



Rotary Opens Opportunities

2020-2021

**ROTARY CLUB OF  
OCEANSIDE**

**SHORELINES**

Tom Brault  
Editor-in-Chief

Janet Bledsoe Lacy  
Photographer

Tom Brault  
Reporter

**CO-PRESIDENTS**  
Melissa Rodriguez & Dale Maas

*April 9, 2021*

At the stroke of 12:30 pm, our Co-President DALE MAAS took control of the pre-meeting gabfest, welcoming everyone to our meeting and thanking those who chose to log in to Zoom early to enjoy some time to socialize. (Since it is one of the few and far between times for me to actually get to converse with people nowadays, I certainly wouldn't miss it, if I can help it!)



First up on our agenda for the day was our **ROTARY MOMENT**, this week provided by DAVE SHORE, who noted that “2020 has been one of the most stressful years, not only of our lifetime, but in the life of America.” He recalled a recent conversation in which a local psychologist feels that, due to Covid, medicine will never be the same, and he was of the opinion that the changes in medicine will ultimately be seen as positive ones. The dramatic advances in mRNA coding which brought us the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will change our response to infectious disease forever and will allow us to deal with future pandemics more quickly and effectively. Medicine has also taken strides in potential early warnings for future pandemics and has expanded the options for physicians to communicate with their patients as a result of the work done through the Covid crisis.

DAVE sees similar positive changes in his line of work as well. In DAVE's area of law, he sees video conferencing carrying over even after we come out of the Covid times, allowing attorneys the option to handle court appearances from their own offices. In DAVE's case, that will save him a ton of travel all over California and Arizona, freeing up a lot of time which he will be able to spend on being better prepared for his hearings. Many other lines of work will also continue to benefit from the option of remote work, and it may even provide an opportunity for workers to live in any part of the country they choose, regardless of the location of their employer. This would be particularly beneficial for those who have been priced out of the California real estate market – living in a more affordable area while still working for Silicon Valley, for example. And today's downtown areas

will change as well, with office spaces being converted to living quarters, which could also help to address California's housing crisis.

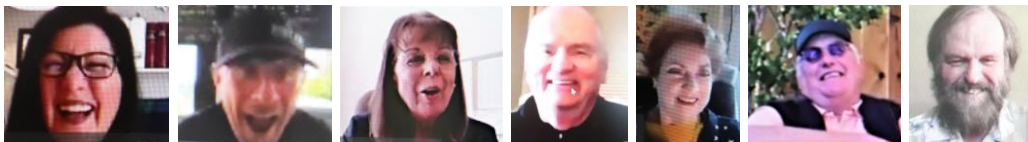
He noted that at other key junctures of human history, similar "silver linings" have come out of stressful and catastrophic events. As examples, R&D for World War II led to the benefits of microwave technology, as well as advances in blood transfusion, skin grafts, and trauma treatment. World War I saw the development of two-way radios for planes, pilotless drones, and mobile x-ray machines. And the Civil War produced the Emancipation Proclamation and fostered rapid industrial growth to restore the post-war economy.

So, yes, the year of Covid has been difficult and the pandemic is not yet over, but just as in times past, there may end up being a silver lining for Americans if we can seize some of the new opportunities that present themselves to us. And the period of civil strife we have gone through recently with its protests, confrontations, and ultimately the January insurrection has opened the eyes of America and could ultimately lead to a more engaged public and a greater understanding of the issues that we face and how to best deal with them going forward.

DALE thanked DAVE for these insights on how "Nothing ever stays the same" and for this positive outlook on the good that may ultimately come out of the dumpster fire of the past year or so.

Some positive things are coming up for Oceanside Rotary in the weeks ahead, too, and Co-President Elect L.J. FIMBRES reminded us of some of them in our **CLUB UPDATES**:

- 4/10 – District Assembly was held online from 8:30 to Noon. We were well represented with 9 members (DALE MAAS, MELISSA RODRIGUEZ, A.J. MAZZARELLA, RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE, DAVE and TERRI HALL, BILL DERN, TOM BRAULT, and TINA ORTIZ) in attendance and spreading themselves around to listen in and learn more about a wide variety of important topics.



- 4/23 – Board meeting at noon on Zoom

- 4/24 – Rotarians at Work day – Food donation drive, meeting together live and in person (and socially distanced) at Breakwater Community Church (506 S. Nevada Street) starting at 11:30 am. Bring donations of fresh produce, fruits, veggies as well as staples like rice, beans, and bread which will then be distributed by Lived Experiences to those in need in our community. RSVP to RENEE with your meal choice no later than April 19 (but the sooner you can let her know, the better) and make your payments (\$25 for lunch / \$30 for Bingo, if you are so inclined) to LES NEWQUIST by check or Venmo by April 23. We heard that some La Jolla Rotarians are planning to join us for this event, and by all means, you are welcome to invite even more folks (friends, neighbors, countrymen) to take part in this day of service and fun as well.
- 4/30 – Regular meeting on Zoom



### **VISITORS AND GUESTS**

We had a trio of trespassers today. (OK, they really aren't "trespassers" since our meetings are open to all, but I do always adore adding alliteration!) In addition to our usual suspect RUDY VAN HUNNICK, we were also joined by our guest speaker ERIN TSURUMOTO GRASSI (more on her later) and by SHOR DENNY, a Riverside Rotarian who has moved to Oceanside and is checking out local clubs. She works with the non-profit Community Now which offers comprehensive community prevention programs based on social-emotional learning, youth empowerment, and advocacy.



Perennial song leader TOM BRAULT was invited by our Co-President to offer our Welcome Song, but TOM demurred, indicating that he prefers to spread the wealth and get a variety of voices out there for the members. So he scanned the screen and said, "I see a member with a great voice who we haven't heard for a while" and asked TERRI HALL to step up to sing. She took herself off of mute and launched right in but didn't get too very far before she drew a blank on the lyrics. She backed up and started the line again, and (aided by the helpful faces of several Rotarians carefully mouthing the words for her to visually follow), she eventually made it through. TERRI confessed a bit sheepishly, "I haven't sung for a year and a half, and I think I lost my voice" to which a not-so-helpful heckler added: "'Pathetic' is the word you are looking for." (Ummm. Whatever happened to the old adage: "If you can't say something nice...."?)

## **SAD NEWS, WHICH GOT EVEN SADDER**

Next up, Co-President MELISSA RODRIGUEZ had to be the bearer of bad tidings since she had heard from the family most recently. Our dear PAM MYERS experienced a stroke and had been placed in a rehab facility in Vista but was sent back to the ICU at TriCity Medical Center since she was not improving. We were told at the time that the family was engaged in “tough conversations”, and then we learned just a day later that PAM had passed away. She had such a warm, kind, and generous spirit – She will be greatly missed by many. Keep the family in your thoughts and prayers, please, and if you would like to send a card to her daughter CARRIE and granddaughter SAMANTHA, the address is:

Myers Family  
305 Boomvang Court  
Oceanside, CA 92054

## **FUNDRAISER REMINDERS**

TERRI HALL was given the floor to prod us to action on the upcoming fundraisers for the club.

The planning for the Virtual event coming up on Saturday, May 8 is coming along nicely. Many thanks to the “Foodie Team” of RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE, DAN WILSON, and BRIAN LONG for putting together a nice kit of tasty items which the attendees can either pick up or have delivered (assuming they live somewhere near Oceanside, Carlsbad, Vista, or San Marcos) to enjoy during the event. More details on the planning were sent in by Chair TERRI after the meeting: “Tina Ortiz reportedly has the lion's share of the work designing the Virtual website and she is doing an AWESOME job! Dave Hall is arranging testimonials and working with Paul Friedman from El Camino Rotary Club for recording these. (Paul is a member of our website team and also doing an AWESOME job!)” And, most importantly, we still are in need of some good, substantial, popular, and bid-inspiring silent auction items for this fundraiser to be able to raise some substantial funds.

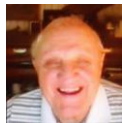
And the Golf Tournament will be held on Monday June 21. Time will tell if the easing of Covid restrictions might lead to some alterations of the planned precautions for the tournament, but we still are probably looking at offering a boxed lunch instead of a sit-down meal. Volunteers are needed to help run the event. Let TERRI know if you are available to help. Raffle prizes and silent auction items are also being solicited for this fundraiser. What can YOU add to the list?? And/or you might consider signing up for a Tee Sign sponsorship (\$125 for new signs / \$100 for repeats that don't have to be printed). Remember that ERNIE

MASCITTI has offered to be a co-sponsor for a sign, so you could get your name on the course for a mere \$50 thanks to his partnering generosity. TERRI also gave thanks to BRIAN LONG for lining up a hole in one prize. The bottom line, according to TERRI: “We can always use your money, your time, and your ideas for prizes.” ALEXA KINGAARD was inspired by this plea and immediately offered to volunteer and to sponsor a tee sign for her truffle business. Yay, ALEXA! Wrapping up this segment of the meeting in a nice verbal bow, Co-President DALE expressed most sincere thanks on behalf of the club to the whole fundraising committee for their efforts on these events, which “will have a huge impact!”



### **APRIL IS A REALLY BIG MONTH (... for BOB, at least)**

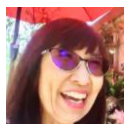
As Co-Prez DALE so eloquently put it, “BOB PICKREL gets bamboozled every year” in April since he celebrates so many milestones in this particular month. He kicked it off with \$91 in honor of his birthday on April 7, proclaiming that he is “Old as dirt!”, but that he is “Looking forward to many more!”



ERNIE MASCITTI pledged \$77 in honor of his birthday on April 18, but that amount “has no reference to anything about me ... It’s just that ‘Sevens’ are my favorite number!” (Spoken like a true former casino worker.)



Also with April birthdays, but not with us on Zoom for the meeting: JOHN TODD and LESLY ADAMS.



ANCHISA FARRANT gave \$65 in recognition of her big birthday that has given her “lots of stuff to study”, meaning Medicare. Good luck on that, ANCHISA!

ALEXA KINGAARD passed the Four Way Test by voluntarily and without any prodding admitting that she, too, has an April birthday. Our Secretary RENEE requested that she should provide her birthdate info so the club directory can be updated, and ALEXA was \$72 happy to do so.

DAVE HALL volunteered to sing the Happy Birthday song to all of our celebrants. He crooned it just like bass baritone Bing Crosby and even remembered all of the words!

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Here, too, BOB PICKREL had to step up with his wallet wide open because on April 28 he and DARLENE will mark their 70th anniversary. Wow! BOB commented, “She’s a real trouper for putting up with me all these years!” and gave \$70 more because “She is very special!”

RENEE RICHARDON WENDEE has hit the four-year mark on “this go-round” (RENEE added, with a sly grin) with her most recent husband PAUL. (I know this may sound tacky, but she is the one who said it.) She opted to stick with the long-standing tradition of one dollar per year for the whopping total of \$4.

### CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

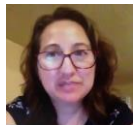
DAN WILSON missed out on hearing the tributes for his second year with Oceanside Rotary. In that short time, he sure has distinguished himself by being so active!

And wrapping up celebration time was the “triple bamboozled” BOB PICKREL who has been a member of our club for “43 great years!” That is indeed all great news, BOB. Let us know if you need a calculator to add up all of your April largesse.

### OUR PROGRAM

Once again, our coordinator of our presentations JANET BLEDSOE LACY had the honor of introducing our speaker for the day - ERIN TSURUMOTO GRASSI. Originally from Northern California, ERIN is a fourth generation Japanese American and a “proud hapa.” (In case this term is unfamiliar to you, “Hapa” is a Hawaiian “pidgin” word used to describe mixed-race people – primarily, but not exclusively, those who are of half white and half Asian descent.) Her family's experiences being interned during World War II, helped shape her passion for social justice and racial equality, and ultimately led her to become involved in immigrant rights work.

ERIN currently works as a regional policy director at Alliance San Diego, where



she helps lead the organization's local and state policy work and coordinates the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium. She holds multiple degrees in Political Science and Spanish, and an M.A. in Latin American Studies with a concentration in International Migration. She is also a 2016 alumna of the San Diego Leadership Alliance Institute.

When JANET invited her to speak, her originally intended topic was the impact of civil rights hero FRED KOREMATSU who at the age of 23 called attention to the injustices of the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II by refusing to abide by Executive Order 9066 and thereby altered the course of history. However, after the tragic shootings happened in Atlanta, she felt called to comment on the violence and discrimination seen against Asian Americans instead.

As she told us, growing up in the Asian American community, she was “sort of taught not to talk about” the internment period of our history and didn’t really understand about it until she became an adult. In 2006, she went to visit the Japanese American History Museum in L.A. on a day when a million people were out in the streets protesting. Reading the museum displays about the history of internment while the noise of immigration-focused protests could be heard outside ended up being a “moment of clarity” for her and led her to her line of work pursuing social justice.

ERIN reviewed a long list of anti-immigrant laws from the 1800’s through the mid 20th Century which “set up the environment where internment could happen” here in the United States. More recently, “we have been seeing a lot of the same mistakes being repeated in the last five years.” ERIN was very concerned by former President Trump’s campaign comments in 2015 and notes that it may have started with xenophobic thoughts and comments, but that ended up leading to modern day injustices like the Muslim ban and the holding of children in detention centers – some of them in the same locations that were internment camps in World War II. She impressed upon us that “Words matter”, and that it is disturbing and wrong to place blame on people, just because they are members of a specific ethnicity or community.

This discrimination has hit home personally for ERIN. Her mother had to endure an incident at her work as a librarian. Her sister has been verbally assaulted about her Asian heritage while on mass transit. After the shootings in Atlanta, ERIN found herself wondering and worrying about the greater tragedy which might have occurred – “What if one of those family incidents had gone wrong?” Her family could have been the direct victims of violence. She and her family are certainly not alone with these concerns. She has heard many similar stories from others.

She asked us, rhetorically, “Are we on the verge of progress in our country?” The answer, she believes, “depends on all of us.” She is hopeful that our citizens will “look at history and decide that we want to be better.” Let us pray that this

sentiment might indeed take root in America in the wake of this wave of discriminatory behaviors.

We are grateful to ERIN for telling her stories and opening our eyes and our hearts a bit more to the problem of anti-Asian American violence and discrimination.



JANET told us about how she had originally become aware of the importance of the defiant actions of FRED KOREMATSU – “a mechanic who stood up and said, ‘No! This cannot happen!’”

Co-President DALE steered the meeting toward a close by thanking ERIN for her presentation. “One of the strengths of our club is our willingness to hear about diverse and important topics.” Amen to that! Information is the key to better decision making - as a nation, as a community, and as an individual.

Parting reminders were added by RENEE who pleaded with us to get our reservations in for the Rotarians at Work Day lunch. “Please don’t wait until the last minute.” And our Program Chair JANET offered a teaser that at our next regular meeting on April 30 we will be hearing from Oceanside Councilmember RYAN KEIM who she hopes will touch upon the homeless problems in Oceanside, including the tent city which has been expanding on the south side of Oceanside Boulevard lately.

And with that, we stood adjourned to go out and enjoy another beautiful April day in Oceanside (or wherever you were Zooming from)!

### **DELIVERING MORE JOYFUL NOTES**

You may recall that in mid-March we delivered St. Patrick's Day notes written by Rotarians and the congregation of Breakwater Community Church. On March 31, just in time to add to the celebration of Easter and Passover, more notes went out to residents of local senior assisted living facilities, this time accompanied by donuts from Sam’s Donuts on College Boulevard.



Pictured here is the co-owner of Sam’s Donuts, prepping our boxes for delivery.



Then we see RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE and DAVE HALL carting the goodies and notes to Chateau Lake San Marcos.

And later that day, DAVE also brought a similar bounty to Brookdale Oceanside and handed it off to their Assistant Social Director.





When she sent these photos in to Shorelines, TERRI HALL added this aside: *“Full disclosure. When I placed the order, I got a Bismarck for myself and got an apple fritter for Dave. Yummy donuts at Sam's!”*

### **A GOOD GUY DOING GOOD DEEDS**



Leave it to ERNIE MASCITTI to help keep the youth in his neighborhood engaged. This photo and note about ERNIE's helping hand to local youth came to us from his neighbor,

**JIM SCHRODER:**

*“Ernie Mascitti gave the younger local neighborhood kids on Wooster Street a “Teaching Moment” today Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup> in front of his house. Way to go, Ernie.*

*The kids collected fruit up and down the street from neighbors' trees the day before the sale. Ernie made up a sign for advertising and put it in front of my house on a light pole on the day of the sale, so all could see what would be happening. They made Lemonade, homemade Lemon Bars, and sold the Fruits and Avocados. Everything was 50 cents. The day before, the kids passed out a flyer to each home telling them of the “Organic Sale” and at what time it would be.*

*Ernie showed the kids what it is like to be an entrepreneur and how to make money. You can see the kids having a ball. So did Ernie. They did well in sales, too.... All thanks to Ernie.*

*-- Jim Schroder*

*I thought he deserves to be recognized for keeping the neighborhood kids out of trouble and teaching them a learning lesson for life.”*

### **LOOKING FOR ENTERTAINMENT FROM A BRAULT??**

Not your fellow Rotarian TOM BRAULT, mind you, but there are two entertainment options available to you which feature his daughter GERILYN.

In the last Shorelines we mentioned that she is appearing in the Grossmont College musical “The Mad Ones” which is available for viewing online from April 8 – 17.

For tickets, call 619-644-7234 or visit <https://www.grossmont.edu/get-involved/arts-and-culture/theater-arts/the-mad-ones.php>



And, in breaking news, GERILYN will be one of two talented singers performing LIVE at the “Divine Divas Cabaret” for New Village Arts with shows at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday (April 15, 16, and 18). Performances will be onstage at the Flower Fields in Carlsbad. Your \$50 ticket includes entry to the Flower Fields (a \$20 value in and of itself). Come early to take in the beautiful views and bring a jacket, because it can get chilly after the sun sets. Those tickets can be reserved at: <https://newvillagearts.org/flower-fields/>

### **COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY**

Friday, April 23 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon

Saturday, April 24 – Rotarians at Work day

*Breakwater Community Church - 506 S. Nevada Street, 11:30 am start*

*RSVP to RENEE for the Box Lunch NOW*

Friday, April 30 - Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm

RYAN KEIM, Oceanside City Councilmember

Saturday, May 8 – Virtual Online Fundraiser & Silent Auction

Monday, June 21 – Rotary Golf Tournament fundraiser