



# Old Mission Rotary

Meets Every Tuesday at noon at the  
Best Western Seven Seas Hotel  
Hotel Circle South  
[oldmissionrotary.org](http://oldmissionrotary.org)



June 2, 2015

## The Trabajadores of San Quentin



*Alejandra Castaneda delivered an important program on the plight of the agricultural workers of San Quentin Baja.*

On June 2nd, Alejandra Castaneda visited Old Mission Rotary to explain the history and current plight of the agricultural workers known as the Trabajadores Agricolas San Quintin. The San Quentin Valley is located the northwestern state of Baja California Norte. The valley lies about 200 miles south of San Diego, California. Because of its location, it is a major exporter of agricultural products to the United States, including strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, chilies, and other vegetables that are picked with labor-intensive methods. Poor workers mainly from the Oaxaca province of Mexico have found there way to the productive big

*Continued side two...*

## Proposed for Membership!



*Executive Secretary Stan Vogelsang with the Executive Director of the Copley-Price YMCA Breezy Bolden. Breezy has been proposed for membership in Old Mission Rotary!*



*Susie Japs with Executive Secretary Stan Vogelsang. Susie has been proposed for membership in Old Mission Rotary!*

*No one has ever become poor by giving.  
-Anne Frank, Holocaust diarist  
(12 Jun 1929-1945)*

## Happy Birthday Isaac !



*On June 2nd, Old Mission Rotary celebrated Wounded Warrior Isaac Blount's 24th birthday! Isaac announced that he is training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro!*



*The leadership of the Heartbeat Music Academy. (L-R) Founder and CEO Tyra Hawthorne, Co-Founder Alicia Carter and Director of Marketing Kelly Bridgeport. On May 5th the Art Pratt Foundation of Old Mission Rotary presented the Heartbeat Music Academy with a \$5,500 grant.*



*Our speaker on May 12th was Marshall Lubin. He served with SEAL Team One in the 1970s and he spoke about his experiences in the special forces including a dramatic parachute jump. He is a writer and his new book is called **Night Moves**.*



*Our 100 Year Old member Vesta Young with Carol Kramer. Vesta played the Marine Corps Hymn to celebrate Wounded Warrior Isaac Blount's birthday!*



*Bob and Gloria Chalfa introduce their son Bobby at our June 2nd meeting. Bob and Gloria left the meeting to drive straight to LAX where they boarded a flight to the RI Convention in San Paolo Brazil!*

### **San Quentin- Continued**

farms in Baja to work in the fields. These workers and their families live in make shift mini cities called Colonias.

Since NAFTA, this farming area has come under the control of large scale American corporations. Local Mexican farmers could not compete and as a consequence the large scale agribusinesses lowered wages. The daily wage of 100 pesos per day (\$7 USD) was so low that farmers initiated a strike in March. There has been some violence and the workers have closed the trans-peninsular highway.

Old Mission Rotary has been active with this community for many years through our association with the VIIDAI public health project. We have focused our efforts on the Salvador Diaz school in the Lomas de San Ramon Colonia. This year, we finished painting the school and building a patio covered by a steel structure. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel two scheduled trips to the colonia because of the unrest.

Alejandra's talk really helped us understand the unfolding situation in San Quentin. Our hearts go out to the struggling workers as we have witnessed their poverty first hand. We look forward to resuming our efforts when the situation is safe.

The next VIIDAI trip is scheduled for August depending on how the strike situation unfolds.



*Judge Bob Coates (c) with Boy Scout Executive Director Enrique Teigero (L) and Boy Scout Sweetwater District Commissioner Don Swanson (R). Judge Coates is passionate about scouting!*



*Old Mission Public Relations Chair Bob James Jr. with our new club portable display banner.*

### **Rotary Calendar**

- **Monday, June 15 at 2pm- Old Mission Projects Committee Meeting** at the Mission Valley YMCA
- **Monday, June 22- District Governor's Dinner** at the La Jolla Marriott
- **Thursday, June 25 at 7:30am- Art Pratt Board Meeting** at the Copley-Price YMCA
- **Saturday June 27- Demotion Dinner** at Casa Castro

### **Rotary Programs**

- **June 16- Brazil!** President -Elect Jerry Hosenkamp
- **June 23- Climate Change** David W. Pierce
- **June 30- Women Wonder Writers!** Debra Postil