



# **ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla**

## ***News Bulletin***

*01.21.25*

**Coming in two weeks, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Deacon  
Jim Vargas  
President/CEO of Father Joe's Villages: on  
Homelessness in San Diego.**



**President and CEO, Deacon Jim Vargas, OFS**, oversees all facets of Father Joe's Villages, the largest homeless services provider in Southern California.

He brings 40 years of broad management and human resources experience to Father Joe's. Prior to his work there, he oversaw Human Resources operations for 5,000 employees across a chain of newspapers of The **Copley Press, Inc.**, with news bureaus in multiple U.S. locations and Mexico. He also served in various director and vice president positions of Human Resources at **Citicorp/Citibank**.

He holds degrees from **New York University**. Currently he is Secretary on the Board of the Regional Continuum of Care on Homelessness in San Diego, a member of the Board of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, and The San Diego County Taxpayers Association. He is the past Chair of the Board of Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego Foundation, founding chair of Epiphany Prep Charter School of San Diego, and is past Chair of Casa Cornelia Law Center.

As Deacon, He serves the community of **Mary, Star of the Sea in La Jolla**. He lives in La Jolla with his wife and has three adult children.

**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on February 4th, [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)**

### **Highlights from last week's Meeting:**



President and Past President, but still one man, our beloved **Bob Teaff** opened the meeting at 12:30 PM

**Orrin Gabsch** offered the following inspirations.

*“Freedom consists not in doing what we liked, but in having the right to do what we ought”* Pope John Paul II

*“You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you”.* John Wooden



**Orrin** then led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance



The two tenors, **Sid Stutz** and **Pat Stouffer** surprised us all by leading the club in a rousing edition of **“America the Beautiful”**.



## Visiting Rotarians



**Chris Romero**, a Rotarian from the **Mission Valley Rotary Club** spoke to the club of a new Rotary sponsored meal packing event to assist in the **LA Fire Recovery**. This worthwhile community service event will be held at the Torrey Pines Christian Church on Saturday, February 5, between 9 and 11.

## Happy Bucks \$\$\$

**Penny Shurtleff** announced she and her sweetie, Gordon recently celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She offered **\$55.00** in Happy Bucks.

**David Weston** announced his old friend of 58 years, **Bill Meanley** bet him his **La Jolla High School** letterman's Jacket would no longer fit him.... and so, in the cold light of our meeting room, with a flourish, and (a bit of huffing and puffing) Dave proved him wrong and that happy moment was worth **\$200.00**. Bill Meanley agreed and chipped in an additional **\$200.00**.



**Bill Boehm** offered **\$20.00** of happiness announcing that he had recently attended a concert at St James by the Sea to hear the the **Yale Whiffenpoofs**, and that their singing had been sublime.

## Auction Item

**Lance Bridges** announced that he and **Natascha** had been on the other side of the world, Japan specifically, and had brought back items for auction: an amulet to give you a 'peaceful mind" and a bottle of Sake' to nail the deal. Bidding tore off at a reckless pace, with the final and winning bid of **\$50** going to **David Brockett**.



**Vince Glorioso** introduced the club to **Nil Saric** a Rotarian from Rockville, Maryland, who has moved to La Jolla and is interested in joining our club. This is her second time attending our meetings.



# Our Guest Speaker, last Week. Vice Principal of La Jolla High, Joe Cavaiola

**Natascha Vossen**, who has worked as a counselor at La Jolla High for years, proudly introduced her colleague, LJHS Vice-Principal **Joe Cavaiola**. stating she has worked with him for many years and as so many at La Jolla High, deeply admires his many talents including is his extraordinary ability to connect with the students.



Natascha brought him to our club today because she wanted us to understand the financial challenges La Jolla High currently faces, and why our Community Service Committee has started a program of mini grants for the teachers this year and likely next.

Joe, or “Cav” began by telling us about himself, his family history, his upbringing by parents who were educators, and his current family, his two teens, and his wife an endocrinologist he met when he attended college at UC Santa Barbara.

Cav has worked at La Jolla High his entire 22-year career. He began as a coach for water polo & volleyball and eventually moving into academic subjects and then overseeing the ASB. In 2018 he was elevated to Assistant Vice Principal.

In his talk to us, he told us both the good and bad of La Jolla High today.

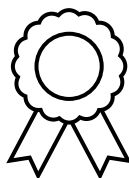
Happily, the good is that today the students are continuing to achieve in spite of numerous challenges to the school financially. The school has over 100 student clubs, and 28 Varsity Teams. It continues to make sure all students can attend school activities such as the school prom and other school events in spite of family financial challenges. 84 percent of those graduating go on to attend college, many being admitted into very good schools.

The bad is, unlike every public high school in San Diego save one, La Jolla High receives no Title 1 Funding<sup>1</sup>, although 30% of their students are Title 1 students. Second, in 2000 student enrollment hemorrhaged primarily from problems of having to close public schools during Covid. Rather than leaving their children idle and not learning for that long period, parents chose to enroll their children in private schools that did remain open. Many have not returned to La Jolla Hi despite ending the lockdowns.

Last year the state slashed San Diego School District's budget by \$127 million. This year they will continue to cut by \$140 million. Finally, the school system announced they will be offering "golden handshakes" to induce teachers with 15 years or more of employment, to retire, and remove these better salaried teachers from the payroll. Many will likely take the offers, leaving the schools bereft of experienced teachers.

Questions abounded from the club for a good 10 to 15 minutes. What are the biggest challenges today? Vaping and Truancy? Are students allowed to have their cell phones during class? How does the school handle the very critical issue of student safety and the like. The questions continued to roll in, until it was time to end the meeting.

Then to a standing ovation, Vince Glorioso, chair of our Vocational Services Committee and based on the recommendations of many, including a distant Rotarian in Washington state and Natascha Vossen, presented our clearly well-deserved Club Vocational Service Award to "Cav".



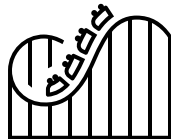
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<sup>1</sup> Title 1 funding is a Federal Funding program that is meant to "level the playing field". by supporting **schools** and districts that serve many low-income students. The money may be use by the schools in a multitude of areas such as tutoring, adding teachers and counselors and offering after school programs, thus helping all the students in those schools. The cutoff for Title 1 funds is 40%,. Any schools that do not reach that threshold, receive no funds.



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**Next Week, we will be DARK... time for some Frolic and Detour**



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