



2021-2022

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES



CO-PRESIDENTS
AJ Mazzarella & LJ Fimbres

Tom Brault
Editor-in-Chief

Janet Bledsoe Lacy
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Reporter

December 10, 2021

We had a real surround sound and not one person fell asleep, thanks to the Gregory Michael band!! More later on their music...



At 12:33 pm, Co-President AJ MAZZARELLA decided it was his turn to perform by ringing his bell and calling the meeting to order!!!

BOB PICKREL led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



LES NEWQUIST then took over in order to present his Rotary Moments (yes, plural) by sharing with the audience his pleasure in Oceanside Rotary's participation in donating laptop computers for Junior High Students at Lincoln Middle School. The club would buy four or five laptops and present them at an event attended by students that had been selected to receive them. AND then he continued with another valuable exercise – Our Fellowship with the middle schoolers from Crown Heights through our mentor program – like taking them to baseball games at Petco Park – Going by bus as a group and then having seats together for the



game and getting to know the fun young attendees!!! As LES stated, “That’s my story and hopefully we will soon be able to resume our fun times with our young students.”

CLUB UPDATES

RENEE RICHARDSON brought the group up to date with the following:

December 11, Holiday Party at TERRI and DAVE HALL’s home. 5:30-7:30 All you can eat Pizza and salad prepared on site with a cost of \$25.00 and it is (was) a BYOB! There was still room for more merrymakers to join in on this event at the time of this announcement!! And there are photos to share from that evening at the end of this newsletter

December 17, Zoom Board Meeting 12 Noon

And now, for the future ones that you still need to check your calendar for:

January 14, 2022 Club Assembly meeting **via ZOOM** (*Note: due to the Omicron variant the board decided to hold this meeting remotely*)

January 21, 2022 Zoom Board Meeting at Noon

January 28, 2022 Regular Meeting – El Camino Patio

VISITORS AND GUESTS

AJ asked for introduction of our visitors, beginning with DAVE HALL who introduced STEVE BESSANT representing Lincoln Middle School. MELISSA RODRIGUEZ then introduced RUDY VAN HUNNICK. VICKIE PROSSER then introduced TED and VIVIAN SMOOK all the way from Manitoba!!! (Pretty far, eh?) TED has been a Rotary member for 30 years and he and VIVIAN will be visiting in our area for 3 months. ROGER VANDERWERKEN introduced his daughter KRISTIN FULLER who was Rotary exchange student to Belgium in 2002-3 and now teaches at Palomar College. ROGER also introduced PABLO ACOSTA from the Tricity Pantry who conducted the Thanksgiving Drive we contributed to.



And now it was time to sing our Welcome song – which we all enjoy so.

AN AMBITIOUS AND FUN SERVICE PROJECT

Next RENEE brought us up to date on the international trip to Baja which took place on December 4. Over 150 Rotarians built 7 houses. RENEE shared that the day was indeed a New Rotary Moment beginning at 4 AM in Vista and not getting back to their hotel until 11PM!!! Oh yes, and workers had more paint on their body than maybe on the house they were working on. She told us how fun it truly was and that some of the future inhabitants of each of the homes also worked with our Rotarians which made it a true international event!!!



CLUB ELECTIONS

Our new Slate of Officers and Board of Directors was presented by RENEE as follows:

Co-Presidents:	A.J. MAZZARELLA & RENEE RICHARDSON
President Elect:	
President Elect Elect:	
Secretary:	RENEE RICHARDSON
Treasurer:	LES NEWQUIST
Sgt. At Arms:	ANCHISA FARRANT
Past President:	LOUIE FIMBRES

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
DAVE HALL	7-1-23
ROGER VANDERWERKEN	7-1-23
SHOR DENNY	7-1-24
MIKE CURTIN	7-1-22
JASON DESADIER	7-1-24
LOLA SHERMAN	7-1-25
JANET BLEDSOE LACY	7-1-25
LYN CORDER	7-1-23
DAN WILSON	7-1-25
JAY CRAWFORD	7-1-22
DAVE NYDEGGER	7-1-24

JIM SCHRODER made a motion to accept the full slate as presented and the motion was passed Unanimously!

HEARING HOW OUR CONTRIBUTIONS MADE A DIFFERENCE

DAVE HALL introduced STEVE BESSANT, Principal of Lincoln Middle School. STEVE thanked Oceanside Rotary for the generous donation of \$1,500. Our check actually arrived prior to his knowledge of receiving it. Our donation was gladly used for Visual Aid Themes for the school Library in order to further the students' education in Life Skills.



ROGER VANDERWERKEN introduced PABLO ACOSTA from Tricity Pantry.

PABLO thanked our Rotary club for helping to feed 144 families a turkey and all the fixings for Thanksgiving. He proceeded to share with us the extra happiness of that day for one family in particular – As the volunteers were delivering the food, they found out that the family did not have a couch, so in true Rotary “Service Above Self” spirit, the volunteers went out and bought a couch for the family!!!! PABLO continued to thank us for blessing these individuals with food as well as other needs. PABLO is expecting to feed another 40 families in the community for Christmas. He was also very appreciative and thanked LOLA for visiting the Pantry and also to thank her for the wonderful article she wrote about the pantry which was featured in the local Union Tribune newspaper!!

This next bit was not announced at the meeting, but instead was conveyed in an email with photos from DALE MAAS, who let us know how successful our Rotary Christmas Drive to benefit the Women’s Resource Center and Bread of Life Mission:

“When it was all said and done, our Rotary Club and our Edward Jones clients donated all the toys you see, plus over \$2,000 in gift cards.”

I have donation receipts I can provide to any Rotarian that wants proof of the donation for tax write off purposes.”



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

It was then time to acknowledge December Birthdays beginning with NANCY



RUSSIAN, 12/12 and here's a Happy Birthday to you, NANCY. Next was AJ MAZZARELLA, 12/20 and then GORDON BROWN 12/26!



And our Wedding Anniversary for December goes to JOHN and SANDRA TODD, 12/28 for 56 years!!!

HAPPY DOLLARS

Happy Dollars were graciously given by TERRI, LYN, VICKIE, ERNIE, RUDY, GORDON, AJ, LJ, ED, BRIAN, SUSAN, TINA, MARTI, RENEE (*so many our photographer couldn't keep up!*) – Thank you all and Thank You JIM SCHRODER for collecting!!!! Some of these dollars were earmarked to support the Rotary Foundation, sponsoring the Rose Bowl Float, in Memory of friends lost this year, birthday celebration, and the love of the Oceanside Rotary Club and involvement. Thank You all!



The OPPORTUNITY DRAWING was won by KRISTIN, ROGER's daughter!!! Congratulations, KRISTIN.

MERRY MUSIC TO RING IN THE SEASON

And last, however certainly not least, our program today was Holiday Music by the Gregory Michael Band. GREGORY plays the guitar and is a leader at Breakwater Community Church. GREGORY's members brought joy to all of the group today along with his team, NORMAN, Safe Sax! – GARY on



the drums – ERIC and his Base Space - and Dynamic Vocal from “DEEJHA” who encouraged GREGORY to play the guitar!!



AND. ...The Band played on and we all enjoyed the celebration until the meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Many thanks, once again, to TERRI and DAVE HALL for decking their halls and opening their home to host our annual Rotary Holiday Party on December 11th. A great gaggle of guests and friends gathered to share the warmth of the season in the cool of the evening at this Covid-careful outdoor celebration of friendship and fellowship. Even the HALL's canines came in Christmas "gay apparel." And even Past President CHUCK WARD and his wife BARB made their way over the river and through the woods to join us. Would you believe that Indiana Gavel made an appearance as well? This just tickled LYN CORDER to no end, especially when Indy taunted Co-President A.J. MAZZARELLA by being "so close, and yet so far" from returning to his grasp. As you can see from the smiles on the faces as well as from the sparkling vest and festive eyewear sported by Elf ANCHISA in the gorgeous group shot, we really enjoyed being together to kick off Christmas. Happy Holidays, everyone!!





THE PASSING OF A FRIEND OF ROTARY

DAVE SHORE let us know on December 5th about the passing of KEVIN STOTMEISTER, well known to many of our members.

*“He was active in the chamber when he lived in Oceanside and was active in the community. **Kevin Stotmeister** passed away today. He was in his early 70s, possibly 73.*

Kevin was the past president and CEO of Federal Health Visual Communications. He transferred to the Dallas area several years ago when the company moved their Oceanside location. In Oceanside, Kevin was active in the Chamber, The Tri-City Hospital Foundation and KOCT (I am sure much more). ”

We send our condolences and best wishes to his wife ELLEN and will remember KEVIN fondly.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

We actually considered putting out a “Special Edition” of Shorelines just to focus on the holiday travels of BILL DERN as he ventured across the pond to visit his sons and their families over in jolly old England for a Holly Jolly Thanksgiving and Christmas time. (When you travel for weeks at a time and are taken to several scenic spots during your stay, plus add in the holiday festivities, you end up with a lot of fun photos to share!)

Let’s start with Thanksgiving with the UK Derns. Papa DERN gives his son SHAUN some pointers on how to properly (?) carve a holiday turkey. (Is it just me, or as former dentist BILL wields this sharp instrument, does he look like he is telling the turkey to ‘Open wide’?) And then, as the meal is shared with family gathered around the table, the whole brood shows how to properly show their silly side as they do their best turkey wattle and “gobble gobble” imitations. In a quieter time together, the boys share some of son JEFF’s home brewed ale and then dive into a rather cheesy meal featuring a huge round of Raclette.



Then there was the late November trip to the Winchester Science Museum with grandson OWEN where the two of them got caught up in the music. (How many times do you get to pluck the strings of a guitar from the inside??)



The calendar clicked over to December, and preparations for Christmas were underway. Picking the perfect tree with SHAUN and grandkids. Hanging the ornaments on the tree with grandson OWEN. And then posing with SHAUN and KARA and their kids LAUREL, ALYSSA, and OWEN in front of the fully festive finished product. With the tree taken care of, they turned their attention to the construction and consumption of holiday tamales.



Both of his UK sons along with their families joined up for a tour of Blenheim Palace (home of the Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace and ancestral home of Winston Churchill). It was all decked out for the holidays with Nutcracker scenes and sparkling lights and magical displays and decorations. Granddaughter MAVEN hung her special wish on the Blenheim wishing tree in the Palace Chapel as BILL pored over some of the memorabilia of the former Prime Minister, with the visit capped by a photo opp with the great man himself. As BILL said, "Winston Churchill ... My kind of guy!"



As they got even closer to Christmas, the family hightailed it over to Hyde Park to enjoy the “Winter Wonderland” there, full of displays and attractions. “Like a state fair on steroids!” was BILL’s review. From the Giant Ferris Wheel, BILL and daughter in law VICTORIA could see some London sites from the top!



Glad to hear and see that you are having such a grand holiday, BILL!

TOM BRAULT did not go for as long of a trip as his friend BILL, and he went across the Pacific instead of the Atlantic. But still, the Brault Family trip to Hawaii is a noteworthy one. In this Out and About edition, we will focus on just their four days on Oahu. As you might imagine, they were very pleased with the incredible view from their hotel balcony in Waikiki.



The afternoon after they landed, TOM and LINDA explored Hawaiian history in the Bishop Museum. The next day, they took a guided tour through the Iolani Palace before daughter GERILYN joined them, followed by a “local favorite” restaurant for plate lunch and a walk on Waikiki Beach with Diamond Head in the background. At the end of this busy and beautiful day, they toasted a fine beginning to the family’s adventure. (They just wish that ROBYN and MARK had been able to be with them, too!)



Thursday was filled with a journey to the North Shore of the island where they got up close to a sea turtle on Lanikea Beach and then spent the bulk of the afternoon and night at the Polynesian Cultural Center, learning about the various island peoples and capping the night with delicious food at a delightful luau.



On the last day on Oahu, TOM of course had to schedule some time to walk around Disney's incredible Aulani resort. (ROBYN and MARK had spent their honeymoon there, thanks to BILL DERN owning a timeshare, but TOM and GERILYN just got to walk around the common areas like the common folks that they are.) And they had just enough time before their afternoon flight to sign up for a glass bottom boat cruise off of Waikiki, with the family posing in front of Diamond Head. Then it was onto Southwest flight 429 to Lihue, Kauai. That part of the story is not yet finished, so the continuing saga will have to wait for a future edition of Shorelines.



Our final "Out and About" of 2021 comes from NANCY RUSSIAN and her husband LUIS.... No, they didn't take another excursion in their RV. They went on their first cruise in exactly TWO YEARS! They were all smiles at the railing as they departed from Fort Lauderdale for a Western Caribbean journey to Honduras, amongst other ports of call. While on board they celebrated with a birthday dinner on the Celebrity Apex, and the Chef created a special "deconstructed tiramisu" for their dessert! What a grand way to get back into the traveling spirit! And Happy Birthday, NANCY!





COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, December 17 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon

Friday, January 14 – Club Assembly **on ZOOM at 12:30 (call in at noon to chat)**

Friday, January 21 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon

Friday, January 28 – Regular meeting at El Camino