



# Old Mission Rotary

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

January 30, 2015



## Old Mission Rotary Katherine Willey- Farewell Letter



Dear Friends,  
What a wonderful, but, for me, bittersweet evening on Friday! To have almost every one of Old Mission's Rotarians as well as Thousand Smiles colleagues there for that party was one of the greatest honors I've experienced and it meant so, so much to me. The presence of each of you was a gift to me, one I will not forget as long as I live.

To Dave, Bob, Lee, Leslie, Hugh, Al, Stan and Liz, all of you who spoke on Friday night, to each of you who gave me a warm good-bye hug, to those who told me that I'll be missed, to all who signed the San Diego books, for the beautiful yellow roses, to Liz for the crown and robe, to Al for the gorgeous photograph, to Stan for the "golden spark plug," to Barry



*Liz Ruch was our Master of Ceremonies at Katherine's Farewell Party at Alfonso's on January 30th.*

Our Old Mission farewell to Katherine and Bruce Willey on Friday January 30th was great fun! 65 people attended the event and the crowd included not only Rotarians but many friends as well. Our host, Alfonso Fierro, opened up his charming La Jolla restaurant to us and the appetizers and margaritas were old school and wonderful!

Special thanks to Liz Ruch who served as our master of ceremonies and organized such a warm tribute for Katherine. Liz was travelling on the day of the party and barely made it to Alfonso's on time from the airport. She even did a quick change in her car!

We will all miss Katherine and Bruce not only for the amazing dedication to Rotary but because they are such great friends!

## Katherine and Old Mission Rotary

Wow! Here is a list of Katherine's achievements in Old Mission Rotary! We probably missed some.

- Rotarian of the Year 2010-2011
- Original Chair of Francis Parker Interact Club
- Multi-year participant in Project Mercy
- Served as RYLA Facilitator
- Regular participant in monthly Wounded Warrior Dinners
- Regular one-one contact with Wounded Warriors at these dinners
- Hosted several New Member Dinners
- Master of Ceremonies for Demotion Dinners
- Participant in Rotarian's at Work projects
- Served on Art Pratt Foundation of Old Mission Rotary Board
- Served on Copley Family YMCA Board
- Organized and lead 50 Years in Rotary celebrations for Bob Callcott and Joe Harris
- Organized 100 year birthday celebration for Vesta
- Participated in VIDAII project in San Quintin, Baja CA, Mexico
- Past President of OMR
- Board Member Thousand Smiles
- Founder and Chair of So You Think You've Got Talent San Diego
- RI Foundation Chair for OMR

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& Bev for the wine, to Alfonso for hosting the event so delightfully, to Bea for taking care of the financial logistics, to Matt for bringing it all together, to Eric for paying our parking, to Lee for carrying that dusty framed certificate (I'm sorry!), for Dave and Jim for helping to make sure some of the folks who are most special to me were able to be at the party, to those of you who brought good-bye cards, for all of that and so much more, a simple "thank you" just can't come close to expressing how I feel about all you did to make that night so incredibly special for Bruce and me.

Friends for twelve years! (Other, newer friends also so treasured.) It is terribly hard to accept that I may not see some of your faces again for a long time. I think you know that I meant it when I said on Friday night that each of you is a friend, and dear to me. It is important to me to know that we will stay in touch. Please put us in your address books, email us your news, add our place in Nashville to your travel plans. Each of you will be such welcome guests at our home in the southland!

Know that I will always keep a memory picture of our homely meeting room at the Seven Seas, with kind Donna there each week, and that I will see each of your beloved faces around those tables, and that that picture will be tucked close to my heart.

With much affection,  
Katherine

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*Hugh Kramer related how Katherine provided comfort as a mother figure to so many wounded warriors over the years. Katherine always had time to visit and listen to these young Sailors and Marines. Hugh also recognized Katherine's dedication to the Thousand Smiles Clinic in Ensenada.*



*Leslie Mittanck met Katherine when they worked together in banking. Leslie joked about how she was solicited by Katherine to join our "So You Think You've Got Talent San Diego" fund raiser committee and now Katherine is leaving town!*



*Dave Blum took the opportunity to reminisce and tease Katherine!*



*Linda Taylor and Eric Benink with Katherine. Eric even brought his sound system to the event.*



*President Matt (L) with Alfonso Fierro. Alfonso opened up his La Jolla restaurant to the club and was a most gracious host. At Katherine's farewell party, we enjoyed delicious appetizers and wonderful margaritas! After 44 years with his restaurant, Alfonso is still the hardest working person in the place!*



*Bob James thanked Katherine for her International Service with the VIIDAI program in San Quentin.*