



September 6, 2019

Guests: Our speaker **Rob Hutsel**, President & CEO of San Diego River Foundation, **Brittany** from Sunlight Retreat, **Lisa** led the flag salute, **Paulo** led the Four-way test.

Bob Hutzel CEO and President - SD River Foundation

Betty Howland introduced our speaker Rob Hutzel, CEO and President of the San Diego River Foundation.

Rob started by asking us what we thought of when one mentioned the San Diego River. Responses included, trash, homeless, Mission Trails Park, River Walk, to name a few. He said that Trash and homeless almost always led the pack. He had pictures of the river in Mission Valley more that 50 years ago where it meandered through and there was a lot of vegetation on either side. He also showed a now defunct park called Mission Cliff Gardens overlooking Mission Valley that the old Trolley system could take you to. Now people don't give the River much thought and since he spent many days exploring there as a kid, he thinks that's sad. In the year 2000 almost 34 million gallons of sewage was spilled into the river. That's about 1 gallon per person in San Diego County, and that precipitated the founding of the San Diego River Foundation. They formed a diverse collection of people to act as the governing board of directors. Their goal is to improve, protect, and preserve the River. To date 3,000,000 pounds of trash has been gathered and removed. Cuyamaca Lake, at 6500 ft up level, is the start point of the river and it is fed by watershed streams in the mountains. It ends at Dog Beach. The Lake area gets about 40 inches of rain each year. Much of the water is held in reservoirs. He showed two beautiful waterfalls which are dependent upon rainfall to run. There's more biological diversity in the river up-country than in any other county in the USA. It is a globally significant River and watershed area. The Foundation seeks to buy land that fronts on the River and works with landowners and businesses along the way to improve their waterfront areas. The lower 9 miles of the river is almost completed. It boasts continuous walking trails. They have a grant going (for which he needs to raise \$650,000 to start the purchase of 17 acres where they plan a classroom building, provide a safe place for children to play and explore while providing education on environmental sciences for about 25,000 children per year. It will be a Discovery Center.

Down by where the Town and Country Hotel is being renovated into a Resort, they are planning a 3-acre Park along their part of the river. To find out more go to sandiegoriver.org

Announcements

Jo Ann told about the most recent event with the Interactors at Helix High last weekend. They teamed with the First United Methodist Church to help the homeless. They provided several services. The students prepared lunches for them. Jo Ann helped with sorting donated clothing. There were also some social workers who worked to connect the homeless with health services and other things that would help them get on track to getting housing and back to being productive citizens.

Janet advised us of the upcoming Interact Symposium that will be held at Liberty Station on October 5, 2019. Our club will provide several Interactors with the funds to attend the symposium and luncheon.

**NEXT MEETING
September 13, 2019**

Announcements cont.

She also had Brittany, a leader from the Sunlight Retreat, who briefly thanked us for the support for those four women who had benefitted greatly. The women wrote thank you letters which she passed around for us to read. If you don't remember, the Sunlight Retreat was a time for sharing and healing for victims of rape. Our club paid for four attendees (I think) and provided lunch for them one of the days they were there.

Fern passed around a group card to send to David Ballesteros who is still hospitalized with MRSA. She has spoken with him on the phone (no visitors). He appreciates phone calls. 619 294-8111 ask to be connected to room 502. Delores (his wife) is very lonely would appreciate a call too. 619 269-9522.

Fern & Jeff also visited Clara who is recovering nicely. She had a picture taken at the visit. She should be able to return to club meetings in two or three weeks.

Board meeting is this Wednesday at Fern & Jeff's House at 6:00 PM. September 11, 2019.

Garage Sale Oct. 26, 2019 at Fern & Jeff's. Start dropping stuff off at their house. Tell your friends you are collecting.

Hurricane Dorian Relief – The way our club is going to help is to provide a Shelter Box (\$1000) possibly a second box with private donations Fern started the fund with a check for \$200. John and Christine stepped up. If you want to donate send a check to La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Foundation at the address on our website. Mark it "for shelter box". Or you can bring a check next week.

Paulo announced with pictures his gratefulness for our donations to fund the Quingoma School Kitchen in Brazil. All the children in the pictures were wearing school uniforms emblazoned with the Rotary Wheel. He showed the kitchen equipment, the cafeteria, and the children dressed in uniform.

Opportunity Drawing

Ron won and donated his prize to San Diego River Park Foundation.

Who Am I?

Edda Temoche-Weldele was the featured "Who Am I" speaker this morning. She had a fancy Power Point presentation with pictures to tell of her life.

She was born in Peru to a mother who was a teacher, and a father who was an attorney and an elected political official. Because of a political coup he was sent to prison on an island from which he escaped by swimming. He went to Guatemala and established himself with a job and a place to live and sent for his family. Both in Peru and Guatemala her parents were able to send her to lovely private schools. Then the family immigrated to Mexico for a time. Her father was always an activist, but he also tutored students because they were "the future". In 1963 her parents sent her to West Palm Beach, Florida for a year in High School to improve her English. While there she got to meet and shake President Kennedy's hand. It was a milestone moment for her. Three months later he was assassinated. "She was devastated. Her parents didn't want her to stay in Florida for college so she returned to Peru to go to college not to be a teacher as she had planned, but her to go to law school as her parents wished. So, she spent 8 years studying law. Her father was the Minister of Justice. During that time, she met Bruce, her husband of 43 years. They married within three months of that meeting and they returned to the USA. She earned her Master's at SDSU and in 1990 started to work at Grossmont College where she worked for 30 years filling numerous posts and was awarded a prestigious award. In Retirement she has worked in her various interests, protecting children and standing for Women's Rights, and joining Rotary.



October 26!
Bring stuff!

