

THE GOLDEN rotarian

LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

www.lajollagoldentrianglerotary.org



Rotary Opens Opportunities

RI President 2020-21
HOLGER KNAACK

District 5340 Governor 2020-21
STEVE WEITZEN

LJGT Rotary President 2020-21
EMIDIO DELCONTE

SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

MARCH 2021- SPEAKER

12..... Bob Rohrbach

50th Anniversary of Apollo 14 splashdown recovery: Feb 9, 1971



ROTARY WEBSITE UPDATE

Sandi Rimer

Club AOS Chair Sandi Rimer, with the help of committee friends Jan Bernardy and LeeAnn Cusick, will update members on the status of the club's website: Past, Present and Future. Time will be set aside for Q&A and suggestions.

Possible appearance by

Website Celebrity Guru: Debra Gibb





REPORT

from the last meeting



THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE
THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT
THE TRUTH?

02

IS IT
FAIR TO ALL
CONCERNED?

03

WILL IT
BUILD GOODWILL
AND BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

04

WILL IT BE
BENEFICIAL
TO ALL
CONCERNED?

HERBERT J. TAYLOR



The meeting began at 7:30. Lyle Brady was Rotarian of the Day. Brett's off color remark of Lyle being under Sheila was a rough start...watch it Brett :-). His excerpt from a prayer called Desiderata was a perfect pray for today, this month being Rotary's Peace and Conflict Prevention Month.

Lyle's biography chronologically told us all about him. He lived in Washington State, was married with 4 children. 18 months ago after passing of his wife, he decided to look for a "partner of some sort", went online and met the lovely Sheila Henry. Soon thereafter he moved to San Diego into the same building as Sheilalooks like a happily ever after lovestory! He made 3 huge changes in one week (retirement, sale of home, purchase of new home)...he appears to be a man of quick decisions. We are all glad you made this one to join us!

There was no introduction of guests, busy schedule. Our only announcement was from Beverly Fritschner, telling us that she and Craig Larson got engaged over the weekend. Congratulations

to both of you! We have 13 responses to the Survey Monkey, Emidio encouraged more replies to survey re:fundraising. He then introduced Steve Brown to present the Peacemaker of the Year award to a very deserving Cynthia Villis.

Cynthia has done many things for our Club, with 4 that deserve specific mention. In 2008, an RFP came out from Dept. of State taking proposals to setup computer labs in Afghanistan. Cynthia wrote the grant and we learned in the summer that we would be awarded a grant for \$450,000 to be used over 3 years..that was the genesis for Afghan Youth Connect providing computers in Jalalabad for girls and boys, with over 35,000 students participate in this program over the last 12+ years. (an educational program disguised as a way to fight the war on terror). This is a well known program to many, giving recognition to the peace efforts of Rotary. The other 3 programs relate to the peace initiatives at USD (Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies). In 2001 when the institute had its dedication ceremony, she arranged for a US/Mexico Peace forum the

following day with 200 people in attendance. Rotary has had district Peace Forums at The Kroc Institute over the last 9 years, educating many Rotarians from our entire district. She has been a huge proponent for Rotary Scholars over the last 19 years (32 scholars from 19 different countries) Our district and USD have arranged financing for this labor intensive program. Cynthia helps select top candidates from developing countries and presents them to the district. After selection, she then finds an International Club to be their sponsor AND does ALL the grant administrative work. She is the face of Rotary with the scholars. Nasima from Afghanistan and Rema from Lebanon are the most recent scholars. As you can see, Cynthia has worked tirelessly to assist with Rotary's Peace initiatives. Emidio presented the award to Cynthia who was very touched by this beautiful award (photo below). Over her long tenure, she has aspired to be rise to the level of engagement of some of the members she first saw when she joined (Steve Brown, Rick Clark, Eric Freeberg, Rich Papike, and



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many more.) She feels that she has reached that lofty goal and is honored to be recognized by the Club. She's Flying with Eagles now!

Michael Bardin also thanked Cynthia for all that she has done to advance the cause of Peace in our Club and District in many ways. Following the Peace theme, he then introduced Professor of Practice at the Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies at USD, Michael Fryer. Michael Fryer is a Masters graduate with distinction from University of Bradford, UK. His wife Vanessa was a Rotary Peace Fellow at Bradford. He comes to us with vast experience as a broad-based consultant, trainer, coach of conflict resolution and other peace building skills.

"The Value of Peace and Value of Healthy Cynicism" was the title of his talk! He shared his unique abilities as peacemaker thru story telling. I will relate a few of this stories here as well as the links that he put in the chat for your perusal. A number of years ago he was a mediator in complex organization with lots of conflict, meeting with members of team as a facilitator. One young lady asked why should I trust you? His reply was instant and apropos - "no reason you shouldn't trust me, you have only known me for 15 minutes, I'll do my best but no indication as to why you should trust me". She smiled and said "good answer." Michael suggested that we read The Moral Imagination, particularly a chapter entitled Grounded Realism or Constructive Pessimism. He feels that there is value in that distrust until you develop credibility. Being authentic and consistent and present builds trust and relationships, once that door is open, it stays open.

He attended a conference in 1997 in Northern Ireland (before the peace agreement). A US citizen with a clear agenda asked to speak to the

director Colin Craig. He arrogantly said to Colin "If you can get me 20 most influential people in Ireland together in a room, I'll bring in my people and we'll sit down and sort this problem out within 24 hours". Colin smiled said, "kind offer, I'm hesitant because I have never heard of you,,you come from a country with huge levels of violence in your own way. I might suggest that you get the 20 most influential people in US together in a room and sort that out in 24 hours, I guarantee you we will welcome you back with open arms"! That shows the grounded realism of Colin and ended the conversation. He read a chapter from the book stating that change and peace does not come in days or weeks or months, it can take years and even generations. Anything sustainable needs to happen on multiple levels.

He was a facilitator at a camp for Catholic and Protestant kids between 12 and 14 using the cultural language of soccer. The workshop was called the Peace builder to reflect on long journey of peace, acknowledges challenges and how do we keep going in midst of that. He shared the poem below by William Stanford entitled The Way It is. Read it and think of What is Rotary's long thread that keeps us moving forward?

He spoke fondly of Ray Datty from Northern Ireland. Ray recently died at 97,a survivor of prisoner of war many times. When Michael asked him how he survived, Ray said he believed in the power of positive thinking, ability in the darkest of moment to recognize glimpse of hope. A French poem that he like states "Hope as the faintest hint of a bud on a tree in winter."

He participated in a training that was to bring people together in conversation without trying to convert them. The participants were asked to share something from their treasured religious book that

showed their humanity. The room had people from all walks of life, including Christians and Muslims. The facilitator said to them "I am a Catholic and Christian and Jesuit priest." He looked at the Muslims and said "If I think about what I believe as a Christian and what you believe as a Muslim, if I'm honest I have to say that I think you are wrong." Large inhale of breath in the room. Then he said "And if you think about what you believe as Muslim and what I believe as a Christian, if you are honest you have to say you think I am wrong. Is that true? Yeah. Does the fact that we completely disagree about how we understand the world and what informs how we interact with it, does that stop us from working together on issues that affect our communities? No. Great, we have that out of the way, let's get working together". Michael told us to illustrate the values that he holds dear and teaches by..

Links from his chat: http://www.sandiego.edu/blogs/peace/detail.php?_focus=79236

<http://www.surflines.com/surfnews/article.cfm?id=1598>

<http://www.northernslant.com/the-long-way-home-finding-a-way-through-the-brexite-debacle/?fbclid=IwAR110-McNFGzjtKz4rFE31rhlr9phyDYiadOgfGAqODv4Nc4iDDMf83v40Q>

Matt Shillingburg shared a story about his experience with the different factions in Ireland. Sara Katz made a comment about Michael helping with conflict resolution. Emidio closed the meeting...I must thank Cynthia for bringing Michael to us. A very enlightening presentation!

Peacemaker of the Year Award

Dr. Cynthia Villis



Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship



La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2020 - 2021

PRESIDENT Emidio DelConte
PRESIDENT ELECT (2021-22) Jacquie Reilly
PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2022-23) Dennis Bucko
TREASURER Sharon Council
SECRETARY Nancy Gatschet
PAST-PRESIDENT/FOUNDATION Kimberly Schafer



MARCH 2021

05..... Matt Shillingburg

12.....Garry Kachkovsky



ROTARIAN
OF THE DAY



SANDI
RIMER

When I joined Rotary on December 10, 1988, it was with a club of over 200 members, only 18 of whom were women. My first job was in Club Service and I wrote the weekly newsletter. There was a lot to learn and I was confused most of the time.

My first fun experience with Rotary was to get involved in Youth Exchange and hosted a young man from Australia. Simon is the oldest of 5 children and his 3 month stay in my home was a learning experience for all of us. I don't believe that my son (an only child) has ever forgiven me. But Simon and I are still in touch. And through the Youth Exchange program I was bitten by the Rotary bug and have never looked back.

Over time I became president of that first club and many many other assignments at the District and International level since.

I am now Chair for Avenue of Club Service in this club and still learning a lot and a bit confused. I've come full circle. Life is good.