

 <p>IMAGINE ROTARY</p>	<p align="center">ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</p> <p align="center">SHORELINES</p>		
<p>2022-2023</p>	<p>Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p>Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer</p>	<p>Tom Brault Reporter</p>
<p align="center">CO-PRESIDENTS AJ Mazzarella & Renee Richardson</p>			

June 9, 2023

On the last regular meeting of the Rotary year, our Co-President RENEE RICHARDSON smiled as she rang the bell to welcome us to Oceanside Rotary, but before she could get the meeting going, Past President BILL DERN rose to bring up a Point of Order. As he reminded us, neither RENEE nor her Co-Leader this year A.J. MAZZARELLA had been physically present at the FIRST regular meeting of their reign back in July of 2022. BILL himself had to lead the club that day, and somehow, for all the following Fridays when we would gather at the country club, we just never got around to following through on one of our time-honored club traditions. So that is why, at this late date, and at the very last opportunity we would have before they would be demoted, we staged our **ANNUAL MEMBER WALKOUT**. As a group, we agreed that we did not want to stress poor RENEE out TOO badly on her last day, and so we filtered back into the room after just a few short minutes of mingling in the hallway and out front. But when we returned, did she appear to be stressed? ... Au contraire! She was happy as a clam, seated at her table up front and relishing the opportunity to enjoy more of her lunch which she had abandoned earlier to go up to the podium. One disappointed heckler complained, "This didn't work out the way we planned!" But at least our tradition was maintained.



Before resuming the meeting, our eagle-eyed leader mentioned that she did not see our assigned Shorelines reporter in attendance, so Managing Editor TOM BRAULT jumped up to beg, borrow, or steal some paper from RENEE so he could start taking notes



retroactively. Then, jumping right into her agenda, RENEE invited TINA ORTIZ to lead us in the Pledge, and then called Pres Elect SHOR DENNY up for our **CLUB UPDATES**. The list of upcoming events was waiting for SHOR up at the podium, and she gratefully said, “I’m so glad that she prints this stuff out for me!”



Although it isn’t the chronologically first event, we started the updates with a report from our Golf Tournament Volunteer Coordinator TINA ORTIZ. She put out the word that there were still three assignments left to fill – two to monitor / facilitate the online silent auction and one to help man the registration table. VICKIE PROSSER’s hand shot up for the

registration gig, so we are that much closer to filling our volunteer quota. Sadly, though, **we still do need to drum up a LOT more golfers**. We still have to pay the country club for a minimum number of players regardless of signups and, to date, we were a full 30 golfers short of that target. So, sign up, and/or twist some friends’ arms to enter the tournament to help make sure we don’t lose money on our fundraiser.



On a more positive note, plans are well underway for the demotion dinner on Friday, June 23. The fiesta kicks off with cocktails at 6 pm and should be a good time for all.

We would definitely like to see more folks commit to walking / riding in the Oceanside Independence Parade on the following morning - Saturday, June 24, so see if you can make yourself available for that. (We want our group to look good on the TeeVee, with our own JIM SCHRODER announcing on KOCT.)

Luckily, signups for the July 3 evening at JIM’s house for a Pot Luck Dinner and Fireworks viewing picked up significantly after RENEE had hinted at our meeting that the event might need to be cancelled. But now, with the added flurry of interest and RSVP’s, we are up to a decent number planning to attend so the party is back on!



The last date on SHOR’s list made her give an audible gulp or gasp – Her first meeting as our incoming president is just around the corner on July 14. It’s getting

real, my dear! (And THIS time, we hopefully will remember to walk out on our new president right away!)

VISITORS AND GUESTS



RENEE invited THOMASINA JACKSON to introduce the guest at her table up front. THOMASINA looked to her left and then to her right and then back to her left again before it dawned on her -- "Oh... RUDY! (I always think of him as being a member.)" ... Across the room, SHOR DENNY pointed to our guest for the last time LA-



RENE MALCOLM from Dr. Bronner's ... From the back of



the room, ED PARISH welcomed his sweetheart ANNE SPERAW ... And our President RENEE figured that many of us knew our last guest already, but just in



case, she introduced our guest speaker JOHN THILL (son of the late Oceanside Rotarian and Past President JACK THILL). BILL DERN was tapped to lead us in our "Welcome Song."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Our only birthday celebrant in attendance was JANET BLEDSOE LACY who was quick to point out that she had received a warm message from BOB PICKREL congratulating her on turning 80 this year. She wanted to correct the record on that: "I'm a mere 75!!" and at first she offered up \$7.50, but then adjusted to "I'll do \$75." For that amount of moola, she was treated to a splendid rendition of "Happy Birthday," led by VICKIE PROSSER.



ERNIE MASCITTI merged his birthday and his 33rd anniversary numbers and then rounded up to an even \$110 donation ... DAN WILSON is celebrating 35 years of marriage and TOM BRAULT rounded his 43-year anniversary up to \$50 for the R.I. Foundation because, "LINDA is well worth it!" ...

55 years ago, on the very same day, two wonderful weddings were celebrated: DAVE and TERRI HALL and LARRY and CATHIE HATTER, but no one from either of those happy couples were present to put in any cash for the occasion.

Club Anniversaries were noted for MELISSA RODRIGUEZ (in absentia) – a member of Oceanside Rotary for 7 years and for ANCHISA FARRANT who, including her Thailand time, has been in Rotary for 23 years altogether now – 11 of them with our club. Congratulations to all of our celebrants in June!



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Co-Pres RENEE was proud to point out that in this current Rotary year we have added a whopping EIGHT new members to the club's roster – A quite impressive number! And today was the day to put a pin on that eighth addition -



LA-RENE MALCOLM who was accompanied up to the front by her sponsor SHOR DENNY. LA-RENE didn't miss a beat when she was asked, "How happy are you to join this *fine* club?" – answering with a quick and confident, "Twenty dollars." RENEE nodded and noted, "I LOVE it when they learn fast!" And RENEE mentioned that THOMASINA JACKSON would be taking over as our new Membership Chair with the changing of the guard in July. Let's keep the momentum of the growth of our club going in the year to come!

HAPPY DOLLARS

JAY CRAWFORD had raised his hand, along with a check, earlier in the meeting during the Anniversary time, but had been told that "Happy Dollars will be later." As it turns out, his Happy Dollars were to honor his Rotary and Wedding anniversaries, and he handed over his check for \$61. When kibitzers wondered why our Secretary had missed on including JAY's dates on her list, RENEE's comeback was,



"JAY is not on Club Runner. If he put in those dates on our member directory, I would have that information." Let that be a lesson to us all – We are in control of our official Rotary records, so make sure yours is up to date! (And, as it turns out, JAY was donating in honor of his anniversary in MAY, so we REALLY can't blame RENEE for not having him on this month's list.)



Giving \$20 in regular Happy Dollars was ED PARISH, who thanked the members who came out to support the recent Oceanside Theatre Company event, reminded us that they will have another theatre event coming soon, and that he also recommends checking out the good work done at the Carlsbad Playreaders, where he also serves on the board.

TINA ORTIZ had some REALLY Happy Dollars! It started out with a sad and scary story, though. Back in January she had a headache that lasted for two weeks before she finally decided to see a doctor about it. A CT scan revealed a subdural hematoma, which was a truly unexpected result since she had suffered no prior head trauma. She was kept in TriCity Medical Center for three days and followup tests showed the hematoma was 14 mm wide and had caused a brain shift. The doctors, feeling that she was in generally good health otherwise, decided that this condition might possibly resolve itself, so they planned to just monitor the situation instead of jumping into brain surgery. TINA admits to having been a “terrible patient” and thanks her daughter BRIANNA for all of her help and driving during the last several months. This past Tuesday, another set of tests were done and TINA is happy to say that there is “no sign of a hematoma anymore! Such a relief, and I feel good!!” In thanksgiving for this great news, TINA gave \$100 to our Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation. Congratulations, TINA! We are all so happy for you!



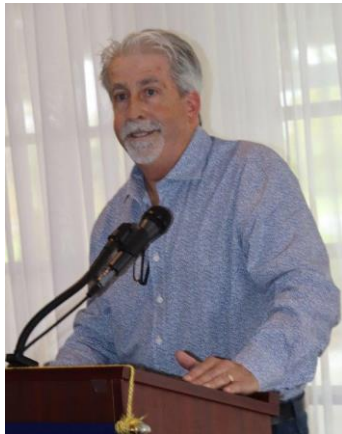
THOMASINA JACKSON had \$10 to report that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr scholarship event hosted by JANET BLEDSOE LACY “was Awesome!!”

RENEE – eagle-eyed again - noted that RUDY VAN HUNNICK had his wallet sitting on the table in front of him. But RUDY told us that he wasn’t going to give his standard \$35 Happy Dollars today. He noted that he has done that ten times in this Rotary year, which adds up to \$350 to the club. Mentally adding in the \$50 for the demotion coming up and some other bucks here and there, he came to a total of \$500 – So he gave us a check for that \$500. (And this was after saying he wasn’t going to give any Happy Dollars!?!) This substantial contribution earned him a few minutes worth of speaking, so he told us of his life at age 92, with some balance and memory problems (which acupuncture is helping), hearing issues, foot swelling that brought him to a podiatrist, and a

disconcerting recommendation from a periodontist for tooth removal and replacement which would keep him from eating solid food for months. He is glad that he got a referral from BILL DERN to consult with a different periodontist who has a much less traumatic treatment plan in mind for RUDY. To sum up, RUDY smiled and said “Doctors, medicines, and good friends saved my life!” and that he is glad that he can still be of service to the community. May we all see life from the bright side like RUDY does as we move forward through the years!

RENEE indicated that we should be wrapping up Happy Dollars to get to our speaker, but left the door open for more by asking, “Does anyone else have \$500??” Well, it wasn’t 500, but JAY CRAWFORD wanted to add another \$10 in “Happy / Sad” dollars – Sad for the passing of a good friend of Rotary STEVE RIZZO, but happy for the recent trip which JAY and ANITA had taken to Ireland, despite the fact that he caught Covid 7 days into that trip from the tour guide. OY!

OUR PROGRAM



Our speaker for the day was invited by Co-President RENEE, but introduced by JANET BLEDSOE LACY. Like we said before, JOHN THILL was a familiar name and face to many of us. Not only was he a Carlsbad Rotarian himself, but his father JACK spent 52 years of his life as a member of Rotary, including serving as a president of Oceanside Rotary in 1969. Sensing our feelings for his father, JOHN said, “Dad would be so happy to know that he is remembered.” Of course, we remember him! JACK



spent more than five decades serving the community in various leadership roles, being involved with Rotary, the Oceanside Junior Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce, MiraCosta College Foundation, Oceanside Unified’s Steering Committee and Board, the USO, Boys Club of Oceanside, Elks Lodge and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Parish. JOHN, as a graduate of SDSU, proudly followed his father’s example and has 24 years of service in Rotary, having been recommended to join by his father when he was in his 20’s. JOHN had looked over our list of club leaders and figures that he knew 36 of our past presidents including a memorable PETS experience with our Father Michel (who had actually officiated at his wedding). JOHN has worked for Jazzercise and was an owner of Carlsbad’s Personal Strengths Publishing.

JOHN set up his presentation by saying, “It’s not Valentine’s Day, but I’m here to talk about love.” Specifically, he wanted to introduce us to his book “A California Love Story” which he has self-published. It all started when he found the love letters written between his grandparents RAY and DORA WILCOX which had been hidden away in a hatbox. The insights he gleaned from their lives and their love was very meaningful to him, and he decided to borrow a typewriter from Jazzercise so he could transcribe those letters to share them with just his family. As he worked on this project, he was able to organize the letters and tie their story into family research he conducted, including a trip during Covid to Kansas to learn about RAY and DORA’s early years.

He described his grandmother DORA as “a sassy female hero”, and RAY’s letters back home to her when he had relocated to California revealed his passion for both his wife and for the State of California. He arrived in Oceanside in 1925 when the population here was just 200. The community was mostly centered on farm trade and beach visitors then, and was “quite backwards in amenities at the time.” RAY managed a Safeway store before going into real estate, starting his own successful company. quickly became a community advocate and organizer out here, and served as Oceanside’s mayor for a time in the 1940’s. He continued his community work all the way up to his death in 1986.

RAY was appointed to appraise the lands that would become Camp Pendleton in 1942. Are you ready to hear some real estate values from those times gone by which JOHN read off of the original documents his grandfather had prepared? Vail Ranch’s 40,793 acres were purchased by the Navy for a mere \$34 per acre, and 2,500 acres of the area surrounding Agua Hedionda went for \$55 each. These stats prompted one bemused listener to comment, “Carlsbad was more expensive than Oceanside, even back then!”

JOHN described his book as a “full circle / non-linear story”, wanting to share their story in their own words from their letters while interjecting his own feelings now and then as a narrator. As he was considering writing this book to share with the general public, he received a note of encouragement from noted author VICTOR VILLASENOR, who wrote to him, “We don’t know where we are going if we don’t know where we came from.” RENEE expressed her wish that JOHN simply HAS to write another book to tell a love story of the next generation – that of his parents and our friends JACK and BOBBIE THILL, which was also a special tale.

In the Q&A time, we learned that this book is available on Amazon and/or could be purchased from and signed by the author right on the spot for just \$20. RENEE gave a glowing recommendation, telling us that she had purchased a copy of the book before the meeting and, even though she had only been able to scan about 15 pages of it so far, it already gave her goosebumps reading it. And above his signature, JOHN had written to her, “To the best Rotary president I have ever known.”

JOHN, in turn, was touched by the lovely parting gift of the potted succulents prepared for him by ANCHISA FARRANT and insisted that she should be in the post-presentation photo alongside him and RENEE.



Two more items of business to take care of before the meeting's end:

1) RENEE showed off the beautiful Rotary wheel emblem magnets that could be purchased for \$6 each; and

2) Our OPPORTUNITY DRAWING ticket was drawn. Pastor ROGER VANDERWERKEN had the lucky ticket and the chance to draw the Joker to win \$1,000. As he walked forward, RENEE counseled him, “Don’t pray first” – Apparently, she thought that it might not be fair to get God on his side! ROGER then pulled out one card (which happened to have a “J” on it) and excitedly (and jokingly) asked, “Is that it???” Alas, it was a “Jack”, not the “Joker”, so the Jackpot remained unclaimed.



As she clanged the Rotary bell with her gavel for the last time this year, she was heard to comment, “It has been a fun last couple of meetings, with you guys being so unruly!” We shall see how “fun” and “unruly” we might get in a couple of weeks when we celebrate the demotion for RENEE and A.J. Be there to be a part of the fun!!

EPILOGUE

Well after the meeting had ended, RENEE and SHOR and THOMASINA remained huddled around the podium for the longest time, appearing to be in a deep discussion. What’s up with that????



ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

Our roving reporter LOLA SHERMAN attended a concert in mid-May at the Carlsbad Senior Center featuring the spring concert of the Seaside Singers. She proudly noted that our own TERRI HALL acted as announcer for all 13 of the vocal selections, and DAVE was the soloist for the final number – “God Bless the USA.”



In a coming of age / rite of passage story, TOM BRAULT took his entire family up to Disneyland to witness dear granddaughter BROOKE DERN experiencing her very first trip to the “Happiest Place on Earth” at the tender age of 13 months. Everyone had a great time watching her wide eyes as she took in the magic, and she LOVED “it’s a small world” and the Carrousel! As TOM will tell anyone who asks, “Seeing Disneyland through the eyes of a child is truly a heartwarming thing to do!”



Terri and Dave Hall celebrated their grandson Julian's high school graduation plus grandkids Ava and Sebastian's 21st birthdays and Terri and Dave's 55th Wedding Anniversary in Truckee. Terri said, “We used to be the tall ones until the grands all grew up!”



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, June 23 – Demotion Dinner at El Camino Country Club. Cocktails at 6, Dinner at 7, Roast to follow. \$50 per person, includes dessert.

Saturday, June 24 – Rotary clubs to walk / ride in the Oceanside Independence Parade

Monday, June 26 - Annual golf tournament at El Camino Country Club. Need players, prizes, tee sign sponsors, volunteers.

Monday, July 3 – Potluck dinner and fireworks viewing at JIM SCHRODER's house (4020 Wooster Drive, Oceanside), 6:30 pm

Friday, July 14 – First regular meeting of the new Rotary year. Noon. El Camino Country Club with soon-to-be-PRESIDENT SHOR in charge.

Friday, July 21 – Zoom Board meeting, Noon

Friday, July 28 – Regular meeting. Noon. El Camino Country Club