



**2022-2023**


**ROTARY CLUB OF  
OCEANSIDE**

**SHORELINES**

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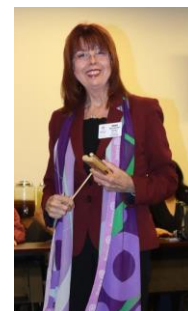
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**CO-PRESIDENTS**  
**AJ Mazzarella &  
Renee Richardson**

*March 10, 2023*

President RENEE RICHARDSON opened the meeting at precisely 12:30 PM. We were gathered at the Veterans Association of North County (VANC) for an away meeting. There were two reasons we were in unfamiliar surroundings for our Rotary Club meeting: one was to see if we'd like to consider moving our regular meeting to the VANC, and the other was to give us a chance to see the Veterans' Kitchen which our club contributed to several years ago. When we entered the room for the meeting, we were greeted by long tables arranged in a large "U" fashion as opposed to our usual round tables. One of our Rotarians commented that maybe the military way to decide how to set up a circle was to give it to a committee to discuss... Regardless, the arrangement seemed to work just fine!



Pres RENEE asked DAN WILSON to lead the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**.

Pres RENEE then pointed out that RUDY VAN HUNNICK brought some materials describing the

Veterans' Kitchen, which was inaugurated on Jan 7, 2011, and that there is a plaque outside the kitchen thanking our Rotary Club for our contribution to its funding. RUDY said he would give a tour of the kitchen and the rest of the building after the meeting.



Youth Committee Chair DAN WILSON and CO-Pres AJ MAZARELLA then presented a check for \$1000 for Library Books from our Rotary District Grant to ROSANNA MARTINEZ from Mission Elementary School. ROSANNA is the

Community Coordinator for Mission Elementary, and she is responsible for coordinating support services for students with various local organizations (including Oceanside Rotary Club). ROSANNA said she soon will be moving to a new position as Lead Community Coordinator for six schools in the District. She presented our club with a certificate from the school thanking us for our support.

## CLUB UPDATES

Pres-Elect SHOR DENNY:

- Tomorrow – March 11<sup>th</sup>, Mentorship Outing with students from Crown Heights for tour of Mira Costa College and to attend the musical, “The Addams Family”
- Friday – March 17<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting Via ZOOM
- Friday – March 24<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting El Camino Country Club
- Saturday – March 25<sup>th</sup>, District Assembly - Officers and Board Member Training
- Friday – March 31<sup>st</sup>, Regular Meeting DARK, Club members to volunteer for Ironman athlete check-in from noon to 5:00. RENEE pointed out that **we need more volunteers for Iron Man**: see RENEE to volunteer. Meet at the Junior Seau Community Center – you get a free T-shirt!



## VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

CO-Pres AJ then introduced our guests:

ROSANNA MARTINEZ from Mission Elementary School



Our perennial visitor RUDY VAN HUNNICK



JANET BLEDSOE LACY introduced our speaker, JESSE RUSSO from the Oceanside Theater Company

ED PARISH introduced his honey, ANNE SPERAW



PP VICKIE PROSSER was “voluntold” to lead us in the Welcome Song.



## PRESIDENT'S STUFF

Pres RENEE then said that no one with March birthdays or wedding anniversaries was present, so she'll catch them at the next meeting. We did have several club anniversaries present:

ED PARISH was only two years off guessing how long he's been in the club (10 years), for which he was \$100 happy!

ROGER VANDERWERKEN was only one year off guessing how long he's been in the club (4 years), but he did say he was also a Rotary Exchange Student in 1974 and he was a member of a Rotary club in New York, for which he was also \$100 happy!

RENEE then called on PP TOM BRAULT to talk about plans for RENEE and AJ's demotion dinner, which will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. TOM is looking for volunteers to help plan the event, especially since RENEE can't be involved in the planning process (as she usually is), no matter how vocally she says she'd like to be involved. JANET BLEDSOE LACY volunteered on the spot! See TOM if you'd like to volunteer to help "roast" and honor AJ and RENEE.

RENEE then called THOMASINA JACKSON and SHOR DENNY up to the front of the class: THOMASINA received her new badge, to move up from rookie "red" to full-fledged "blue." She also said her mentor SHOR really helped spur her on to go through the book and meet all the requirements, and she has joined the Board of Directors and taken over the Membership Chair position! Congratulations, THOMASINA!



## HAPPY DOLLARS



PP BILL DERN was \$10 happy if TOM BRAULT is happy (but surprisingly it wasn't family related, they being co-grandparents). BILL wanted to thank LOLA SHERMAN for her newspaper article on the Carlsbad Playreaders.



PP TOM BRAULT was also \$10 happy for LOLA's article. BILL is President of the group and TOM is now Treasurer. The Playreaders presented "Every Brilliant Thing" last Monday and



the show was, in a word, “brilliant.” TOM said that every month the group brings together professional directors and actors who dramatically read aloud the script for a play at Carlsbad’s Dove Library auditorium – often plays which are not frequently performed in regular theaters and/or fresh and presenting unique takes on classic pieces. The next performance is May 1<sup>st</sup> for “Motherhood Out Loud.”

ED PARISH was \$5 happy since he has now, too, joined the Board of Directors for the Carlsbad Playreaders.

PP JIM SCHRODER was \$5 happy to finally have dessert again at a Rotary meeting! Mmmm..... Brownies!



DAN WILSON was \$10 happy and sad: \$5 happy for working with ROSANNA and \$5 sad that she will be moving up to the District.

THOMASINA JACKSON was \$10 happy for her new blue badge.



Pres Elect SHOR DENNY was \$10 happy that she went to PETS (President Elect Training Seminar): She said it was a lot to learn! She also didn’t know that Rotarians could drink so much! Every night there were different hospitality rooms with lots of booze, and every hospitality room a different theme.



PP VICKIE PROSSER was \$21 happy that her club anniversary (21 years) was last month.



RUDY VAN HUNNICK was \$35 happy to be there with us!

ANNE SPERAW was \$5 happy to concur that the Carlsbad Playreaders latest show was an amazing piece of work.



RENEE then observed that there was something different about MIKE WESELOH – he was sporting a goatee after his visit to the Antarctic! His wife LAURIE almost didn’t recognize him when she picked him up at the airport! He thanked JIM SCHRODER for convincing him to make the trip and said they had great weather. MIKE said if you go on a cruise to the Antarctic, be sure to take the Zodiac to the shore and don’t just see it from the ship.



BRAD FISHER was \$5 happy that his son just got a job helping homeless seniors connect with other seniors as potential roommates so they can afford housing.



## PROGRAM

Pres RENEE then turned to JANET BLEDSOE LACY to introduce the speaker for the day. But JANET immediately delegated that duty to ED PARISH to introduce the speaker for the day...

ED introduced JESSE RUSSO from the Oceanside Theatre Company which is the resident group at the Sunshine Brooks Theater in downtown Oceanside. JESSE is a UCSB grad in nutrition who has worked mostly in the restaurant field, including having her own café in Valencia at one point. She moved to Oceanside in 2020, she loves art and dancing, and she's been working at the Oceanside Theater Company at the Brooks for one year now. She is one of two paid staff there, both of whom have been there for a year. OTC is coming off the pandemic trying new things at the theater, with four main shows per year. The current show is the musical farce "Lucky Stiff" playing through March 19<sup>th</sup>. New this year is the availability of subscriptions for the four main shows! It's not too late to get a subscription! Check out the box office, or go to [www.oceansidetheatre.org](http://www.oceansidetheatre.org)

They have an active youth program, with a youth summer camp where the kids in the camp put on a play at the end of the session. They have lots of kids auditioning: for this year's camp they had 120 kids audition for 65 parts! Kids can be 8-19 years old. They're also testing an after-school program at one school which they hope to scale up to more schools if successful.

They're starting a remodel of the Brooks Theater – Phase I will be June through September, with hopefully a reopening in October. In the meantime, performances will be at the Star Theater and Oceanside High School. Phase I will include renovating and adding more bathrooms (!) as well as adding heating and air conditioning. They're currently raising funds to pay for this remodel. They're planning a reopening Gala at the Seabird September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 3-6 PM with hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. Mark your calendars!

They work in collaboration with other theaters and groups, including the Star, Scripps Ranch, Assistance League, OHS, etc. They're also looking to present

more poetry, dance, improv, music improv in addition to their regular season of plays and musicals.

Since JESSE's background is in food, they've revamped the concession stand with more offerings, including featuring a different signature cocktail themed to each particular show! Her goal is to eventually allow patrons to order a drink from their seat, and to provide beer and wine from local sources.

JESSE said in conclusion that they are hoping to partner with more artists of all kinds, with historical societies, and with organizations who need to rent theater space for events.

Pres RENEE presented JESSE with a succulent arrangement made by ANCHISA, who is in Thailand this week.



While on the topic of theater, TOM BRAULT chimed in that he's buying our tickets for the August 25<sup>th</sup> Moonlight performance of "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" this coming Monday March 13 – if you haven't let him know you want tickets, do it before Monday! (Of course, you are reading this after Monday, so the best we can say is contact TOM and we'll see how close you can get seated to the group.)

DAN WILSON asked for anyone's comments about holding our meetings at the VANC so he can pass them on to the committee considering venues for our meetings. I have to say I appreciated the Vegan food option, and several people commented that they liked the food (and we all know JIM liked the dessert!).

## OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

VICKIE PROSSER had the winning ticket, but unfortunately drew the King of Spades and not the joker, so she had to be satisfied with the \$10 consolation prize.

Pres RENEE adjourned the meeting a few minutes early at 1:25 PM, after which several of us took the tour of the Veterans' Kitchen and the rest of the facility.





## VANC INFO FROM THE ARCHIVES

RUDY VAN HUNNICK forwarded some articles to Shorelines focused on Oceanside Rotary's contributions to make the VANC industrial kitchen a reality at the former police headquarters. It was the biggest fundraising drive our Club had ever had, and it drew support from a wide variety of organizations, individual donors (including a very generous amount from RUDY and ELIZABETH VAN HUNNICK), along with a substantial boost from our own Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation. All told, local Rotary (Oceanside, Camp Pendleton, San Luis Rey, and El Camino) was responsible for putting together a quarter of a million dollars' worth of the funding for the Veterans Center. And today, we got to enjoy the fruits (and the pot roast and the chicken and the pasta and the BROWNIES) of our efforts to create this kitchen to serve those who have served.

### OCEANSIDE Veterans center gets \$150K boost

BY RAY HURD  
rhurd@rednet.com

A North County veterans group has reached a milestone in its drive to convert the former Oceanside police station into a one-stop center for veterans services.

The Oceanside Rotary Club this week achieved its goal of raising \$150,000 to create an industrial kitchen at the future Veterans Association of North County center on Mission Avenue.

Chuck Atkinson, "That is the largest project that the Rotary has taken on," he building the center, the Veterans Association hopes to provide a meeting place for area veterans and a resource for veterans and their families.

"We're doing a lot of that right now just over our own personal phones at home," Atkinson said. "We bank them up with people who can meet their needs."

That can be everything from finding a job or a place



From left: Graham Fraser, President Oceanside Rotary Foundation; Chuck Atkinson, President Veterans Association of North County; Rudy Van Hunnick, Board of Directors Oceanside Rotary Foundation



## MIRACOSTA WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

We finally were able to return to our trips with Lincoln Middle School students through our Crown Heights Mentorship program, headed up by LARRY HATTER. This time, LARRY had made arrangements with MiraCosta College for a campus tour, followed by tickets to the school's musical "*The Addams Family*" for 7 students. Three Rotarians (DAN WILSON, ROGER VANDERWERKEN and TOM BRAULT) met up with the students at the Lincoln parking lot. One of the selected students could not attend, so we had just 6 to transport to MiraCosta, with the kids drawing straws to see who would be have the thrill and the honor of riding in DAN's Tesla.

On campus, we were met by two very knowledgeable and charming student ambassadors – Evelyn and Ismael. Good thing we had our walking shoes on, because they took us



north, south, east, and west – all over the campus, including a little “off the path” jaunt to see an obscure artwork behind the water tower. The guides and the chaperones tried to focus on the interests and goals of the individual students, pointing out the programs on campus that could be possibilities in their future. At the end of the tour, most of the students were beaming and asserting, “I’m going to go to MiraCosta!”

Our seats for the show were provided by the MiraCosta College Foundation, and they got us in the second row center – prime viewing for a quirky, campy, and captivating show which thoroughly entertained our young guests.

As if that was not special enough, we then drove over to the Harbor to treat them all to dinner at Oceanside Broiler before returning them to their homes - entertained, well fed, and excited about the educational opportunities available to them in their futures.



### COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

**Fri March 17<sup>th</sup>** - Board meeting via Zoom at noon

**Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** – District Training Assembly at Liberty Station. 8 am to 2 pm. Register at [www.rotary5340.org](http://www.rotary5340.org) (No fee for attending. Car pool will be available) Let RENEE know if you will be attending, or she will “keep bugging you!”

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Volunteer to help registration at Ironman event  
*Regular meeting canceled for that date*

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Rotarians at Work Day service project

**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** - Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

***SAVE THE DATE:***

**Friday, June 23** – Demotion Dinner. Location TBD