



2021-2022

ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE

SHORELINES

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AJ Mazzarella & LJ Fimbres

October 22, 2021

The LOUD clang of our Rotary bell made a bunch of members' heads swivel toward the front. Could it be that our Co-President A.J. MAZZARELLA was actually wielding the actual gavel again (... finally)? Alas, no such luck. Our



leaders are still estranged from the long-lost "Indiana Gavel" who remains on the loose and on the road. (Rumor has it that he has been meeting up with even more Rotarians while on his sabbatical and that a new episode of "Gavel Travels" is already in the works.) No, it was not a gavel, but apparently a pen that was doing the striking – swung at such a high velocity (perhaps due to all of A.J.'s pent-up frustrations from being gavel-less for so danged long). At least Mr. MAZZARELLA exhibited a degree of self-awareness, as he ominously stated, "It's only going to get louder until we get the gavel back!"



The **PLEDGE** to our flag was led by JIM SCHRODER, followed by a fine **ROTARY MOMENT** from MIKE WESELOH, who told us how his pride in being a Rotarian showed up in a recent conversation with someone who was not planning to get the covid vaccine. MIKE engaged in a back and forth on this issue. "I have a different opinion because I'm a Rotarian." The person wondered what being

in Rotary had to do with this question. MIKE described how Rotary stepped up to take a leading role in combatting the scourge of polio through our Polio Plus inoculation program which has had a massively positive impact on the world. Polio is so very close to being completely eradicated – An accomplishment that Rotarians can take great pride in. "So, I look at vaccines differently," MIKE



concluded, and he hopes that this brief chat might encourage that man to talk with his doctor about getting the covid vaccine after all. Another example of the potential for Rotary to make a difference in the world, one kind interaction at a time.

CLUB UPDATES were delivered by a variety of voices.



First up, **TINA ORTIZ** was asked to remind us of the logistics for the Relay for Life event at MiraCosta College which was held the following day to raise funds and awareness for cancer treatment and research. We were invited to show up to support the walkers during the day and/or to see the moving luminaria light display at night.

DALE MAAS then chimed in to describe some of our upcoming service opportunities:

11/6 – Beach cleanup at Buccaneer Beach Park, starting at 10 am. DALE advertised it as a “chance to be outside in the fresh air with friends.” The actual cleanup activity is expected to take about 2 to 3 hours max, followed by a picnic in the park across the road.



11/12 – Before our regular meeting at the Country Club at noon, we are tasked to bring frozen turkeys to be donated to Brother Benno’s annual Thanksgiving meal for the homeless. (Instead of collecting them at the meeting, please make the short side trip to drop the birds off with Co-President L.J. FIMBRES at Oceanside Abbey Carpet (4001 Avenida de la Plata, Oceanside) sometime close to 11 am so that day so they can be delivered to Brother Benno’s before the meeting starts.



During the holidays, we will once again be collecting toys for the kids served by the Women's Resource Center and non-perishable food items for a food bank to be announced later. "The more we collect," DALE added, "the bigger impact we can make." Watch for an email from DALE with more details on what to collect and where and when to deliver it.

Wednesday, 11/24 – Volunteers needed to help Tricity Food Pantry's delivery of their Thanksgiving meals. Contact ROGER VANDERWERKEN or DALE MAAS for more info.



Saturday 12/4 – International Service: Baja House Building project. Our District is partnering with Project Mercy to build 6 houses for impoverished families in the rural area between Tecate and Tijuana. BRIAN LONG is hoping to drum up a team from our club to join in this hands-on service project through the Rotary "Work, Party, and Make a Difference" concept. You don't need to be skilled in construction to participate, although there is a strong need for skilled workers. Transportation will be provided by the District. There may be another opportunity for this in the Spring of 2022. Are you interested in taking part? (More details at: <https://rotary5340.org/event/district-5340-tecate-home-building/>)

Other Dates of Note:

11/18 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon. *Please Note: This meeting is on a THURSDAY, instead of the regular Friday timeslot*

12/10 – Regular meeting with a festive Holiday Music program

Saturday, 12/11 – Christmas Party at TERRI and DAVE HALL's home. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. BYOB - All you can eat Coal Fire Pizza and Salad made on site. \$25.00 Person. RSVP to Renee

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Joining ROGER VANDERWERKEN at one of the front tables were PETER KENNEDY – Executive Pastor at Breakwater Community Church (and "the brains behind the operation", also a former E-2 US Navy radio operator) and PABLO ACOSTA, our guest speaker for the day and Director of Tricity Food Pantry.



At one of the back tables CHUCK ROGERS, a real estate broker from



Carlsbad, was introduced by DAN WILSON – “He might be interested in joining our club ... and that’s all you need to know about him.”



Another back table seated ANDREW MOLNAR from Thailand, who had served as a District Membership Chair in 2014-15.

And at the middle table, ED PARISH was joined by his significant other ANNE SPERAW, former member of the San Luis Rey club and well-known citizen of Oceanside.



TOM BRAULT was invited to lead the Welcome Song, and he took special pains to make sure that everyone was warmed up to the proper starting note for the tune so we wouldn’t end up starting the song in eleven different keys, as has happened at some meetings. Then he begged the indulgence of our president to add one more song to the day’s repertoire: Being so close to Halloween, he drafted everyone else to be the “Cryptkicker Five” backup singers on the first verse of “The Monster Mash”, complete with some minimal choreography.

PRESIDENTS’ STUFF

Co-President A.J. reminded us that BRIAN LONG is still looking for volunteers to help out at the Oceanside Ironman competition on October 30. Then A.J. asked RENEE RICHARDSON to give us the details on the ongoing Fall Fundraiser in which ANCHISA FARRANT is creating and selling decorated pumpkins for the holidays. Two of the smaller examples were marched around the patio by ANCHISA herself and sold for \$20 each. Overall, she is trying to reach \$500 in sales and so far, she has collected almost \$400 toward that goal. Great work, ANCHISA!!



***Cue The Beatles: “(da da da da da da) YOU SAY IT’S YOUR BIRTHDAY
(da da da da da da)”***

Catching up on our October celebrants:

Not present to be spotlighted was SHOR DENNY, but DAN WILSON was in attendance and glad to round up his contribution for his big day to \$60. ED PARISH, as he pulled \$82 cash out of his wallet, was quick to note that “I’m not as old as BOB



PICKREL. Give me a break!” And we kindly did not fine our guest PETER KENNEDY, but we still paid tribute to his October birthday nonetheless. Co-President A.J. then immediately transitioned to



HAPPY DOLLARS

JIM SCHRODER’s hand shot up the fastest, as he was so very “happy to be back amongst the living” after his recent bout with covid. Even though he had been vaccinated, he woke up coughing one day. He didn’t lose any taste of smell, but was pleased to note that he DID lose some pounds during that time of illness. He thanked “Doctor ANCHISA” for bringing over ginger and spices to help nurse him back to health and he mentioned some family members who have now gotten covid for the second time. JIM absolutely encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and boosted, knowing that his experience could have been SO much worse had he not gotten the shots. All this was followed up with a \$100 donation to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation.



VICKIE PROSSER was practically glowing as she gave \$20 to exult that next Thursday, she would be going up to Boise to see grandkids for the first time in two years ...



TOM BRAULT had \$5 for two theater-related experiences: 1) The joy of seeing his daughter GERILYN’s friend play the title role of Alexander Hamilton in the touring production of *Hamilton* in Phoenix. (GERILYN and EDRED had both performed in their first professional acting jobs together back



in the day.) And 2) speaking of GERILYN, TOM was proud to announce that she finally got the call from Sea World that they want her back for her fifth year as “Mrs. Claus” for their Christmas season. She loves being a part of that magic!



TERRI HALL also gave \$5, happy that JIM is back at our meetings. Knowing that he was really looking forward to his trip that had been planned to Tunisia, she went online and got him an “e-Ticket to

Carthage Land.” (Sadly, JIM’s trip has been moved for the FIFTH time, and he is now scheduled to be there next March.)



Speaking of traveling, BILL DERN was \$20 happy that he will be visiting some of his kids in England for two months. Much like VICKIE, he hasn’t seen some of his grandkids there for two years. BILL then added another \$2 to make a “point or order” – Our Co-President had failed to ask the songmeister to lead a Happy Birthday song. “RANDY MITCHELL would have fined you on

the spot!” BILL gladly led the song, with TOM BRAULT serving as his percussionist, melodically and rhythmically clinking glasses of water and tea with his pen.

NANCY RUSSIAN had a BUNCH of \$20 Happy Dollar items: \$20 pleased with her recent RV travels. \$20 happy to see JIM back. \$20 happy to see guest ANDREW MOLNAR after so long. \$20 for her husband LUIS’s birthday. And \$20 worth of relief ... assuming that L.J. and his crew will get their home flooring done soon. Adding up to a grand total of \$100, I guess that means that NANCY was really, really happy overall!



The aforementioned ANDREW MOLNAR was \$5 impressed that “NANCY remembered me from 100 years ago!”



And finally, our visitor PETER KENNEDY was \$5 happy to be there supporting Tricity Pantry.

TIME FOR OUR PROGRAM



ROGER VANDERWERKEN was quite obviously proud to introduce our guest speaker (who also happens to be a deacon at his Breakwater Community Church). PABLO ACOSTA, who ROGER described as “having a passion for helping with food insecurity issues in North County” is the Director of the Tricity Pantry, which is a brand new 501-c-3 non-profit in town. Their first food deliveries were in March of 2021 and their non-profit status kicked in in July.

They are a mobile food pantry that is looking for a permanent home. Their mission is to deliver food items and spiritual support to needy families, with the distributions generally taking place on several local school campuses (such as Foothill Oak Elem, Hannalei Elem, Surfside Academy, etc.) on a bi-weekly basis. At the last board meeting of the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation, we donated \$3,000 to their Thanksgiving meal drive. (The boxes that we will provide will have the Rotary logo on it, so that the recipient families will know that Rotary cares.)



PABLO at this point came up to the mic and “switched his hat to business mode”, turning his ballcap brim toward the back. He modestly noted, “I didn’t start anything myself. I just said, ‘I’ll do it!’” and other people stepped up to help. Right on cue, a clipboard was passed around so we, too, could step up to volunteer – in this case, to deliver hot turkey meals on Wednesday, November 24.

The pantry has developed contacts in the food industry that allows them to purchase food at significant discounts to the regular store prices. PABLO estimates that he can get many items for about 10 cents per pound, which means that just \$10 can feed a whole family – “If you can find it cheaper than that, let me know!” With this monetary advantage, a donation of \$80 to provide for a family for a week actually can translate to \$200 worth of food received. But he assures us that the frozen meats and fresh fruits and veggies that they give out are all of great quality. “If I wouldn’t eat it, we don’t give it!”

Their policy has always been that “food is a demonstration of love” and there are no requirements to be eligible to receive it. “I’ll seat anyone. If they come, they’ll get a meal.” He was proud to note that, even through the lockdowns, they still were able to make arrangements to continue to give out food and that their organization and its capacity are continuing to grow and expand.

The bagging is done in a warehouse in Vista which is affiliated with a local church. Over time, the Pantry has also made connections to become a diaper hub distribution center. “We have plenty of food,” PABLO asserted. “Our challenge is how to get it distributed.”

As part of their expansion of services in the area, they will be working with a local 55 + mobile home park to help with their food needs. At this point, PABLO opened up to questions and comments.

JANET BLEDSOE LACY congratulated the pantry for their continuing service to the community in the face of the challenge of food prices rising so steeply in the past couple of months. This makes their job harder, and even more important to the community ... RENEE RICHARDSON touched base with PABLO to make sure that he could get access to the latest, most current version of the Rotary logo to use on our boxes JIM SCHRODER asked if they see the same families week after week? And, if so, does that seem to make families dependent on this service? PABLO responded that some individuals do appear to show up repeatedly, but others will honestly say to the workers, “I don’t need it this week. Give it to someone else.” But in general, they don’t keep track of their distributions at this level. They give to who asks, and they generally serve 50 to 60 families at each of their distribution sites.

TINA ORTIZ noted, “A lot of organizations hold food drives only during the holidays, but you are year-round. Do you see a seasonal difference in the needs of the families?” PABLO answered that the need is always there. Many people are living paycheck to paycheck and often are just one check away from being homeless ... Guest PETER KENNEDY asked PABLO to tell us about the “emancipated teenagers” that they serve. This refers to younger individuals who have broken away from troubling family situations, many of whom are placed into what we used to call “remedial schools” – a last chance place for individuals who have been in trouble. PABLO says that they look for creative ways to help these teens, for example, giving out backpacks full of food to them and trying to keep them from being singled out for needing this type of assistance TERRI HALL

agreed that in her earlier work she, too, saw many individuals who were one illness away from being on the street. She and DAVE have other commitments on November 24 (the day that the Pantry is asking for volunteers), but they each donated \$20 to the organization and encouraged others of us to kick in cash contributions as well.

In wrapping up the program, A.J. reiterated that “Feeding folks is important, but bringing smiles to their faces like your group does is also important.” He gave our gift of appreciation from the club – One of ANCHISA’s decorated pumpkins. On seeing it, PABLO gushed, “You have made my wife very happy!”



For the **OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**, the last 3 numbers on the ticket were “661” ... A.J. was quick to note that (on this day with so many guests from the church present) “666 today would not have been acceptable.” Turns out that ticket “661” was in the possession of DAVE HALL, who drew the eight of spades and promptly gave his \$10 consolation prize back to the club.



At that, A.J. tried to whack the bell just as hard with his pen as when he started the meeting, but he must not have had the same level of windup (or perhaps he lacked the same level of “pent-up gavel-less frustration” ... *See the first paragraph*), and the clang was significantly less reverberant. Which brings up this reminder: Don’t expect to see the gavel back, J-Boys, until some form of acceptable repentance or remorse is demonstrated. In the meantime, be on the lookout for Indiana Gavel’s latest escapades!

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Saturday, October 30 – Ironman 70.3 Oceanside. Check with **BRIAN LONG** about the details for this event – *Volunteers needed for Thursday, October 28*

Saturday, November 6 – Buccaneer Beach Cleanup event (at S Pacific Street and Morse Street) Meet at 10 am. Work for 2 to 3 hours, then stick around for a B.Y.O. picnic lunch with the gang

Friday, November 12 – Regular meeting on the patio at El Camino CC.

Bring a frozen turkey over to L.J. FIMBRES at Oceanside Abbey Carpet (4001 Avenida de la Plata, Oceanside) by 11 am that day so they can be delivered before the meeting to Brother Benno's to be a centerpiece of their Thanksgiving meal for the homeless

THURSDAY, November 18 – Rotary Board meeting on Zoom at Noon

Wednesday, November 24 – Volunteers needed to help TriCity Food Pantry's prep for and deliver their Thanksgiving meals. Contact ROGER VANDERWERKEN or DALE MAAS for more info

Saturday, December 4 – District 5340's Baja House Building project

<https://rotary5340.org/event/district-5340-tecate-home-building/>

Friday, December 10 – Regular meeting, highlighted by Holiday music

Saturday, December 11 – Christmas Party at TERRI and DAVE HALL's home.

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. BYOB - All you can eat Coal Fire Pizza and Salad made on site. \$25.00 Person. RSVP to Renee