



2021-2022

ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE

SHORELINES

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CO-PRESIDENTS
AJ Mazzarella & LJ Fimbres

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

PRESIDENT A.J. MAZZARELLA called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. with a weak bell chime. (The Gavel is in the Wind)



HOWEVER...

Today we are at an away meeting. What a beautiful location, in the beautiful courtyard, with our host ROGER VANDERWERKEN at the Breakwater Church, 506 S. Nevada in Oceanside. A beautiful afternoon outside in the garden.



For me (JIM SCHRODER, the Shorelines writer this week) it is quite nostalgic for I grew up in this neighborhood, one block to the North on Clementine Street, the next street above Nevada. Across the street from the church, on Nevada Street, and down 4 houses once stood Nevada Street Elementary School where I attended First, Second and Third Grade. Now homes sit where the school once stood. I walked these streets and rode bicycles up and down these streets with friends for years. Ahhhhhhh ... memories.

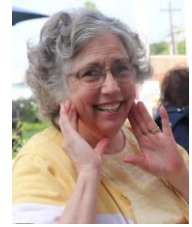
Enough nostalgia.



PRESIDENT A.J. MAZZARELLA thanked ROGER VANDERWERKEN for his hospitality today. Our President thanked PAST PRESIDENT and SECRETARY RENEE RICHARDSON for making the arrangements for today's taco bar catered by Oceanside



Kitchen Collaborative and also for her donation of the salad and the delicious cookies. He also thanked JANET BLEDSOE LACY for providing the individual chips, salsa, and guacamole. Everything was delicious. A nice change for all of us.



THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by our host ROGER VANDERWERKEN.



THE ROTARY MOMENT was given by PAST PRESIDENT TERRI HALL.

"I really didn't know anything about Rotary, though I had heard it referenced on TV shows occasionally. Like when the neighbor was at a Rotary meeting or the best people in town were Rotarians. In 1989 when women were welcomed in Rotary internationally, I took notice. I was CEO of a not-for-profit organization and had a volunteer board of directors, many of whom were in the local Rotary Club. I was aware, as one of the few women leaders in the community of Ridgecrest, that my peers - mostly men - were Rotarians. As women were eligible for Rotary membership, I brought it up to my board President, who jumped at the idea, though he NEVER considered it on his own. He and a small group asked me out for a fireside chat and talked about Rotary, its local and international impact and even talked about Paul Harris fellow. I do not remember anyone mentioning that he was one of the organization's founders and all they could verbalize was, "PHF is an honor." I was honored with my first PHF from a Rotarian and his "Rotary Ann" for my work in the community. I now have 13 ... I don't know ... a bunch!



I became a member and remember I was one of only three women in the Club. There were two tables in the back with the "old guard" who got to the meeting 30 minutes early, drank Whisky and Scotch and told dirty jokes. I gave them a wide berth. Over the next year, most of them left the Club and the membership grew and more women were added. Our community involvement was varied, helping the local schools, providing \$25,000 - \$30,000 in scholarships per year and having involvement with local elections and events. We had a booth at the local fair and were recognized as a vital community asset.

I had read about a Club in Bakersfield that had an Ethics Conference for high school juniors and after investigating, I proposed it to our Club. I had my not-for-profit co-sponsor so my staff did conferences and I re-created it with the Oceanside Rotary Club and we successfully held it in 2008 with three schools. District 5340 then began working with middle schoolers with the LEAD program and we didn't have another Ethics event.

Wherever we traveled we tried to attend a Rotary meeting: Las Vegas, Lahaina Maui, Pukalani Maui, England and Ireland. In England the club had no women members and when I left, one member said, "Next time, bring your husband." In Ireland, two minutes before the meeting started, the President invited me to do the Prayer. That was surprise!

Working with two Clubs in India in 2010, Oceanside Rotary provided 400 sewing machines to women to start a business to support their family. This was my first international project and local district 5340 was very proud to publicize this.



I've been a Rotarian for 30 years this November and am so proud to be a part of that nerdy group of stalwart citizens that feed families, educate children, build homes, fix teeth, provide safe drinking water and vaccinate the world to prevent crippling diseases and allow others to live and grow without suffering. I'm proud to be a ROTARIAN!"

CLUB UPDATES:

10/8 - Next Regular Meeting El Camino Country Club on the Patio

10/21 - District's Membership Social, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Agua Hedionda Discovery Center – 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad - \$25.00 a person

10/15 - Board Meeting – Zoom at Noon

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 11th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Party at TERRI and DAVE HALL's home.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS



TERRI HALL introduced Kimberly Davis – owner of an Engineering Company

ED PARISH introduced Anne Speraw, former President of the San Luis Rey Rotary Club





TINA ORTIZ introduced her daughter Brianna Ortiz who works for the City of Oceanside

DAVE HALL introduced Rudy Van Hunnick



PAST PRESIDENT TOM BRAULT led us in the infamous “Welcome to Oceanside” song which he (sort of) dedicated to Rudy Van Hunnick today. Since TOM was singing so far in the back and therefore couldn’t be heard too very well in the wide-open spaces of the church courtyard, a few varied keys were heard among the Rotarians.

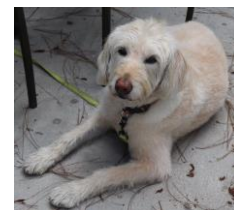


PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT A.J. Called on RENEE RICHARDSON for a presentation. RENEE asked BRIAN LONG to stand and come forward. BRIAN first stood and introduced his special four-legged



guest June Carter, a Labradoodle dog. They were headed later today to a Love on a Leash Program. BRIAN then came forward to the microphone whereby RENEE surprised BRIAN with a PAUL HARRIS FELLOW award. In recognition of his accumulated donations (plus some additional funding from the Oceanside Rotary Club’s credits), it was a pleasure for us to present BRIAN with the prestigious award.



BRIAN thanked everyone and asked for a minute of time. BRIAN asked everyone to check their calendars for *Thursday October 28th 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.* to help with the upcoming Ironman 70.3 taking place on Saturday October 30th at the Oceanside Harbor and surrounding areas. BRIAN is seeking volunteers to help with check in of participants’ bicycles on the 28th and help direct traffic at the north side of the Bridge at the Harbor to keep traffic out of the area. Please see BRIAN if you can help.



RENEE, full of surprises today, asked LOLA SHERMAN to come to the podium and receive her PAUL HARRIS FELLOW PLUS ONE award. With her diligent and regular contributions to the Foundation, LOLA earned this level all on her own. CONGRATULATIONS to both LOLA and BRIAN.



RENEE also had received an email from the Rotary Club of San Dimas. On October 23 their club is hosting a charity hockey game at the Toyota Arena in Ontario, CA. Making Spirits Bright is a project of the Diamond Bar Women's Club Military Outreach Program. The San Dimas Rotary club is also part of this project assisting in providing Christmas gifts to enlisted Marine Corps families at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms Marine Corps Bases, and with our local Marines connection, she thought we might want to get involved. Contact RENEE for more information on this item.

HAPPY DOLLARS

BOB PICKREL ... \$20 Happy to have read an article in the business section of the paper: "Taxis Sidelined By Virus Get Rooftop Miniature Gardens." Taxi fleets in Thailand are giving new meaning to the term "rooftop garden" as they utilize the roofs of cabs idled by the coronavirus crisis to serve as small vegetable plots. (The combination of the Thailand location and the use of decorative plants made BOB immediately think of our ANCHISA FARRANT!)



TERRI HALL ... \$5 Happy that Kimberly Davis is visiting our club again. TERRI also mentioned that her youngest grandson Julian, who lives in Truckee, says that he wants to play for the NFL one day. He currently is playing starting quarterback for his school's football team. But TERRI (a little nervous for his future health) asked us to pray for her Julian that he might change his mind on the NFL. Good luck, TERRI. I think he shares the HALL determination to see his goals through in the future. We know she will be proud of him, whatever he chooses.





LYN CORDER ... \$5 Happy Her grandson was in the Peace Corps and she recently read that the Peace Corps is still going strong today.

JAY CRAWFORD ... \$5 Happy that the streets near him are finally drivable after a long time of repairs and resurfacing.



JANET BLEDSOE LACY ... \$10 Happy to report that finally the San Diego County Bar Association was able to meet in person again. Six members of the Bar Association were honored and two of those honorees were members of the OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB. LESLY ADAMS was honored and announced to everyone that night that she is now Cancer Free. That is wonderful news,

on both counts! JANET BLEDSOE LACY herself, now retired, was also honored at this event.



MELLISA RODRIGUEZ ... \$10 Happy for both honorees from our Club - LESLY and JANET – for their well-deserved recognition from the Bar Association.



MIKE WESELOH ... \$100 Happy that his 6th grandchild was born at 1:05 pm *during today's Rotary meeting*. Alana Blake Weseloh, 8 pounds 7 ½ ounces, 19 ½ inches long.

Congratulations to MIKE and Laurie, son Matt and wife Christy. I think this is becoming a tradition for MIKE. This is the 3rd grandchild for MIKE born DURING A FRIDAY ROTARY MEETING. I was seated next to him a few years ago when he leaned over and said to me during the meeting, “I

have just become a grandfather and during our Rotary meeting.”

A previous one, also on a Friday Rotary Day, MIKE was on his way to the airport, could not make it to our meeting because he was flying out to officiate at a college football game, and he was able to stop at the hospital and see his latest arrival then. I would say this is really good programming for the WESELOH Family. I can just hear MIKE'S dad BEN WESELOH (PAST PRESIDENT OF THE OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB in 1962 and MEMBER for many years) who would have chimed in with, “That's **MY** WESELOH Family”!!



RUDY VAN HUNNICK ... \$50 Happy to be seated next to both of our Christmas Party hosts, TERRI and DAVE HALL. Good choice in tablemates, Rudy!



A FESTIVE FUNDRAISER



RENEE brought forward a sample pumpkin, beautifully topped with succulents, as an example of the fundraiser items which ANCHISA makes and donates as a fundraiser for our club. These make great centerpieces for the upcoming holidays and/or wonderful gifts for family and friends! The delightful and long-lasting decorations range in price from \$25 to \$35, based on the pumpkin size. Today's version

was snapped up by JANET BLEDSOE LACY for the amazing price of just \$25. ANCHISA described part of her design and assembly process, and she donates not only her time, but also all of the costs for the materials, so the full price that you pay goes straight to our club! If you are interested in adding one of these pretty, pretty pumpkins to your holidays, call RENEE to place an order. And Thank You ANCHISA for your hard work and dedication raising money for the OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB.



INTRODUCTION OF TODAY'S SPEAKER - JANET

BLEDSOE LACY introduced TINA ORTIZ, born and raised in Oceanside, California. Past President of the SAN LUIS REY ROTARY CLUB in 1994, and currently a member of our club. A proud product of the Oceanside Unified School District and graduate of OCEANSIDE HIGH SCHOOL. Logistics and Marketing Coordinator for Tierra Data in Oceanside, CA. Proud mother of her daughter Brianna.

TINA was honored to be speaking to us today on behalf of the American Cancer Society (ACS) as a Voice of Hope. What is a Voice of Hope? Well, according to the Voice of Hope website they are: "empowered cancer survivors and caregivers who share their personal stories of their cancer journey while inspiring others to support the mission of the American Cancer Society." The American Cancer Society's



mission is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.

She was nominated and selected as a Voice of Hope in 2015 after speaking at the Oceanside Relay for Life Luminaria ceremony in 2014 - an honor that she never expected to be given. Over the years as a Voice of Hope, she has spoken at local Relay Luminaria Ceremonies, Survivor Celebrations and ACS conferences, as well as giving presentations to local organizations and businesses.

TINA told us the history behind the Relay for Life, which began in May 1985 when colorectal surgeon, Dr. Gordy Klatt, wanted to raise awareness of cancer and boost the income of his local cancer charity. He spent twenty-four hours walking a track in Tacoma, Washington, and raised over \$27,000, showing that one person really can make a difference. Since then, Relay has become the largest fundraising event for cancer in the world...celebrated by more than 4 million people in over 20 countries.

In 2001, seven people came together and walked the first local Relay for Life laps. This group set a goal of \$27,000 to match the amount raised by Dr. Gordy Klatt in 1985. This dedicated group walked the track at CSUSM and raised \$23,000. The following year, the event was moved to MiraCosta College and raised \$25,000 and in 2003, they successfully hit their initial goal of \$27,000 raised! The event has continued to grow and this year will be celebrating the 21st Relay in Oceanside and the 20th year at Mira Costa College. In total, the Oceanside community has come together at these Relays and raised over \$1.7 million dollars for the fight against cancer. Pre-covid, this local event had over 35 teams, almost 100 survivors, and close to 600 participants.



TINA then described her personal path to becoming involved in the Relay for Life project. In 2001, when those first steps were taken around the track of CSU San Marcos, she was taking her first steps on another journey. It was a journey that began on December 29, 1999. "That was the day the 'C' word was said to us. I say 'US' because I am not the cancer survivor...I am a caregiver who walked alongside a cancer fighter...my husband, Gabriel."

Gabriel was 54 when he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. He was active, played soccer and swam with daughter, Brianna. Gabriel had a positive outlook on

life and could always be heard laughing. But as we all know, cancer is not selective.

TINA still remembers that diagnosis day so clearly and to this day, she does not know if anything can prepare you for hearing that word applied to yourself or to a loved one. In the Ortiz's case, they had just returned from funeral services for her mother-in-law who passed away after her own short 3-month battle against colon cancer. "We had celebrated Brianna's 8th birthday. We had celebrated Christmas with the family. We were getting ready for New Year's...People were talking Y2K and we were asking, 'Why us?'"

This was just the beginning of their cancer journey - not an easy journey for any of them.... There were surgeries (including one for a colostomy bag), rounds of chemo, radiation, hospital stays.... all while TINA was working full-time and keeping Brianna involved in school and extracurricular activities. It was a crazy 6 months, but the treatments worked and Gabriel was a survivor! He returned to work... He started practicing soccer with Brianna and he started swimming again! Life was good.

Until a year later, when signs of concern called for more appointments. The cancer had returned and the terrible cycle began again. This time it was too much for his body and after 1 ½ years...on the day after Father's Day ... his body slept. Brianna was just 9 years old and TINA was now a single mom. It was at that moment when she began to realize the toll that being a caregiver had taken on her. She had thought she could do it all..., but after her husband passed away, she was lost. "I was going through the motions of being a single mom, doing my best to keep Brianna positive and involved. My husband's birthday and our anniversary were hard days...I found myself taking the days off so I wouldn't cry at work...but then I ended up crying alone at home."

In 2003, two years after Gabriel passed away, TINA was reading the paper and saw a volunteer opportunity for the American Cancer Society - delivering daffodils on Daffodil Day - which happened to be on Gabriel's birthday. So, in memory of him, she signed up and delivered flowers throughout the county.

"It was the following year when we lit our first luminaria bags and walked that first lap remembering my husband at the Oceanside Relay for Life." She and Brianna walked in silence, holding on to each other as they looked for the bag with the name.... Gabriel Ortiz. "We found his bag. It



wasn't easy for me to see it through my tear-filled eyes, but the smile on Brianna's face as she saw it lit so brightly was all I needed to see. In a surreal way, it was very comforting. We knew that night that we would be back the next year with our own team...What I didn't know was how passionate I would become about Relay."

So, in 2004, they started their own team, Gabriel's Gang, which grew each year as more friends joined to walk laps around the track. Even after Brianna headed off to college, it was so important to her that she would come home for each Relay weekend, except the year when she studied abroad. That year, TINA became involved with the committee in anticipation of no longer leading a team of her own. Well, that didn't play out like she had thought because, as it turns out, high school friends wanted to participate to honor their moms, dads and spouses, so Gabriel's' Gang grew even larger that year PLUS she also did the committee work!

Over the years, Gabriel's Gang has raised over \$76,000! Family teams sell luminaria bags with personalized notes, drawings, and pictures (like the ones we saw displayed on our tables), reach out to family, friends & our employers for donations/sponsorships; and do separate team fundraisers like yard sales & business give back night's partnerships. TINA plans to organize a footgolf tournament as a fundraiser for her team.

When she was first asked to speak at the Luminaria Ceremony in 2014, TINA was hesitant because she had never used any American Cancer Services herself and didn't know what to say. A staff partner simply encouraged her to "tell your story. I know there is one." So, she described the commitment which she and Gabriel had made to each other that they were going to fight with everything they had and weren't going to let cancer get in the way of living. Part of their fight was to make some good memories...And they did! She told of how friends and family had been so helpful to them through it all. And she admitted in her speech how very scared she was.

"I remember thinking how can this be happening to us? What am I going to do? Will I be strong enough to help him get through this? What about my little girl? How do we tell everyone?"

Ultimately, "we did all we could to stay positive and we did...until we couldn't." When the cancer metastasized and came back, they spent many weeks in the hospital due to his weak immune system. Calls and visits from friends had to be limited. "He tried, but he had just enough energy for me and Brianna...He was trying to take care of us until the very end."

Many of these emotions and thoughts had never been shared by TINA until the night she spoke at the Luminaria Ceremony. “I realized that night that I was not the only caregiver who felt alone...there were others like me, and Relay was giving me a chance to let them know they are not alone.”

Through her work with the committee and as a Voice of Hope, TINA learned more about the Relay event and about the services provided by the American Cancer Society. ACS receives over 1.4 million calls and chats to trained specialists on a 24-hour hotline. There are over 32 million visits to cancer.org, the ACS website. ACS provides accommodations, financial assistance, insurance navigation and rides to appointments. ACS provides funding for cancer research grants and there are currently 19 grants in SD County totaling almost \$10 million. This research ranges from cell & molecular studies to colorectal cancer screening strategies. Drugs for metastatic colon cancer that were in clinical trials in the early 2000’s are now being manufactured, including one here in Oceanside at Genentech. TINA has seen the benefits of these discoveries directly, as friends are being treated with new immunotherapies and their cancer tumors are shrinking. Research has taught us that diet and exercise reduce our cancer risks, especially with colon cancer...a cancer that is known to be genetic. (In Gabriel’s family, there are 4 generations with colon cancer.... Mother-in-Law, Grandmother, a Niece and Gabriel.)

At each table, TINA had placed handouts describing ACS services and business cards with contact numbers for support groups which she wished she had known about while her family was riding the emotional roller coaster of diagnosis and treatment. “Take a card with you,” she told us. “You never know when you may need to share the information.”

Last year was a difficult time for ACS as Relays were cancelled and donations declined. The program offering rides to appointments was temporarily suspended and ACS reorganized to ensure services were funded. Due to current safety concerns this year, they anticipate that their numbers may be lower, but their passion remains high.

“I never thought one word would change my life so drastically...but the ‘C’ word has an incredible impact and so Relay is the continuation of my journey and the sharing of my story is a big part of it. When I see a post on social media or hear from a friend that they or a loved one have been diagnosed with cancer, I can’t help but say a prayer for the journey they are about to begin. I reach out to let them know they are not alone.... I’ve walked a similar path.”

“I will continue to walk not only for my husband but for my daughter and future generations, so they never hear the word and, if they do, it’s not so scary. I will walk so others can celebrate more birthdays, more holidays...So more dads can walk their little girls down the aisle. I will walk so other caregivers are not alone. I really want to see a cure in my lifetime.”

“I know that together we can fight this...We volunteer, we donate, we walk, we share our stories. We do this together. So, on behalf of the American Cancer Society, as a Voice of Hope, a fellow Rotarian and more importantly, as a friend, I invite you to come walk with me at this year’s event and if possible, make a donation to help with the fight.”

RELAY FOR LIFE OF OCEANSIDE

Saturday, October 23

10:00 A.M. – 10 P.M.

Mira Costa College

1 Barnard Dr. Oceanside, CA 92056

Register below:

www.relayforlife.org/oceanside

Contact Tina Ortiz

760-717-3983 ortiz.tinar@gmail.com



PRESIDENT A.J. acknowledged that his eyes somehow had become a bit damp, and he thanked TINA for her very personal and very moving presentation today. Then he presented her with one of ANCHISA’S beautiful succulent arrangements which she so proudly makes for each of our speakers throughout the year.



A.J. wrapped up our meeting by thanking everyone for coming today, with special thanks to ROGER VANDERWERKEN for the hospitality today in the courtyard of his church.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

MIKE CURTIN sent in a few pics of his time serving as a volunteer for Main Street Oceanside, representing Rotary and serving beer at the Supergirl Pro Surf Contest the previous weekend. (Inquiring minds wanted to know if MIKE felt the need to take some periodic sample tastes of the brew himself, just to ensure its safety and for quality control purposes. But MIKE assured us, “*You know.... for the first time EVER, I didn't DILIGENTLY maintain a quality control program throughout the day. I walked away without a drop hitting my palate.....which is SHOCKING!!!*”))



NANCY RUSSIAN did not submit any photos to accompany this travel tale, but she did let us in on an interesting string of texts she was a part of on her way out of town on Thursday for a trip to Oregon:

BILL DERN: Nancy ... Were you on I-5 heading north in Glendale area around 10:30 this morning? Passed a large motor home pulling a small car with the Rotary magnet on the rear bumper.

TERRI HALL: If it is she, we gave her the magnet! Cool!

NANCY RUSSIAN: That's us!! Where are you?

BD: Getting back on Freeway at Laval

NR: And it's the magnet Terri and Dave gave us

BD: Fun. Where are you heading?

NR: Where else....

RENEE RICHARDSON: Time to deal with Aunt issues I take it!

BD: Fresno?

NR: Yes Fresno. Going to see my cousins and visit my aunt's friends. Then on to Oregon to visit my stepsister and family. We are going to meet them at their vacation home on the river in Tidewater. Luis will fish with my brother-in-law

BD: Safe travels

TH: Drive safely everyone!

Yes, indeed. A real time recap of “Rotarians Out and About”
... and apparently texting while driving!?!? Tsk, tsk, tsk.
(We will hope and assume that both BILL and NANCY
were in the passenger seat at the time!)



Later, we received an update on BILL DERN's trip. Turns out that it was kind of a
“mixed bag” of good and bad, both on the road and after his return home. We'll let
BILL's words and photos tell the story....

“The good.... Golf with my brother. Celebrating sister's birthday



*The bad...Brother backed golf cart over my favorite club...Rock on I-5 hit
window on way home...Garage door opener pulled out of wall in garage....
Afraid to see what happens when I come home from England? 😞😬”*



Fingers crossed for your future travels, BILL!

SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR SOCIAL EVENING

The following photos from the Rotary Social held at the Bagby Beer Company brewpub in Oceanside on Wednesday, September 15 just missed being included in our last edition of Shorelines. Take a peek at the good food and the good times that you missed if you didn't attend this evening, including a special appearance by "Mister Snugglepants"!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, October 8 – Regular meeting at Noon at El Camino Country Club patio

Friday, October 15 – Board meeting on Zoom at Noon

Thursday, October 21 – District Membership Social – 6 to 8 pm – Agua Hedionda

Discovery Center – 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad - \$25.00 a person. Info and registration will be available at District website calendar (*NOTE: Because of this special District event, we will NOT be holding our own club's regular social evening in October. You are encouraged to attend this District social to meet and mingle with other area club's Rotarians.*)

Friday, October 22 – Regular meeting at Noon – El Camino C.C.

Saturday, October 23 – "Relay for Life" American Cancer Society event at Mira Costa College. Starts at 10:00am

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

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 11 – Christmas Party