



Manhattan Beach Rotary Club

Serving Manhattan Beach Since 1950

Club No. 751 • District 5280 • Chartered August 9, 1950 • www.mbrotary.org



Bill Becker

August 15, 1924-December 21, 2015

President, Manhattan Beach Rotary Club 1986-87

“Our most intimate friend is not
he to whom we show the worst,
but the best of our nature.”

— *Nathaniel Hawthorne*

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Jan 11 — Rotary Exchange Student. Our Rotary exchange student Maja Luttel will share her experiences.

Programs

Jan 18 — No Meeting. We are Dark for Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Jan 25 — Buyer Beware. Chip Stanish, top Andean archaeologist and UCLA professor, will speak on the fake antiquities market.



Save The Date

Jan 15-16 — Rotary Peace Conference in Ontario, CA. Contact **Kathleen Terry** for more information.

Jan 15 — MBMS Music Competition. Rotary Music Competition, MBMS multipurpose room at 6 pm

Jan 16 — Disney Hall Tour. Downtown LA and Disney Concert Hall tour; **Ed Kushins** is taking reservations.

Jan 21 — Mira Costa Music Competition. Rotary Music Competition, Mira Costa, time and place TBA.

Jan 21 — Operation Teddy Bear. Join us for Operation Teddy Bear at Moffett School, 10 – 11 a.m. Help us spread joy by passing out backpacks. Contact **Kathleen Terry** for information.

Feb 1 — Rotary Book Club. This month the book is *Dead Wake: The last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.

Apr 4 — Rotary Book Club. This month the book is *Death with Interruptions* by Jose Saramago.

May 14 — Stop Hunger Now. We will be rounding up volunteers. Contact **Meg Hall** for more information.

Old Guys Rule: Bill Becker

It was Monday, January 04, 2016, and **President Richard Ham** once again let **Mark Lipps** kick off the meeting with some hijinks. On this date it was an opportunity to become fine-proof for the rest of **President Richard's** term, an opportunity earned by submitting to **Russ Samuels'** whipped-cream-roulette machine. Two submitted—**Mike Doell** and **Mark Burton**—and one sacrificed his dignity with a facial—**Mike Doell**....Speaking of **Mike Doell**, he also offered his thought for the day, expressing gratitude for Rotary, for the old guys, for the legacies, for new friends, for all the club does....One of those old guys was our **Past President Bill Becker**, whose passing we acknowledged and mourned (see the full obituary for Bill in this Bulletin).

Club Projects

President Rich started the new year by reflecting on the successes of the first six months of his term, mentioning Niger WASH, Guatemala Literacy, Baja orphanage solar, Sandpiper holiday projects, holiday food drive, Joslyn senior luncheon, Makerspace, Botanical Garden, Special Olympics, Interact at both MBMS and Costa, and much more, for all of which he thanked the countless club members who made it all happen....**Chris Ullman** announced a major change in Meals on Wheels, moving our route to Manhattan Beach, increasing the number of stops and reducing our commitment to one day per week (Tuesday).

Happy \$\$

John Osten thanked **Lisa Hemmat** for Lido's New Year's Eve and celebration of Lisa's birthday....**Dave Boochever** reminded us that he was inducted into the club exactly 20 years ago, joined by **Dennis Ridge**.....**Norm Levin** thanked **Don Redman** for organizing our Sandpiper activities....**Lisa Hemmat** announced that **Megan Hall** was engaged to be married over the holidays, and Megan projected an October wedding (this was the first I knew of the date, and I look forward to future Rotary meetings to learn still more)....**Jim Lambert** told us that his dad has for several years spearheaded an annual holiday effort to provide turkey dinners for 140 needy families....**Les Silverman** is being honored by the Manhattan Beach City Council for his service on City commissions....**Lindy Murrell** roots for Alabama (again) (yawn)....**Chris Ullman** recalled **Bill Becker** as a wine lover and a fun guy; I recalled him as a consummate gentleman; and **Paul Allman** recalled him as our club's first Honorary Member.

Dogs For Disabled Veterans

Ron Sokol (famously a dog devotee) introduced our speaker, Sally Wing, while **Dave Harris** (famously a guide dog volunteer) looked on with delight. Sally organizes “PAWZ for Wounded Veterans,” and was here to tell us about their work. (See www.caninesupportteams.org.) Their volunteers receive pups, straight from the litters of breeders known to breed dogs of good temperament, and raise them for 18 months. The dogs then go to a women’s prison (a men’s prison program is also in the works), where the prisoners do advanced dog training (the women, by the way, show a zero recidivism rate upon release). From there the dogs go to clients, mostly disabled veterans, with no charge to the veterans, who have waited 18-24 months for the dog. The dogs are trained to work with the disabled, doing everything from providing balance, to picking things up that are dropped, to handling PTSD episodes, to much more. The cost per dog is about \$18-20K, with no government funding, so financial support is always welcome.

Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

Perhaps the most common question directed to their volunteer trainers is this: how do you handle giving up the puppy? Volunteer Nicky Lucas also came to our meeting, accompanied by her training puppy, Heidi, her 23rd dog in the program. She called it a circle of love—it’s hard to give up each dog, but knowing the dog is paying it forward, and then taking on a new puppy, make it worthwhile. The program is ultimately people-centric—it’s for the veterans, and knowing that deserving veterans get a helpful, loving dog is the real point.

Paying It Forward

The meeting adjourned with us thinking about the sadness of losing **Bill Becker**, the sadness of losing a well-trained puppy, and the bittersweet joy of knowing Rotarians like Bill, and volunteers like Sally and Nicky, have paid it forward so that others can thrive in their wake long after they’re gone. After a while, the joy is bound to outweigh the sadness.

*Yours in Rotary,
Jim Hallett*





Our Bill Becker

A “Celebration of Life” for Manhattan Beach Rotary Club Past President Bill Becker was held last Thursday, January 7, at American Martyrs Church, with Msgr. John Barry presiding over a traditional Catholic Mass and with a strong contingent of Manhattan Beach Rotarians in attendance. The Mass featured beautiful music and, perhaps most notably, a moving tribute from a Military Honor Guard in recognition of Bill’s World War II service. The eulogist was his daughter, Diane Giaquinta, who reminded us that Bill and his wife Gerry had suffered the loss of their daughter and son-in-law, and that Bill had then suffered the loss of Gerry, as a result of which Bill had looked forward to being back with them (confident that those he left behind will join him in time). (Msgr. Barry delighted in telling us that Bill was a late-in-life formal convert to Catholicism, with Diane telling us that Bill’s real motive in being baptized may have been to increase his chances of going where Gerry, a life-long Catholic, was going.)

Diane told us that Bill loved wine, classic cars, chocolate milk shakes, gardening, dinner at the Kettle, garage tools, and a host of other simple pleasures. When he retired from Crocker Bank, his fellow (then-Torrance) Rotarians attended his farewell party and sang, “We’ll follow the old man wherever he wants to go.” She described him as “always dapper,” “one who loved to joke around,” and “loving and protective of women.” He was the epitome of the Greatest Generation.

Here is the family's formal written eulogy:

William Robert Becker passed away peacefully on December 21, 2015, with cherished family members close. He was 91 years young. Bill had lived in Manhattan Beach, the little town he loved so much for 67 years, since marrying his beloved wife Geraldine.

Born in San Francisco to Madeline and William Becker, he moved to Inglewood, California just prior to starting kindergarten, where he attended Centinela School and Inglewood High. He joined the Army in 1943, and was a member of the 16th Armored Infantry Battalion under General Patton in World War II, where he saw active duty in France and Germany. He received the World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Medal and American Campaign Medal. He returned home after the war and attended business school at USC, before beginning a long, successful career in banking, becoming a Regional Vice President for Crocker Bank. He retired early in 1982 to pursue his dream to be part of the downtown Manhattan Beach community, as the owner of the Beach Store.

Throughout his career, volunteer service was very important to him, serving as president of both the Torrance and Manhattan Beach Rotary Clubs, and as a board member of both the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Bill enjoyed special times traveling the world with his family. He loved to read, was an avid gardener and was a parishioner of American Martyrs Catholic Church.

Bill leaves behind his son Paul Becker (Cari Buck) and daughter Diane Giaquinta, his grandchildren Nicole Konca (Turan Konca), Joshua Smith (Michele Smith) and Isabella Giaquinta, and great grandchildren Mason and Kyra Konca and Dane and Tanner Sierra. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Geraldine Becker, daughter Denise Smith, and son-in-law Maxwell Smith.

Bill was a fixture in town and was much loved in the community. He will be remembered as a gentle, kind man and devoted husband with a true spirit of fun.

Local Rotary Make-Up Clubs

Rotarians Participate at Weekly Meetings!

Tuesday

Hermosa Beach.....12:15

PV Sunset.....7 pm

Wednesday

Torrance Sunrise.....7:15 am

Redondo Beach.....12:15

Westchester.....12:15

Thursday

El Segundo.....12:15

LA Int'l Airport.....12:15

Lawndale.....12:15

Friday

Palos Verdes.....12:15

For times and locations of local club meetings go to www.rotary5280.org and scroll down to the "District Info" area on the right side and click on the "When/Where Clubs Meet" link for information on all clubs in the district.

Meals On Wheels Schedule

Rotarians Serving Their Community!

Jan 11 Ed Kushins

Jan 13 Dave Long

Jan 18 HOLIDAY

Jan 19 Barbara Matles

Jan 26 Mike Matthews

Feb 02 Randy Meadors

Birthdays

Jan 24 John Acker

Jan 25 Tim Hageman

Jan 31 Chris Ullman

Jan 31 Alexander Yoffe

Feb 01 Jason Wallace

Feb 03 Steve Delk

Anniversaries

Jan 12 Dan & Sheryl Jensen

Jan 12 Jim & Christine McFarland

Jan 27 Dick & Harriet Chase

Feb 13 Ingo & Mary Werk

Feb 18 Rick & Susan Farrell

Feb 26 Wendell & Madelyn Harter

Officers & Directors 2015-2016

Richard Ham

President

Shannon Ryan

President-Elect

Geoff Bremer

Past President

John Hugunin

Secretary

David Harris

Treasurer

Paul Allman

Historian

Ken Deemer

Director

Eric Iverson

Director

Megan Hall

Director

Ed Kushins

Director

Deb Robertson

Director

Herb Trachtenberg

Rotary Foundation

Ian Jackson

Membership

Sue Vogl

Communications-PR

D. J. Sun, Governor

District 5280

Be a gift to the world

K.R. Ravindran, President

Rotary International

Be a gift to the world

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Jim Hallett – Notes Writer • Dennis Ridge – Publisher

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www.mbrotary.org

Manhattan Beach Rotary - 111 Active Members Strong!

The 2015/16 Rotary year is another growth year. You can see by scanning the classifications below what areas are open. Let's think and then act.

John Acker – Financial Planner
 Dr. Richard Ackerman – Aerospace Management
 Kathleen Adams – Financial Advisor
 Susan Adams – Aerospace
 Paul Allman – Personnel Training †
 Deborah Arnold – Business Software Consultant
 Tim James Auringer – Automotive Dealer
 Wade Austin, Jr. – Photography
 Mark Ballance – Information Technology
 Harris Bass – Business and Tax Law
 Bill Bloomfield – Commercial/Laundry †
 David Boochever – Consultant/Computer †
 Geoff Bremer – CPA †
 Jan Buike – Social Worker
 Mark Burton – City Councilmember
 Kent Caldwell – Insurance †
 Karla Cameron – Beverage
 Marc Castellani – Wealth Management
 Richard Chase – College Professor
 Roger Cox – Business Consultant †
 Steve De Baets – Truck Refrigeration
 Ken Deemer – Private Investor
 Steve Delk – Restaurant
 Michael Dobak – Advertising
 Mike Doell – Moving & Storage †
 Donn Ennis – Oil Refinery Engineer †
 Robert Espinosa – Fire Chief
 Patrick Fard – Martial Arts
 Monica Farrell – Non-profit Development
 Richard Farrell – Video Production (ret.)
 Vinny Fazzino – Builder/Engineer
 John Gardner – Banking
 David Gendron – Specialty Finance
 Dr. Damien Goldberg – Ophthalmologist
 Nelson Gray – Honorary Member †
 Robert Guilford – Business Consultant
 Tim Hageman – Police Officer
 Megan Hall – Caterer
 Jim Hallett – Criminal & Family Attorney †
 Richard Ham – Aerospace Engineer
 Jay Harkenrider – Real Estate Residential †
 Dave Harris – Wealth Advisor †
 Wendell Harter – Honorary Member
 Lisa Hemmat – Restaurateur
 Jordan Holbert – Graphic Designer
 Dave Hornbecker – Office Supplies †
 John Hugunin – Community College Professor
 Jim Hunter – Property Management †
 Eric Iverson – Web Developer
 Ian Jackson – Mortgage Banker †
 Tom Jeffry – Attorney - Health Care †
 Dan Jensen – Real Estate
 Lawrence Johnson – Investment Banker †
 Don Jung – CPA Business Manager
 Brad Koppel – International Trade
 Ed Kushins – Home Exch. Executive

Jim Lambert – IT Consulting
 Bob Lanahan – Systems Engineer
 Norm Levin – Business Theatre
 Mark Lipps – TV Distribution
 David Long – Executive Recruiter
 Steve Lore – General Contractor
 Jim McFarland – Title Insurance
 Barbara Matles – Travel Agent
 Mike Matthews – Education
 Randy Meadors – Architect
 Richard Montgomery – Advertising
 Dennis Morehead – Property Mgt †
 Gerry Morton – Nutritional Products
 Steve Murillo – Mortgage Broker †
 Lindy Murrell – Communications
 Wayne Nelson – Marketing
 Dr. John Nylund – Dermatology †
 John Osten – Commercial Publishing
 Dr. Ray Padilla – Dentist
 Dr. Patricia Panucci – Orthodontist
 Matthew Peck – Accounting
 Dave Peters – R.E. Invest/Develop/Mediation
 Dan Quisenberry – Attorney
 Loli Ramezani – Senior Services
 Lynn Range – Design and Sales
 Don Redman – Mfg Executive (ret.)
 Jan Rhees – Residential Real Estate †
 John Rhind – Accounting †
 Dennis Ridge – Printing
 Dr. Deborah Robertson – Veterinarian
 Roger Rombro – Attorney - Family Law
 Joel Ruben – Attorney - Real Est. & Bus. Lit
 John Russo – Retired
 Shannon Ryan – Financial Planner
 Daniel Saks – Insurance
 Russ Samuels – Fitness & Personal Training
 Dr. Les Silverman – Optometrist
 Ronald Sokol – Attorney
 Charlie Steinmetz – Investor - Real Estate
 Bob Stephenson – Accountant Corporate †
 Lincoln Stone – Business & Immigration Law
 Marc Teitelbaum – Honorary Member †
 Kathleen Terry – Management Consultant †
 Herb Trachtenberg – Aerospace Engineer †
 Dr. Chris Ullman – Chiropractic †
 John Van den Akker – Property Mgt/Invsts †
 Kathy Vicars – Physical Therapist
 Sue Vogl – Journalism
 Lee Walker – Insurance - Casualty
 Jason Wallace – Attorney - Real Estate
 Ingo Werk – Manufacturing
 Duke Winser – Honorary Member †
 Larry Wolf – Real Estate Broker/Owner
 Alexander Yoffe – Attorney
 Tom Zimmerman – Finance

† Active Past Presidents

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