

## A Time For Pride



Deirdre Maloney  
Editor

There was a lot for Rotarians to be proud of at this week's meeting, and **President Suzy** got us started with a rousing ring of the bell and the proud proclamation that our club is a "community of people who love people". Indeed!

**Sue Goldstein's** Inspirational Moment brought us the

story of someone with whom she is undoubtedly very proud: her son Andrew. At 19, after taking Dartmouth to the NCAA play-offs, and having no idea how his teammates would react, Andrew came out. His teammates, it turned out, stood by his side, assuring him they still had his back. Sue reminded us that words can both hurt and heal...and suggested that we use them wisely.

Next up was **Joe Zakowski**, who led us in the pledge and *America the Beautiful*, accompanied by **Larry Showley**. Then came **Whitney Skala** and a nugget-filled news report (who knew President Garfield was so fascinating?), sponsored by **Eric Schweinfurter** and Apex Contracting and Restoration Inc.

Our Art Moment was of the riveting story of Rex, the gigantic lion statue that welcomes us into the San Diego Zoo. Weighing in at more than 20,000 pounds, we got to see a shot of Rex, shrouded for secrecy, making his way here from the Bay Area on the back of a flatbed truck (and undoubtedly creating a bit of a buzz in the cars passing by).

A flowery fine came next, when an on-line article revealed that local geranium breeder Jim Zemcik has named one of his new blooms after our own **Betty Peabody**. (Since President Suzy's name was also planted in the piece, she wound up with a piece of that fine herself.)

Since we all want our club to continue flourishing with new members, **Duke Sobek** gave us an important tip: the best way to ensure that those we introduce to Rotary actually join is to continue to check in with them and shepherd them throughout the membership process long after we bring them to their first meeting. An excellent strategy!

After meeting our delightful newest member, **Brandon Steppe**, it was time to bring Chair of the Day **Laurie Coskey** to the podium. With no visiting Rotarians, Laurie selected **Leon Williams** and **Michael Brunker** as the recipients of the gifts related to her work with San Diego Continuing Education Foundation. These included a lovely pair of earrings and an apron, which **Phil Blair** modeled with grace and flair. (Is anyone surprised?)

Laurie then introduced us to our speakers. Fernando Lopez, executive director of San Diego Pride, and Caroline (Cara) Dessert, CEO of The LGBT Community Center (The Center). Fernando began with helpful information about why he self-identifies with the pronoun "they", then began walking us through some history and evolution of Pride. Just some of the important facts he shared:

- Pride actually began 50 years ago as a demonstration against the police brutality that many in the LGBTQ community faced each day. The community fought for three days in June. The next year, they marked this period with liberation events all over the country, including in San Diego.
- The first Pride Parade came to San Diego in 1974. Only a few dozen people showed up, many wearing bags over their heads to shield their identities (this was during a time when it was legal to lobotomize gay men).
- Today, San Diego Pride attracts more than 250,000 parade spectators, and 45,000 music festival attendees from 32 countries and 475 cities around the world.
- San Diego Pride's economic impact is \$26.6 million.
- 3,000 volunteers support the effort, both during pride and as part of advocacy and educational efforts throughout the year.
- Thanks in part to its many philanthropic partners, San Diego Pride is one of the most philanthropic pride celebrations in the world, distributing nearly \$3 million dollars to nonprofits since 1994.

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## Next Meeting

**Next Meeting:  
June 20**

**Hasan Ikhata  
Executive Director  
SANDAG**

After an extensive national search and recruitment effort, the SANDAG Board of Directors announced in September 2018 that Hasan Ikhata, a widely lauded transportation and planning expert, had been selected as their new Executive Director. Ikhata was previously the Executive Director of SCAG, the Southern California Association of Governments (Los Angeles), for more than a decade.

Ikhata worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the South Coast Air Quality Management District before first joining SCAG in 1994.

"This region deserves a great vision to have a state-of-the-art, unmatched transportation system that the rest of the world will say 'Look what San Diego did,'" Ikhata said following the announcement of his new position.

A San Diego Grand Central Station? Ikhata will be talking about his vision for the San Diego Airport and improving transit there.



Stephanie Saathoff  
Chair of the Day

## QUICK BITS

### New Lunch Costs

We have reached a new three year agreement that allows us to keep Liberty Station Conference Center as our home! Your input on the annual survey indicates very high satisfaction with the venue and arrangements, and we are very pleased to have this new agreement in place.

Even though there are planned increases in minimum wage over the term of the agreement, our cost of attendance will only increase \$1 per year. So, **effective July 1, the weekly meal cost will increase to \$34, and the cost for non-eaters will increase to \$6.**



Our **June Club 33 Social Hour(s)** will be at **The Corner Drafrhouse** in Banker's Hill on **Wednesday, 6/19 at 5:30 PM**. The Drafrhouse offers a full food and wine menu, in addition to an extremely impressive list of craft beers and cocktails. No registration required - just show up! (495 Laurel St.)

## BIRTHDAYS

	June
Wayne Goodermote	17
Cathy LeClair	17
Mary Colacicco	17
Steve Mueller	18
Pete Ellsworth	19
Brandon Steppe	20
Laura Ochoa	22

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Cara, our next speaker, provided us with some of The Center's history and its current work, including:

- San Diego has the distinction of having the second oldest LGBT Center in the country.
- The Center was founded 47 years ago to create a safe space to provide services and connection to the community, and to build power for equality.
- Today, The Center has a \$7.7 million budget, 75 employees, and 1,200 volunteers. Its hallmark over time has been steady and sustainable growth for the community.
- Because 40% of the homeless population identifies as LGBTQ, there is significant emphasis on homeless youth services. The Sunburst Youth Housing Project provides 23 units, as well as services that help youth create goals and plan for the future. Additionally, just last week The Center opened a shelter for LGBTQ youth, and the beds are already full. There is also a hotel voucher program, a host home program, and family reunification program to help reunite LGBTQ youth with parents who struggle to understand and support them.
- The Center takes great pride in both providing services each day and working to transform the community as a whole, seeking a San Diego where all LGBTQ people and their families are safe, healthy and thriving.

After thoughtful questions and much applause, President Suzy wrapped up the meeting with her usual lovely gifts and even lovelier grace, and we were sent on our way...proud to be part of a community filled with "people who love people".

*To learn more about San Diego Pride and their upcoming events, visit their website at <https://sdpride.org/>*

*To learn more about the services of The LGBT Community Center, visit their website <https://thecentersd.org/>*

## CALENDAR

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

### June

**20 Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, SANDAG**

**27 Annual President's Roast**

### July

**4 Dark**

**11 Annual Change of Command**

## GROTARIAN EVENT

**Stay tuned for details on our July event at HUBBS Research Institute**

## 2019-2020 COMMITTEE SIGN-UP

Every year you have a new opportunity to select where you wish to serve. Even if you have participated in certain committees this past year, you must re-enlist to remain on them. The [club's website](#) identify our committees and their purpose. Some of the committees meet monthly, and others only meet on an as needed basis.

[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.

*Some of the committees will need to prepare their schedules and rosters prior to the start of the new year (July 1) so please sign up NOW. Thank you.*

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

Suzy Spafford, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

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# MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member to the club:



**Brandon Steppe**—"Education-Music and Multimedia". Brandon is the Founder and Executive Director The David's Harp Foundation, a local non-profit with a mission to inspire, educate and empower foster, at-risk and homeless youth, as well as those in the juvenile court system.

The David Harp's Foundation was born out of Brandon's passion for youth and his love for music which was cultivated at an early age. As a teenager, he honed his musical craft while attending the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.

A San Diego Native, Brandon ventured north to San Francisco to attend the University of San Francisco, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business. He and his wife of 14 years, Eunice, have two children, Jasmine and Joshua.

This year, David's Harp Foundation was one of the recipients of Club 33's Presidential Grants supporting Arts Education. Brandon is the grandson of Club 33 member and Mr. San Diego Award recipient Cecil Steppe.

**Mia Harenski, Cecil Steppe and Judy McDonald** were his sponsors.

Email: [Brandon@davidsharpfoundation.org](mailto:Brandon@davidsharpfoundation.org)

The following applicants were recommended to the Board of Directors by the Membership Committee and will be approved for membership unless objections are received at the Rotary office by June 26:

- Evan Wahl - Prava Construction Services, Inc. - "Construction-General, Additional Active"
- David Aikin - California Bank & Trust - "Banking-Commercial"

# ROTARY READERS

Club 33 Rotarians who read to students at Cesar Chavez Elementary School were recognized by the principal, **Francisco Santos**, at a volunteer breakfast on Thursday, June 6. Francisco presented a certificate and volunteer pin to each school volunteer, including parents, friends and Rotarians. In addition, Francisco gave an eloquent short speech (in both English and Spanish) recognizing the late Dick Troncone's over 30-year commitment to the school and its students, and noted that plans are underway to name the school library "The Dick Troncone Memorial Library".



Club 33 Readers (from left) **Joe da Rosa, Bob Russell, Mike Meaney**, school principal **Francisco Santos, Greg Zinser, Suzanne Frontz, Kevin Enright, Terry Meaney** and **Belinda Reyes**.



# FACES IN OUR CROWD



(Left) Linda Sierra, **Cindy Marten**, Phil Blair, **Jeff Wheeler**, Laurie Coskey, Beth Kransberger, Ebonee Weathers, **Mel Katz**, **Linda Katz** and Carlos Cortez; (right) Sue Goldstein presented our Inspirational Moment.



(Left) Jim Zemzik, Betty Peabody and President Suzy with a photo of the geranium Jim named after Betty; (right) Chair of the Day Laurie Coskey and President Suzy with guest speakers Cara Dessert and Fernando Lopez.



(Left) Leon Williams reminded us that he was the first councilmember to ride in the Pride parade; (right) **Luisa McCarthy** was joined by her daughter Carolina.