



The La Jolla Rotary News Bulletin

May 13, 2025

Upcoming Meeting May 20, 2025



A reminder: Our La Jolla Rotary Foundation administers two scholarship programs under which approximately \$200,000 is distributed each year to graduates of La Jolla High School, The Bishop's School, La Jolla Country Day School and The Preuss School. These are known as: La Jolla Rotary Scholarships and Florence Riford Scholarships.

So, this Tuesday will once again be one of our most popular meetings with this year's 18 scholarship recipients and their parents coming to tell us about their college plans which we are helping to bring to fruition from community colleges to the Ivy League, Be sure to **RSVP** at:

natascha@bestmatchcollege-consulting.com or

Today's Meeting:

President Bob Teaff called the meeting to order and introduced **Dave Weston**.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Dave said Our club is one of over 30,000 Rotary Clubs, in a big Rotary world. One of the stated goals of Rotary International is to foster friendships among people, business and professional people, and particularly I read of **the four objects of Rotary** I read, I think the most important, the advancement of international Understanding, goodwill and peace through a worldwide fellowship of Business and Professional persons in broad generality. So, our goal of peace, National governments pass laws. Rotarians make friends with one another. Of course, having our visitors from Sasebo is a part of that, to have to have fellow Rotarians from across the Pacific Ocean joining us in friendship toward the same goal of peace.



Guests of Rotarians:



Joe Castillo, orthodontic surgeon, was introduced by **Midge Coburn**. Joe has taken over **John Hoss's** practice in La Jolla.

Again, **Tony Weaver** introduced his wife's cousin from Philadelphia, **Mike Tegler**.

Cindy Goodman introduced her friend and *La Jolla Light* reporter, **Ashley Mackin-Solomon**.

Our Sister Rotary Club of Sasebo, Japan Visiting

Chuck Dick provided background on our club's longstanding relationship with the Sasebo Club, which began in 1990. He spoke about several visits he and Anne had made to Sasebo, as well as visits members of the Sasebo Club had made here.

Chuck shared a thoughtful analogy, comparing the relationship to making soup and adding spice to the human stew—emphasizing how these exchanges enrich both communities.

He then eloquently introduced our visitors from Japan.

- Taka Serino (Taka) is the 75th President of the Sasebo Rotary Club. He is 62 years old and manages three hotels in Sasebo.
- Hisataka Koga– (Taka 2) – is 52 years old and runs a kindergarten in Sasebo. He's been a Rotarian for 10 years and serves as his club's secretary.
- Ryu Sashiyama (Ryu) is 46 years old and father of three children, works as an architectural designer.
- Masamitsu Hachiya (Hachi) is 52-year-old and runs a fuel company for taxis in Sasebo. He is single, loves golf and Sake, and is a potential new club member.
- Tohmu Okubo (Tohmu) is a single, 30-year-old son of a Rotarian who manages a coffee store in Okinawa.



Next 37-year member, and President of our Club in 2002, **Dick Woltman** stood up, saying he was “Happy to be here and happy to be any place at this time of my life.” He described the close relationship he and his wife Kay (Our club president in 2007) had with members of Sasebo Rotary over the years. Utaka, one of their members even came to his wife's funeral.

Taka, the Club's president, described their trip which included golf, of course, and baseball and graciously thanked us for our hospitality. He encouraged us to come and visit them next year for

the 75th anniversary of their club and then handed out to each of us a very tasty Japanese cookie.



Bill Burch wore his shirt, labeled, LA JOLLA RC and SASEBO RC, which was presented to him when he visited their Club.

Zeke Knight (our Prez in 1994), here with **Ellen**, related that in 1993 our club sent him to the R I convention in Australia and arranged for his return via Sasebo. He had great memories of that trip, including tennis, karaoke, and demonstrating the Charleston in front of the club. He said they are “the most happy people in the world. I love you Sasebo.”



Today's Program **Said Elias Dawlabani**



Our newest Rotarian, **Said**, is a cultural economist, public speaker, trainer and writer specializing in the Gravesian approach to value systems and cultural change.

Before speaking about his newest book *Second Sapiens*, Dawlabani shared with us the work he has been involved in for the last 23 years which formed the basis for his writings. His work is based on a development model called Spiral Dynamics, which is evolutionary in nature. It applies to the development of humans as well as entire societies.

The model was created by a psychologist Don Beck, who, according to Dawlabani played a critical role in helping South Africa transition from Apartheid. It contains eight stages of development which are crucial to understand if a country or a region of the world wants to avoid conflict and live in peace. The model is divided into two tiers. Tier one contains the first six stages of development, which humanity has gone through, and tier two describes the two other higher stages of development that await us in the future. The first tier is what Dawlabani calls First Sapiens, and the second tier he calls Second Sapiens.

Dawlabani's late wife Elza Maalouf had been trained in the use of the model, and after the events of 9/11 Beck contacted her to see if she might be interested in helping bring his work to the Middle East. That was the time when Dawlabani decided to leave his career in real estate and join them. He spoke about how – according to model – peace is a byproduct of design, and how design is all about the pursuit of the proper form of governance based on a country's stages of social development. Dawlabani, Maalouf and Beck attributed the failure of all the peace accords between Israel and Palestine to a developmental asymmetry that existed between the two countries. For 10 years they worked with the Palestinians on leveling that asymmetry by training community leaders and aspiring politicians on how to build modern institutions, deal with corruption and embrace the values of nationalism. This became a case study which was presented to the United Nations as a new model for governance in 2013.

Dawlabani also spoke about how he began to use the model after the 2008 financial crisis to write about the evolutionary nature of macroeconomics and global finance. This garnered him many followers on several digital platforms and blogs and got him published in several academic papers. This eventually led him to write his first book, *MEMEnomics, the Next Generation Economic System*. The book has been translated to several languages and garnered him many invitations to speak at global summits about the evolutionary nature of macroeconomics and finance. In 2019 he along with his mentor Beck were invited to participate in the design of the next global framework for economics and finance based on the two evolutionary models they created. (The La Jolla Light interviewed Dawlabani about this event at the time).

It took him 8 years to write his latest book *Second Sapiens*, and he attributed that to the constantly changing nature and the enormity of the subject the book covers: Climate change.



He began this part of his presentation by saying: “The easiest way to understand what this book is all about is to simply ask yourself the question: What would it take for our species to save the planet?” In describing the development model earlier, Dawlabani mentioned that the field of science first appeared in stage five of human development, which is identified as the Newtonian scientific method. He argues that the nature of science changes and becomes more complex as we move into higher stages of development. Newtonian science cannot be used to address climate change. Problems of this size and degree of complexity require entirely different scientific parameters that are proprietary to the eighth stage of development. He calls that science the study of complex adaptive systems of life, or Gaian science in short. Dawlabani claims there are thousands of these scientists around the world whose primary focus is to understand how Mother Nature developed her intelligence that birthed life 3.4 billion years ago and learn how to mimic her behavior. Other areas of study for these scientists are the different planetary systems that make up the totality of the planet’s atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. These are the largest systems we will ever be tasked to understand if we are to address issues of planetary and ecological collapse in time.

Dawlabani gave several examples of the urgent messages these scientists are sending us, but due to the absence of the leadership structures we need to address these issues, their words are falling on deaf ears. In the last five minutes of his talk, Dawlabani displayed a matrix that shows the difference between how we view different scientific matters and areas of study through the lens of First Sapiens, and how these same subjects must now be viewed through the much wider lens of Second Sapiens. He placed special emphasis on how our paradigm on the economy must change from focusing on growth to focusing on planetary habitability, and how our business models must transition from a focus on profitability to a focus on minimizing its ecological footprint. (*Text kindly provided by Said*)

Said’s **slides are in a PDF**, which was attached to the email where you found this.

Here's a link to the book on Amazon. \$24.95 paperback, \$9.95 on Kindle

https://www.amazon.com/Second-Sapiens-Planetary-Future-Humanity/dp/1962984621/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1RLRZ660JZ3AV&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.c4ROfqCXjLe16rFZGpVnU6ybHuRvuFQxVogE0UG-nY5Y-WosIMnPuQMCKTDwsxoRxv3881TtAXlhqfuU0S35MoxuWiO6MTZuEuNDKtWs80TDjiePdpIExKWJeqloyZ_YEeCbirNb8aFCQeBO_3_Vavi-7YaW3IFY_VGuk9e1hW-xLriQ_LufXiHakuxNSMhNWumP8POw0LG0QscmiHv-Q.Hku5V96AUGBe8UWWgct_ILMrKrmec4Zdl0MONUUzWSw&dib_tag=se&keywords=second+sapiens&qid=1747181621&s=books&sprefix=second+sapiens%2Cstripbooks%2C146&sr=1-1

May 27: Club social at The Lot 5-7 PM

Reporter/Photographer: Davis Cracroft

Photographer: Talyssa D'avilla

Editor in Chief: Chuck Marsh