



2019-2020

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES



**PRESIDENT
Terri Hall**

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May 1, 2020

One by one we gathered at (or around) the appointed meeting time of 12:30 – A face showed up here. A few seconds later, another popped up there, until finally there were more faces than there were places available on the computer screen and we had to scroll to page 2 to see everyone! We have been getting good attendance at these online meetings. I guess that is the “upside” of the current situation. All it takes is a click on the computer to show up at Rotary instead of needing to drive all the way to the country club.



When a “critical mass” of participants was reached at around 12:34, our President TERRI HALL held up her official gavel for display (or did she do this to gloat that she still had it in her possession.... Although in this time of social distancing, it

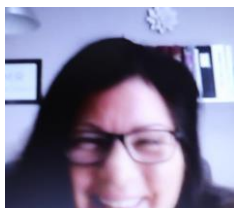
would be quite a feat for a Gavel Grabber to nab it from her, Right?) She then officially started us off by announcing that we would be having “a kind of a formal meeting”, with a guest speaker and everything. How about that!

Our Rotary Moment was provided by PAM MYERS who noted that May 1 is also known as “May Day” – historically the date of an ancient ritual festival for the arrival of Spring which traditionally would be celebrated with dancing, singing, and cake. We only had one out of those three at this virtual gathering, but I’ll bet a few of us got the word “cake” in our minds and found a way to have some before the day was through!



PAM told us that as a young kid, their family would make May Day baskets out of construction paper with pipe cleaner handles and filled with roses and geraniums. To honor that family tradition, she had made one this year and held it up to her screen to show it to everyone. Thanks for that visual treat, PAM! We were all glad to see it.

President TERRI followed this up with a segue that she was glad to see VICKIE PROSSER amongst the throng of faces on the screen. VICKIE thanked the club for the “lots of love and caring” that was shown to her husband LLOYD who had gone through a serious surgery this week. She was happy to let us all know that his post-surgical pathology report was “all good” and that he was scheduled to be released from the hospital and back home the next day. Great to hear! Welcome home, LLOYD!



CLUB UPDATES were handled by one of our Co-Presidents MELISSA RODRIGUEZ who reminded us of the online club gatherings coming up in May. Our evening social will be on Thursday May 14 starting at 5:30 pm. (MELISSA noted that this would be a ‘BYOB’ party, which got a few chuckles.) And our next “regular” meeting will be on Friday May 29 at 12:30 pm – Speaker TBD.

MELISSA then gave us a “heads up” that she and her Co – Co-President DALE MAAS had divied up the names on our club roster and the two of them will be contacting the members for a 20 to 30 minute interview / chat to hear our ideas and how we would like to be involved in Rotary in the year to come. MELISSA then wrapped up her update by letting us know that they had joined in on a District 5340 meeting of Presidents Elect. They all talked about what was happening

around the district, as well as what the individual clubs are doing for meetings and fundraisers during this unusual time. Thanks DALE and MELISSA, for representing us well. We are glad that you are pumped up for your chance to lead the club going forward!

After MELISSA stopped talking, there was dead silence for an unexpected length of time. It looked like President TERRI might have been trying to say something, but it wasn't coming through. ERNIE MASCITTI chimed in with, "How did you mute TERRI? ... I'd like to know!" (Other hecklers might have been thinking to themselves, "I'll bet DAVE would like to know that, too!")



TERRI finally figured out her microphone and then opened the floor for the introduction of GUESTS who were listening in on this meeting. JANET BLEDSOE LACY introduced our speaker for the day, MAX DISPOSTI, the Exec Director of the local North County LGBTQ Resource Center. ADOLPHO AYALA was seated next to his husband STEPHEN GENDEL, who "hopefully will be a member soon." ED PARISH was with his "lovely buddy" ANNE SPERAW. JAY CRAWFORD had his wife ANITA give us a wave in the background, and we were also joined by perennial guest RUDY VAN HUNNICK.



After our past problems with group singing on Zoom due to the computer sound delays, President TERRI invited Master SongMeister TOM BRAULT to sing a solo version of our welcome song to our guests. But old habits apparently are hard to break, and more than a couple of members (with their microphones unmuted) tried to sing along, finishing about 0.83 seconds after TOM's last note. Ah well... We tried!

We were informed that a Zoom meeting of the Board had been held, where it was decided that we would not try to meet in person again until at least through the month of June. Besides, we are not sure what the plans are for the country club opening up again, so we may just have to play it by ear for a while. Some interesting alternatives were brought up, such as gathering together for a social

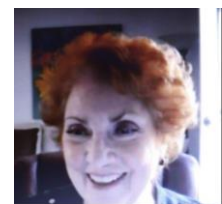
distancing meeting at some park some time. But with our challenges with hearing, I'm not sure if we could yell loud enough with everyone at least six feet apart.

The Board also discussed what to do with the \$300 left over from the budgeted Camp Pendleton trip that was cancelled. They looked into other ways to use the money to help the Crown Heights community. MELISSA had a lead for a charity called Lived Experiences which delivers food and vegetables to address food insecurity issues in Crown Heights and also helps at-risk and disconnected youth in Oceanside. This donation idea was seconded and plussed by ROGER VANDERWERKEN whose Breakwater Community Church holds a second collection on the first Sunday of each month to support a needy local individual or charity. ROGER has offered to make their next collection serve as a "matching fund" to our Lived Experiences contribution. Not only will we allocate the left over \$300 to this matching collection, but members are also invited to pitch in individual donations to bump up this total. Since we are all saving money on skipping the payment for Rotary lunches, why not send a check in to Treasurer LES NEWQUIST to support this drive? Be sure to write "Lived Experiences" or "Matching Grant" on the memo line. These individual contributions will be accepted through the month of May.



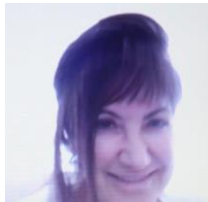
ERNIE MASCITTI asked whether the club could expect to receive any of the money back from our reserved group for the RYLA weekend which had been cancelled. Current chair DAN WILSON will look into that question.

To wrap up our Update time, President TERRI recommended that members could use some of our Rotary downtime in the weeks ahead by learning more from the District, either by reading the weekly District Newsbits emails and/or going on to the District website (www.rotary5340.org). The Learning Center at the website is a good opportunity to explore more about what Rotary does ... Hear more about the "volunteer surge" ... Look at all the things that clubs have been doing to help during the Covid-19 crisis. These projects are very inspiring, and if you get inspired with an idea of your own, forward your thoughts to MELISSA RODRIGUEZ, our Service Chair.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating this month are JAY CRAWFORD and ANITA ROMAINE, married for 17 years and therefore JAY was \$17 happy about that. When told he was also up for a Club anniversary this month, he said, “Not true ... I joined in October” and he then launched into a long litany of all of the various clubs he had been in and the years that he had joined each one. TERRI asked him to sum it up with “How happy are you to be a Rotarian?” JAY thought for a bit and then offered \$21.



NANCY RUSSIAN also has a wedding anniversary in May. ... “Oh yeah! I forgot about that!” she admitted. (Good thing we reminded her!) She was trying to figure out whether it was 12 or 13 years, but it didn’t matter that much to us, because she decided to round up her happy dollars for the event to \$15 anyway. Other members who WOULD HAVE been happy if they had been with us for their May club anniversary celebrations were DALE MAAS and DAVE NYDEGGER. (TERRI informed us that DAVE has been dealing with sciatica since Valentine’s Day with lots of chiropractor visits and lots of trouble sitting for lengths of time, so parking in front of his computer to sit in on these meetings ain’t happening for a while.)

We talked about a few other members who weren’t on this video conference either. (See... When you don’t show up to a meeting, we end up talking about you! ... But in a loving, caring way.) Some folks were concerned whether LESLY ADAMS has had to fly during this Coronavirus time, but we heard that she is off from that duty until the end of June, so she is safe at home. And ALEXA KINGAARD is still safe, but still over in Hawaii helping her family members settle in there. They are finally relaxing the touring restrictions there so she can finally see some of the island, and she expects to be back in town by the end of May. Here is a link to ALEXA’s web page so you can read more about what she has been up to. (Her blog of this trip can be accessed at the upper right: <https://www.alexakingaard.com/>)

Our President was pressed for time and said, “I know that you might have Happy Dollars burning in your pocket, but we will put that off until our next meeting so we can get to our program.”

JANET had actually done a lot of this introduction of the speaker during the “Guests” recognition time earlier. MAX DISPOSTI, the Executive Director of the North County LGBTQ Resource Center, was born in Rome, Italy. After college, he pursued his volunteer



aspirations and worked with different human rights non-profit organizations. He is a recipient of Oceanside's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. civic award in 2013, served on the Oceanside Library board for seven years, as Chair and Vice Chair of Main Street Oceanside, and as an Oceanside commissioner for five years.



MAX moved to Oceanside from San Francisco in 2002 and felt that, at the time, the North County did not have much for the LGBT community. He approached local elected officials, but faced a lot of resistance, so he rolled up his sleeves and decided to “try to do something.” In 2007, he founded the North County LGBT Coalition, a non-profit organization to increase LGBT visibility in the community. At first, it primarily served as a meeting place, but soon decided that they needed to provide some services. The organization was “all volunteer” for the first six years. MAX decided to “risk all” and quit his job to devote his full time to running the organization, still as a volunteer until it became more established. Even now, though, due to the dedication of the people involved with and working for the center, they are able to stretch their financial resources to achieve maximum benefits, as employees will often get paid for just 5 official hours of work, yet really work for 30 hours.

The LGBTQ Resource Center has started working with the police and the schools, doing much needed educational work around their issues. “Things are definitely better now, but there is still a lot of work left to do.” They have developed partnerships with the Sheriff's Department and have launched a program to deal with the problem of Human Trafficking. Their Unicorn Homes program provides a place to stay for LGBTQ youth kicked out of their homes. They actively support the mental health of service members on Camp Pendleton, where approximately 350 transgender individuals serve there on active duty, but in today's political climate “they are in limbo” and now feel outcast again. There is a drive for HIV prevention as well. This Resource Center certainly seems to have their hands full! Every year they serve between 9 to 10 thousand people through their programs. “You name it,” MAX summed it up. “There is not a place we haven't done work.”

The Covid-19 crisis has been somewhat triggering for the LGBTQ community, reminiscent of the HIV-AIDS experience with the devastating health issues. And it has proven to be a challenge to their center to reinvent their programs given the current conditions and restrictions. Volunteers now call to check on the people they serve, and they have recently been awarded \$75,000 from the San Diego Foundation to continue their important community work during this difficult time.

The center typically holds a major fundraising gala annually with over 350 guests in attendance, but with the uncertain Covid climate, they don't know what might happen in October. They might consider a virtual fundraiser replacement? (As MAX was describing this uncertain situation, he apologized for the "nine chickens going crazy in the background." ... Ah, the beauty of Zoom calls from home!)

President TERRI thanked MAX for his presentation and asked him to keep us in the loop if there is anything we can do to help them out. And although she could not hand him his choice of "chocolate or Cheetos" as a snack, she did promise to forge his name into a book to be donated to a local elementary school library in his honor as our thanks for joining us at this meeting.



Speaking of handing over goodies, President TERRI remembered to thank our Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE who had a vegan lunch delivered to the HALL house, noting that "It is a bummer that your year is ending this way."



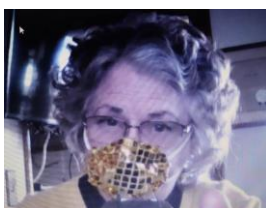
Other parting thoughts were offered before we signed off:



BOB PICKREL said "God bless to LLOYD!" and VICKIE followed with "Thanks for all of the good thoughts!" President TERRI thanked DAN WILSON for once again acting as our Zoom host for this meeting. The club has purchased its own Zoom membership, so DAN might be off the hook for this task sometime soon.

Getting in the last word for the day was President TERRI who recommended that it could be easy and helpful for the members to download our members' contact information from the Clubrunner application into their phones so you can have emails and phone numbers available at your fingertips. Several members held up their phones to show that they already had this feature installed and ready for their use. Good on you!

This meeting officially gaveled to a close at 1:35 pm.



OUR NEXT ONLINE MEETING will be at
Happy Hour time on
THURSDAY, MAY 14 at 5:30 pm.

Watch for an email with log-in info.

(Maybe Janet will show up in her blinged-out mask again!)

STATUS REPORT ON ‘ROTARY NIGHT AT THE MOONLIGHT’

We still have a big “Question Mark” hanging over our heads for this planned event on Friday, August 21. What we know for certain at this point is this:

- 1) The Moonlight has officially cancelled their first two planned productions of the summer season (in May and June)
- 2) As of now, they are still hoping and planning to stage the final three productions, so our night to see “Ragtime” on August 21 may still be able to happen. (Fingers crossed.)
- 3) We are *really* hoping that this show gets to go on, particularly because TOM BRAULT’s daughter GERILYN made it through the audition process and successfully landed her biggest part ever at the Moonlight in “Ragtime” (She was chosen to play the featured role of Emma Goldman.)
- 4) It still is possible that more shows in the season could end up being cancelled, based upon the state and/or county’s rules on social distancing and allowable crowd size. IF our show in August gets cancelled, we probably will get about a month’s notice of that change of plan.
- 5) We still will not collect money for tickets reserved until we are more certain that the show will go on. So stay tuned for further updates.

INAUGURAL ACTS OF KINDNESS



In a not-so-random act of kindness, BILL DERN (on his own volition, but on behalf of our club) dropped off a lovely lasagna meal from Fratelli’s Restaurant for VICKIE and LLOYD PROSSER to celebrate and ease their burden during LLOYD’s return weekend from the hospital. Of course, everyone involved maintained proper social distancing and facial covering protocols. Rotarians helping other Rotarians in a classic example of “Service Above Self.” Well done, Dr. DERN!

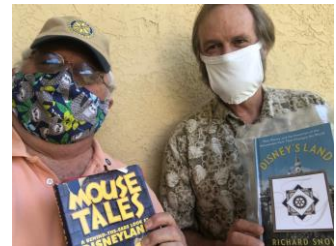
Does anyone else have any ideas for other Acts of Kindness that our club might plan on providing and featuring in future editions of Shorelines? Please contact RENEE to coordinate these efforts.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT



This formerly regular feature of our Shorelines has been little used in this time of “Stay at Home” orders, but our brave first couple TERRI and DAVE HALL left their home, their town, and their county to visit TERRI’s brother TONY and his wife BOBBIE on April 28. You can see in this photo that they were strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines in the back yard. During the visit (We trust that when they were conversing, DAVE and TERRI didn’t keep their backs to their dear family members as pictured here and instead would turn around to actually see the other couple.)

Pardon the 15 second intrusion on proper social distancing needed to take this photo, but since TOM BRAULT and BILL DERN are family now after their children’s wedding, perhaps we should cut them some slack on the restrictions. Anyway, the two diehard Disney fans got together briefly this week to swap books on the Happiest Place on Earth for some light pandemic reading.



And ANCHISA has sent us some photos of wildlife she’s taken around her home!

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Thursday, May 14 @ 5:30 pm – ZOOM Rotary Evening Social

Friday, May 29 – Regular ZOOM meeting at 12:30 pm, featuring Guest Speaker PDG Marge Cole, speaking on RI Foundation giving, with important reminders for seasoned Rotarians but very important for new members!

Friday, June 12 – Regular ZOOM meeting at 12:30 pm

No Thursday Evening Social in June

Friday, June 26 – Regular ZOOM meeting at 12:30 pm – DEMOTION TIME

