

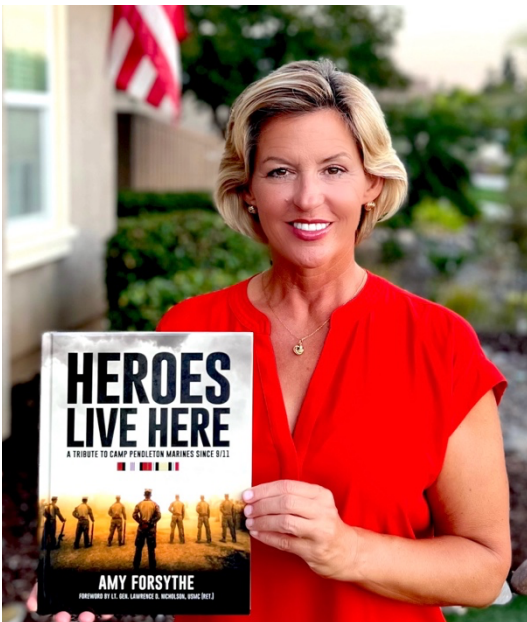


The La Jolla Rotary

News Bulletin

December 6, 2024

Coming on Tuesday December 10th,
Award Winning Military Photojournalist
Amy Forsythe



Amy Forsythe has served as a U.S. Marine and is currently in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Public Affairs Officer. She's served **five combat tours** and has been on assignment for several other overseas missions during her career.

Her imagery taken while covering military operations around the world has been featured in numerous international and national media outlets through the years and continues to be used for historical purposes. Her book "**Heroes**

Live Here: A Tribute to Camp Pendleton Marines” started as a passion project to showcase the memorials and markers on **Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton** and it turned into a collaborative work of art that honors our fallen Marines of the post-9/11 generation. She now works with other veterans to help them pursue their goals of becoming a published author.



**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen’s
email / google sheet re: our next luncheon on December
10th at:**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dkpZkZU2pOoCmuvRlvFxpTUOM_uAxNbg_uahbKY_Irs/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Highlights from Last Week’s Meeting

The meeting was called to order by **President Barbara Brown** at 12:30 PM



followed by the invocation and pledge of allegiance by **Bill Burch**:



Rotary Prayer

“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 your blessing on this food to our bodies, and ourselves to your service. We also thank you for Dana and Sophia who have come to talk to us this day. May we hear the message they have for us.

Father, while we live on gratitude, we also experience pain. We pray your blessing on our friends, Said and Kate, each of whom is experiencing intense loss right now. May they sense the warmth of your presence and the fellowship of friends.

Lord, please open our hearts to one another. Open our minds to various perspectives and open our welcome to those who would join us in service. In the name of one whom we serve.”

Amen

Happy Bucks \$\$\$

Susan Stevens and **Dave Weston** visited Vancouver recently to see their new grandchild. They offered our club \$100 in celebration of this blessed event.



Community Service Announcements

Denise McGuire began by thanking one and all for their contributions to our recent Thanksgiving food drive. Coordinated and led by **Craig Schniepp**, the collected food filled his large truck bed and cab.

She then listed our **Upcoming Rotary Community Service Events for December**

- 1. December 5, Our League House Brunch, led by Penny Shurtleff**
- 2. At our Luncheon, Tuesday, December 10, the Armed Services YMCA Toy Drive for ages 0-17 years.** The Toy donations must be made by our next meeting. Gift Cards of \$30 and Cash are also acceptable.

3. **Wednesday December 11, between 12 and 4 PM, The Armed Services YMCA toy distribution. Helping parents pick out toys for their children. (this is a very popular event and volunteering is limited) contact denisemcguire@mac.com if you wish to volunteer.**

4. **Saturday December 14th National Wreaths Across America Day will be held at Rosencrans National Cemetery at 9 am.** The wreaths are placed at more than 4,600 cemetery locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad in honor of our fallen soldiers. Contact denisemcguire@mac.com for further information and possible carpooling.

5. **From December 6th thru December 14th,** once again, our club is invited to participate in bell ringing for the Salvation Army **Red Kettle Campaign** at Pavilions, aka Vons for 2 hours between 11 AM and 7 PM Contact **Jordan Sargent** for more details jordan.sargent@usw.salvationarmy.org.

6. **On December 17th, between 5:30 and 9,** our club will host a wonderful, **Combined Holiday celebration as well as President Barbara Brown's demotion party.** Let **Natasha Vossen** know if you plan on attending.

Courtney Snyder let us know to sign up for "**Jingle on the Bay**" on Saturday, **December 14th** from 4 pm to 7pm. You'll see both the Mission Bay Boat Parade and SeaWorld fireworks from the deck at **Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.** *The event is totally free!*



Who am I???

Jordan Sargent



With parents and grandparents serving in the **Salvation Army**, Jordan's upbringing in Yakima, Washington, was understandably greatly influenced by the Salvation Army. Her training included **two years in Seminary School**, and she **served as a pastor for two more years**. She has attained the rank of **Lieutenant** and recently moved to San Diego. Jordan is an avid reader, plays the tenor saxophone, and enjoys singing. She is dedicated to her family and friends as well as to the success of the many Salvation Army endeavors.

We're all excited to participate in the **Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign** once again. We were all impressed by Jordan's dedication, enthusiasm, and infectious smile! Everyone present enjoyed her "who am I", and we all look forward to getting to know her better.

Chuck Dick offered *Sua sponte*, a ringing endorsement (bad pun intended) of **the Red Kettle Campaign**, and he encouraged everyone to participate at Pavilions/Vons this holiday season.



Pat Stouffer, *without any prompting*, offered that he learned to play the clarinet in high school but ended up a bag pipe player....



Last Week's Speaker(s)

Bill Burch introduced **Dana Churchill**, a holistic health practitioner who runs Churchill Centers in Fullerton and Arcadia. His practice primarily centers on the root causes of disease as well as healthful nutrition. He is actively involved in “**Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting**”.

Sophia Fang, an engineering student, is actively involved in exposing human rights violations in China.

Forced Organ Transplantation in China

Dana Churchill and **Sophia Fang** took turns talking about both the Falun Gong spiritual practice and the forced organ harvesting in China which primarily involves Falun Gong followers.

What we learned about Falun Gong:

- **Falun Gong's** spiritual tenets center on truth, compassion, and tolerance. They also teach many meditative practices.
- The religion was first taught in public in 1992 with an estimated 100 million followers in 1999. Today there are still an estimated “tens of millions” of followers.
- The Chinese government banned Falun Gong in 1999 and has since persecuted the movement with large scale arrests, torture, and forced organ harvesting.
- Li Hongzhi is the Chinese born founder and leader of Falun Gong. He first lectured publicly about the movement in 1992. Li Hongzhi currently lives in the U.S. Many of his teachings and the tenets of Falun Gong are controversial and differ from traditional Buddhist teachings.
- China's police force and army have reportedly been mobilized against Falun Gong followers.

What we learned about forced organ harvesting involving Falun Gong followers:

- “**The Slaughter**” by **Ethan Gutmann (2014)** provides details from interviews with doctors and top-ranking police regarding the immense

- numbers of political prisoners who have forcibly had their organs removed. He estimates that 65,000 over eight years have been killed to support the very profitable Chinese organ transplant business.
- The number of organ transplants in China has gone from 5000/year in 2000 to nearly 20,000/year in 2021. Corneas, livers, and hearts are most often the transplanted organs. Once the organs are removed the patient is killed.
 - The Uyghurs, population 12 million, and the Tibetans, population 6-7 million, are also persecuted. Forced labor and harvesting also occurs within these populations.
 - Many “harvest centers” and transplant hospitals are located throughout China, and “organ tourism” has become a very lucrative Billion-dollar business.
 - The “**Falun Gong Protection Act (HR4132/S4914)** is being considered by the US congress. The bill would protect U.S. patients from becoming accomplices to a crime against humanity, protect the U.S. ethics based medical system, and deter and hold China accountable. It was noted that Israel was the first country to pass laws against illegal organ harvesting. Other countries such as Canada and Australia already have similar laws on their books. Marco Rubio from Florida is heading our Legislation.



**Coming in two Weeks, December 17,
between 5:30 and 9 PM at the La Valencia,
Our Holiday and Demotion Party. It will be a night like no
Other!**



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