



ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

## ***BITS of News***

*05.02.24*

**Coming next Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Diane Kane, on recent proposed revisions to City Ordinances regarding preservation of historic buildings.**



**Dr. Kane** holds an MA in Art History from UC Berkeley and a PhD in Architectural History from UC Santa Barbara. She has taught these subjects at several colleges and universities, including the New School of Architecture & Design, the Design Institute, SDSU, UCLA, University of Redlands, and Cal Poly, Pomona. As a Trustee and Vice-President of Programs for the California Preservation Foundation, she is a frequent contributor to CPF conferences, workshops, and webinars.

She is a former Senior Planner from the City of San Diego, where she handled large-scale historical surveys as part of the long-range planning process. Previously, she was the Heritage Resources Coordinator for Caltrans in Los Angeles, where she conducted environmental review of historic properties.

Most recently, Diane worked closely with architect Ione Stiegler in the renovation of Wisteria Cottage, the home of the La Jolla Historical Society. She wrote the historical structures report for the project, documenting features of the cottage, people who lived there, and important events that occurred. In the archives at UC Santa Barbara, Diane located Irving Gill's working drawing of Wisteria Cottage which proved to be an important guide for the project.

**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email<sup>1</sup> re: our next luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup> to [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)**

## Last Week's Meeting Highlights



**President Barbara Brown** struck the bell, opening our Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Following Inspiration



*“Accept yourself, love yourself and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down.”<sup>2</sup>*

*Roy T. Bennett, The light in the heart.*

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<sup>1</sup> Natascha has noted some of you don't get her attendance email as it goes into your spam account. To remedy this, send her an email so your computer gets “to know” you will accept her emails and stop sending them to “spam.”

<sup>2</sup> The quote so moved our attendees, the entire club broke out in applause.

## Our Guests



Our speakers **Tara Wiggin** and **Jack Gilbert** from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and their hosts, **President Brown** and **Chuck Dick**

## Visiting Rotarians

**Dave Oats** Assistant Governor Area 1, and his recently appointed successor **Michael Brunkner**, the recent **President of San Diego Rotary**.



## Happy Bucks



**Vince Glorioso** offered **\$20.00** at seeing his good friend, Colleague, and exceptional YMCA mentor, **Michael Brunkner**'s recent appointment to the position Assistant Governor of Area 1. **Cindy Goodman** chimed in, quickly matching Vince's pronouncements as well as the **Happy Bucks**.

## Auction Item(s)

**Natascha Vossen**, just back from a wonderful trip to Scotland offered two of her purchases for auction. Bidding was lively.

1. A Scottish plaid coin purse, (with nary a shilling in it) went for \$30.00 to **Denise McGuire**

2. An elegant collection of post cards of paintings by Franz Hals, went for \$40.00 to **John Donaldson**.



## Announcements



**Penny Shurtleff** our Sunshine Person reported **Ron Spelman** was a beloved member of our club for many years. Those of us who remember him will always have unforgettable memories of him. In addition to his business, Ron was also our gifted club artist. He painted a portrait of our outgoing president each year for them to keep. Sadly, he lost his only son earlier this year. He has had health issues that has prevented him from attending our meetings. However, he looks forward to receiving phone calls.



It would be so meaningful to him for those of us who know him to contact him by phone. He sometimes welcomes visitors as well. Please email Penny Shurtleff at [plssunrise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:plssunrise@sbcglobal.net) and she will give you his direct phone number.

## Our June 12<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser

**Cindy Goodson** gave us an update on sales for the **Alison Brown Fundraiser**. She thanked the membership, many of whom have already purchased tickets, stating she intends to follow-up and contact those who have not. Currently, 180 seats have been sold. Cindy is pleased and predicted by June 12<sup>th</sup>; the concert will be sold out.



## STRIVE Scholarship Interviews



**Bob Pecora** again reminded us of the scholarship interviews to be held at Garfield High this Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:30 AM. He told us, these students have been economically marginalized and awarding them a scholarship to a trade school or community college could truly change the trajectory of their lives. The interviews will be done on the top floor of the school starting at 8:30. (also, lunch will be served).

## Housekeeping

Kudos to **Bill Burch** who has rearranged and cleaned up the boxes holding our badges to one box. He has assigned a number on the back of each badge to identify the slot they each are to go in. Let's make it worth his while and faithfully follow this new procedure.

MAY 25th, 2024  
Beginning at 2:30pm



In Honor of our Veterans, our District is inviting Rotarians, Retractors, Interactors, families, and friends to place flags at Miramar National Cemetery at gravesites for **Memorial Day on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 PM**. Help is also needed to remove the flags for Storage on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.

## The La Jolla Half Marathon is Coming! Time to Volunteer for the Water Station.



**Please Note**, the way in which water will be distributed will be changed this year. Each runner will be given their own cup at the beginning of the run, and when they come to a water station, the volunteers, **(us)**, will fill the cups, (it could be tricky!). Accordingly,

Kiwanis is having a training this coming **Sunday, May 5, 9:30 am - 11:00 am** at the **La Jolla Community Center**, 6811 La Jolla Blvd, to teach us how to finesse this new methodology. Our leader, **Davis Cracroft** is out of town and will not be able to attend. He has asked that several of us show up to learn the “new method” of distribution. **Let’s Do It!**

Further, this new method will require more volunteers (up to 15) to man, (or woman) our morning water station. Bring your friends, your neighbors, your kids, and your neighbors’ kids! Our station will be on Torrey Pines Road near

Scripps Clinic Green The date, **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Get there at 6:30 AM, park in Scripps's parking lot, then, offer water, and words of encouragement to our road warriors, and close shop by 9AM. Email Davis at [daviscmd2021@gmail.com](mailto:daviscmd2021@gmail.com) and tell him **“Davis, you can count on us!”**<sup>3</sup>

## Our Speaker Last Week, Kara Wiggin on Ecotoxicology of Microplastics: An Emerging Pollutant in our oceans and our lives



**Chuck Dick** introduced both **Kara Wiggin, a PhD. candidate at Scripps Oceanography,** and her mentor **Jack Gilbert M.D. PhD.** (who, when he is not running an Investigative lab with his students on fish and stuff at Scripps Oceanography, is practicing Pediatrics at UCSD Medical!).

Chuck began by saying “today we are surrounded by plastic<sup>4</sup>, like it or not, it has come to play a massive role in our lives.” He learned of Kara Wiggin’s research into oceanic microplastics while watching the evening news on Channel 8 and an interview they did of her, concerning her work in this area. He was impressed by her articulate comments and thought

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<sup>3</sup> As an added incentive, all participants will receive a chic **Neon Green Tee Shirt** so the runners will be able to identify us from the hoi polloi, in their quest for liquid refreshment.

<sup>4</sup> The first synthetic polymer (plastic) was invented in 1869 by John Wesley Hyatt, who was inspired by a New York firm’s offer of \$10,000 for anyone who could provide a substitute for ivory. The growing popularity of billiards had put a strain on the supply of natural ivory obtained through the slaughter of wild elephants. By treating cellulose derived from cotton fiber with camphor, Hyatt discovered a plastic that could be crafted into a variety of shapes and made to imitate natural substances like tortoiseshell, horn, linen, and ivory.

the topic of microplastics decomposing in ocean water was a whole new wrinkle on plastic debris floating in the Pacific.

Chuck reached out to her, and she appropriately suggested having **Jack Gilbert** her mentor be a co-presenter. As it turned out, Jack Gilbert was more than content letting Kara speak, and indeed he was right, she was a powerhouse of information and an excellent speaker to boot.

Kara began by telling us today, plastic production has reached an all-time high. In 2023, 400 million metric tons was produced throughout the world, 2/3s of which was for single use plastic, such as packaging and disposables.

90% of plastic come from fossil fuels while only 9% is successfully recycled post-consumer use. Some plastics are termed macroplastics, such as toys, combs plastic utensils, and some microplastics, those pieces that are less than 5mm (.2 of an inch) and smaller in size.

Generally, the harmful effect of plastic on humans and the environment begins with the extraction of fossil fuels necessary for its production and the factories that manufactures it. In Southeastern U.S., that is a prime producer the area is known as “Cancer Alley”. This location disproportionately affects low-income populations housed there, both through greenhouse gas emissions that occur in the extraction of fossil fuels, the factories that produce plastic and its’ subsequent truck distribution throughout the country. Once used, plastic disposal too has become a very serious problem. In oceans and lakes, it entangles and is ingested by sea life from whales to the tiniest of critters and settles on the bottom of our waterways blocking sunlight causing harm to vegetation and the natural habitat.

Recently, it has been learned that the effect on microplastics (resin and the like) is less straightforward. While much more needs to be learned, it has become evident that plastics exposed to the environment as trash and waste, and are worn down to microplastics by the environment, are more toxic than those initially produced. For critters that ingest them this can cause anything from organ response to death. For humans, microplastics can cause

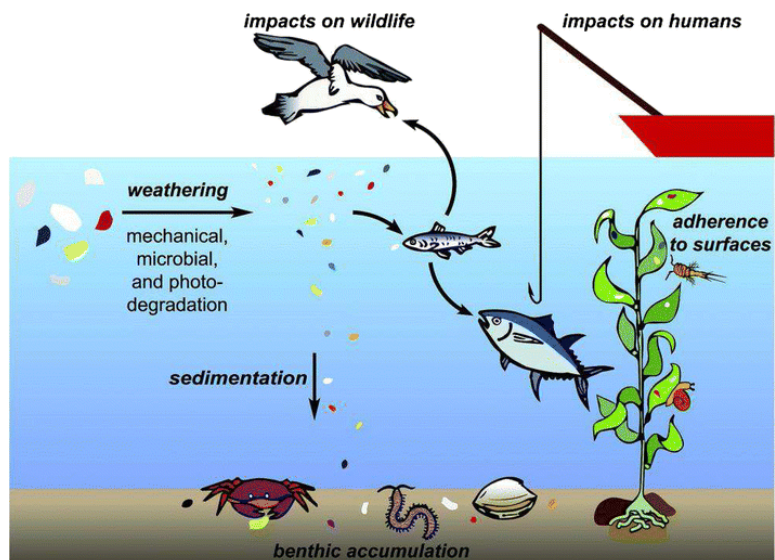


chemical toxicity affecting our immune and reproductive systems as well as cancer among other illnesses. Pathogens associated with microplastics known to be associated with microplastics are Avian flu, Giardia, E. coli salmonella, vibrio spp.(bacteria) and antibiotic resistant species. Recently oysters in Washington state and Oregon were recalled due to the largest vibrio outbreak which can cause gastroenteritis, wound infections, and in more severe cases sepsis.

Further additional investigations have found Vibrio will grow on plastic. On Florida beaches they have found Sargassum blooms (algae) loaded with disposed plastic, were filled with Vibrio. Cuts received during cleanup could be toxic. Coral reefs, also suffer an 89% disease risk, when exposed to disposed plastic.

Kara ended her talk saying so much more needs to be studied, so we can understand and fix the problem. Realistically, she does not believe that plastics will or should be outlawed. However, she does recommend avoiding single use plastics that are flooding our environment if possible. As to what we can do, she recommends we support policies both international and statewide that attack plastic pollution and single use packaging.

Thanking both Kara and Jack for this impressive talk, President Brown presented Kara with a cellophane wrapped plastic hourglass, and Jack, a cellophane wrapped rotary mug. We all laughed, after all “Rome wasn’t built in a day!”



## Our Speaker for Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>



**Author Dan Lawton on his recently published Non-Fiction Book,  
*Above The Ground***

***A True Story of The Troubles in Northern Ireland and an IRA fugitive hiding in plain sight in San Diego for decades.***



**A look ahead:** Coming **June 24<sup>th</sup>**, The District Governor Awards Dinner at the Del Mar Hilton. You will need to sign up soon. <https://rotary5340.org>

