



ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

## ***BITS of News***

04.11.24

**Coming next Tuesday, April 16th Craig  
Schniepp and our 8 RYLA  
Students and families from La Jolla High  
School**



RYLA weekend will take place this weekend on April 12-14, 2024, at **Idyllwild Pines Camp**. This special overnight program provides outstanding student leaders chosen for their community and school leadership abilities to participate in the three-day leadership camp. They will be accompanied to Idyllwild, by numerous adult facilitators as well as by their mentor Rotarian **Craig Schniepp**. At the camp, they will have the opportunity to discuss

leadership, service, and career opportunities as well as exchange ideas about current ethical and social issues with knowledgeable District 5340 Rotarians who are local and regional leaders.

During our luncheon on Tuesday, **Craig** will give us his report, and then lead the students with questions designed to prompt them to speak about their experiences at RYLA. **No Doubt about it, this will be a fun meeting, and one you will not want to miss!**

**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on April 9<sup>th</sup> [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)**

## **Last Week's Meeting Highlights**

**President Barbara Brown** signaled the opening of the meeting with the **Ring of the Bell.**



**Orrin Gabsch** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance



and offered the following Inspiration,

*"A lie doesn't become the truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority".*

Booker T Washington

## Guests



**Midge Colburn** introduced her guest, and neighbor, **Said Elias Dawlabani**

## Happy Bucks \$\$\$

Artist, and club member, **Edna Pines**, recently received a significant honor from the Art World. The **San Diego Museum of Art** recently held an International Juried Art Competition. Out of over 655 entries, only 120 artists were accepted.

Edna's entry, a 24x24, acrylic mixed media on wood panel entitled "**Head over Heels.**" was one of the winners! "It is the biggest accomplishment in my art career. A dream come true. I am so honored and humbled to have been chosen." **To celebrate, her win, Edna offered to purchase a ticket to the Alison Brown Concert.**



Not surprisingly, Edna's painting sold within hours of being displayed.

## “HEAD OVER HEELS”

“In this original painting the profound human need for connection is expressed through the absence of physical touch during the pandemic. Depicting the longing for simple gestures like handshakes, hugs, and kisses, the artwork subtly incorporates hidden signs of affection (xoxo) amidst a backdrop of intricate fishnet motifs. These nets symbolize our collective yearning to 'catch' moments of connection and return to the familiarity of pre-pandemic life, evoking a sense of isolation and longing that many have experienced during this challenging time. “<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Description provided by the San Diego Museum of Art.



**Orrin Gabsch** announced he was leaving soon for Idaho and Coeur d'Alene, and unfortunately would not be able to attend Alison Brown's Concert in June. To compensate, he offered a **check made out to the Rotary Foundation for \$250.**

## Announcements

As announced last week by **President Brown**, "This year we will partner with the **Sunrise Club for Rotarians at work.** to complete outdoor projects around the campus of **San Pasqual Academy** April 27<sup>th</sup>.



San Pasqual<sup>2</sup> is asking this year for volunteers to bring a tool and leave a tool. As we get closer, more details will be provided via email, re specific times, what to wear, directions re what to bring and where to go. We only had four sign ups last week. We need **more** to Volunteers."

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<sup>2</sup> San Pasqual Academy, a first-in-the-nation residential education campus designed specifically for youth in foster care, serves as a placement option for 12–17-year-olds and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) up to age 19 years old.



**President Brown** again reminded us we are having a joint meeting with the Kiwanis Club on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the La Jolla Community Center. The speaker will be **our Congressman Scott Peters.**

“It is very **important** that you **RSVP** before April 19<sup>th</sup> because that is the deadline for the food count. You can’t just show up and get lunch!”

**Natascha Vossen has a sign-up sheet. Here it is!**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nQt5thzdMH\\_qzyX8nXcNCexwAQ-8ul-e5ey7lf4ALZQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nQt5thzdMH_qzyX8nXcNCexwAQ-8ul-e5ey7lf4ALZQ/edit?usp=sharing)

## **The Alison Brown Fundraiser at the Conrad**



**Cindy Goodman** announced she now has flyers for the concert available online for distribution by email. They are beautifully executed and camera ready. She’s asked that we all dig deep and distribute the flyers to our professional, sports, and social groups etc. Cindy even has some suggested

sales scripts that you can send with the flyers. Currently, 120 tickets have been sold, 20 of which have been designated for the military. You may reach Cindy for your flyer and suggested scripts, at [cynthiagoodman4@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiagoodman4@gmail.com)



## A Few Good Volunteers needed for The RYLA Lunch next week.

**Penny Shurtleff** announced we need a few good volunteers to help check in guests for our next luncheon featuring our RYLA students and their families and school personnel.

Further, Penny is asking we sit among our guests to make them feel welcome.

Contact Penny, to let her know you will help out.

[plssunrise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:plssunrise@sbcglobal.net)

## Who AM I???

**Major David Shull**, San Diego Citadel Corps, the Salvation Army.

**David Shull** told us he moved around a lot during his childhood. His father worked for the Air Force with multiple assignments both at the Pentagon as well as other Air Force Bases. Eventually his dad retired at Offutt Air Base, Omaha Nebraska. The family moved once again, this time to Salina, Kansas a town of less than 35,000.



Eager to get as far away from Kansas as fast as he could, David joined the Air Force. On his dream sheet

of assignments were both Norway and Alaska. He was assigned to Alaska where he lived for six years meeting the woman he would marry there. He joked, his work for the Air Force was unique, He loaded bombs and missiles on F-15's. It was a job, very few held. Moreover, it was a job that did not equip him for work as a civilian.

When he left the Air Force 6 years later, he and his wife moved to San Diego and began to work at a local Church. That work stirred a calling in them to serve as ministers. They followed that calling and after 2 years of seminary training in both Hawaii and London, they have spent the last 25 years working with the Salvation Army in numerous cities, including Phoenix, Denver, Cheyenne, San Francisco and back again to San Diego and to the very church they had worked at before going into the Seminary. In every assignment, David has participated with local service organizations, be they Lions, Kiwanis or Rotary.

David's current San Diego assignment has lasted for 5 years. During that time, he has worked in homeless services, youth centers and camps as well as ministering for the Church. It should also be mentioned, aside from serving as ministers, he and his wife also have raised 3 children. Today, the oldest boy attends Michigan State, the younger two, 15 and 13 years old, are still living at home.

Recently, (two years ago,) David was diagnosed with stage 2 renal cancer. He lost one of his kidneys but feels lucky as he did not have to go thru chemotherapy and radiation. He happily reports his last scan was cancer clear!

In about a month, David will be eligible once again for a new assignment, and although he would happily stay in San Diego, he remains philosophical, saying "who knows what the future will hold."

# Paul Greenwood, our speaker last week



**Paul Greenwood** has a long and interesting history with our Rotary club. When he was a young solicitor in London, his American wife Sue became ill, and it became apparent it would be best for her health, if they immigrated to the USA. It was 1990, and Paul had already worked for 11 years as a Solicitor in London.

Moving to the US would be no small matter and Paul had serious concerns about starting over again. His wife Sue, however, was far more optimistic. She encouraged him to talk to an old family friend in San Diego, **Paul Bremner**. As it turns out, Bremner had served as President of our Rotary Club in 1972.

With Sue's encouragement, Greenwood made the call to San Diego and asked to speak to Bremner. He was told, "sorry, he's not here, he's in London". Greenwood, also in London, asked for the London number and met Bremner for a what he described as a "Wonderful" lunch. Bremner encouraged him to make the move, and recommended he reach out to another attorney in San Diego, our own fellow Rotarian, **Charles Dick**<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> To understand Chuck's role, it's important to also recognize that Chuck Dick was widely known and respected within the legal community as an outstanding and highly ethical attorney. Having his endorsement, would mean a lot to the legal community.

**Chuck Dick** not only encouraged Paul to make the move, but also ended up mentoring Paul. After passing the California Bar, encouraged by Chuck's optimism, and with a letter of recommendation from Chuck in hand, Paul received an interview with our District Attorney's Office. He was of course hired, and as a result has had a 25-year satisfying career as a prosecutor and in the process has become a nationally recognized expert in Elder Abuse.

Today Paul is retired, though certainly not idle. Nationally known, he consults with numerous prosecution agencies as an expert witness, most recently at our local US Attorney's Office. He also speaks and teaches all over the country as well as internationally on elder abuse to both attorneys, social service agencies and other professions. Importantly, he also serves as the advisor to AARP.

His motivation for this work, came from his caring for his own elderly parents. His dad now deceased was his hero. He was a decorated bomber pilot during the second world war. His mother lived in London during the war, surviving through the Blitz. Now an elderly widow living in London, Paul has "faceted" with her every morning at 7am for the last **12 years**. Among other things, he asks her a checklist of items designed to help him assess her safety and well-being.

Paul told us, today the senior population is exploding. This year 30,000 adults will turn 65 every day of the year. Further, it is a particularly ripe time for financial Exploitation. A.I. is now being used as a weapon, simulating the voice of family members to trick parents and grandparents to hand over large sums of money to "bailout their family members. Fake videos are being made promoting fake products. Crypto currency too is ripe for scams. There are many and massive data breaches, such as Scripps Clinic data theft, as well as bank and other investment company data breaches, that exposes enormous amounts of personal information to the dark web.

Paul also highlighted another significant problem, social isolation of the elderly. He said, it is critically important, for family members and friends, to visit often, and at times unannounced. “Don’t come just when their caretaker expects you. Show up when they do not expect you as well. And insist on it, it can matter.”

Paul then turned to the audience and asked for questions. **Edna Pines** brought up the issue of the never-ending pesky phone calls from solicitors. She offered how her family has helped her mom to dodge these calls. They have given her a “password” and told her to ask for “the password” before talking further on the phone. That little trick can end the calls quickly.

In closing, Paul told the audience, if something doesn’t seem right, reach out to Chuck Dick and Denise McGuire, and they will contact him. He in turn will help them get in contact with the right authorities to assist them.

Finally, although Paul’s talk was many times, quite serious, there were also moments of levity. He told us, years ago, his father announced to him, he and his mother had just booked their first ski holiday. Paul told him “No, no dad, skiing will be too dangerous for mom!” His dad looked at him and said “Nonsense, “ski”. means “*Spend the Kids Inheritance*”. In all, his parents went on a total of 27 “SKI” Luxury Cruises.

**Important: There will be no Meeting  
on Tuesday April 23**

**Instead, we will be meeting for lunch<sup>4</sup> on Friday, April  
26th at the La Jolla Community Center with the Kiwanis.  
Our Congressman, Scott Peters will be speaking.**

Reporter and Editor- Denise McGuire

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<sup>4</sup> You must register with Natascha Vossen, before April 19<sup>th</sup> to attend!

