

Rotary Club of La Jolla Meeting 7/23/2024

**Coming Next Week, Wed. July 31, between 6 and
9PM, a Wine Tasting Social
at the home of Natascha Vossen and Lance
Bridges
1396 Muirlands Vista Way, La Jolla, CA 92037**



Stephanie Perez, a partner at **Cordant Winery**, will provide a wine-tasting experience by pouring a “flight” of wines. She will educate us on the differences and similarities of the wines. Cordant Winery <https://www.cordantwinery.com/about/>

Stephanie's husband is an active-duty Lieutenant Commander Helicopter Pilot for the United States Navy. He is currently

deployed overseas on the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. On 31 August 2021, his command experienced a fatal mishap that The Wingman Foundation was able to support. Their story lives on and can be learned about here. <https://news.usni.org/2021/09/04/navy-ends-search-for-5-missing-after-helicopter-crash-sailors-presumed-lost-at-sea>

The Wingman Foundation is an all-volunteer, veteran-founded non-profit organization that provides immediate post-mishap support for the Navy and Marine Corps Aviation community and their families. <https://www.wingmanfoundation.org>

If you decide to buy a bottle of Cordant's wine after the tasting, a percentage of your purchase is directly donated to the organization to support and ensure that our fallen heroes are never forgotten and that the loved ones they leave behind are always supported.

They will have other libations available for anyone who does not want to join in the wine tasting as well as cheese trays from Small Goods.



Important Please RSVP for this event.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dkpZkZU2pOoCmuvRlvExpTUOMuAxNbguahbKYIrs/edit?usp=sharing>

As always, please reach out if you are having difficulties

Last week's Meeting Highlights

President Barbara Brown welcomed all Rotarians and Guests

PLEDGE and INVOCATION

Don Lincoln led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the following invocation from another Lincoln, Abe:

“Dear Lord – We pray for your guidance through the storm of conflict, for wisdom in the search for peace, and mercy and forgiveness toward all men, friend and foe. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. **Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people.**” **AMEN**

HAPPY BUCKS \$\$\$

Davis Cracroft pledged **\$74** since today is his and Sherry's 12th wedding anniversary as well as Sherry's birthday. Wisely, Davis chose to marry on Sherry's birthday, which will hopefully keep him from forgetting this important date. He also recognized that revealing a woman's age after around 30 years of age might be frowned upon. He left the audience to do the math. **Bob Teaff** reminded all of us that the surefire way to remember a special day in a marriage (or any relationship) is to forget it **ONCE**.

Sid Stutz gave **\$100** in recognition of **Rob Pecora's daughter, Marianna**, who appeared on CNN this morning eloquently explaining the habits and aspirations of GenZ (18–25-year-olds). She also urged all her contemporaries to get out and VOTE!

Rob Pecora, in contrast to his alleged tight pecuniary ways, also pledged **\$100** in further recognition of Marianna, his multi-talented politically active daughter.

Cindy Goodman thanked all those who help make our long-time member, **Carlos Malamud**, feel so welcome at last weeks meeting. Carlos let us know that though he now resides in Miami, his loyalty to our club is unshakable.

Chuck Marsh gave **\$20** in recognition of the terrific job of cat-sitting he recently completed in Vermont. He also noted he enjoyed valuable time spent with his brothers.

Bill Burch chipped in **\$20** to celebrate a long-distance motorcycle ride he and Shirley completed from San Diego to Yosemite and back. They spent 8 hours on the road up and 8 hours back and enjoyed every moment of their trip. They're now enjoying standing up time so much more.





Announcements

David Shaw was honored to participate in the graduation ceremony of the 20th class of the **John Vaughan TJ Scholars Lab**. One can only imagine the new and exciting life-changing opportunities afforded Scholar's Lab graduates. Congratulations to all volunteers who participate in this worthwhile educational program!

La Jolla High School Interact House Build # 41



July 13, a very hot day to be in Tijuana, nonetheless our Interact Club completed their #41st year for a family of 14.
Bravo!

Our speaker last Week, Rob Hutsel

Bob Teaff introduced **Rob Hutsel**, President and CEO, **San Diego River Park Foundation**



San Diego River Park Foundation Connect/Create/Conserve

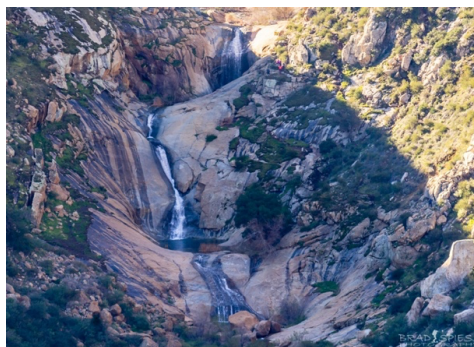
Most of us present today possessed little or no knowledge of the history and the environmental impact of the San Diego River. One hundred years ago the San Diego River was free flowing from the local mountains to the San Diego Bay with huge flood plains and widely diverse plant and wildlife.

As far back as June 1769, **Father Juan Crispi** wrote,
“We found a good-sized river which empties into the sea through an estuary which the ships used as a watering station. The river has a very large broad plain on banks, with many willows, some

poplars, and some alders...If the river is permanent it may prove in time to be the best of rivers discovered in all of California”.

It was interesting to learn that Old Town was originally founded on the banks of the SD River. In stark contrast to the idyllic state of the SD River in the 1700's, in the year 2000 the river was inundated with a sewer spill of over 34 million gallons of untreated sewage, the largest sewer spill in our history. Additionally, over 240,000 pounds of trash are removed from the river each year, though it's estimated that the river accumulates over 1 million tons of trash every year. Sadly, homeless individuals are responsible for over half of the trash in the river. Though the SD River has a valid claim as our country's biologically most diverse ecosystem, the risk of many species becoming extinct is a real threat.

The SD River drainage system encompasses the Cleveland National Forest, El Cajon Mountain, Lakeside and Santee, Mission Trails, Mission Valley, Mission Bay/Old Town/ Presidio Park and Mission Bay Park.



Located near Santa Ysabel the Three Sisters Waterfall is a prime example of the spectacular beauty encountered along the San Diego River

The San Diego River Park Foundation is making steady progress toward the lasting preservation of the river and its surrounding environment. The Foundation recently celebrated its 23rd year and its tireless work has yielded significant gains. A notable milestone

will be achieved this year when the first phase of the construction of the River Center at Grant Park will be completed. A generous gift of 17 acres of open land along the river by the Grant family 12 years ago opened up the opportunity to create a diverse learning center for students interested in knowing more about the river. Soon an estimated 10,000 students per year will be able to use the San Diego River as a classroom with the goal of 25,000 kids going through the center each year. Whenever private land along the river becomes available, The San Diego River Park Foundation makes every effort to buy the property and preserve it forever. Mr. Hutsel estimates that it will likely take close to \$700 million dollars to finance and complete the San Diego River Park project, but significant progress has already been realized. In 2013 the City of San Diego developed a San Diego River Park Master Plan which clearly outlines the measures needed to restore the natural environment surrounding the river. Examples include 97 acres encompassing The River Walk development which eventually will include a trolley stop, 4300 homes, multiple restaurants, and ample open space. The Town and Country Hotel also has plans in keeping with the SD River Master Plan.

Rob Hutsel answered many of our questions and was roundly applauded for his excellent informative presentation. If you're interested visit: <https://www.sandiegoriver.org> to learn more.



President Barbara Brown's final reminders:

We will be dark next Tuesday July 30th. Social at Natasha's and Lance's home July 31st – see details above

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July 30th is Rotary night at the Padres- Pads vs. Dodgers. The next Rotary Night will be 8/20: Pads vs Minnesota Twins

FYI: The Care 'n Share Toy Drive at the Fair this year got 6,500 Toys donated that will go to a children's hospital in Mexico.

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