



ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

BITS of News

06.20.24

Coming next Tuesday, June 25th, Jesse Imbriano, on Immigration, Asylum, and the Border.

Jesse Imbriano is an expert in Immigration Law. He has been the Legal Director at **Casa Cornelia Law Center** here in San Diego since 2009.



Casa Cornelia Law Center is a pro bono law firm. It is the only legal service provider in San Diego serving detained unaccompanied alien children and the primary legal service provider for non-detained unaccompanied alien children. The Law Center also serves detained adults and non-detained adults and family groups.

Prior to his work at Casa Cornelia, Jesse worked at the **US Department of Justice** for 4 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Latin America studies from **Columbia University** and his law degree from **Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law**.



Please RSVP to **Natasha Vossen's** email re: our next luncheon on June 25th to nataschavossen@san.rr.com

Last Week's Meeting Highlights



President Barbara Brown opened the Meeting.



And **Bill Burch** offered us the following words in Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Our Lord and our God, we pause to give thanks for this day and our many blessings. We thank you for much needed fellowship with our friends. We thank you for the kind and dedicated people who are serving us today. We thank you for this meal and ask your blessing on this food to our bodies, and ourselves to your service.

We thank you for the things we typically take for granted. Our eyesight as one example. The ability to see the lovely view; to see the food we're eating; to see where we're going, and who we're talking to; to see our children and our sweethearts. It's such an everyday experience, ... we neglect to give gratitude. Thank you.

While we come from differing backgrounds and have various political opinions and religious practices, all that somehow strengthens our shared goal of service. Guide us in this meeting, and in all we do through Rotary. May we make a favorable difference in our community and in the world. In the name of the one we serve. Amen”

Rotary Guests



John Hoss introduced his wife, Sandy who wanted to attend our meeting after having attended the Alison Brown fundraiser.

Announcements

Penny Shurtleff, our **Sunshine person**, announced **Zeke Knight** is doing well. He is visiting relatives on the East Coast but plans to return to La Jolla and our meetings soon.



This is **David Shull's** last day with our Rotary Group here in San Diego. The Salvation Army has transferred him to Riverside County.

Cindy Goodman announced the **Alison Brown Concert** was a success and broke **The Conrad's** record for their most successful \$ fundraiser. She will have the final dollar amount of ticket sales at the next meeting.



In the meantime, Cindy proudly announced the city has finally approved all permits for the **La**

Jolla Welcome Sign off La Jolla Shores Dr & Torrey Pines Rd and anticipates it will be installed this coming Fall.



Happy Bucks

Bill Burch offered **\$200.00** in thanks for having **Dave Shull** as our member for five years commenting on his outstanding and difficult work at the Salvation Army during that time. **Cindy Goodman** matched his **\$200.00** in recognition of Dave. Dave Shull then offered **\$5.00**, one dollar for every year of his 5 years with our Club.



Our speakers last week,

Drs. Paul Courtright and Susan Lewellan

Kilimanjaro

Centre for Community Ophthalmology



Beginning in the 1970s, regional academic discussions by ophthalmologists and public health organizations began to discuss the possibility of eliminating blindness worldwide. Over the years, the novelty of the dream, became a more and more insistent demand. In response, in 1999, **the World Health Organization** and the **International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness** drew up a Global Initiative called **VISION 2020**.

Vision 2020 sought to promote. “A world in which nobody is needlessly visually impaired, where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential.” The goals were to “Intensify and accelerate prevention of blindness activities so as to achieve the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by 2020” by focusing initially on certain diseases which are the main causes of blindness, and for which proven cost effective interventions were available.”

The initiative was supported worldwide by governments and health ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), eye care professionals, program managers, and their industry that together contribute to the planning, development, and implementation of sustainable national eye care programs.

Enter, **Paul Courtright** and **Susan Llewellyn** who had a history of Peace Corps work as well as working in ophthalmologic care in Africa.

In 2001, Paul and Susan moved to Tanzania, a stable country with some hospital facilities to render cataract care which was the major cause of blindness (80%) in Africa. There they found the **Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology, KCCO**.

It wasn't easy. The organization itself, began in a converted storage room with Susan, Paul, and an assistant. The early years proved challenging as very, very few within the community were willing to consider cataract surgery.

And so, the team went to their potential patients to convince them to put aside the many frightening myths and rumors and to accept that cataract surgery was safe and would improve their lives. Secondly, they needed to convince the families in the area to allow and support their women¹ to have the surgery and finally they had to provide transportation for these rural communities to bring them to the regional facilities where they could be taken care of. All this was eventually done by building teams made up of trusted locals, who acted as bridges to the regional communities.

As the demand for surgeries quadrupled, Paul, an expert in Public Health teased out the inefficiencies of their medical and surgical systems allowing for the same number of local surgeons to work on multiple cases at one time. In addition, he brought in hospital managers, a novel idea, to handle collateral matters, such as buying supplies and medical equipment, hiring support staff,

¹ One of the goals the organization has been to treat 60% of the women versus 40% of the men, as women tend to live longer. Currently they scoreboard has been 52% women and 48% men.

etc. thus, freeing the medical staff to devote 100% of their time caring for their patients. Importantly, throughout their stay, Paul and Susan built the capacity of the local African physicians and managers so they could take over and successfully run the organization without their help.

Today, at the age of 70, Susan and Paul are retired and living in San Diego. They no longer play a role at KCCO. They do travel frequently to Africa where their sons have chosen to live and where they are both on the faculty of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Currently, the system of **KCCO** has spread throughout 14 countries in Africa where medical facility partners annually perform thousands of cataract surgeries. thus, making KCCO a leader in Africa. The goal is to further expand so that “all Africans can access high quality, patient-centered eye care, provided by Africans in well-functioning systems.” If you would like to know more about KCCO, its current plans and donors, go to kcco.net.



Our Speaker In two weeks, July 2nd

Todd Schultz, President and CEO of the **La Jolla Music Society** and the **Conrad Performing Arts Center**



Reminder:

On **June 27th**, 8:30 – 11:30 am, we will be working with **Club 33** to distribute food to military families at the **Armed Services YMCA**. If you would like to participate, please let **Vince Glorioso** know so that he can provide a final count one week before the event. Vince Glorioso <vglorioso@ymcasd.org> He will be emailing you with the details.

Finally, don't forget.

Our future speakers and events are now listed on our website. Take a Look!

See: (rotarycluboflajolla.org)