



November 17, 2017

At precisely 12:30 pm, our President CHUCK WARD got our attention with yet another unbearably LOUD ringing of our bell. Methinks his high volume striking this time might have come out of a sense of his frustration, or perhaps it was some form of overcompensation on CHUCK's part, for he had to confess to us that this reverberant clang did not come from his official gavel. He had to use a replacement backup gavel to call us to order ... Really, Mr. President??? Wasn't it just last week that you last rescued your precious gavel from the grasp of the Grabber? ... As it dawned on poor CHUCK that his prized presidential perk had been purloined from the podium while he visited the buffet, he moaned and whined to the unsympathetic gang before him, "I just had it! Come on, you guys. A man has to eat!" (That may be true, fine sir, but by now you should know the M.O of the crowd you are working with here ... If there is a gavel left unattended, it is going to get some attention!)



After that very rocky start to the meeting, the president tried to regain his composure by announcing, "Today is a very special day! It's the day before the weekend before Thanksgiving!" And, thankfully, he had JIM SCHRODER lined up to lead us all in the pledge to the flag. But next on the agenda was "Rotary Moment" time, and apparently no one had been assigned to prepare any remarks. So, to fill this open slot, President CHUCK tried to bribe members to come up with a story on the spot, promising that they would be rewarded handsomely for their effort. LYN CORDER was the first to jump at the offer, offering a story from a while back about her springing for a Paul Harris Fellowship following the birth of her new grandson who, at just 6 weeks old, was the youngest P.H.F. in Chula Vista Rotary history! JAY CRAWFORD also had a moment to share, as he gave us the



background information on how he had met some folks in Baja California years ago, which is how he learned about the needs of the orphanages down there which we later ended up choosing to support as part of Oceanside Rotary's International Service efforts.

What were the prizes provided by our president, you may ask? Our impromptu Rotary Momentors got to choose between receiving an extra ticket for our \$500 jackpot opportunity drawing (which JAY opted for) or a certificate for a burger lunch at In-n-Out that went to LYN. They both seemed pleased by their compensation, and we were all glad to hear their stories!



At this point, the meeting got put on hold for a while as DENNIS from Brother Benno's arrived to pick up the frozen turkeys that we had brought to donate to their Thanksgiving feast. There was such a huge flock of frozen fowl to carry, and we are such helpful folk, that it seemed as if over half of the members got up to help cart the carcasses to DENNIS's truck. As the room basically emptied, it looked just like our standard annual walkout on the first meeting of a president! CHUCK just bided his time as he waited for the ad hoc committee to return and offer their report. DAVE HALL had done the math (Probably with some assistance, as he would have run out of fingers and toes to count on). We had donated a grand total of 21 turkeys this year – "That may be the most that we have ever given." Hooray for Thanksgiving!! And thanks for the giving nature of our club members!



With the assembly back at full strength, the meeting got back on track with songs led by JAY CRAWFORD. For the first tune (his lovely version of "Oceanside, My Oceanside"), he had the lyrics printed out on sheets on the table as well as projected onto the screen, so there was no excuse to not sing along. And for our second tune, everybody definitely knew the words by heart as we sang from the heart "God Bless America."

At the end of the singing, a guest was seen checking in at the back table, and President CHUCK proclaimed that it was “Perfect timing! ... Everybody say Good Morning (or rather, Good Afternoon) to the principal at Laurel Elementary School, FREDDIE CHAVARRIA!” He was here to receive a \$1,000 check from our club as a part of our literacy matching grant which this year has been supporting Laurel and Mission Elementaries, our mentor program, and the dollar leis given to Crown Heights OHS grads.



FREDDIE thanked us for the invitation and for our generosity and told us that the money would be used as part of their 3 to 5 year plan to enhance their school library with some new furniture and books. Although they have a little over 13,000 items on the shelves, their collection is badly in need of updating with the current books being 19 years old, on average. The Laurel PTO has agreed to match our donation, so our matching grant got matched again! As the check was handed over for the photo opp, our president was told to “Stand tall, CHUCK” to try to stretch closer to the average height in the picture.



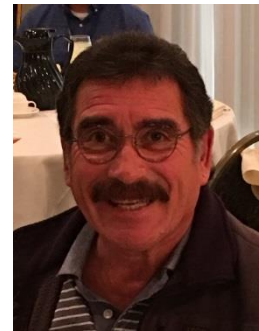
Moving on to the Club Update section of the meeting, CHUCK had an amazing and very welcome announcement to start off with. We have a President Elect! “Who could it be?”, we wondered, and we soon got the answer. Our president for 2018-19 will be RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE (who has also served as our leader in 1994-95 and 2015-16). As RENEE put it, “The 3rd time is a charm.” She

was welcomed to the podium to handle the club updates for, as CHUCK said, “We wanted to give her a little time at the microphone to get comfortable up here.” She handled the announcements masterfully, which is not at all surprising given that as Secretary she is the one who writes them all up on the agenda each week.

- Thanks to all who brought in frozen turkeys today.
- Our regular meeting will be DARK next Friday, November 24 in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Our next meeting on December 1 will be an Away Meeting at the Star Theater on Coast Highway to see a youth performance there. Pizza, salad and dessert will be served for \$20 starting at 12:15 pm before the show. If you missed the clipboard that was passed around, you should sign up in advance with TERRI HALL (theresemhall@msn.com) so we are sure to have enough slices for you.
- December 15 will also be an Away Meeting – that time at the Mottino Family YMCA on Mesa Drive. Lunch again will cost our regular \$20.
- That evening, Friday December 15, we will hold our annual club Christmas Party at DAVE and TERRI HALL’s home, starting at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share and your own adult beverages.
- Promotional postcards were available on the tables to remind us of the First Friday Art Walk and tree lighting ceremony at SpringHill Suites on December 1 from 5 to 9 pm.
- To keep up to date on all of the doings of our club, we were encouraged to “check out our wonderful website” – oceansidecarotary.org.



Past President / Secretary / President Elect RENEE let President CHUCK handle the announcement of visitors, which included our speaker for the day STAN KATZ who was a member of the Rochester NY Rotary as well as VIRGIL FLORES, introduced by JIM SCHRODER as someone who is considering joining our club.



Songmeister JAY told our guests that “We wrote and rehearsed a very special song just for you!” as we launched into our regular “Welcome to Oceanside” ditty.

Turns out that we were not quite done with announcements, but RENEE needed some props to display as she described our Christmas collective project to support the Women’s Resource Center. We will be pulling together gifts appropriate for a child to give to their mother. Examples were shown, like knitted socks, a bathrobe, bath items and gift cards. We will be collecting these gifts through our meeting on December 1st, so plan on bringing them to our next meeting at the Star Theatre, or you can drop them off at either BILL DERN’s office (605 Cassidy Street) or with CHUCK at Oceanside Abbey Carpet & Floor (4001 Avenida de la Plata).



CHUCK next wanted to celebrate two special birthdays – one Past and one Future. The one which has already gone by was for WARD O’DOHERTY who declined to tell us how old he had become. (“That number is not for public consumption.”) And the birthday yet to come would be for LARRY HATTER whose special day this year will actually fall on Thanksgiving Day. He told of how, when this date had coincided in the past, he had tried to convince his kids that “The whole country is giving thanks for me!” While that might not quite be 100% true, at least we members of Oceanside Rotary are definitely thankful to have LARRY around in our club and our community!

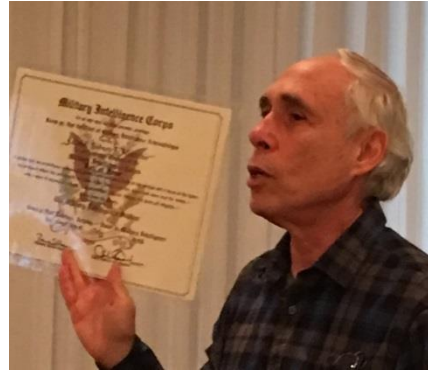


Time for the birthday boys to pick an envelope! CHUCK assured us once again that “In one of the envelopes (...It is amazing that not one has chosen it yet) is dinner for two at 333.” Also in the mix were Fratelli’s appetizers and coffee at Starbucks. LARRY gave his chance to pick a prize to our visiting principal from Laurel FREDDIE CHAVARRIA who won the Starbucks gift card. WARD stepped up and snagged the

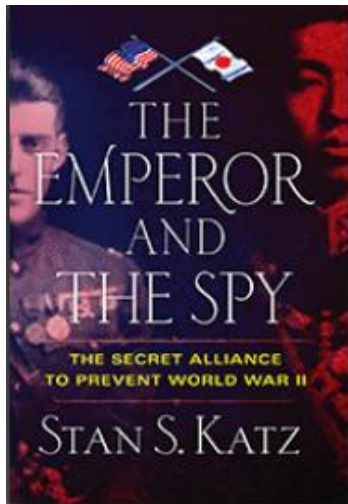
appetizers, leaving us once again with zero proof whether this alleged gift certificate to 333 actually exists or not. In gratitude for their birthday recognition, LARRY donated \$30 and WARD handed over a blank check, soon to be filled out for a very generous \$50.

With these nice sized donations already in hand, President CHUCK bypassed the regular order of going to Happy Dollars next (promising that we would get to that later on) and went straight into introducing our guest speaker STAN KATZ – a scholar, board member of the San Diego World Affairs Council, avid reader, and now an author.

In 1999, after STAN became the proprietor of Antiquarian Bookstores, he had the opportunity to acquire the personal papers of Colonel Sidney Forrester Mashbir, who as it turns out had been a lifelong member of Rotary and who had a pivotal role in the winning of both WWI and WWII. Little did STAN know that this purchase would lead him to an almost 20 year journey of discovery to piece together the story that would become the basis of his novel “The Emperor and the Spy”, an espionage novel with a lot of history.



Col. Mashbir was an espionage agent for the USA who went to Japan as a behind the scenes diplomat to learn as much as he could about that potential political enemy. During the 1920's and 30's he formed a friendship and alliance with many of Japan's enlightened leaders including some members of the royal family. Together they tried to prevent war between their nations.



As a linguist and military strategist, Mashbir became Gen. Douglas MacArthur's top specialist in Japan. He headed a 4,600 member intel organization known as ATIS (Allied Translator and Intelligence Service) which helped to shape battlefield strategy in World War II. Mashbir was credited with devising the “leapfrog strategy” of “island hopping” in the Pacific – bypassing the heavily fortified Japanese positions and instead concentrating the limited Allied resources on strategically important islands that were not as well defended. This strategy is believed to have shortened the war and saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

Mashbir was also a part of the process of convincing the Japanese to surrender. Having been their friend for 20 years, he knew how to speak to the Japanese leadership and their people and helped to shape their response. Without his input, the Japanese may well have instead chosen to fight on to the bitter end. After the



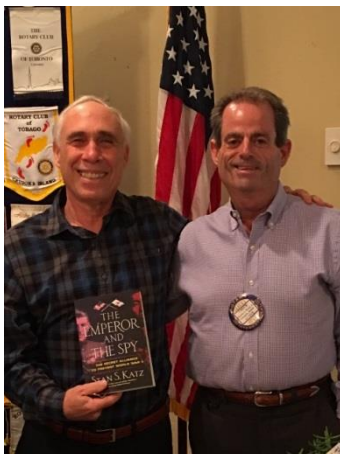
war was over, Mashbir, as personal advisor to both Gen. MacArthur and to Emperor Hirohito, helped to shape the reconstruction and to rebuild the fractured diplomatic relationship with Japan. STAN showed us a copy of a 1945 photo of Gen. MacArthur which had been inscribed to Col. Mashbir. It read: *"To Mashbir: With admiration and cordial regard from his old comrade-in-arms. Douglas MacArthur. Tokyo - 1945"* In 1998, 15 years after his death, Col Sidney Forrester Mashbir was inducted into the Army's Military

Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame.

Having served as a masterful espionage agent, the full contributions of Col. Mashbir have remained mostly in the shadows of history. He had written and published his autobiography in 1953, but he could not tell the whole story then, and subsequently that book did not sell very well. With STAN's access to Mashbir's papers, and after over a decade of followup research on the Colonel's actions as well as on the history of that pivotal period in world history, KATZ decided to write a historical novel, pulling in more information and perspectives than the Colonel himself could share, in order to make Mashbir's story more engaging, compelling and revealing.



The book "The Emperor and the Spy" is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kindle and Nook. To learn more about this story, you can visit the website TheEmperorAndTheSpy.com. A portion of all book sales goes to charities in honor of Colonel Mashbir, including to Rotary International. STAN is currently at work on another book, this one a biography of Prince Tokugawa who, we were told, had been the keynote speaker at a Rotary International convention where he espoused peace between our countries.



President CHUCK thanked STAN KATZ for his fascinating and informative presentation and gifted him with a handpainted pot from TERI, Inc filled by ANCHISA with succulents as a living memento of the time STAN shared with us.



As he had promised, CHUCK then opened the floor to Happy Dollars. This was kicked off by NANCY RUSSIAN who had \$10 to offer because fellow world traveler JIM SCHRODER had encouraged her to write down all of the countries that she and LUIS have visited. It adds up to 52 countries so far. Impressive! ... Maybe not quite as impressive as JIM's total to date, but as LUIS had joked, "When we get to be JIM's age, we might be able to match him!" NANCY was also proud to announce that her 15 year old granddaughter has recently joined an Interact club, so the Rotary roots continue to run deep in their family!

RON MARBEN gave \$10 to let us know that ANCHISA is on a long visit to Thailand and she is having a good time. For his part, RON admitted that he is "Happy that I am in charge at my house." He also told those of us who shared a table with him that before she flew off, ANCHISA had prepared and left four of the TERI, Inc. pot arrangements so that our speakers would be able to have their parting gifts.



WARD O'DOHERTY had a grateful \$5 to give. He mentioned that he had "had a rough patch for a couple of months", and is happy to be a member of this club and of this community which have both showered him with an outpouring of support and well wishes.



This week only one lucky ticket was drawn for our weekly raffle. It was not JAY's extra Rotary Moment awarded ticket. (Doesn't that In-n-Out burger sound good now, JAY?) The honor of looking for the Joker instead went to ERNIE MASCITTI who pulled out a King and gave his \$10 consolation prize back to the club.

With our meeting now completed, our president was frantically searching high and low around the podium, leading us to ask, "Oh, my God! Did you lose your replacement gavel, too???" Thankfully, he found his backup and struck the bell with a sigh of relief. As the ringing started to fade, someone asked if CHUCK had forgotten to tell us about something important coming up soon. "Oh, yeah! Next weekend, I am not losing a daughter. I'm gaining a son-in-law." (We trust that we will see some Happy Dollars next time around to celebrate that big news.)

But for now, we leave you with our Best Wishes for a Blessed and Very Happy Thanksgiving. See you in December!



ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT



In case you haven't seen this photo yet, one of our members has been Out and About quite frequently this year - Traveling around far more than anyone would have ever expected. No, we are not talking about JIM SCHRODER and his legendary expeditions around the world. We are talking about President CHUCK WARD's gavel which somehow seems to keep escaping the grasp of our dear and far-too-trusting leader. The gavel's last known location: Just chilling in a cool hangout with a bunch of young turkeys all named "Diestel." Here's hoping that CHUCK and his chunk of wood might be reunited before the holidays are over!

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

November 24 – DARK for Thanksgiving

December 1 – Away Meeting at STAR THEATRE (402 N. Coast Highway) for Youth Performance

Pizza, Salad and Cookie lunch for \$20 – *Guests Welcome!*

Reporter: JIM SCHRODER

BRING GIFTS FOR WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER HOLIDAY EVENT

(A wish list for these gifts for moms was distributed earlier by email. Check with RENEE if you need another copy of this list.)

December 8 – SEASIDE SINGERS, Holiday concert

Reporter: LOLA SHERMAN

December 15 – Away Meeting at Mottino Family YMCA (4701 Mesa Drive)

Four Way Test essay contest and tour of facility

Reporter: DAVE SHORE

December 15 from 6 to 8:30 pm – Oceanside Rotary Club Christmas Party
DAVE and TERRI HALL's home (4285 Sunnyhill Drive, Carlsbad)
BYOB and Bring main dish or heavy hors d'oeuvres to share
Dessert and non alcoholic beverages provided
Children welcome!

December 22 & 29 – DARK for Christmas and New Year