair treatment of refugees and have collective impact -- economic, political and social.

Continued on page 2

Next Meeting

September 21, 2017

International Day of Peace

*San Diego Rotary's
3rd Annual Peace Awards
With guest speaker
Walter Lam
President/CEO,
Alliance for African
Assistance*

Help us congratulate the awardees of San Diego Rotary's third Peace Awards. The presentation coincides with the United Nations' annual day of global observance, and our own Walter Lam will provide a poignant and very personal perspective on the power of peace.

The emphasis of the Award this year is on people assisting Refugees, and no one understands their plight, or how to help them, better than Walter. He founded the Alliance for African Assistance in 1989 and annually helps hundreds of refugees from a multitude of countries to resettle in San Diego. You may think you know Walter; however, you will learn so much more about his prestigious career by visiting this link: http://www.alliance-for-africa.org/staff_bio.php?id=12



Chair of the Day
Jenni Prisk

QUICK BITS

2018 Camp Enterprise Rally— Wednesday, October 11 5:30-7:30pm

If you signed up for the Camp Enterprise Committee, or simply just want to learn more about the program, we will have a short presentation and introduction of Rotary Camp Enterprise along with appetizers and refreshments.

[Click here for details and to sign up.](#)

BIRTHDAYS

September

Todd Hoff	18
Kathlyn Mead	18
Pam Luster	18
Bill Lawrence	19
Rod Eales	19
Rick Gulley	19
Paul Van Roon	21
Joan Friedenber	22
Richard Coutts	22
Al Wasserman	23
Doug Wilson	23
Will Newbern	23
Chris Yanov	24

Mr. & Mrs. San Diego

Continued from page 1

By improving the quality of life of refugee families and other low-income families and children, she envisions creating a pipeline from the refugee communities into high-wage, high-growth employment sectors.

Ramla, who was born in Mogadishu and raised in City Heights, said San Diego has a huge opportunity to find new talent in its refugee communities. In a theme echoed by other speakers, the region needs to address the current housing crisis if it is to maintain its economic vitality as driven by a diverse work force.

Mark said the economic vitality of the region is bolstered by small and mid-sized companies, many started by refugees. He said the Brookings Institute came here and looked at how we could grow internationally. They noted the percentage of refugees and the entrepreneurial spirit. The studies indicated San Diego could grow great companies with an inclusive approach. The workforce is key. Some of the national threats against immigration can hurt regional efforts to grow economically, he said.

Mel praised the organizations he and Linda have been involved with and thanked the past presidents of Rotary for the honor to be Mr. and Mrs. San Diego, alongside Linda, which made it that much more special. The couple has been involved in the community since 1977, when Mel and **Phil Blair** purchased the local Manpower franchise. He has worked on many community boards to advance economic equity and has been an outspoken advocate of K-12 and post-secondary education.

His lesson for Club 33 and the packed San Diego Rotary Hall: we need to think big about driving change in the community and work harder to make it happen. “All of our challenges can be fixed if we think big,” he said.

The San Diego Central Library is proof. He led the effort to raise \$195 million to create the library. It was approved by City Council in 1998 and didn't break ground until 2013. The advocates pursued a big dream and didn't compromise on the designs or by value engineering to reduce costs. The results are spectacular. Some 3,400 people a day enjoy the library, which includes a 500-student charter school.

Continued on page 3

CALENDAR

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

September

21 *Walter Lam-International Peace Day*

28 *Matt Savant-San Diego Gulls Hockey*

October

5 *Matt Reynolds-Extreme Sailing San Diego*

12 *Patti Roscoe-Experience San Diego—The 20-Year Plan*

GROTARIAN EVENTS



Halloween with SDSU TV, Film & New Media Production
October 31 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Cost: \$10.00
This event is limited to 25 guests

Join us at the Don Powell Theatre at SDSU for an approximate 1 ½ hour program of a selection of student-made, short horror films. [Click here for more details and to register.](#)

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

Bob Russell, 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

Mr. & Mrs. San Diego

Continued from page 2

Mel said the next vital areas for thinking big are solving the homeless and affordable housing issues. He cited efforts in Los Angeles and New York City to create housing first, then surround it with essential services. The developments include apartments working people and seniors can afford. San Diego now has the same opportunity with the recent California Supreme Court decision on ballot issue initiatives to raise taxes needing only 50 percent to pass, not two-thirds.

He said San Diego can introduce a ballot initiative to generate new tax revenues to build housing for the homeless and add services, with the same approach for affordable housing. He closed by citing President Obama's farewell address on how we all have to try harder, show up, dive in and stay at it to bring about change.

With Mel at the helm of a new effort, this can happen.



BEQUEST SOCIETY



The San Diego Rotary Club was founded in 1911, and the 33rd Rotary Club was formed. That's 106 years ago! This Club was here long before you were born, and will be here long after you are gone.

There are currently 102 club members who have named The Rotary Club of San Diego Foundation in their estates. *Thank you to each of you for your generosity!*

The United States is in the midst of the largest transfer of wealth in our history. True, there are some fellow Rotarians, past and present, who have left very significant gifts to the Club. We invite you to join their ranks if you can. However, if you're like many of us, you kind of need the money until you are gone. Leaving a gift after you are gone may be more realistic than a major gift right now. There are many ways that you can do this. For example, you can name Rotary as a beneficiary of one or more of your retirement accounts today and save your family in taxes tomorrow, or you could leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your residual estate after your primary beneficiaries are taken care of. It doesn't have to be complicated. The important thing is to do something to ensure that our club continues to be the shining light on a hill in San Diego and around the world.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and entire club, I want to offer a very special thanks to **Judy Thompson** and **Mike Conner** for hosting our upcoming **Bequest Society reception** at their home in **Point Loma on Sunday, October 15th**. We're guaranteed a sunny afternoon filled with good company and plenty of Rotary inspiration. This is open to anyone who has informed the club that you already have or plan to name the club in your estate. (Formal invitations will be mailed.)

You can't take it with you ...so don't put it off. You can ask any one of the 102 Rotarians who are already participating – it's fast, easy and comforting to know that you can ensure that Rotary continues to do good work here and around the world, long after you are gone.

Please contact [Paul](#) at the Rotary office of your designation. Thank you!

Chris Sichel
Chair, Development Committee

FACES IN OUR CROWD

Mr./Mrs. San Diego 2017



FACES IN OUR CROWD

Mr./Mrs. San Diego 2017



RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2017

Thanks to all the Rotarians and their families, and to the Rotaracts and Interacts, who volunteered their Saturday morning on Sept. for such a great cause. A great time was had by all! We look forward to doing it again in Suzy's year!!

