

OCEANSIDE ROTARY SHORELINES

MAY 1, 2015

TOM BRAULT, REPORTER

At precisely 12:30 pm, 42% of the Oceanside Rotary Club members in attendance at the country club visibly winced from a sudden painful ringing in the ears. President DAVE HALL had brought our meeting to order with the LOUDEST clang of the bell in recent memory. The aftershocks of this reverberant clang were reportedly felt all the way in Temecula!



Once we had all had a chance to recover from that initial shock, JOHN TODD was brought forth to provide the Inspirational Moment, taken from a note written by Ralph Waldo Emerson to his daughter:

“Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; but get rid of them and forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day, and you should never encumber its potentialities and invitations with the dread of the past. You should not waste a moment of today on the rottenness of yesterday.”

As guest and former member Rudy Van Hunnick was invited to lead us in the Pledge, he enthusiastically noted, “For me, it is such a symbol of liberation from when I was 14 and fell in love with America and the flag!”



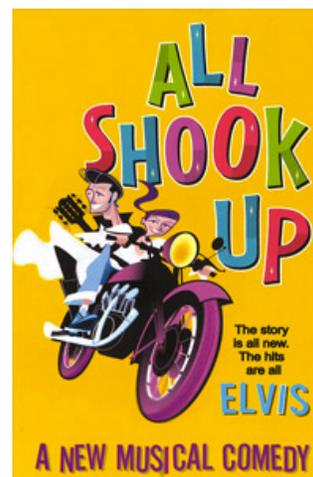


PP GARY ERNST was our erstwhile officially assigned Songmeister, but before he could open his mouth, PP MIKE CURTIN started to steal GARY's thunder by starting to sing an unscheduled and unexpectedly basso profundo version of "Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, It's off to work we go!" GARY eventually established his vocal authority and led us all in a couple of patriotic passages: "This Land is Your Land", followed by "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

PE JAY CRAWFORD wasn't kidding when he warned us that he had a "Plethora of Updates" for us (which he started out in a voice that sounded just like Ed Sullivan)!



- 5/8 – Board meeting at 11 am, just before our regular meeting
- 5/22 – Regular meeting will be DARK for Memorial Day weekend
- 5/23 – Meet PP RENEE RICHARDSON at 9 am at Heritage Park if you would like to be in on the plans for our potentially continuing support for the historic Blade building
- 6/5 – Regular meeting will be DARK, because there is no room for us at the inn (.... I mean, at the Country Club)
- 6/12 – Not only will we be holding our regular luncheon meeting, but some of us will also be gathering that evening for dinner at Chin's Szechwan followed by a night at the Moonlight Amphitheatre to see the Elvis-based musical production of "All Shook Up." Event Chair PP TOM BRAULT will be buying those tickets soon (Most probably before this edition of Shorelines gets published and in your hands or inbox), but if you are interested in attending this event and have NOT already talked to TOM about it, let him know right away and maybe we can still snag some seats nearby for you.
- 6/26 – Regular meeting DARK so we can hold our long-awaited Demotion of President DAVE that evening at 6 pm. RSVP to RENEE so we can be properly planning this party.



6/27 – Proud Rotarians will assemble at around 8:30 am to march in the annual Oceanside Independence Parade. Find out how to participate in this event from PP MIKE CURTIN

We also were told that our Club Website has had a HUGE update recently, and that we hope to have it fully functional and “user friendly” within a month or so.



And one added announcement and invitation was extended for a Fireworks party at PP JIM SCHRODER’s house on July 3 starting at 6:30 pm. Plan on being there for drinks and fine camaraderie and a great view of the bursts of high altitude explosives all for just \$20 per person. RSVP’s to RENEE (who is co-planning this party) would be appreciated. And don’t forget, we will be DARK that Friday for our luncheon meeting, too, in honor of the holiday.



We then went around the room to point out the Guests who had joined us for the meeting, starting with PP VICKIE PROSSER’s introduction of Frank Coxon, now a member of the Vista club PP JOHN McMAHAN was sitting with his fellow Golf Tournament guru from the San Luis Rey club, Dennis Merchant.... President DAVE then turned his gaze and attention to the next table, but JOHN groused that he wasn’t done with the guests sitting with him yet, and Rudy Van Hunnick playfully pleaded, “You can overlook everybody but ME!” as he was introduced PP GARY ERNST told us that we would be hearing about DALE MAAS from Edward Jones for the last time (as a guest)



And we had Principal Steve Bessant from Lincoln Middle School with us, along with students George Antonio and Karen Chavez who had been involved in some of our Crown Heights youth events in past months.



GARY gladly gave our guests a wonderful Welcome Song.

As if JAY’s lengthy lineup of Club Updates from before wasn’t enough, there were a few more events that we needed to hear about – all of them fundraisers of one sort or another.



First up was Dennis Merchant from San Luis Rey who buttered us up by admitting, “Our club can’t sing at all! You guys sing a heck of a lot better!” Then, once we were in a receptive mood, he sprung his invitation to their Kentucky Derby fundraiser party the next day (5/2).

Our own PP JOHN McMAHAN took the floor to remind us of the 35th Annual Rotary Clubs of Oceanside Golf Tournament on Monday, June 22 at Arrowood Golf Course as a fundraiser for the various local high schools. As always, we are looking for Golfers and Tee sponsors and Donations and Volunteers and folks to attend the dinner to follow the competition. The registration deadline is June 12.





President DAVE passed around the bucket once again, seeking Loot for Leis for this year's Crown Heights graduates of Oceanside High.

And in a last fit of fundraising, President DAVE asked if we had seen the email from our District Governor about opportunities to provide support for the citizens of Nepal after the earthquake's devastation. He suggested and challenged our club to purchase a Shelter Box at a cost of about \$1,000, which he had penciled out to be an average of \$50 per active member in our club. He invited us all to "Think about how much you can contribute and bring a check next week."

PP JIM SCHRODER had some followup information on DAVE MICKELSON. DAVE's wife Carolyn has had a third series of chemo treatments and DAVE himself had recently had some episodes of epileptic fits. But that's not all, for when DAVE finally was able to get back to his pastime of paddleboarding, a wave caught his board which slammed into his face and he had to go to the hospital. Our best wishes go out to DAVE and Carolyn.

Then it was time to celebrate various May milestones of our members. Of our Birthday Boys for this month, LES NEWQUIST and DAVE SHORE must have had better places to be, people to see and/or things to do, for they missed the chance to have their Rotarian friends sing "Happy Birthday" to them, so the song was offered up solely for JOHN HARTMAN who



appreciated the tune so much, he put in \$50 toward the Shelter Box collection. President DAVE exchanged that for 100 Grand, and JOHN was able to wheedle a second candy bar out of the deal so he could give one to each of our student guests. When it was time to actually do the singing of the Birthday Song, Songmeister GARY ERNST was taking his jolly sweet time getting the song underway, so an impatient MIKE CURTIN picked a key and kicked the singing off himself.

Again, several of our members with May wedding anniversaries missed the chance to celebrate with us (VERNON ALLEN – 22 years and NANCY RUSSIAN – 7 years). But CHUCK WARD was there to tell us about his 35th anniversary and to one-up his buddy JOHN HARTMAN in the donation



department with a whopping \$100 contribution to the Shelter Box. And JAY CRAWFORD wasn't sure exactly how many years he should 'fess up to, as he has been married to Anita for 12 years, and was married before that for 40 years, but the number really didn't matter much because "All I have is \$5 – The rest of my money already went in the bucket!"

Our lone May club anniversary celebrant DAVE NYDEGGER was not present, so we simply noted that fact and moved on.

There was a little confusion at this point about what we were moving on to. As Secretary RENEE said, "It's because we haven't done this in a while" - referring to the installation of a New Member into Oceanside Rotary. DALE MAAS (who had been proposed by PP GARY ERNST) was informed



that "The ideal of Rotary is Service, and you are now expected to share in this effort." DALE was then pinned with the Rotary emblem and tasked to "wear it daily with pride." DALE was then welcomed with a standing ovation, and almost got away without having to open his wallet as President DAVE proved how rusty he was at the whole New Member business by almost forgetting to point out to DALE "what a fine club this is", but our newest member did say that he was at least \$20 happy.



Our President then had a question for "another newcomer", asking our traditionally tardy GORDY WITZ, "How happy are you that there still is food out at 12:59 pm?" Turns out that GORDY was \$5 happy, but thought that President DAVE should have pitched in some \$\$ as well to brag about the solo

he had sung in the tune “Stardust” at a choral concert in Carlsbad the day before.

As we were about to launch into Happy Dollars, we heard that our guest Principal Steve Bessant had put in a \$20



contribution toward the Shelter Box. And then PP MIKE CURTIN told us that he was \$120 happy for a couple of reasons. First, that last week he had won the big opportunity drawing (even though he says he NEVER wins anything), and second, because “My baby is getting married.” (Sounds like two great reasons to be happy! Congrats, MIKE!)



... JANET BLEDSOE LACY the 60 applications that had been Martin Luther King, Jr. they expect to be giving out at Wow! The 24th Annual event will from 5 to 8 pm at JANET’s lovely 433-3377), and she reminded us (but especially our newest member) that it is “an excellent networking opportunity.” JANET also apologized in advance for missing next week’s meeting, when she will be in the other room of the Country Club, receiving money for these scholarships from Soroptimists, as she gave \$100 toward the Shelter Box. And finally she talked about the drone that her daughter had used to locate and photograph the homeless encampments on their property, which are now being cleaned out by the City.



donated \$60 in honor of received for the Dr. scholarships. This year least \$30,000 in awards. be held on Friday May 22 home (For info, call 760-



PP GARY ERNST gave \$20 in thanks for the approximately 20 Rotarians who joined in the volunteer efforts at the successful and well appreciated Rotarians at Work event.... PP VICKIE PROSSER had \$5 to say how happy she was to see our guest Karen again, who had been one of the students riding in VICKIE’s convertible at the youth event ... PP TERRI

HALL reported that she had been feeling grumpy all day today until husband DAVE realized they had made decaf instead of regular coffee. A relieved TERRI said, “So THAT was what was wrong with me!” and offered \$5 in thanksgiving that her mood swing ended up being such a simple fix.





Rudy Van Hunnick peeled off \$20 to announce that the kitchen at the Veterans Association of North County is now ready and he invited us to take a tour of the building. Through Rotary and matching donations, about a third of the cost of the building renovations was covered. Rudy had another \$20 to report that a victim of a cardiac arrest on a surfboard recently was saved by one of our defibrillators, proving that “Rotary does some good in the world” as the AED program that our club had put in place has saved six lives overall.... And finally, PP JOHN McMAHAN gave \$20 for missing so many meetings as he helped his wife Charleen in her recuperation from knee surgery.



At this point, it was time for our Program, and President DAVE officially introduced Steve Bessant who has been the Principal at Lincoln Middle School for seven years. The school is completing the second year of a three year process of becoming a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) School. Steve started off his remarks by saying, “Thanks for having us here today and for all of the generous things you do for our kids ... I can’t tell you how much I appreciate how you are expanding their horizons.”



Then we got to hear from both of the students who told of what our youth field trips had meant to them. Karen Chavez had ridden with VICKIE to the musical at MiraCosta and “I liked being with her, and not just for her convertible.” After seeing MiraCosta firsthand, Karen has thought more about going to college and has raised her GPA from 1.8 to 3.6.

Impressive!

George Antonio had gone with JOHN HARTMAN and LOLA SHERMAN to the USD baseball game and with CHUCK WARD to see the Padres. He, too, told of how he is “trying to advance myself.”



Principal Bessant let us know that DAVE and TERRI HALL had donated two bicycles to Lincoln which will be used as rewards for the winners of their summer reading program contest. Steve then noted that both of the students with us today are currently in eighth grade, and both are going to Oceanside High. He hopes that in four years, we will be celebrating their success at JANET's garden party for scholarships!

President DAVE celebrated our speakers with a contribution to Brother Benno's in Steve's honor and a "Light Up Rotary" pin to each student.

As this presentation did not take the full time allotted for our meeting, President DAVE had time left to bring up LOLA SHERMAN to give a repeat performance of her "Who Am I?" speech.

LOLA is a sixth generation Californian, born in Chinatown in L.A. at the French hospital there. To show how far back her California roots go, she told us that her great grandparents owned a vineyard at the spot which nowadays is the intersection of 8th and Olive. Can you imagine that?



LOLA bounced around to a lot of schools in LA and San Francisco, eventually graduating from Beverly High and San Jose State University with a double major in Journalism and Social Studies. She received a scholarship from the InterAmerican Press Association and did graduate work at the University of Mexico in Mexico City.

In college, she did an internship at the Palo Alto Times, then moved on to the San Jose Mercury News. Eventually she relocated to San Diego and worked at the Tribune before bouncing around to several different local papers such as the La Jolla Light and the Del Mar News Press. ("Newspapers fold quite often", she noted.)

Going back to the Tribune, she was one of two reporters assigned to North County coverage. She says that she considers herself a reporter and that the other guy was a better "writer", so he got assigned to the feature stories and she did the political beat work, covering council meetings and community events – first in three communities (Carlsbad, San Marcos and Vista), but eventually she was assigned exclusively to Oceanside when Copley's two

San Diego papers merged together in 1992. LOLA left the Union Tribune in 2009 and since then has written a column in the North County Times.

On a personal note, LOLA told us she is a diehard baseball fan and also has been to 5 Olympic Games (L.A., Seoul, Barcelona, Sydney, and Athens, Greece – The Games she missed in between were because she had already visited those locations as a tourist previously and doesn't like to repeat her travels). She is a self-confessed “animal freak”, and has three dogs and four cats.

PP MIKE CURTIN had a burning question to ask her: “How can you explain being born in L.A., but not being a Dodger fan?” (Somehow, rather diplomatically, LOLA managed to avoid actually answering this question.) And JANET BLEDSOE LACY had a comment, not a question, as she gave LOLA “kudos for being so fair and balanced” in her reporting throughout the years.



Since the pot had been snapped up in the previous week, this Friday's Opportunity Drawing was for either the \$10 consolation prize or the BIG progressive Jackpot which hadn't made much progress yet, and at the time was just \$20. PP JOHN McMAHAN held the lucky ticket, but drew the four of diamonds, and he raced out of the meeting with the two \$5 bills he was given so he could bestow them upon our guest students who had just left in order to get back to their classes.

President DAVE then rang the bell to adjourn the meeting – thankfully at a much less painful volume level than just one hour before.

COMING UP AT OCEANSIDE ROTARY

May 8 – Chris Cochran – Stone Brewing Company

Reporter: Jay Crawford

May 15 - Mark Baird – Veteran Outreach Program

Reporter: Terri Hall

May 22 – DARK for Memorial Day

May 29 – Jason Dafform – Interim Water Utilities Director

Reporter: Pam Myers

June 5 – DARK (Country Club not available that day)

June 12 – MSgt David Rose – Veterans' Green Projects

Reporter: Bill Dern

June 19 – Kim Muslusky – Thousand Smiles Project

Reporter: Vickie Prosser

June 26 – DARK (Demotion Dinner at night)

Reporter: Janet Bledsoe Lacy