



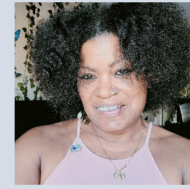
ROTARY CLUB OF  
OCEANSIDE

SHORELINES

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PRESIDENT  
Shor Denny

July 28, 2023



**Madam Prez. SHOR DENNY** banged her gavel against the bell right at 12:30 to open the meeting and led us in reciting the Rotary 4 Way Test. Thereafter, **Madam Prez. SHOR** invited **JIM SCHRODER** to lead us in the

Pledge of Allegiance to our nation's flag. This was followed by Former President (several times over!) **HAZ BEEN RENEÉ RICHARDSON** who gave us **Club Updates**, which included the following:



**Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, District Governor Don Fipps' Visit – El Camino Country Club at Noon.** The Board is to meet with Don prior to the meeting at 11:30 a.m. D.G. Fipps will bring his dog Rose Bud with him to the meeting which will enhance his presence for all our dog lovers of the club!

**Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Membership Training 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. via Zoom**

**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Away Meeting with El Camino Rotary – the Broiler 1325 Harbor Drive North, Oceanside 12:15 to 1:30** Elena Aleksandrova from the Ukraine – Speaking on current hardships in Ukraine. *(Let RENEE know if you would like to attend this meeting. El Camino Rotary needs to have a head count to ensure there will be enough seating.)*

**Friday, August 18, Board Meeting via Zoom at noon.**

**Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting at Noon – Speaker: Max Disposti of North County LGBTQ+ Resource Center, followed that evening by a Rotary**

**Social event at the Moonlight Amphitheatre 1250 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. The group will plan on a dinner reservation at 6 pm at Chin's Szechwan in Vista. (Let Event Chair TOM BRAULT know if you would like to join in that dinner reservation.... You don't need to have tickets to the show to gather at Chin's.)**

**HAZ BEEN RENEÉ** then announced that our club had received a Presidential Citation from the District for the year 2022-23. Huzzah!! To earn the citation, the club needed to achieve at least 13 goals out of the 25 goals listed. Allowing these choices gives clubs more flexibility in achieving the goals that are relevant to their club. Hooray for us and for **HAZ BEEN RENEÉ!**



**Madam Prez. SHOR** then called up our **Membership Chair THOMASINA JACKSON** who introduced **visiting Rotarians and Guests.**

**ED PARISH** rose to announce that his **Sweet ANNE SPERAW** was present as a visiting Rotarian.



Then **ROGER VANDERWERKEN** introduced his wife **JACQUE** of 40 years, as well as his daughter **CHRISTINA** (who had spoken to our club before about her experiences as a Rotary Exchange Student going to Belgium). **ROGER** also briefly introduced his son **JORDAN** who was going to be our speaker.



**THOMASINA** then introduced new guest **BRANDEN GARCIA**, who came to Rotary for the first time after **THOMASINA** had recruited his business partner to come to our club, who then recruited **BRANDEN** to visit in his place. **BRANDEN** is a Real Estate agent with Keller-Williams and is a former Marine.



Also, a new visitor as a result of **THOMASINA'S** efforts, was **KEONDRE GRAYSON**, who was a City of Oceanside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Winner in 2022, who remains a student today, and also affiliated with the organization Thee Loyal Subjectz.

Also introduced as a guest was **RUDY VAN HUNNICK**, who is often assumed to be an ongoing member of the club because he visits us so often. **TERRI AND DAVE HALL**, along with **BILL DERN**, then led us in the Welcome Song.



### Announcements:



**LARRY HATTER** announced that the Youth Committee would be partnering with **FRANK ZIMMERMAN**, the Head Coach of the men's MiraCosta College Soccer Team, to pick up and transport as many as 6 students from Lincoln Middle School in Oceanside on Friday, September 1, at 1:45, to Mira Costa College for a tour of the college, followed by watching the women's' and men's soccer team matches at MiraCosta that same day, followed by dinner. **LARRY** needs volunteers to assist in this rewarding annual tour of the school hosted by our Rotary.

Following **LARRY**, was **PABLO ACOSTA**, the Executive Director of **TRI CITY FOOD PANTRY**. **PABLO** indicated that the food pantry has expanded exponentially and is currently focusing on its participation with the area schools. Presently, they are active in 10 schools in Oceanside and 10 schools in Vista. **PABLO** explained that kids are coming to school hungry, and if you are hungry, it interferes with your ability to learn. **PABLO** shared that in their first year, the **TRI CITY FOOD PANTRY** served 96 families. Their second year, they served 200 families, then the next year 300, and now their goal is to expand their service to up to 600 families! He shared that their organization was suffering through the inflated cost of groceries, coupled with their need to find storage since their current facility apparently will be torn down in February of next year. **RENEÉ** happily announced that the **OCEANSIDE ROTARY FOUNDATION** has just decided to approve a \$3,500 donation for the **TRI CITY FOOD PANTRY**. Then, **BILL DERN** asked "was there any minimum size of storage that **PABLO** required?" To which **PABLO** responded "No! Even a spare closet would do!" Clearly he was pulling our leg with that answer, and **PABLO** went on to explain that ideally they would find a minimum of 900 Sq. Ft. that has a restroom for washing hands. Then, to our amazement, our new visitor, attending his first ever Rotary Meeting, **BRANDEN GARCIA** of **KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY**, raised his hand and asked



**PABLO** for his contact information, because **BRANDEN** had just met with someone who had some commercial real estate that might be able to help out. Rotary certainly does work in mysterious ways!

### **HOMELESS PERSONAL HYGIENE DRIVE: Madam Prez. SHOR DENNY**



then announced that she was going to start trying to use our meetings for additional assistance in our community by having members contribute a little of their time and energy in collecting and then packing plastic bags with various items for those in need. Accordingly, at our next two meetings (August 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>) she wants members to contribute to oral hygiene needs, such as toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, hand wipes, bottled water, dried fruit, etc.. At the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, those members who are interested in participating, can come at 11:30 to start stuffing the items already collected, into the bags. Any additional items that come in during that meeting

will then also be sorted into the bags as well. The beautiful, smart, and engaging **JANET BLEDSOE LACY** (the modest author of this edition of Shorelines) shared that she already had purchased 76 one-gallon storage bags that she will bring to the next meetings for use in this project. Also, she will bring a couple of containers that we can use for collection purposes. **MIKE CURTIN** reminded us that there is no holding area available to us at the country club, so items collected on the 11<sup>th</sup> will need to be transported elsewhere and then brought back to El Camino on the 25<sup>th</sup> for the packaging party.



**HAPPY DOLLARS! TINA ORTIZ** gave \$20 “sad dollars” to indicate that **VICKIE PROSSER** was not at our meeting because she was attempting to provide comfort to her close friend **MAUREEN HARTIN**, whose husband **JOHN HARTIN**, has recently passed away. Us “Oceanside Old Timers” remember how active both **JOHN** and **MAUREEN** were in our community years ago. **TINA** then gave another \$5 for Happy Dollars, sharing that at the Oceanside



Independence Parade, she had mentioned to **NANCY RUSSIAN** that she was going to be traveling to Sydney and Auckland to be attending this year's Women's World Soccer Tournament taking place in Australia and New Zealand, making it the first-ever co-hosted Women's World Cup. The tournament began on July 20, with the final scheduled for August 20 in Sydney at the Accor Stadium. **NANCY** told **TINA** that she had a friend, **DEBI HILL**, who lives in Auckland, and that **TINA** should give her a call. **TINA** did just that, and it resulted in a “telephonic

friendship match” on WhatsApp with **DEBI** offering to act as a personal travel guide for **TINA**, even setting up an itinerary for her stay. **DEBI** is part Maori, which is defined in Wikipedia as: “Māori are the indigenous Polynesian people of mainland New Zealand (Aotearoa). Māori originated with settlers from East Polynesia, who arrived in New Zealand in several waves of canoe voyages between roughly 1320 and 1350. Over several centuries in isolation, these settlers developed their own distinctive culture, whose language, mythology, crafts, and performing arts evolved independently from those of other eastern Polynesian cultures. Some early Māori moved to the Chatham Islands, where their descendants became New Zealand's other indigenous Polynesian ethnic group, the Moriori.” Wow! Sounds like **TINA** is going to have an incredible trip! She ended her Happy Dollar announcement with a shout out: “USA ALL THE WAY!”

**RENEÉ** then read an email that she had received from member **LESLY ADAMS** who has been MIA for many meetings due to her busy work schedule. **LESLY** is an Attorney as well as a Flight Attendant, and sent the following message: “I just read through the Shorelines and loved it – Keeping up with the goings-on at Oceanside Rotary is fun, even if I can’t be there. I will send \$70 happy dollars, \$10 for each event listed in your update: Not happy that I can’t make any of the events/meetings listed due to my tight work schedule, but happy to be able to keep up with everything through Shorelines! I’m enroute to Zurich every Saturday (return on Monday) through the end of August. I’m flying today. I will send the check next week. Thank you for being the awesome Rotarian & an awesome human being. Tell Shor I love the idea of reciting the 4-way test every meeting & if she has an extra lapel pin, save it for me. Hope to see you all soon.”



**LES NEWQUIST** shared that our Rotary Golf Tournament made \$3,548 in profits which consisted of approximately \$1,700 in tee signs at \$100 a piece, and the balance coming from auction items. He boasted that our club beat the El Camino Club who raked in \$2,800, with them sponsoring 12 members of the military, compared to our 5 sponsors. **LES** was \$10 Happy.



**ROGER VANDERWERKEN** was \$5 Happy to announce that his **BREAKWATER CHURCH** trip to Israel and Jordan was all set for March of 2024. They are going to visit many historical sites that go back to the foundation of many religious beginnings and it should be a trip of a lifetime for him, his wife, and his fellow members of his congregation.



**“BINGO!!!!” TERRI HALL** announced that once again this year that she will be hosting a **BINGO BASH** at **TERRI and DAVE’S** beautiful home on Saturday August 5 from 5:30 pm until “your \$\$\$ runs out”!!! The cost is \$25 per person which includes a box dinner and one bingo card per person. Additional cards are \$5 each. The address is 4285 Sunnyhill Drive in Carlsbad, 92008. RSVP at [artsincardiff@hotmail.com](mailto:artsincardiff@hotmail.com) or text (760)505-2199 with sandwich selections of chicken salad; ham; turkey. Bring your own Booze! A portion of the proceeds will go to Chapter TJ, Ways and Means Summer Social “Women Helping Women Reach For The Stars”. **TERRI** was \$20 Happy for her announcement but sorry that **ED PARISH** and **ANNE SPERAW** would not be able to make it this year.



**TOM BRAULT** was \$25 Happy (specifically designated for Rotary International) to report that his family had attended their family reunion in Wisconsin and had enjoyed the great outdoors and had seen Ospreys and Beavers and other wildlife, and shared that his daughter **ROBYN** looked up in the sky and asked “is that an Eagle?” to which the reply was “No - that’s an airplane!”



Forever generous **RUDY VAN HUNNICK** was \$70 Happy to report that he recently had 6 doctors and a specialist all working on him to keep him healthy, and he was grateful for their help and was feeling good.



**THOMASINA JACKSON** was \$5 Happy just for being happy!

**ED PARISH** was \$20 Happy to report that his Sweet **ANNE SPERAW’S** vision was now “20/20” after having some vision medical treatment.



## OUR PROGRAM



**Madam Prez. SHOR DENNY** then brought up **ROGER VANDERWERKEN**, after calling our attention to how **ROGER** “planted the seeds of Rotary within his family.” **ROGER** then introduced his son **JORDAN**, who was visiting from his current residence in New York. He shared that **JORDAN** had attended El Camino High School and for

the year of 2009 - 2010, **JORDAN** was sponsored by the Bonsall Rotary Club to be an exchange student in the country of Kenya. **JORDAN** later attended the University of Florida and now is an Army Helicopter Pilot being stationed in Washington D.C. flying VIPs from place to place.



**JORDAN** came forward and shared how he had searched through his mother's garage to find his 2008 El Camino High School yearbook that was passed around for our members to view. **JORDAN** shared that literally there isn't a day that goes by without experiencing something that makes him think about the time that he spent in Kenya. He shared that his father had been a Rotary exchange student in the Netherlands, and his sister had gone to Belgium, but that **JORDAN** had selected

Kenya because "they had a really cool flag." (*If you are intrigued, a picture of this Flag is shown below*). At the time of his departure, Kenya was experiencing a great deal of post-election domestic violence, which included tribes killing other members of other tribes. This was of concern, of course, for his family.

When **JORDAN** arrived in Kenya, it turned out that he was the only high school kid that Rotary had ever sent to the Kenya Rotary Club. Not only was **JORDAN** the only Rotarian exchange student in his school, he also was the only "white kid". **JORDAN** shared that when he was at El Camino High School, he was not really engaged in the school activities such as football or baseball or student council. However, upon entering school in Kenya, **JORDAN** was immediately elected President of the school's Student Council, even though he could not speak the language of Swahili. He shared that to travel to his school he had to board "this old school bus without shocks" that rambled over muddy roads that left his village at 3:00 am to arrive at school at 6:00 am. He shared about how impoverished the ghettos were in Kenya with some huts that were made of mud and sticks.

He stayed at his first Kenya home for 3 months, during which time he started to learn the Swahili language. **JORDAN** then moved to his second family home in another part of the country. In this home he attended Mosques on a regular basis and was a visitor at a different Rotary Club. Thereafter, he went to live with a family from India, and started attending Temple with them. He indicated that the Kenya Rotary District Governor purposely moved **JORDAN** around to different

parts of Kenya, with different families, to expand the experiences **JORDAN** would encounter during his time in the country. He saw families with wealth and others who lived in abject poverty. When **JORDAN** stayed with one of these families, they introduced him to President Obama's Grandmother. He saw the different tribes of the country, with different practices, languages, and religions.

He confided that when he signed up to be an exchange student that he was not having a "good time" in high school, and just "wanted to get out of California." When he arrived in Kenya, he was treated like a hero. He saw what real poverty looked like, and witnessed racism and sexism at very deep levels. He said that "we take so much for granted in the United States." When he returned from Kenya, he had a sense of "hostility" and experienced some emotional trials, due to a resentment that no one he knew here could really appreciate the need for so much in Kenya. It was so hard for him to know about the deep poverty of Kenya, compared with the wealth of the U.S., and how much we took things for granted. He had gained a different perspective of traveling, and had a sense of wonder about the world. He shared a story about being in an elevator years after his trip, and someone was speaking Swahili, who was amazed when **JORDAN** was able to participate in the conversation.

**JORDAN** encourages Rotary to engage the youth of our area to show them all that Rotary has to offer. Every day he thinks about the confidence the visit to Kenya gave him in so many different ways, even in communicating "with the ladies." Where he had previously lived an "isolated" lifestyle before Kenya, he became more outgoing after the experience. His real home now is in New Orleans, and he plans on joining that Rotary Club there when his career permits. What he learned in Kenya you "cannot learn in a textbook." Being exposed to such different people and customs, such as waking up to the call for prayer to come to the Mosque, is so completely different than the life he had back home. Sometimes the differences were like "something out of a comedy." The Kenyan people were so open and welcoming. "With one family I was living with, I had been with them for a good deal of time and did not realize that they were vegetarians. Their food was delicious, but I discovered that they were vegetarians when I had brought home some cooked chicken and suddenly the subject was addressed. While I experienced some racism, this helped change me even more. It has been said that 'If everyone was an exchange student there would be no more war.' I realized how judgmental I had been in the U.S. and felt that I now better understood humankind."



During time for questions, **ROGER** asked **JORDAN** to share what it was like for him to be in Kenya when **BARACK OBAMA** was elected President. **JORDAN** said that the President of Kenya held a joyous celebration event for the country, and that so many people would come up to **JORDAN** and give him “high five” hand slaps and handshakes and they acted as though he had something to do with **OBAMA’S** victory, when, he stated, “all I did was mail in my absentee ballot!”



When asked why **JORDAN** joined the Army, he said it was “because I looked so good in the uniform, which matched the color of my eyes.” (This had to be hard for his Navy Dad to swallow!) **JORDAN** also added that the Army was his ticket to do what he wanted to, which was to fly helicopters. **NANCY RUSSIAN** urged everyone to see the excellent and multi-award nominated documentary made in 2015 called “Gun Runners” which gives amazing insights into Kenya as it focuses on the country’s track stars who have traded in their AK-47s for running shoes. After hearing this input, **JORDAN** smiled and shared how he had been cajoled into entering a couple of track races against a Kenya track team which **JORDAN** confessed, “I came in dead last both times...which we all knew was gonna happen, and that they just wanted to laugh at me!”

This is the flag of Kenya, that **TOM BRAULT** pulled up on his phone at our meeting and shared with us.



Following **JORDAN’S WONDERFUL** presentation, his Mom, **JACQUE VANDERWERKEN** had the winning raffle ticket for the Opportunity Drawing, but did not pull out the Joker, leaving \$1,000 still in the pot! And, just to prove that this game is on the “up and up”, **PREZ SHOR** rifled through the small remainder of the deck of cards to show that, yes, in fact, the Joker was in there.

## ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

When we last heard from **TOM BRAULT** about his family’s trip to Illinois and Wisconsin for the Oestreich family reunion, they had been greeted in the Northwoods by a beautiful double rainbow shining over the lake. His family’s cabin is on the shore of one of the bigger lakes located on a chain of 28 interconnected



lakes. In his Happy Dollars, **TOM** mentioned taking a boat ride, piloted by his cousin, on a beautiful day and here you can see what that looked like.

On a touristy trip to the nearest “big” town (Eagle River – 11 miles away – Population: 1,678), he was pleased to see that the local Rotary club is involved in developing a new community park for the residents there. But the main reason for the trip was to reunite with family and lifelong friends, and the Braults did plenty of that, with lots of opportunities for new baby **BROOKE DERN** to bond with her great grandma (**TOM**’s mom **MARTHA**, who spends her summers up north) and multiple gatherings of cousins and neighbors for “Game Night”, with **TOM**’s team being the big winner of the annual contest. At week’s end, it was sad to walk away from this lake where he had spent a chunk of each and every one of his summers growing up. But it was reassuring to know that they will most certainly return to Three Lakes again to renew those special ties with family and friends and to make new memories together.



## COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting El Camino Country Club @noon  
(Actually, a *special* meeting, as it marks our new District Governor **DON FIPPS**’ official visit to our club. The board will meet with **DON** at 11:30 am prior to the club meeting.)

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Membership Training 8:00 – 10:30 am Via Zoom

Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Away Meeting with El Camino Rotary – the Broiler 1325 Harbor Drive North, Oceanside 12:15 to 1:30. Elena Aleksandrova from the



Don Fipps  
Rotary District  
5340  
District Governor  
(2023-24)

Ukraine will be speaking on current hardships in Ukraine. ***LET RENEE KNOW  
IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING***

Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting via Zoom @noon

Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting El Camino Country club @noon

Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Rotary Social at Moonlight Amphitheatre. Showtime 8 pm. Dinner at 6 pm at Chin's Szechwan on Vista Way will be planned for those interested in dining together before the show. (NOTE: You can join us for the dinner, even if you do NOT have a ticket with us to see the show. Talk to Event Chair TOM BRAULT to get plugged into the details on that dining opportunity.)