



ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

News Bulletin

03.5.25

Coming March 11th, Our next speaker, Ross Porter on *Balboa Park at 100 Years, a remarkable Story*



Born in San Diego and growing up with a brother and two sisters in Mission Hills, Ross acquired a definite sense of place from the stories that his parents and grandparents talked about their lives here. Graduating from San Diego High School in the bicentennial year of 1976, Ross attended Yale University where he earned a B.A. in Economics in 1980. His communications career began with radio news and a political campaign in New

Mexico, followed by jobs in public relations, marketing communications and writing.

In 1990 he returned to San Diego with his partner, Roy DeVries, to work in the family business supporting international trade. During the early 1990s he was a public advocate for the NAFTA treaty and in 1996 he worked **at UCSD's San Diego Dialogue** in furtherance of our identity as a bi-national region. In 1999, he began a ten-year stint in charge of public messaging for the local **American Lung Association**.

In 2011 Ross began working as the **Executive Director of Balboa Park's Spreckels Organ Society** – which led to his involvement with **the Balboa Park Committee of 100**, where he served as president from 2022 through 2024. Today he regularly offers free walking tours of the Balboa Park historic district.

We are thrilled that he will be speaking with us today about one of San Diego's oldest and greatest treasures, Balboa Park.

**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re:
our next luncheon on March 11, 2025,
nataschavossen@san.rr.com**

Our last meeting's hi lights

The meeting was promptly called to order at 12:30 PM by **President, Robert Teaff**, who welcomed one and all.

Charles Hartford then led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance, and left us with a heart felt Inspiration



The West Point Cadet Prayer (edited for Rotary)

“Oh God, our Father, Thou Searcher of human hearts, help us to draw nearer to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural. Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy.

Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us the new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. Help us to maintain The Four Way Test untarnished and unsullied and to show forth in our lives the ideals of Rotary in doing our duty to Thee and to Rotary. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of all.”

Amen

Guests of Rotarians:

Dr. Jane Reldon reintroduced us to **Abi Kolko**, a nurse practitioner currently working aside Jane in her practice. Abi hails from L.A. but hopes to land a job in San Diego someday. Abi recently published a paper which examined “Health Care Deserts” in California, and she has applied for a post graduate year of training in Hawaii. We wish her the best in her new career.



Penny Shurtleff introduced **Darlene Disney**, the **Executive Director League of San Diego**. Darlene is a key individual contributing to the continued success of League House, and she is considering becoming a member of our club. We hope to see more of her soon.

Announcements:

Bob Pecora announced that on April 11th from 8:30-11:30 am **Strive scholarship interviews** will be held at Garfield High School. The Strive scholarships range from \$500-\$1000 and are awarded to underprivileged high school seniors to aid in their further education. Please contact Bob if you are interested in interviewing prospective Strive scholarship recipients.

Penny Shurtleff informed the club that sadly, **David Goodell** recently passed away after a long illness. David, a true cowboy, served as our club's president, but was best known as Santa Clause at our annual Christmas party. He delighted countless children with his long white beard and hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho!" David also started the longstanding tradition of Happy Bucks when he was president. "Happy Trails" to David.

Induction of New Member

Courtney Snyder was inducted into our club by **President Teaff** with her sponsor, **Cindy Goodman**, at her side. Congratulations **Courtney!**



Happy Bucks \$\$\$

Don Lincoln donated **\$100** to our club in recognition of his **Duke Blue Devils** defeat of several basketball teams last week. Don continues to ensure our club coffers are overflowing, just as long as Duke keeps winning. **GO BLUE DEVILS!!**





Our club sang a rousing rendition of **Happy Birthday** to **Nan Johnson** and **Chuck Marsh** happily offered **\$95** dollars in recognition of his spouse's, 95th birthday. Her heartfelt response "I love you all!" was deeply felt and warmly appreciated by all.

(note the festive birthday hat Nan wore was from Chuck just for this auspicious occasion)

Penny Shurtleff offered happy **\$20** - \$10 for her guest and friend, **Darlene Disney**, and \$10 toward Covid, which she battled for over a month but soundly defeated.

Auction Item



Pat Stouffer auctioned off beautiful silver earrings he recently purchased while vacationing in Mexico. After an abbreviated session of less-than-intense bidding against **Sid Stutz**, Pat prevailed and kept the earrings for **\$50**. He mentioned that Fran will more readily let him in the house today now that he's bringing home the earrings.



Last Week's Speaker Lori Gremel on the Preuss School

Russell King introduced Lori Gremel, the **Director of Development for The Preuss School**. Lori thanked our club for its generous support of scholarships for college-bound seniors and informed us that

The Preuss School celebrated its **25th anniversary** last year. She showed us a brief video highlighting the remarkable fact that nearly 100% of Preuss graduates go on to attend college. Several graduates with successful post graduate occupations provided testimony to the value of The Preuss School education.



Many of the “scholars”, as Preuss School students are called, are the first members of their families to have ever attended college.

The sacrifices these underprivileged students make to attend Preuss are often remarkable. Many students travel for over two hours or more to attend school, and many of the students must hold down jobs to help financially support their families while attending school. The average student attends Preuss for five to six years, simply because of the work and travel demands placed on their extra-curricular lives. Many students come early to school just to be able to eat the free breakfasts and lunches provided by the school.

The Preuss School boasts that its scholars come from 41 different ZIP codes and speak 17 different languages. The scholars’ “grit and resilience” rewards them with placement in Harvard, Yale, Northwestern, the UC schools, and many other prestigious colleges throughout the country.

We are all invited to attend “**The Preuss Promise**”, a celebration of the school’s success and an opportunity to showcase the scholars’ many

achievements. The event is open to the public and is held on the school's UCSD campus on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025. More details will follow by email.

In thanks, President Teaff presented Lori Gremel with a Rotary mug for her excellent presentation and adjourned our meeting at 1:30 pm.

Our Speaker in Two Weeks, March 18th, Troy Longworth, General Manager, La Valencia



Postscript: A Global Report, from our traveling and always Honorary Rotarian, Cal Mann.¹

Sometimes, caught up in our own lives, we forget how active, extensive and global our Rotarian community is. Recently Cal sent the club an email to share his recent international experiences in Istanbul.

In late February of this year Cal attended the **Rotary Presidential Peace Conference 2025** in Istanbul, Turkey. He reports the Conference was united by a common mission: **advancing peace in a polarized world.**

¹ Cal was a member of our club between 2007 and 2017. During that time, he rebuilt **La Jolla High School's** student community service club (**Interact**) from a few members and little activity to 70+ members who conduct more than 1,000 hours of service each school year. He Initiated and secured funding for a project where high school students built a simple home for an impoverished Tijuana family...in one day. Since inception, he raised more than \$200,000 and supervised 300 volunteers building 25 homes. To the disappointment of many he decided to retire from a career in industrial design in 2017 and chose to enter the **Peace Corps** working in Eastern Europe where he has held many positions in the intervening 5 years. Cal currently lives in Washington State. He works with Partnering for Peace that was initiated in 2015 as a **strategic partnership between the Peace Corps and Rotary International.** Today, he serves as its primary advocate.

The picture below was taken here last year, when Cal returned for a brief visit with us. **Chuck Marsh** had just received the prestigious **Dewhurst Award**, and insisted that his photo be taken with Cal, another **Dewhurst Award Winner.**



Hosted at the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center, this sold-out event explored innovative approaches to fostering peace through dialogue, technology, and community action.

President Stephanie A. Urchick spoke and reminded attendees that "peace is not passive—it requires passion, persistence, and hard work." Speakers emphasized the importance of embracing diversity, confronting polarization, and using data-driven tools like AI for peacebuilding.

Representing the **Rotary eClub of Silicon Valley**, Claudia Weingart, Cecelia Babkirk and Cal attended sessions on topics ranging from the role of media in conflict resolution to sustainable development's impact on peacebuilding.

Highlights included insights from **UN Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar** on the need for inclusive leadership and international cooperation, and Freddy Mutanguha's moving testimony of survival and forgiveness following the Rwandan genocide.

Beyond the formal sessions, meaningful connections were made—over catered lunches, receptions, and even snowy walks through Istanbul's streets—demonstrating that Rotary's strength lies in its community.

The closing session echoed a hopeful message: every action counts. As Rotarians, we have the power to be architects of peace, transforming ideals into lasting change within our communities and beyond.



