



District 5340

7/26/2019

LMSR Chartered: 1986

Opening Remarks and Announcements

Guests:

- **Lydia**, David Ballesteros' grand-daughter, was present and had provided a ride for David.
- **Joshua Lightcap** was visiting. He looked us up on the internet. He's a financial planner and new in the area and thought we'd be a good place to start to get to know locals.
- **Alison Cummings** is from the El Cajon Noon Rotary club.
- **Dan Decker and Jessica Baron**, our speakers today to tell us about their charity which teaches educators how to integrate music into most subject



Meeting

Jeff opened the meeting with a strum on a unknown reason.

Ivy led us in the Flag salute and **Janet** the running. With the Albas off on vacation **Mike** support from **Elly**. Both were a bit perplexed

we have a new projector and things were a bit different. However, they persevered



Jeff announced that Fern was doing as well as expected after her Tuesday's rotator cuff surgery, but getting her situated for his absence this morning made his arrival a tad late.

Jeff reminded us of the focus on the environment this year, asking us if someone remembered what the green bucket he was holding was for. After several responses that

La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2019-2020

Officers

President: Jeff Hall

Imd Past Pres: Elena Alba

Pres Elect: TBA

Secretary: Lynn DeHaven

Treasurer: Laurel Nishida

RI Foundation: John Stremmlau

Membership: Bobbi Warren

Youth: Joanne Bergquist

Community Service: Peggy Davis

Directors

guitar. Our bell is missing for some
Int'l Service: Hugo Murillo

Pub Relations Megan O'Dowd

Four-way Test: Anna Harris

was manning the technology with

because no-one had warned them that
Credits and Acknowledgements

- Pledge: Ivy
- 4-way test: Janet
- Photos: Bill Pogue

• Kettle: Peggy Davis, Anna Harris

• Minutes: Lynn DeHaven



indicated it was to be used to save the shower water we run while waiting for hot water to arrive and then used to either flush the toilet or water plants he asked if anyone wanted to buy the bucket. Manuela paid \$5.00 for the privilege of not having to shop for one on her own.

Bobbi is struggling with her position as Membership Chair. Jeff would like to find a member to help her. There is a **Membership training** being held by the District on August 10, 2019, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Joan Kroc center on



USD. He would like some members to take advantage of this training and be able to help Bobbi out. Go to the District Website for information. **This Workshop is designed for Club Presidents, Presidents Elect, Membership Chairs/Committee and ALL Rotarians who want to see their clubs grow and thrive. You register at the site.**

Manuela told us that with money we had in our Foundation account from the Castor Foundation that had been for the now defunct Zika grant, she was able to arrange to send \$2,023 to the Keeping Guatemalan Girls in School Project we heard about last week. That was with the blessings of the man who manages the Castor Foundation.



Peggy reported that our evening at **Jewish Family Services “Safe Parking Lot” feeding the homeless** and working poor, our famed “Stone Soup Chili” was another rousing success. She thanked those who participated in the actual event Wednesday

evening, and all those who donated the many cans of “makings.” She related a small story of how when she found herself having some free-time she went around to different tables clearing used utensils and plates for

our “customers”. One woman remarked how special that small gesture made her feel, just as if she were in a restaurant being waited upon. Peggy also commented that it was nice to see that some of our members took the time to go sit at some tables and just visit with the people sitting there. We had several people take the time to come thank us personally for bringing them a lovely meal. We took, besides the Chili, cornbread, watermelon, feta cheese to put on the chili, a number of deserts and a bunch of individual fruit-cups and Go-gurts and things they could save for breakfast in the morning. The only thing that would have made it better would have been to offer salad as well. We left the left-over deserts, fruit cups, cornbread, and handed out ‘to-go’ containers for the left-over chili.



Who Am I? by Peggy Davis



Peggy was back to tell us about herself and how she came to Rotary. She was born in Illinois in a place that is very close to Chicago called Highland Park. She's the third of four children in her family. She's a Baby Boomer and thinks that's possibly the best of

times to grow up. Kids didn't have to be so closely supervised in those days and as a Tom-boy she had the run of the place and spent a great deal of the time on a quieter street a block away playing baseball with the boys and picking up home plate and second base every time a car came along, which wasn't often. Her Grandfather grew up on a farm and he kept a "kitchen garden" growing all summer which is where Peggy learned to love growing plants. Highland Park is an 85% Jewish dominated community because it was one of the few places that Jewish people were allowed to buy homes in those days, so she, early on, experienced living in an ethnically diverse neighborhood. She furthered that experience by attending Marquette University which is a run by Jesuits. She's a Protestant. They had many a lively discussion there. She became a dental hygienist and worked in that profession for many years. She got her first dog (after wishing for a pet as a child) as an adult. It was a Rhodesian Ridgeback. She set about learning to train it. She once asked someone who showed dogs how that was done and that turned out to be the single most expensive question she would ever ask because she continues to show dogs and she breeds them too. She met her first husband who was a

university scholar and hypnotist and thinks she was possibly under his spell when she married him. She lost him to a car accident. That was followed in pretty short order with the loss of her sister to cancer,



and mom. She then met her present husband who was her flying instructor. Yes! She has her private pilot's license. He was also a Rotarian. She decided because of his love for golf that she would learn to play golf. How hard can that be? He allowed that if she married him, they could be in Rotary together and she'd become a better golfer. He lied, she said. That better golfing part didn't happen. But they were the first married couple in this club. They bought their Jamul property for the dogs and built the house to accommodate them as well. She has over fifty fruit trees there and maintains a garden every year. She went to work at Southwestern College teaching students to become dental hygienists in 1999 and has been there ever since. She never had children herself, but took her sister's two children in when she died and helped complete the raising of her husband's two as well. So, she's had her hand at parenting with her "rental children." She is the captain of our Stone Soup Chili team and makes herself available for all our charitable feeding programs. For years she was our local projects Chair.

Next week's "Who Am I?" will feature **Christine Evans**.



Guitars in the Classroom- “Better Learning through Music”, by Dan Decker and Jessica Baron (www.guitarsintheclassroom.com)

Jeff introduced Jessica (Jess) Baron and Dan Decker who were here to tell us about their charity “Open Tuning” which has as its mission to teach teachers to become musical people and to use simple music instruction to



enhance most subjects they teach. Noting that the hearing and recognizing of sounds is the main building block for language acquisition, Jess told us music gets this critical skill in place for children from all language backgrounds. When you teach in a classroom that has children from a variety of language cultures that skill becomes critical and you can't be successful until they have it and are engaged. You can easily reach them through music. So far, they've trained 14,000 teachers all over our nation who work in special education, or after disasters in shelter centers and in Appalachia as well as many, many schools. Children with musical training consistently show higher test scores, better grades and more engagement in educational activities. You also get more smiles and positive testimonials. Using Ukulele's, they teach the “open strings” method. Just strumming the strings without touching any frets is the key of “C”. So, you can strum rhythmically to a song written in the key

of C and that's all you need to do. Some of their ukes had a sticker under one fret so you could add one second chord. By writing your own words to a song with a familiar tune you can use nouns from the subject you're teaching and write a song for your subject matter. Jess demonstrated with a song that showed which fractions are equal, like $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$. You can use the tune to “The Wheels on the Bus” (which by the way teaches parts of a vehicle.) There are three levels of learning to play either a ukulele or guitar: Beginners, Beginners plus, and strummers. Using the open-tuning method you can have a class strumming rhythmically in the key of C in just a few minutes. In a short time even the most reluctant learners are engaged.



If you have someone not doing their homework you can say, if you have your homework turned in on time tomorrow, you will be first to choose your instrument. It works!! The homework will be there.



Dan Decker a professional guitar player thought he knew all there was to know about a guitar. When introduced to the “open strings” method of engaging students he was sold. He had 37 years as an educator and 30 years at San Miguel school in La Mesa, but never before had he gotten a whole class so engaged in music and wanting to continue with music, because they were successful early on. Now he uses the method all the time. He had us playing a little ditty right away. The ukuleles they used were made of pretty heavy plastic so if a child had a melt-down and threw it, it wouldn't be a tragedy. They could pick it up and try again.



Member's Highlights



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Guests/Visitors

Lydia/David Ballesteros and Joshua Lightcap



Allison Cummings/Jessica Baron/Dan Decker



www.LaMesasunriserotary.com



La Mesa Sunrise Rotary * Meetings each Friday 7:15 am * Marie Callender's 6950 Alvarado Rd., SD, CA 92120s