



# ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

## ***BITS of News***

01.24.24

**Coming Next Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, our club member Shabnam Miglani on our Global Grant to Uganda**



**Shabnam Miglani** is the co-founder of BitRouter which licenses its IP to major consumer electronics companies globally with a footprint in over 60 million devices. She is a lawyer by training and has practiced in corporate finance. Beyond the business realm, Shabnam has collaborated with non-profits throughout her career. She has worked in the fields of law, finance, tech, and entrepreneurship, driven by a passion for innovation and a commitment to making a positive impact in society.

At our meeting next Tuesday, Shabnam will speak about an international project currently in progress in Uganda that is funded by a **Rotary International Global Grant and the Rotary club of La Jolla**. This project called “**Rotary Vijana Poa Mbale Technology Hub**” partners with the Rotary club of Mbale in Uganda. Its objective is to provide technology education and empowerment to the youth and women for economic and employment opportunities in Mbale, a disadvantaged region in Eastern Uganda.

Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on January 30th: [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)

## Past Events for the last two weeks:

January 19<sup>th</sup>, the 7AM Golden Triangle Joint Meeting at UCSD



Getting up at 5:30 AM, never easy. Nonetheless 11 stalwart members of **Rotary Club of La Jolla** showed up, and yes, had a very good time.



Aside from the seven seated, were **Kate Adams**, ( can you find her?), **Nan Johnson**, **Kevin Gott** and the BITS photographer, **Denise McGuire**.

Four Clubs were represented. **Rotary Clubs of: La Jolla, La Jolla Sunrise, Coastal San Diego**, and our host, **Rotary Club of the Golden Triangle**.

The meeting opened with a Sing Along to “**America** the **Beautiful**” followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.



Our District Governor **Don Fipps** spoke, announcing the recent passing of former District Governor for 2022-2023, **Chuck Pretto**. ( there was an audible gasp by the audience) **Dave Oates**, later eulogized him.



Contests of all sorts were held. First to determine who had been a member of Rotary for the longest time, (President **Barbara Brown** came in **second** at **37 years**), then who was a member for the shortest time. There was an award for who had the most Rotary pins. Additionally there was an impressive show and tell of all the projects each club's members were personally involved in. We proudly spoke of **TJ Scholars**. The other clubs talked of their club's achievements including **The Rebuild of Coast Walk**, an **Ensenada School rehab**, and a new **Life Guard station for Rosarita Beach**, among others.

**Our Councilman Joe La Cava** was the highlighted speaker. He gave an open discussion on issues before the city of San Diego as well as their significant budget issues. After fielding various complaints concerning city services, he stated generally, deficiencies in city services were being caused by non competitive salaries in staffing. He also said in response to a question, re: the Recent “Free La Jolla” campaign, it was the strongest effort he had seen over the years. Nonetheless he noted the difficulties that will be involved in the uncoupling, pointing out the last city to successfully achieve independence from the City of San Diego was Coronado in 1890.



After answering questions from the audience as best he could, he was thanked by the 4 **Rotary** presidents and received a plethora of speaker gifts, including two coffee mugs from Presidents’ **Christy White, Golden Triangle, Sam Doyle, La Jolla Sunrise, and Barbara Brown.**



The Gong rang, and the meeting ended. No question, “*A Jolly good time was had by all.*”

## Our Tuesday, January 23 Meeting



**President Barbara Brown** called the meeting to order, and **Kevin Gott** offered the following inspiration:

*“For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument & debate.”*

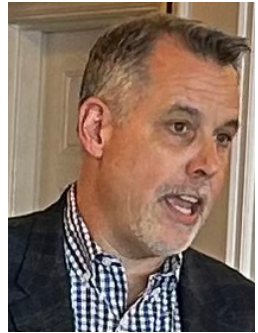
We then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.





## Visiting Rotarian

Assistant Governor **Dave Oates** attended our meeting and reminded all us of the upgoing District 5340 Conference Cruise to Ensenada Cruise on April 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> .



## Auction Item



**Edna Pines** fresh from a 2 month cruise with an itinerary including Doha, India, Thailand, and Malayasia among others, brought a single beautiful pearl from Phuket for auction. Bidding started at \$25, moving steadily to 60, and then stalling abit, and Edna suggested “how about \$80”. Bidding then continued till **Cindy Goodman** offered \$85.00 winning the Phuket pearl.



## The Fourth and Final Reading of The SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS for the July 2024- 2025 Board of Directors

**Kate Adams** acting as chair of the Past Presidents Nominatng Committee presented a slate of officers for the 20 24–20 25 Rotary year. This is the first of four readings. Kate added that additional nominations will be accepted but must have the approval of the nominee

President – Barbara Brown (7/1/24 to 12/31/24) and Bob Teaff (1/1/25 to 6/30/25)

President Elect –Russell King (To serve as President from July 1, 2025)

Secretary – Wade Aschbrenner  
Treasurer – Pat Stouffer  
Director of Youth Service – Craig Schnepf  
Director of International Service – Anya Singleton  
Director of Vocational Service – Vince Glorioso  
Director of Community Service – Denise McGuire  
Director of Club Service – Kevin Gott

With no further nominations offered, **Dave Weston** called for a close of nominations. The motion was seconded. A vote of the membership was held, and the slate was unanimously elected.

## Who AM I ???

### Bill Meanley, “Living the Dream”



There can be no doubt, **Bill Meanley** has had quite a life. Born at the old Scripps Hospital in 1946, the first 10 years of his life were spent at Windansea Beach. At age 10, his father bought a 22 acre ranch in Poway and he became an active member of 4-H instead of a surf club. The lack of good schools in rural Poway, meant commuting with his Dad every day to La Jolla on old I-101, with just one stop sign, to attend school.

Life on the farm meant learning to drive a tractor, as well as becoming knowledgeable in raising sheep, cattle, chickens, horses, and the like. High School was at both Escondido and Poway Hi. His college years were spent at the University of Santa Barbara where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering.

His first job was at JPL<sup>1</sup> in Pasadena working on NASA's Space program in their High Power Transmitting Division. After the disappointment of Apollo 13, Congress cut NASA's budget significantly delaying the development of future

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<sup>1</sup> Nasa Jet Propulsion Laboratory

space travel. Irritated by the cut, at age 26 he decided to quit. He bought a VW bus and moved to Europe with his girlfriend at the time. For a year, they toured from Scotland to Morocco, Portugal to Austria, skiing in Chamonix during ski season.

By 1973, he had returned to the US, broken up with his girlfriend, and drove his VW bus to Lake Tahoe, where he took a job as a dishwasher. In Tahoe, he skied all day worked at night, met his wife to be Patty, and together they built a cabin by hand over three summers.

His father unfortunately died young, leaving Meanley Hardware to his mom to manage. She reached out and began to actively recruit Bill to return to La Jolla to help out. Eventually he agreed, growing tired of 4 years of snow, plus he was broke from building the house. On the way down to La Jolla, he and Patty married in Santa Barbara paying the judge \$35.00, and purchasing 2 wedding rings at a Pawn shop for \$10.00. It was 1976, and the beginning of Meanley & Son.

IN 1978, he was invited to join Rotary by Rim Madson and worked as our Scholarship and Vocational Director. Nine years later his life changed again. His family had a squabble as families sometimes do, and once again he decided to retire.

He bought a 37 foot sailboat, "Dolphin", and in April 87, together with Patty and their 7 year old daughter Kelly, sailed to the South Pacific for 2 1/2 years, visiting such places as Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, the Cook Islands, stopping in New Zealand for the hurricane season, then on to the Figis' Samoa and Hawaii, eventually sailing to British Columbia and exploring the San Juan Islands.



Bill on his 37 Crealock "Dolphin" which he continues to sail.



They returned to San Diego in 89, enrolling Kelly in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Deciding he still liked being in the hardware business, Bill spent two years of cajoling the owner of Hammer and Nails in Pacific Beach to sell. Success occurred in 1991, and he became the store's new owner. He also rejoined Rotary, and continued to work in the Scholarship program as Chair as well as the Chair of the LJ Rotary Foundation.

During his talk, Bill commented, he tends to hold close things that are dear to him. He has been married to Patty for 48 years, still owns his Tahoe cottage built 50 years ago, his sailboat purchased 39 years ago as well as his store, Hammer and Nails, purchased 33 years ago. Our Rotary club of La Jolla joined some 46 years ago too remains special to him. These days, he spends much of his time either sailing Dolphin, or up in Tahoe at his cabin. Once in a while though, if you're lucky, you can find him working at Hammer and Nails.



## Last Week's Speaker for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, on The Gary Sinise Foundation, Mike Ragsdale<sup>2</sup>



**Mike Ragsdale**, a member of the Board of Directors of the Gary Sinise San Diego Chapter, was an impressive speaker. Mike has over 20 years in the United States Intelligence Community and has extensive experience in building and leading teams and programs, detecting analyzing and mitigating threats, and thriving in ambiguity.

He joined the Navy in 2002 as an intelligence Officer. During his time in the Navy, he completed two deployments to the Middle.

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<sup>2</sup> At the last minute, Sarah Bowen was unable to speak at our luncheon, and fellow board member Mike Ragsdale of the Gary Sinise chapter filled in for her.

East: one as an Air Intelligence Officer with a F/A – 18 Hornet squadron on board the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and the other as an interrogator with Special Operations Task Force in Iraq.

In 2008, Mike joined the FBI as a Senior Intelligence Analyst where he established and led an intelligence and liaison program in Washington DC. In 2012 he transferred to the San Diego Field Office and while working received an MBA from UCSD. Today he works on both National Security and Criminal Issues.

He began by telling us he joined the Gary Sinise Foundation because he has a passion for helping Vets like him who have just gotten out of the Military and are blindsided by civilian life.

Initially the Foundation worked only with vets with PTSD. Today it is more broadly based with Four Pillars of Service. 1. Building Mortgage free homes for the disabled, adapting vehicles and mobility devices to the needs of those with disabilities. 2. Providing programs of Relief and Resilience for families to build new memories, such as trips to Orlando's Disney World for vet families, as well Mental Health services. 3. Outreach and Education to the Community; to advise the public of their services, as well as educating the vets what is available to them both in educational and work opportunities. 4. A new category, First Responders, offering them the same services they offer to Veterans.

The Foundation's base of support is primarily from individual donations. Their intake is approximately \$70 million a year. After speaking to us, the audience had numerous questions about **Mike's** military service as well as the various work and education related programs the Foundation works with.

In closing Mike said, if any of us knew of someone who had needs that the Foundation might be able to address, to contact him.<sup>3</sup>



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<sup>3</sup> Mike Ragsdale can be reached at: [mragsdale@garysinisefoundation.org](mailto:mragsdale@garysinisefoundation.org)

## Announcements



**Vince Gloriso**, our Community Service Director announced in the next two weeks, we will be participating in the City of San Diego's "Your Safe Place" hygiene drive for battered women and women who have been trafficked.

He asked that the membership bring such things as face wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, hand sanitizers, tissues, shampoo, hair conditioner, mouth wash, lotion, face towels, makeup wipes, deodorant, single load laundry detergent pouches, and the like, to our next two meetings.

**President Brown** closed the meeting announcing, "Next week we will be in "The Garden" at the La Valencia. Dress, accordingly!"

## Coming In Two Weeks

**Dr. Mark Barry**, Pediatric Orthopedist, on "Training the Trainers in Sub-Saharan Africa"





