

A Lot of Optimism Up Here

Next Meeting



Jo Dee Jacob
Editor

Investment experts **Linda Stirling** and Bill Holland took the podium for their annual prognostications and stock market insights. This is always an interesting, provocative and entertaining Rotary program.

Linda sees challenges and opportunities in Federal Reserve policy, China trade, mayhem in Washington and the slowing economy, emphasizing that “the economy is not broken, it’s bent.” Fear and anxiety plays an important role. This year you will regain the losses suffered 4Q 2018. Linda advises to plan your portfolio for liquidity, longevity and legacy.

Bill is confident the Bull Market is strong and expanding. The economy is working better than ever, thanks to reduced taxes stimulating increased activity. Bill believes President Carter was right; we will never get out of the Middle East quagmire until American is energy independent. Bill said it was ludicrous to force democracy on countries like Yemen, while they are still in a cultural stone age. He called President Trump a disrupter, but his policies are good and he will not get impeached.

Rotarians appreciate time for questions, which follow:

Q. What can you say to calm our fears?

A. Stay the course. Keep the faith. Invest in what grows and pays, or both. If not, sell it.

Q. Expand on your comment about China.

A. China needs us. Their economy is stalling. China needs our purchasing power. What you see in the media is public posturing. Both sides are negotiating behind closed doors. Bill predicts a China deal this week.

Q. National Debt?

A. Don’t worry about it. That not being a satisfactory answer for **David Oates**, Linda centered the response with solid facts about debt and deficits, how much debt is tolerable, and compared debt tolerance to having a big mortgage on your home.

Q. What do you predict about employment?

A. The economy is running well. Tremendous need for skilled workers. Only 63% of jobs require college degrees.

Comment: Parents should know that kids can participate in Roth IRA’s.

Response: EVERFI offers excellent, age appropriate training for learners to make safe, smart and informed financial decisions, including Roth IRA’s for minors.

Q: Will the recession come in 2020?

A: Typically, markets go up for ten years, come down for two years. But this is the longest Bull Market in U.S. History. It may last a lot longer than you think. All the indicators are so good: employment, wages, low inflation. I’ve never seen a recession when the indicators are this strong.

Chair of the Day **Ray Higgins** revealed the panel’s 2018 predictions and how those stocks performed.

- Linda’s stock picks: Allergen (AGN) down 20%; Scorpio Tankers (STNG) down 40%; Yandex (YNDX) down 19%. Her 2019 picks: Google, Disney, TenCent
- Bill’s stock picks: Amazon (AMZN) up 24%; Apple (AAPL) down 9%; Horton Works down 14%. His 2019 picks: Amazon, Illumina, Frontline

Bill commented on Jeff Bezos’ divorce and the potential impact on Amazon’s performance. The Amazon CEO stands to lose half of his \$137 billion assets to his wife of 25 years, MacKenzie. Bill snarked, “Jeff’s \$60 billion girlfriend better be worth it.”

Other meeting highlights:

- **Jan McDonough** spoke of aspirations for the New Year: resolutions, investments and new friends to be made.
- For her weekly art talk, President **Suzy Spafford** highlighted masterpieces from the Dutch Golden Age, treasures at Balboa Park’s Timken Museum. Paintings by Rubens, Rembrandt, and three by Frans Hals were brought to life as only Suzy can do. The portrait of Beatrix and Isaac Massa featured the couple in opulent wedding regalia, including the era’s signature crisp, white, neck ruffs. They probably needed extra time to undress that night.
- Linda Stirling accepted a \$350 fine for thumping *Fashion, Finance, and Family*. You’re invited to attend on Wednesday evening, January 30.

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**Next Meeting:
January 17**

**Dr. Adela de la Torre,
President, SDSU**

Dr. Adela de la Torre was recently appointed by the California State University Board of Trustees as the new president of San Diego State University. Joining the campus in June 2018, Dr. de la Torre is the ninth permanent president of SDSU and the first woman to serve in that role. She brings with her 30 years of service in leadership roles within institutions of higher education, including the California State University system, the University of Arizona and the University of California, Davis.

She will speak to us about her presidential vision, the lessons she learned from her six-month listening tour and will discuss the envisioned Mission Valley innovation district.



Patti Roscoe
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

A Lot of Optimism Up Here *Continued from page 1*

CALENDAR



Catch up with the City Heights Rotaracts! Read about their most recent events and projects [here](#).

Volunteers needed! Model UN Conference 2019 - if you are interested in learning more about the District's Model UN Program and how you can volunteer for the next conference in April, [click here](#). You can also contact Club 33 members [Bink Cook](#) or [Jean Young](#).



No lunch reminder

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 if you will not be eating.

Also, please be sure you are letting the registration crew know to check you in accordingly.

- New member **Betsy Brennan** graciously acknowledged her primary sponsor **Steve Cushman**, who promised Betsy's attendance record at Rotary will be much better than his.
- **John Morrell** asked us to support victims of the recent fire in Paradise, near Chico California. 86 people died and 19,000 lost their homes and businesses. John's pitch was so inspiring, Rotarians immediately pledged over \$27,000, this in addition to the \$25,000 already committed by the club. San Diego Rotarians are incredibly generous. Thank you!

Please extend thanks to Club 33 Rotarians who supported our program today:

- Badge: **Bill Herrin, Neil Larson, Tracy Sundlun, George Kaplan, Rich DeBolt**
- Registration: **Dan Assisi, James Buley, Duke Sobek, Christy White**
- Greeters: **Dan Amaro, Jay Arnett, Steve Carlson, Ramona Walker**
- The Patriotic moment led by **Simona Valanciute**, accompanied by **Larry Showley**
- Our dedicated professional staff, **Paul Devermann, Mary Radovan** and **Carole Ledford**. Ray Higgins formally acknowledged their hard work and Rotarians gave them a well-deserved standing ovation.

The News was sponsored by **Jim Hughes** and reported by **Mark Burgess**, who ended with this observation by a young broker: "The stock market is like when my girlfriend gets angry. There must be a reason, but I'm clueless. Everyone says if I spend more money, things will get better."

Support for Paradise Fire Victims

At Thursday's meeting, John Morrell did an ask of support for the victims of the Camp Fire that devastated Paradise, California. The Paradise Rotary Club is taking donations to assist local tradesman who lost their equipment and source of income. They found that many of the local tradesmen (carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc.) lost homes, tools, and any means of a livelihood. Therefore, they will be offering micro-loans to help them re-build their lives and businesses, and have asked our Club to support the cause. Our Club Foundation has committed \$25,000, and at the meeting, members committed an additional **\$27,300**. If you would like to also make a donation, please contact the office or send a check by Friday, January 18.

Thank you to all of our members who have committed their support to this cause!

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

January

17 **Dr. Adela de la Torre-President, SDSU**

24 **Kyndell Gaglio - Bird, Inc.**

31 **Cathryn Nacario, CEO, NAMI**

GROTARIAN EVENTS

Grotarian Fireside Chat
January 29 5:30-7:30pm
Academy of Our Lady of Peace
4860 Oregon Street, SD 92116
Cost: Free
This event is for Grotarians only. Please no spouses or guests.

Red Badgers – please come and learn more about Club 33 and our Committees as we sit by the fire on a cool evening in San Diego. We will have 8-10 Committee Chairs speak about their committees, what their committees do, and how you as a committee member can help.

This is one way for you to find the committee that is the perfect fit for you, AND satisfy one of your permanent badge requirements!

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

BIRTHDAYS

January

Anthony Pretto	14
Gil Johnson	14
Don Balfour	15
Jan Driscoll	15
Mark Trotter	15
Steve Green	16
John Wertz	17

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

Suzy Spafford, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

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

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MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member to the club:



Betsy Brennan—“Associations-Downtown San Diego Partnership”. Betsy is the President and CEO of Downtown SD Partnership, a nonprofit organization focused on the economic development and cultural vitality of downtown San Diego.

She obtained her Juris Doctor, with a specialization in land use, at the University of San Diego. She also holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Politics and Spanish from the University of Richmond in Virginia.

Betsy has received several noteworthy acknowledgements of her community commitment, but one she especially appreciated was SDSU’s Associated Students Presidential Leadership Award for her collaborative style and commitment to working with students.

She is a former member of the San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Rotary Club and the Incline Village Rotary Club (Lake Tahoe, NV). She lives in Point Loma with her son, Kai, and daughter Cora, and is grateful to enjoy everything San Diego has to offer.

Steve Cushman was her sponsor.

Email: bbrennan@downtownsandiego.org

Don’t forget you can check out all of our new member profiles on our website!

<https://www.sandiegorotary.club/membership/new-members/>

CLUB 33 GOLF

Round One San Diego Rotary Golf Outing Results

Sixteen of our Rotarians met at San Diego Country Club on Friday the 11th to compete in the first of three tournaments. The competition was fierce but friendly as each foursome vied to have the two lowest net balls per hole total. The team of **Guy Maddox, Marten Barry, Richard Coutts** and **Bonnie Schwartz** were the winners with a net of 124! That is 20 under par. Special congratulations to Guy Maddox who had an “Eagle” (2 under par) on the 10th hole which is a difficult par 4. Way to go Guy!

Individual players recognized for scoring below net par are Guy Maddox, **John Peelle**, Richard Coutts, **Treacy Sommer** and Marten Barry. After the round, players enjoyed lunch and a drink in the Grill.

The next event will be held at 9 AM on February 22nd and the third and last event on April 5th. Notice of the events will be in the newsletter and on the app. Thanks to all for a great morning of golf!

Rich Donnelly – Golf Committee Chairman



Guy eagles hole ten!

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to all of our members who took time out of their busy holiday schedules to help spread the cheer to our active duty military at the Airport USO and to the students at the Storefront. Wonderful food was served, songs were sung, laughs were shared and holiday gifts were handed out to very appreciative groups of individuals. You made this holiday season a bit brighter for many!



HELPING HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

January 4-6, 2019—Last weekend, a group of San Diego Rotarians, their family members and friends, traveled to Ensenada to participate in our 26th annual “Helping Hands Across the Border” project. On Friday, January 4th, we all joined Ensenada Rotarians and other Rotarians from clubs in Southern California to fill close to 1,000 large bags with staple food items. The next morning after a good Mexican breakfast, we returned to the warehouse to load up pickups and SUVs with the food bags, blankets donated by the Avalon Rotary and toys for the kids, and headed out in many different directions to hand out these valuable items to families identified earlier by members of the Ensenada Rotary. A small group of us also visited a halfway house for the homeless called the ‘Alberge de San Vicente’ and gave the social worker in charge some cash donated by our club as well as cases of canned tuna bought locally. The rain held off until just after we finished! That afternoon we enjoyed a great carne Asada BBQ and celebrated yet another year of service above self, and a great time was had by all!!

Thank you to all Club 33 members who participated with us. We are looking forward to serving with you again next year.

Bob Fletcher, Chair



FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor



(Left) Chair of the Day Ray Higgins presents his gift, a bottle of tequila, to our visiting Rotarians from Minnesota; (right) Past President John Morrell asked us to help the fire victims in Paradise.



(Left) Past President **Chuck Preto** and his former youth exchange student (2011-2012) Manon Pignot; (center) **Steve Cushman** was among the many Rotarians in the audience that answered John Morrell's call for support of the Paradise fire victims; (right) Past President **Michelle Candland** and **Caitlin Root** spend some time before the meeting to discuss volunteer efforts for the upcoming International Assembly.



Financial experts Linda Stirling and Bill Holland share their insights and predictions for the upcoming year.



(Left) Past President **Jo Dee Jacob** and guest Barbara Chodos of the San Diego Business Journal; (center) Charlotte Hartley, Jim Hughes, Paul Hartley and George Jessop; (right) **Bill Wise** and Simona Valanciute.