



March 23, 2018

Fern Hall led us in the pledge. Christine Evans led us in the 4 way test. Our President Betty Howland was away today so Ivan Alba ran the meeting. Guests today include Paul - I believe here for his third time, Jim from Montana, Julia- a Rotoractor from SDSU, Luke and Alex from Francis Parker and Rich Belmontez, our speaker and his guest Rick Kelchak.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

Our guest speaker this week was Rich Belmontez, a retired occupational safety program manager at UCSD. Rich dedicated much of his life to service and his passion for being part of high functioning organizations and meeting the needs of those most at risk led him to the CASA -Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. He shared his knowledge and experiences with us.

Navigating the system of foster care can be daunting for a child, especially young ones. Having CASA volunteers advocate for them changes foster children's lives. If a child has a CASA to work one on one with the child they are more likely to succeed, receive vital services, spend less time in foster care, and find a safe, permanent home.

The CASA becomes the eyes and ears of the court and bridges the gaps between the courts, social workers and the foster system- giving the child the child consistency and stability.

There are over 400,000 children in foster care in the US yearly, 4,500 cases in California alone. Only 15% of people working in Social Services are male, yet 50% of the children in need of support are males. 40% of all foster children remain in foster care until the age of 18.

With just 10-15 hours a month you can make a difference in the life of a foster child! For more information go to <https://www.speakupnow.org/>



Announcements



Fern handed out flyers for the upcoming Garage Sale on April 14th and the Bowling on May 11th. Don't forget to sign up and sell some lanes.

NEXT MEETING
April 6, 2018

Announcements cont.

Manuela reminded us of the Model UN fellowship dinner at her and Hugo's on April 6th at 6pm. Also she reported on the success of our \$2500 donation to the Cartago, Costa Rica Rotary Club for their Health Fair which helped to pay for 42 mammograms and eyeglasses for school children.



Julia- our guest Rotoractor from SDSU won the drawing!



Brothers Alex and Luke Tchang shared their experience of working with Grace Girls Home in Sri Lanka, an orphanage for girls who have lost their parents during the Civil War and the 2017 Tsunami. There are between 25-30 girls and the boys have helped to set up a computer learning center for the girls. They realize that education and computer skills are the way out of the cycle of poverty and want to help prepare them for future job opportunities. The boys are trying to raise \$5,000-6,000 to set up a computer lab. One way they have been able to continue their work with the orphanage is through Skype weekend tutoring. For more information visit <https://gracegirlshome.org/>



Guest Rick Kelchak, gave \$100.00 to students for the Sri Lanka orphanage. Are we sure he is not a Rotarian!

Speakers for March/April

Bankers Hill Club
April 6

Devotion to Dogs
April 11

Resounding Joy
April 20

Committee Meetings
April 27

La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2017 - 2018

<i>President</i>	Betty Howland
<i>Pres. Elect</i>	Elena Alba
<i>Secretary</i>	Elly Dotseth
<i>Treasurer</i>	Laurel Nishida
<i>Community Service</i>	Len Gamble
<i>Club Service</i>	Fern Hall
<i>Int'l. Service</i>	Hugo Morillo
<i>Club Programs</i>	Betty & Aaron
<i>Club Foundation</i>	Christine Evans
<i>RI Foundation</i>	David Ballesteros
<i>Membership</i>	Bobbi Warren
<i>Public Relations</i>	Aaron Landau
<i>Youth Greeter</i>	JoAnn Bergquist
<i>Peace Chair</i>	Muff Warren Clara Harris