

Chartered October 26, 1925  
Wednesday 12:00 noon  
La Mesa Community Center  
4975 Memorial Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91942

### Board Members

President Bonnie Welch  
President-elect  
Gabriella Misirlioglu  
Past President  
Becki Schwartz  
Secretary Kathy Olsen  
Treasurer Ryan Barnhill

### Board Members Directors

Dale Bailey  
Marsha Darling  
Mary Elington  
Greg Erickson  
Mike Fellows  
Louise Herr-Marshall

### Membership

Greg Erickson

### Youth Service

Mark Matthews

### Speaker Chair

Bill Ashman



## Guest Speaker: Lisa Medina on the Power of Genealogy



Lisa Medina, Director of Admissions at Cal State San Marcos, joined us to share her passion for genealogy—a hobby she describes as both deeply personal and endlessly surprising. Lisa reminded us that the heart of genealogy is simple but profound: preserving family stories, strengthening generational bonds, and honoring those who came before us. What excites her most are the unexpected discoveries that solve long-standing mysteries and make history feel alive and immediate.

To illustrate this, Lisa walked us through the research she conducted on her great-grandmother Julia, whom she never had the chance to meet. Through records, documents, and historical context, Julia emerged as a vivid figure—a woman who migrated from New York to Colorado, homesteaded, and even became an early “house flipper.” Genealogy transformed a name on a family tree into a fully realized life story.

Lisa also offered practical guidance for anyone interested in beginning their own family research. She highlighted FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com as excellent starting points and encouraged members to explore the resources of the San Diego Genealogical Society, which provides free classes and research support.

## Lunch Assignments

### April 15, 2026

Greeter David Petri  
Pledge Jim Kline  
Thought Marsha Starr  
4 Way Test Jay Thompson

### April 22, 2026

Greeter Jim Kline  
Pledge David Petri  
Thought Marsha Darling  
4 Way Test Mary Elington

### April 29, 2026

**Dark - no meeting**

### May 6, 2026

Greeter Marsha Darling  
Pledge Louise Herr-Marshall  
Thought  
4 Way Test Ron Morell

**Please exchange with someone if you're unable to perform your assignment.**

## April Birthdays

4/16 Marsha Darling

## April Rotarian of Month



Louise Herr-Marshall was recognized as the Rotarian of the Month for April. Louise is also celebrating her 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of La Mesa Rotary this month. We owe a debt of gratitude to Louise for our weekly lunches. Louise not only selects of menu each week, but she also orders it, picks it up and delivers it to the club.

Louise's dedication has resulted in an excellent lunch and cutting costs.

Thank you, Louise, for going above and beyond for each of us.

## Volunteers Needed

Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Grossmont Center Kids Zone.

Please let Bill know if you can help out for a few hours between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. GH Interact students will be assisting as well.

Earth Day 2026 will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 11 AM - 3 PM at MacArthur



The poster for the La Mesa Earth Day Fair features a green and blue color scheme. At the top left, the text "La Mesa" is written in a green, cursive font, and "Earth Day Fair" is in a blue, cursive font. To the right is the City of La Mesa logo, which includes a sun and the text "CITY OF LA MESA JEWEL OF THE HILLS". Below the title, a line of text reads: "CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH A DAY DEDICATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND PROTECTING OUR PLANET FEATURING ECO-FRIENDLY VENDORS, A KIDS ZONE, FOOD TRUCKS, ACTIVITIES, AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES". In the bottom left corner, there are three small photos: one of a group of children, one of a person with a dog, and one of a bicycle. Below these photos is the "AMERICA 250" logo. In the bottom right corner, the text "FREE!" is written in red, followed by "SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM" and "MACARTHUR PARK 4900 MEMORIAL DRIVE".

## Club Dues

Hopefully you noticed the quarterly dues decreased this week from **\$330** per quarter to **\$275**. The Board has been working on ways to decrease costs. You have noticed that we have been trying several different caterers which in turn has reduced this cost and in turn the quarterly dues.

## Sunrise Service



Thank you, Becki Schwartz, Bill Ashman, Mark Matthews, and Gabriella for coordinating the buses for the Sunrise Service.

3rd Annual

EST. 1916  
**OPERATION FLAGS FOR VETS**  
MEMORIAL DAY HONORS AT MIRAMAR NATIONAL CEMETERY

Miramar  
National  
Cemetery

★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ★

Place Flags on Saturday, May 23 (arrive at 12 p.m.)  
Remove Flags on Tuesday, May 26 (arrive at 3 p.m.)



**Rotary**  
District 5340



The Military Coordinating Committee of Rotary District 5340 is proud to sponsor "Operation Flags for Vets" on Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers will place 23,000 American Flags on gravesites to honor the military men and women, and their families, lying at rest at Miramar National Cemetery. This project is 100% funded by donations.

*All volunteers must register to participate*

To volunteer or donate, please scan the QR code, or click on:  
[www.bit.ly/4tszGjk](http://www.bit.ly/4tszGjk)

For questions, contact Mike Fuqua at (858)382-3297 or  
via email at: [mfuqua.rbrotary@gmail.com](mailto:mfuqua.rbrotary@gmail.com)

**SCAN HERE!**



Memorial Day weekend, we have an opportunity to do something simple, beautiful, and deeply meaningful.

Rotary District 5340 is proud to support Operation Flags for Vets at Miramar National Cemetery, where volunteers will help place 3,000 American flags on the graves of our military heroes, veterans, and their families.

Each flag is a symbol of gratitude.

Each grave tells a story of sacrifice.

Each moment of service is a reminder that freedom is never free.

Our District 5340 Rotary family and our community come together to honor those who gave so much for our nation.

- 📍 Place Flags: Saturday, May 23, arrive at 12 p.m.
- 📍 Remove Flags: Tuesday, May 26, arrive at 3 p.m.

## Service Opportunities

Event	Date/Time	Location
RYLA	April 10-12, 2026	Idyllwild
Kids Zone	April 18 9 - 4 PM	Mc Arthur Park
NAMI Walk	7 - 11 AM April 25, 2026	NTC Liberty Park
Multi-District Conference Register on line at <a href="http://rotary5340.org">rotary5340.org</a>	April 24 - 26, 2026	Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center 1000 H Street, Chula Vista
Camp Enterprise	April 23 - 25, 2026	
Epic Day of Service	May 16, 2026	TBD
Operation Flags for Vets	Place Flags May 23 <sup>rd</sup> 12 - 3 Remove Flags May 26 <sup>th</sup> 3pm	Miramar National Cemetary