

ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

BITS of News

11-9-23



Our Program for Next Tuesday, November 14th, Joe Gilbreath and Mike Lucero on:

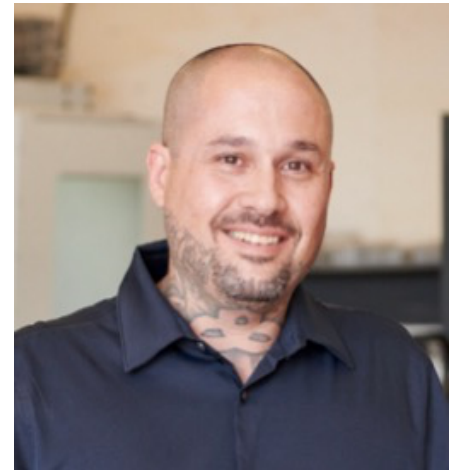


For the past seven years, **Rise Up Industries** has existed as a nonprofit organization that proudly stands with the most marginalized among us. It is firmly rooted in the belief that a community of belonging, job training, and supportive services for formerly incarcerated and previously gang-involved individuals provides the foundational healing necessary for sustained change.



The Founder **Joe Gilbreath** has an extensive military background, having served 26 years in the U.S. Army. He has advanced degrees in civil engineering, and currently serves as Director of Rise Up Industries. He does not take a salary.

Mike Lucero, a Graduate of the RISE UP program grew up surrounded by gang activity. He followed a path familiar to many in his neighborhood - he went from foster homes to group homes, from juvenile hall to county jails, and then to prison. **Mike** realized he was in a life he didn't want. He discovered Rise-Up Industries which became key to his getting out of the destructive cycle of incarceration. He is **the 19th graduate of their reentry program** and a prime example of rediscovering hope and helping others do the same.



RISE UP has received countless awards and sponsorships, from our San Diego community for its impressive work. Last year, The **San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary Club**, awarded its prized **Non- Profit of the Year award to Rise Up.**

“America is the land of the second chance – and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.”

President George W Bush in his 2004 state of the Union Speech

IMPORTANT: Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen’s email re: this next luncheon on November 14:
nataschavossen@san.rr.com

Our November 7th Meeting Highlights:

Pledge of Allegiance and Inspiration for the Day

Kevin Gott Offered the following thoughts:

“Yesterday’s gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only Today. Let us begin.”

Mother Theresa



Visitors from other Rotary Clubs

Seattle 4
Rotary
Club



Seattle Rotarian Connie Taeuf

Auction Item and Bids



Chuck Marsh offered a jar of **Guava Jelly** from his recent family trip to Hawaii. Heavy Bidding proceeded.

Cindy Goodman and Denise McGuire both bid \$50.00. Neither would budge. It was a stalemate, until Chuck pulled out a second jar, making both Rotarians, winners.

Paul Harris Fellow Award

Congratulations and thanks to long time Rotarian, **Bill Meanley** who was recognized and awarded the prestigious pin by **President Brown** for his generous contributions of \$8,000 to The Rotary Foundation.



Board Updates and Projects:

The 2023 LJ Christmas Parade



Kevin Gott announced we are collecting \$\$\$ for the 2023 La Jolla Christmas Parade which will be held on December 3. Our first generous contribution came from Past President David Shaw.

Rotary “Welcome to La Jolla” Sign



Cindy Goodman stated the sign project is being held up by city permitting. She estimated it would take another 4 months before the project can begin.

Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive



Vince Glorioso asked we bring new nonperishable food (no glass containers, plastic, ok) to **our next meeting on the 14th**, for our Annual Thanksgiving food drive.



Penny Shurtleff will be delivering Poinsettias to the La Jolla League House Seniors on December 14.



President Brown announced preparations are being made for our Annual Christmas Party to be held in the evening of December 19th at the La Valencia.



Last Week's Speaker Steve Weitzen, on Human Trafficking



Steve Weitzen began by saying he made Human Trafficking his Year's Project during his term as District Governor in 2021, as the idea of human trafficking has gnawed at him for years.



He learned that today 1/3 of trafficked youth are young boys. The business is exceedingly profitable. An exploiter can make \$150,000 per person a year, causing some gangs to prefer trafficking to the drug trade, as its clandestine nature makes it easier to evade the ever-changing law enforcement and criminal justice landscape.

The term “Sex Trafficking” is relatively new. Previously it was called Pimping. The exploitation can occur in a variety of ways, such as teens running away from home, becoming truants, or being tricked through social media to meet with strangers. The exploited often are or become addicted to drugs and become wholly dependent on their trafficker for day-to-day sustenance and protection. The average life expectancy for those trafficked is 7 years, due to violence, disease, drug usage, and addiction. While there is available help for women, (2 safe houses with 29 beds in San Diego with a yearlong program), it is not enough. Far more needs to be done.



Coming In three weeks, November 28th, Phyllis Pfeiffer, Chair of the La Jolla Community Foundation on the 1.5 million dollar plans to enhance our La Jolla Streetscape.

Chief Reporter and Editor, Denise McGuire