

Not To Be Forgotten



Deirdre Maloney
Editor

If you attended this week's Rotary meeting then you know that it was about as inspiring as it gets. It all began with a rousing ringing of the bell by **President Bob**, who called this first meeting since Memorial Day to order by honoring those who gave their lives to ensure our freedoms. (He even wore his most patriotic tie just for the occasion.)

More inspiration came next by way of **Simona Valancuite's** Inspirational Moment, which focused on older Americans (a population she knows well as President and CEO of San Diego Oasis). Simona shared the fascinating fact that today's babies will have an average lifespan of 115 (good to know for soon-to-be fathers...right **Trevor Blair**?) She encouraged us to think and act more respectfully toward the elderly, and dedicated her moment to the most influential older woman in her life--her beloved grandmother Stefaniya.

Next came the Pledge and a booming rendition of *God Bless America*, led by **Brandon Horrocks** and accompanied by **Greg Zinser**. **Stan Lawrence** then delivered the news, sponsored by **Mike Rowan**, who thanked Rotarians for their year-round donations to Goodwill Industries. Not-so-surprisingly, Stan's newscast included a slight rubbing-in about the Dodgers recent 2-1 series victory over the Padres. (He also got a not-so-enthusiastic **David Oates** to rise and show off his Dodger blue.)

After welcoming all guests, President Bob listed off his reminders...and there are a bunch of them! On 6/4 there's the annual District Governor's Dinner, where our own Suzy Spafford will be installed as our next president (and where our club just might receive an award.) There is also the Youth Soccer Tournament on 6/9-6/10 (volunteers needed! Info on page 3), and the Club 33 Tennis Match on 6/20 (info on page 2). Oh, and if you have not yet signed up for committees, please get 'er done ASAP.

Our presidential history minute featured Albert L. Anderson, our fearless leader from 1958-1959. President Al's most intriguing story might just be an ill-advised agreement regarding the Rotator, the

alleviation of fines, and hefty punishments for any story "scoopies". (You had to be there.)

Even more intriguing was what came next...as the *President Bob vs. Nancy Scott Battle* got into full swing. Turns out that Nancy is pretty sick of all of the fines that have come her way. Her case? President Bob has a problem with his zeroes, as a \$500 fine somehow became a \$5,000 fine, which somehow became a \$50,000 fine, which somehow became a...you guessed it...\$500,000 fine. (Nancy also angrily accused President Bob of standing her up at the Royal Wedding, but that's another story.) When President Bob didn't budge, Nancy's lovely attorney **Solveig Deuprey** rose to her defense with an impassioned plea. To keep things fair, President Bob gave Nancy and Solveig a week to build their case. Make sure you come to next week's meeting to get the final verdict on this one!

As the room (and the drama) quieted down, we got to hear from our two newest Rotarians (who hopefully weren't regretting their decisions to join): **Mona Minton** and **Daniel Butler**. They were followed by Chair of the Day **Bridget Meckley** (a self-described enthusiastic retiree who also is/has been a First Class Girl Scout, hand bell ringer, flower arranger, piano/organ player and travel-junkie. Wow!) After welcoming our visiting Rotarians, Bridget introduced the most inspiring person of the day, our very own **Amnon Ben-Yehuda**, who honored us by sharing his extraordinary story.

Amnon was 18 years old and a Palmach squad leader in Israel when, in 1948, during the heroic battle of Nebbi Yusha, he was shot in the head and fell into a coma. He was rescued by his fellow soldiers and taken to a mountaintop settlement about a mile away. For 36 hours, two young women acting as medics kept him alive by using damp rags to prevent dehydration. When a group from his unit came to the site to evacuate a number of infants, they were shocked to find Amnon still alive. They tied him to a stretcher and carried him down the mountain, where he was taken to a hospital near Tel Aviv.

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Next Meeting

June 7, 2018

Dr. Christopher Thornberg

**Founding Partner,
Beacon Economics**

Thanks to Torrey Pines Bank, we'll have one of the foremost economists on hand to give us a bipartisan and entertaining overview of California and our nation's economy. Chris Thornberg, Ph. D., of Beacon Economics, will cull through the mainstream rhetoric to showcase what is and is not driving our region's growth and what we can expect in the coming months.

Dr. Thornberg founded Beacon Economics LLC in 2006. Under his leadership the firm has become one of the most respected research organizations in California serving public and private sector clients across the United States. In 2015, Dr. Thornberg also became Director of the UC Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development and an Adjunct Professor at the School.



Chris Grassa
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

2018-19 Committee Sign-Up

Sign up for a committee for the new Rotary year by June 1st.

[Click here to sign up.](#) Simply click on the buttons next to the committee (s) you would like to join and then click the "Done" button at the bottom of the page to submit your selections.

Remember, the Rotary year begins anew on July 1st, so you must re-enlist for the committees you have worked on in the past.



**Club 33 Tennis - Round 2
Wednesday, June 20
from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.**

Club 33 members, family members and friends are welcome to join us for the second round of our tournament at the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field in Balboa Park.

[Click here](#) for more event details and to register. Please contact Bruce Hunt at 619.200.5565 or brucea-hunt@prodigy.net if you have any questions.

BIRTHDAYS

June

Doug Arbon	5
Julia Brown	5
Craig Benedetto	6
Chuck Nickel	6
Chip Goodwin, Jr.	7
Tracy Sundlun	7
Tom Fetter	9
Katie Sawyer	9
Martha Gilmer	10
Shawn Dixon	10

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The surgeon who operated on him, a Holocaust survivor who had just arrived in Israel, gave Amnon a .5% chance of survival.

Of course, we know that Amnon did survive. Described as a "medical miracle", he spent a year at home rehabilitating himself before moving to the U.S., attending UC Berkeley, and meeting his wife, Lee (now together for 67 years).

Though it might seem like the worst was behind him, Amnon suffered greatly--and silently--from what he calls "ghosts" related to the guilt of survival. He had been part of a very close unit of soldiers, many of whom were childhood friends, and many of whom had died in the battle. He felt like he gotten away easy, like he had failed them. He endured nightmares and flashbacks.

Finally, after a year of counseling, Amnon learned how to heal, how to forgive himself and others. On the 40th anniversary of the battle, in 1988, Amnon decided to use this healing for even more good, delivering a eulogy for his fallen friends and expressing the guilt he had suffered. He knew that other survivors were feeling the same and needed to hear his words. One of the survivors was so touched that he decided to produce a film about their experience.

That film, "I Will Not Forget This, My Friend" airs annually on Israel's Memorial Day. Amnon produced and translated an English version, and also created the music for the film. (We were fortunate enough to view a short clip at our meeting.) Amnon has also written a book about his extraordinary and inspiring story.

After Amnon finished his story and our members rose to honor and thank him, President's Bob final thought for the week felt especially appropriate. It was from the show *Hamilton* and featured the definition of the word "legacy". That definition? "Planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."

CALENDAR

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

June

7 Chris Thornberg, Beacon Economics

14 RDML Yancy Lindsey

21 Jamie Quient, Free to Thrive

GROTARIAN EVENTS

Petco Park Tour

**June 12 5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Cost \$20**

It's baseball season! Join the Grotarians for a private behind the scenes tour of Petco Park. The tour will include stops at the Padres Hall of Fame, Press Box, Visiting Clubhouse and Lexus Home Plate Club. During our time, a Ballpark Navigator will share with us the history of the ballpark, as well as facts about San Diego's baseball heritage that dates back to the 1880's.

After the tour, our group will walk over to Social Tap to enjoy some good camaraderie, food and drinks. *Please note that you will be on your own for the cost of your food and beverages at Social Tap.*

[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>

YOUTH SOCCER COMMITTEE

The committee is looking for volunteers to help with their inaugural soccer tournament on June 9th and 10th.

There are three “Shifts” to sign up for:

- 8am – 11am
- 11am – 2pm
- 2pm – 5pm

Roles we need to fill:

- Registration – checking teams in and making sure that kids have all the necessary information
- Game Management – making sure that games are running on time. Recording scores and outcomes of games
 - Operations – set up and tear down of fields, tables, etc.
 - Food – making sure that each team receives their allotted lunch

Please contact [Daniel Amaro](#) for more details or to volunteer. Thank you.



The poster features a central graphic of a soccer ball with a green and white checkered shield behind it, set against a blue stadium background with spotlights. Above the ball is a yellow banner with the San Diego Rotary logo and text. Below the ball is a red banner with the tournament name. The bottom section is a dark blue/black area with white and orange text providing dates, location, divisions, deposit, and contact information. A small circular logo is on the right side of the bottom section.

San Diego Rotary
Established 1911

CITY HEIGHTS
YOUTH SOCCER TOURNAMENT

6-ON-6 SOCCER TOURNAMENT WITH MEDALS FOR CHAMPIONS

JUNE
9TH & 10TH 2018
ROSA PARKS FIELD

DIVISIONS:
BOYS: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
GIRLS: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

DEPOSIT: \$40, REFUNDED AFTER PARTICIPATION

LUNCH, WATER AND SNACKS PROVIDED
SIGN UP TODAY AT: SOCCER SOLUTIONS
4151 EL CAJON BLVD, SUITE C SAN DIEGO, CA, 92105

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member to the club:



Mona Minton, PhD—“Social Service and Welfare-Neighborhood House Association, Additional Active.” Mona is the General Manager of Programs/Clinics/Community Affairs at the Neighborhood House Association.

Mona has over 18 years experience in clinical research and development, working with diverse groups, homeless population and changing demographics that provide counseling and supportive services for drug and alcohol dependency, domestic violence, sex offenders, adolescence support, trauma and mental health.

She was born and raised in India until she was 8 years old. She speaks and understands multiple languages (English is her third language.) Mona also currently serves on six different committees throughout San Diego County.

Duke Sobek, Gil Johnson and Walter Lam were her sponsors.
Email: mminton@neighborhoodhouse.org



Daniel Butler—“Waste and Recycling, Additional Active.” Daniel has been the Government Affairs Manager for Waste Management for 4 years.

He is a graduate of Cal State San Marcos (Political Science). He obtained a Masters in Political Theory and International Relations from Cal State Fullerton.

Daniel and his wife Karin have 2 daughters. He enjoys coaching his daughter's softball team, taking his youngest to dance class, and playing golf with his dad whenever time permits.

Jim Madaffer was his sponsor.
Email: dbutler4@wm.com

PEACE



The Rotary Club's Peace Committee is delighted to announce that the 4th Annual Peace Award will be presented on September 20, 2018. This year's theme is Human Trafficking.

If you know of an organization, or individual, in San Diego County who is working to prevent trafficking or to protect or support survivors, please complete the [nomination form](#) which is due on June 30.

Trafficking is a scourge in San Diego. Our city is 13th on the list of trafficking centers in the United States. Children as young as nine are trafficked. By recognizing this crime we can help to create greater awareness in our community.

Please send your completed nomination form to jenni@prisk.com. Thank you.

FACES IN OUR CROWD



A very successful prospective member reception was held before the meeting.



(Left) Solveig Deuprey tried to defend her client, Nancy Scott, against egregious fines being levied by President Bob; (right) Chair of the Day Bridget Meckley and our own Amnon Ben-Yehuda who was our speaker.



(Left) New member Mona Minton with her sponsor Duke Sobek and President Bob, (right) New member Daniel Butler with his sponsor Jim Madaffer and President Bob.



(Left) Simona Valancuite gave the Inspirational Minute; (right) Amnon received a well-deserved standing ovation.



HOOVER INTERACT

On May 23rd, the Hoover High Interact Club seniors graduated from the program and several Rotarians from our club were in attendance. It was an inspiring evening of videos, awards and speeches about the impact the Interact Club had on the graduates. Our Rotary Club received a warm and enthusiastic thank you for the support and opportunities we have provided throughout their three years in the program.

