

# THE ROTATOR

Vol. 106, No. 30 February 27, 2020

SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

San Diego  
Rotary



Established 1911

## Tackling Transit



Camille Newbern  
Editor

Like many SoCal residents, I have two homes. The first is a place I hang my clothes, nourish my body, and rest after one long day before preparing for the next. The second is also a place where I throw clothes, eat snacks and have been known to sneak in a nap or touch up my makeup. Really, the only differences between the two are that concerning the latter, bathrobes are frowned upon and it moves upon four wheels. And I know I'm not the only San Diegan who is only half joking when I say that I live in my car. So, to hear that Thursday's program would be dedicated to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System grabbed my attention. In a city where cars equal mobility, freedom and independence, where does mass transit fit in? Leave it to San Diego MTS CEO Paul Jablonski to fill in the blanks on that question and so much more. But first thing's first...

"Who are you?!!!" bellowed out from a sea of faces as POATES (or President **David Oates** if you prefer) took the podium. Without missing a beat, POATES quipped back "I'm the guy that just fined you \$350!" No better way to kickoff a meeting than with a impromptu fine, thanks to POATES quick wit and **Tracy Sundlun's** big mouth (and even bigger generosity). But that's just how we roll at Club 33.

Thursday's Inspirational Moment was gracefully delivered by San Diego Women's Foundation Executive Director **Katie Sawyer**. While we all know the names of the first men on the moon, we don't all know the names of the woman who got them there. Katherine Johnson, who passed away last week at 101 years of age, was famously humble, saying "I'm as good as anybody, but no better."

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and *America the Beautiful*, led by **Simona Valanciute**, accompanied by **Larry Showley**, **Wendy Urushima-Conn** delivered the News and one of the better jokes I've heard. If you missed it, ask Wendy for an encore telling. (Spoiler alert- it's mildly racy for Rotary!) The News was sponsored by **Judy**

**Thompson**. Still waiting to hear if Judy sponsored that joke.

Major props to our SDSU Rotaracts who helped to raise over \$365,000 for Rady Children's Hospital through their Dance Marathon. That's real money!! How they have time to do all they do during college, I'll never know. But man am I thankful they're doing it.

One of my favorite parts of the POATES-led meetings are his "You Are Everywhere" roundups. Last week was no exception. We were literally everywhere- locally, we were hosting 31 students in the annual 4-Way Speech Contest, taking an insider's tour of Illumina and purchasing a noteworthy amount of Girl Scout cookies. Internationally, the equipment has arrived and is being installed at our soon-to-open hospital in Atiak, Uganda. Yeah, it was a good week.

Save the date- Model UN will be held this coming March 28-29 at USD. (More details on page 4.) After **Stephanie Rossis's** daughter participated in last year's program, she decided that she was going to pursue an ambassadorship at the UN. Imagine how many other young people you will be able to positively impact by donating your time and treasures.

Another one of my faves? New member intros. I always enjoy hearing what people choose to say about themselves with the allotted two minutes.

Does the name **Jules Taggart** sound familiar? It should because Jules has had better attendance that a lot of us over the past few months. As the founder of Wayward Kind digital marketing agency, Jules has one main goal- to create rich, meaningful relationships through digital tools.

And the only thing better than one new member? Two new members! (I also would have taken three or more new members as acceptable answers.) Welcome **Nicole DeBerg**. Along with being CFO for the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Nicole is an avid polo player. She would love to start a polo committee at Club 33 but

## Next Meeting

**Next Meeting:  
March 5, 2020**

**Sandra Kerl,  
General Manager  
San Diego County  
Water Authority**

Sandy Kerl was appointed General Manager of the San Diego County Water Authority in November 2019. Kerl will discuss the Water Authority's strategic approach to the opportunities and challenges of adapting to varied impacts to our region's water supply.



**Jim Madaffer  
Chair of the Day**

suspects it would be a lonely membership.

Then it was on to the main event. As CEO and publisher of San Diego Magazine, Chair of the Day **Jim Fitzpatrick** didn't have to think twice about his gift- at least a dozen different San Diego Magazines. Who says that print is dead? (And by says, I of course mean texts.

*Continued on page 2*

## QUICK BITS

### 2020-2021 Grant Applications are now available!

It is that time once again for the annual Club 33 Project Allocation process to begin. If you wish to submit a grant application for next fiscal year which begins July 1, [click here](#) to complete the online application.

**Applications are due no later than March 15**, but please submit applications as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact [Paul](#) at the Rotary office, or PAC Chair [Steve Coopersmith](#).

 **Applications are now being accepted to serve as a facilitator at the next Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in Idyllwild.** Please visit [ryla5340.org](http://ryla5340.org) and click on the Facilitator tab to learn more about the program and to find an application. If you have any questions, contact our club member Paul van Roon at 619/980-2334 or [paulvan-roon@icloud.com](mailto:paulvan-roon@icloud.com).

## BIRTHDAYS

### March

Joe Sammartino	2
Brad Gastineau	3
Mark Burgess	4
Jim Madaffer	4
Gary Gould	6
Kirk Jackson	7
Tom Day	7
Stephanie Rossis	8

## Tackling Transit *Continued from page 1*

Remember when I went on that long diatribe about kinda sorta living in my car? Here's where it finally makes sense! (I hope.) Paul Jablonski has served as CEO for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) for the past 16 years. Paul has thoroughly transformed the agency, consolidating Bus and Rail operations under one Board of Directors, merging several bus operations, implementing a new brand identity, developing a market-driven network of services, bringing low-floor rail cars to the entire system, tackling pension reform and labor agreements, restoring reliability to bus operations and leading a major State of Good Repair initiative. Is that it, Paul?

Apparently not. Enter ElevateSD 2020. For the first time since the advent of freeways, San Diego is looking to public transportation for help. ElevateSD 2020, a 50-year initiative to increase funding for San Diego's transit system. In a nutshell, the initiative will lead to more destinations, more frequently, more quickly with more direct connections. That is music to my traffic-intolerant ears.

## MEMBERSHIP

The following applicants were recommended to the Board of Directors by the Membership Committee and will be approved for membership unless objections are received at the Rotary office by March 11:

- Brian Steffy – Illumina - “Genomics Sequencing, A.A.”
- Shaneese Evans – US Air Force - “Traffic Management-Military”
- Ingrid de Llamas - Comic Con Museum - “Museum-Comic Con”
- Caitlin Ostomel - US Navy Region Southwest - “US Navy—External Affairs”
- Kristie Bruce-Lane - Thumbprint Project Foundation - “Associations-Homeless”
- Felicia Lyon - Panthera Leadership - “Training-Leadership”

## CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LIBERTY STATION CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

### MAR

**5** *Sandy Kerl-SD County Water Authority*

**12** *The Economic Need for Affordable Childcare*

**19** *Camp Enterprise Kickoff*

## GROTARIAN EVENT

**Friday, April 24 - “Shiv” at Moxie Theatre Cost: \$35**

We hope you will join us for a special Friday night Grotarian event at the Moxie Theatre. We will enjoy great food and wine, a tour of the theatre, a discussion with the actors, the author and production staff, and then enjoy a private showing of Shiv.

Shiv is an LA Times CRITIC'S CHOICE. Riffing on a modern-day incarnation of the goddess Shiva, this subtly crafted portrait of a Hindu immigrant girl's coming-of-age in her new American homeland shapes seemingly unrelated narrative fragments into a poetic, heart-breaking, often humorous and ultimately profound journey of self-discovery.

***Schedule of events: 6pm – dining and tour  
7pm – discussion with actors, author and production staff  
8pm – private showing of Shiv***

[Click here for more info and to register](#)

**Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106**

David Oates, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943

Phone: 619/299-3309 Fax: 619/299-3340 ♦ e-mail: [paul@rotary33.org](mailto:paul@rotary33.org) ♦ website: <http://www.sandiegorotary.club>

# MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest members to the club:



**Nicole DeBerg— “Social Service & Welfare-Ronald McDonald House”.** Nicole is the CFO for the Ronald McDonald House Charities San Diego.

Nicole was born in Germany. English is her third language after German and Latin. She also studied French, Spanish, Italian and Russian. She is a graduate of SDSU.

She currently serves on the Board of Reality Changers and the Mona Foundation and also serves on the finance committee for Community Housing Works and Home Start.

She has three children: Jimmy, who is a lead singer in a rock band and is on his fourth Europe tour; Nicolette who is an upcoming diamond trader; Nastasha who wants to be a biologist.

Nicole loves to play polo, has 3 horses and rides five times a week. She hopes to be able to start a polo committee in the club!

**Judy Thompson, Jeremiah Doran and Barbara Noerenberg** were her sponsors.

Email: [ndeberg@rmhcsd.org](mailto:ndeberg@rmhcsd.org)



**Jules Taggart— “Marketing-Digital, Additional Active”.** Jules is the Founder of Wayward Kind, a digital marketing agency with a focus on human connection.

Jules moved to San Diego from Kansas City ten years ago. She and her husband, Jeff, have two daughters, 5 year-old Olympia and 3 year-old Helena.

Her team at Wayward Kind refer to her as their Chief Reading Officer (CRO) because she reads 100 to 150 books a year. She recently read a book “Why We Gather” that inspired her with these main points of what make the best gatherings: 1. they happen weekly, 2. they offer opportunities for deep, authentic communication and connections, 3. they offer opportunities for service. So it is no surprise that after she met President David to learn more our Rotary her immediate response was, “Sign me up!”

**David Oates, Frank Caperino and Mia Harenski** were her sponsors.

Email: [j@waywardkind.com](mailto:j@waywardkind.com)

# ROTARY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

We hope you will join us for this year's Rotary Model UN Conference.  
Sponsored by the District 5340 Pathways to Peace Committee  
Date: March 28-29 Location: USD Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice.

## *Did you know?*

- **Rotary** was involved in the formulation of the United Nations
- **Rotary** holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organization
- There is **Rotary Day** at the United Nations each year
- San Diego is one of the few Rotary Model UN programs in the Nation
- This is the **16<sup>th</sup>** consecutive year.
- **Club 33** has been involved from the beginning with Sponsorship of teams from Hoover High School, High Tech High School, San Diego High, Francis Parker School
- Many **Club 33** members have been involved as : Private Sponsors, Advisors, Consultants

## *What is Model UN?*

Rotary clubs select teams of two high school students and one advisor, who can be a Rotarian, teacher or parent. A club can sponsor more than one team. Several months before the Conference, the students are given two current-day UN Resolutions to address, and will undergo a day of training in analytical and negotiating skills, what to expect at the actual 2-day Conference and then the students select the countries to which they will become ambassadors. Participants and students get to role-play and negotiate and resolve very current and pressing real world issues in the form of formal UN Resolutions. The experience promotes leadership, teamwork, conflict resolution and peace building through the real world mechanism and inner workings of the United Nations.



The District recruit students from a cross section of San Diego and Riverside County schools, including inner city schools, charter schools for underprivileged students and more recognized high schools, as well as students from many international countries to give our Conference a true UN flair. In this way, students from a variety of backgrounds get to interact and become friends with each other. MUN students can be from freshmen to seniors.

Annually, between 80-100 students and 35-45 Rotarian advisors and/or teachers participate.



Our District is one of the very few Rotary Districts around the world that hosts a Model UN Conference.

Visit the conference website at <https://modelunrotary5340.com/> to learn more or contact Club 33 Peace Committee Chair [Jean Young](#) on how you can support this event.

# FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Lisa Miller



(Left) With no visiting Rotarians in the audience, Chair of the Day Jim Fitzpatrick gifts our speaker, Paul Jablonski, with a few of San Diego Magazine's various publications; (right) Checking-in members with a smile, **Christy White** and **Gil Johnson**.



(Left) Wendy Urushima-Conn always has fun delivering our News; (right) Stephanie Rossis promotes Rotary's Model UN event.



(Left) **Wendy McKinney** and **Laurie Coskey** were twinning in black and white polka dots; (right) Grateful for our greeters: **Nancy Scott**, **Ron Eisenberg**, **Peg Eddy**, **Jeanne Schmelzer**, and **Marten Barry**.