A logo with colorful stars

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**The La Jolla Rotary News Bulletin**

05.06.2025

**Our Speaker for our Upcoming May 13th Meeting: Said Elias Dawlabani**



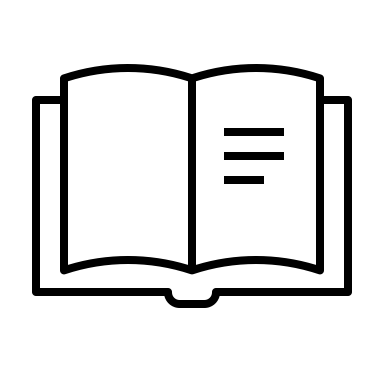
Our newest Rotarian, **Said Elias Dawlabani** is a cultural economist, public speaker, trainer and writer specializing in the **Gravesian[[1]](#footnote-1)** approach to value systems and cultural change.

He is the author of the 2013 book MEMEnomics, The Next-Generation Economic System.  His writings in the field of finance have been compared to those of **Peter Lynch, Charlie Munger** and **Warren Buffet**. His work has been translated to several languages including Korean, Mandarin, German and Russian. He has given keynote speeches about the Gravesian approach to sustainability in many parts of the world.

**Said,** is the founder of **The Memenomics Group**[[2]](#footnote-2) that frames organizational and cultural change issues through the Gravesian model. He works closely with renowned geopolitical adviser Dr. Don E. Beck.

Before teaming up with Beck, Dawlabani had a prominent career in the brokerage, development and investment counseling sectors of the real estate industry. He is a graduate of **International Business and Economics D ‘Amore- McKim School of Business, Northeastern University.**

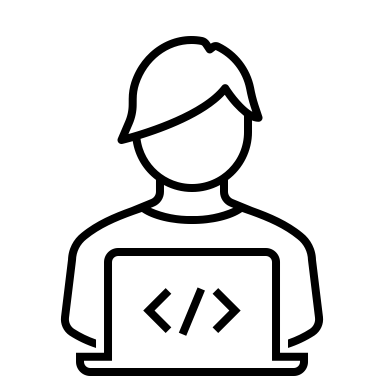
# At our meeting next Tuesday, **Said** will speak on Gravesian theory, and the subject matter contained in his third book, *Second Sapiens: The Rise of the Planetary Mind and The Future of Humanity.*

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**Please RSVP for our next meeting on May13th at:**

[**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dkpZkZU2pOoCmuvRlvFxpTUOM\_uAxNbgu\_ahbKY\_lrs/edit?usp=sharing**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dkpZkZU2pOoCmuvRlvFxpTUOM_uAxNbgu_ahbKY_lrs/edit?usp=sharing)

**If you have any problems with registering, please contact Natascha Vossen at** [**natascha@bestmatchcollegeconsulting.com**](mailto:natascha@bestmatchcollegeconsulting.com)

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**Highlights from Last week’s Meeting**

**A person holding a microphone

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Our meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by **President Russell** who welcomed one and all.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**A close-up of a flag

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**A person with glasses smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Bill Burch** offered a poignant prayer that recognized the value of our club fellowship especially during these uncertain times. Bill then led us in a heartfelt Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests of Rotarians**:

A person smiling for the camera

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A person holding a microphone

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Ex-president Barbara Brown** introduced a fellow lawyer who served as deputy attorney general and administrative judge, Mel Segal who is attending for the third time.

**Tony Weaver introduced** Michael Tegler, his wife’s cousin, visiting us from Philadelphia.

A person in a red sweater

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**Midge Coburn** introduced one of our newest rotary applicants, **Darlene Disney** from **the League House**

**A person smiling at the camera

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**Chuck Dick** introduced **Dr Donald Kearns**, the now retired CEO of Rady Children’s Hospital. Don is here today to hear today’s speaker, Dr Ben Maxwell, Chief of Rady’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Happy Bucks $$$:**

A person with white hair

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**Denise McGuire** offered **$50** in recognition of our chief reporter, **Davis Cracroft** arriving at the last moment, but still in time to take copious notes for today’s meeting.

As it turned out Davis traveled all night from Cusco, Peru, to Lima, to Los Angeles, and finally to San Diego. More than a little sleep deprived and confused he none the less, manned up to his Rotarian responsibilities.

**A person smiling at the camera

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Davis Cracroft,** Happy to still be able to walk and talk after his recent, arduous journey, Davis matched Denise’s **$50** of **Happy Bucks**

**Announcements**

A person with her eyes closed

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**Sunshine Person, Penny Shurtleff** let us know that **Dr Jane Reldan** will be undergoing a hip replacement operation soon. We wish her, all the best.

Penny also noted that **Said Dawlabani** is back with us after his own successful surgery. Welcome back Said!

**Paul Harris Fellowship Award**

A gold coin with a black circle with red stones

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**A person smiling at the camera

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**David Shaw** added to his many Paul Harris Fellowship awards and received yet another bejeweled pin from **President Robert Teaff**. When asked by Bob to say a few words, David stated “the award speaks for itself.” Indeed, it does. Congratulations, David, for your **extraordinary support of Rotary International!**

**A person speaking into a microphone

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**Cindy Goodman** announced that a medical resident from Palestine will soon be in La Jolla and needs a home to stay in for a few weeks. Please contact Cindy if you can help. You undoubtably will have a wonderful experience while helping a young doctor.

A person holding a microphone

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**President-elect Russell King** let us know that booklets are available on our tables today that provide vital information regarding “all you need know about Rotary and more”. Pick up a copy since there may be a pop quiz next week.

**Our Guests next week from**

**Our Sister Rotary Club in Sasebo, Japan**

**A group of men standing together

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**A person in a suit and bow tie

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Chuck Dick** announced, several members of our sister Rotary Club in **Sasabo, Japan,** will be visiting us at our meeting next week. **Chuck** noted that the city of Sasabo, located on Japan’s Kyushu Island, has served as a major U.S. Naval base since 1960. Members of our Club including Chuck and his wife, Anne, visited Sasabo several years ago. Chuck noted that a wonderful time was enjoyed by all. Our club hosted several members of the Sasabo club in the past, and they enjoyed comradery and golf, not necessarily in that order. As Chuck noted, the **Sasabo Rotarians** all share a great sense of humor and a zest for fun. It will surely prove to be a meeting you should not miss.

**Mark** your calendar, On Tuesday, May 27th, a**, ROTARY social, get together, and a general good time** for our members will be held at **“The Lot”** where drinks and fun will be the order of the evening. More to come!!!

**A group of people in a club

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Denise McGuire** reminded us that on May 17th our club will again provide support for the Kiwanis Club sponsored historic La Jolla Half Marathon. Once again, we will man a water station located on Torrey Pines Road near Scripps Green Shiley Center. It’s great fun to provide aid and encouragement to the thousands of runners who pass by the water station. We need more help, so please pitch in, and contact Denise. ([denisemcguire@mac.com](mailto:denisemcguire@mac.com))

A group of people running on a road

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**Last Week’s Speaker, Dr Ben Shaw**

A person holding a microphone

Description automatically generated**Chuck Dick** introduced **Dr Ben Maxwell**, Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rady Children’s Hospital, who last spoke to our club during Mental Health Month in October 2023.

Dr Maxwell led off his talk by helping us all realize the immensity of the current “crisis” of mental health in children and adolescents. Over the past 15 years the children seen at Rady Children’s ER with emergent psychiatric illnesses has gone from 167 a year to 4,700 patients per year – 28 times increase!

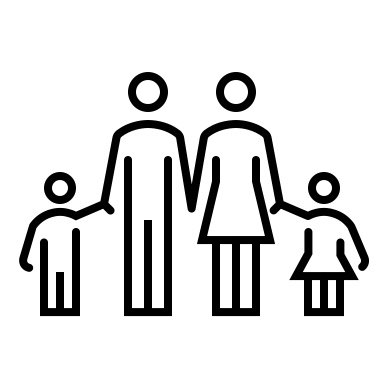
**Psychiatric mental health in children and adolescents is dependent on the five “F’s”: Family, Friends, Fun, Food, and “Fhone”.**

Each of these key elements of a youngster’s life is challenged as never before. Families are often estranged, friends are more difficult to make (think Covid and smartphones), true fun is less evident, more ultra-processed foods are consumed, and the smartphone often provides a negative influence in a youngster’s life. Dr Maxwell sees the challenges, but he and his colleagues have taken an aggressive approach to address the problems head on. In 2010 there were four child psychiatrists on staff and now there are twenty; a dedicated psychiatry emergency room now sees over 3000 patients a year; and both the Copley Foundation (Psych ER) and Price Foundation (Psych Urgent Care) have helped supply the needed fiscal support.

Prevention is the key to addressing our current childhood mental crisis. Ben and his team have trained all 200 Rady pediatricians in recognizing and treating childhood mental health disease with the intent of beginning intervention as early as age five (as often indicated). Often as few as four visits with mental health workers can be curative and keep the children from future cutting, drug and alcohol use, and suicidality. Active screening for depression and early intervention are key, and Rady has multiple outpatient programs for varied childhood disorders including eating disorders and autism, with some clinics dedicated solely to family dynamics. Mental therapists, not psychiatrists, are key to early diagnosis and treatment.

A recent interesting study of children sent to a Maine summer camp shows the value of eliminating the availability of smartphones in children’s lives. Initially the children were screened for their mental health (including EEG’s) and again after six weeks of camp totally without availability of smartphones. The study showed a significant improvement in all the measured metrics, especially the “enjoyment” factor!

The recent merger of Rady Children’s and CHOC (Children’s Hospital of Orange County) has created the largest pediatric hospital in the country. Though it may require an investment of over $200 million, Dr Maxwell envisions the creation of a “Behavioral Health Campus Pavilion” to help meet the growing need to address pediatric and adolescent psychiatric disorders. Ben is optimistic about the future of childrens’ mental health especially with talented, inciteful and dedicated psychiatric leaders, hopefully very much like Dr Maxwell.



**Coming in Two Weeks May 20th, Our Amazing La Jolla Scholarship Recipients.**

Chief Reporter and Writer: Davis Cracroft

Editor in Chief: Denise McGuire

Photograph of Sasebo Rotarians : Cal Mann

1. Gravesian theory, developed by Clare W. Graves, proposes that human beings, systems, and organizations exist at different levels of development, each with unique values, beliefs, and ways of perceiving the world [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Memenomics Group is an advisory organization that reframes economic issues through the prism of value systems and offers sustainable solutions based on this emerging science. For the past decade he has worked closely with renowned global geopolitical advisor. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)