



# THE ROTATOR

## ROTARY CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

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No. 7



# Fallen Top Gun

**Editor Bob Kyle**

Perfect vacation weather did not lessen the turnout for another “big draw” Rotary Thursday. **President Dick** brought the meeting to order and **Buddy Thomas** provided the inspirational moment. **Bill Dick** led us in The Star Spangled Banner with **Joe Zakowski** on the piano. **George Alexander** provided a Club 33 History Minute – noting that it was 50 years ago in August 1959 when then President **Shelly Brockett** announced the move of Rotary to the El Cortez Hotel – up “cardiac hill.” Shuttle service “up” to the meetings was provided. George then followed with the news.

Two new members introduced themselves – **Rick Gentry** (a former Rotarian) and **Serhat Pala** (“just call me Pala”). Welcome! **Jim Groen** related the efforts of a work party at The Bridge (a home for nine students) and introduced two of the students who were particularly hard workers as part of the team. **Kenny Jones** plugged the Foundation Seminar on Saturday, September 12 (7:30 AM to Noon) – a requirement for Red Badgers and a makeup for all. **Martha Dennis** took a fine for her picture in the Arts Section of the *UT*. She is the Chair of the La Jolla Music Society’s Summerfest, a three week classic music festival.

President Dick introduced the Chair of the Day, our model Rotarian **Steve Hubbard**, who has a long resume of Rotary roles. What may have been news to many was the fact of his graduation from the FBI Citizens

Academy. He introduced a number of FBI personnel in attendance before introducing our speakers for the day, Special Agents Erin Phan and Lamont Siller. Using a very concise power point presentation they alternated in telling the tale of the downfall of the Top Gun Naval aviator and Vietnam Flying Ace-turned-U.S. Congressman, Duke Cunningham.

The *Union Tribune* articles of June 12, 2005 on Cunningham’s home real estate transaction and June 16 on his Washington residence aboard the yacht “Duke Stir” brought the whole situation to light. They acknowledged that prior to this the government had no indication of the corruption and thus they started “behind the power curve,” running to keep up with the press.

However they soon began to gather extensive evidence that brought forward Mitch Wade, a front-man for contractor Brent Wilkes, as a cooperating witness. This eventually led to Wilkes as the principal beneficiary of the lucrative contracts handed out under the direction of Cunningham. Once exposed, the cover up was quite obvious and led to Cunningham’s whimpering confession. After this clear cut presentation of a gross abuse of public trust, a number of the questions to our speakers seemed to ask, “Might this have gone undetected?” and “Is there more of this going on in Washington?” Their answers seemed to say, “Maybe.” Food for thought!

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday

August 20, 2009

Sheraton East

Harbor Island Ballroom

*“Technology: Ticket to A Green Energy Future”*

**Debra L. Reed**  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Gas & Electric  
Southern California  
Gas Company

Remember “The Jetsons” cartoon in the ‘60s and its mind-bending technology? Today, technology has made what seemed improbable, possible. Today, technology is transforming the utility industry toward a “greener” energy future. More changes are ahead in the next 20 years than you’ve seen in the last century – from smart meters to a Smart Grid, electric vehicles and solar “trees,” biofuels and more. Find out how these changes will mean more choice, control and convenience for you to manage your energy use and costs as you take a quick trip to 2014 with **Debbie Reed**.



Chair of the Day  
**Frank Urtasun**

## QUICK BITS

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS NEEDED FOR SCHOLAR

We need to furnish an apartment for Club 33's visiting Ambassadorial Scholar from Tanzania. Items needed are two desks w/chairs, one bed, some lamps, a breakfast table w/chairs, a TV and dishware. Please contact Richard Coutts if you can help by 8/17.

### GROTARIAN EVENT

Please call the office for ticket information about Tues., Aug 25, 5 -7 PM for Body Worlds at the Natural History Museum with the Club 33 Grotarians.

### DR. HOMER PEABODY HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

PP Homer Peabody will be honored posthumously on Sat., Aug. 29 when he joins the Class of 2009 SD Tennis Hall of Fame inductees. The free ceremony will be held at the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Stadium, Balboa Tennis Club in Morley Field at 4 PM.

### FOUNDATION SEMINAR

The D5340 Foundation Seminar is Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 AM — 12:30 PM. Register at [www.rotary5340.org](http://www.rotary5340.org).

### Please Welcome...

**Serhat Pala**, classification "Health Services – Diagnostic Testing," introduced himself to Club 33 today. Serhat is the President of TestCountry, a medical diagnostic and testing service provider. He's an 11-year resident of San Diego. Serhat and his wife, Zeynep Ilgaz, have two children, Kenan and Arden. His introduction day is also his birthday. **Kobe Bogaert**, **Tom Gable** and **Judy Thompson** are Serhat's sponsors.

(B) 858.430.2800, x 111

(F) 630.566.0708

(E) [pala@testcountry.com](mailto:pala@testcountry.com)

## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



By *Bruce A. Hunt*  
Executive Director

**Why is fellowship part of the Rotary experience?** Service answers the call of need of others but fellowship speaks to the need of self. To paraphrase Shakespeare

and the Swedes, joy shared is joy doubled; sorrow shared is sorrow halved. We Rotarians engage in fellowship in many different circumstances with our meeting the primary vehicle. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, you've missed some good programs but more importantly, you have missed doubling your joy and halving your sorrow and helping someone else do the same.

What events have happened recently where fellowship played a role? Many Club 33 members attended this week's memorial service for **Herman Gadon** to honor him and support **Natasha Josefowitz**. There were three committee meetings after yesterday's regular Club meeting and it wasn't all business that brought the members to those gatherings. When the Club 33 Singers practice on Monday nights, it's not just the notes that make us feel better for being there.

So, if you want to double up some pleasure or cut back some worries, what events are coming up? There's a Rotary Padres game on Aug. 20. We have a Grotarian event to see Body Worlds on Aug. 25. **PP Homer Peabody** is being inducted posthumously into the SD Tennis Hall of Fame on Aug. 29. The D5340 Foundation Seminar is coming on Sept. 12.

Take your pick and help yourself to some fellowship.

In Memoriam

**Herman Gadon, Ph.D.**

Member

San Diego Rotary Club

1990 – 2009

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Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina

Dick Troncone, President ♦ Bruce A. Hunt, Executive Director

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

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

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

27 **Jeff Moorad**  
*San Diego Padres*  
*Sheraton East*

### SEPTEMBER

3 **Camile Sobrian**  
*Wireless Life*  
*Sciences*  
*Sheraton West*

### COMMITTEE MEETING August 20

Membership - 4:30 p.m.  
Manpower Staffing Services  
1855 First Ave., Ste. 300  
San Diego 92101

## BIRTHDAYS

Joe Farrage	Aug. 17
Philippe Cesson	18
Marten Barry	19
Paula Cordeiro	19
Ellen Casey	20
Rodger Dougherty	20
Michael Jones	20
Charlie Van Vechten	21
Ben Clay	22
Pete Wilson	23

### Please Welcome...

**Richard Gentry**, classification "Municipal Government – Housing," also introduced himself to Club 33 today. Rick is the President and CEO of the San Diego Housing Commission which provides affordable housing services for the City of San Diego. He and his wife Deborah recently moved to SD from Chicago. He was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! **Andrew Poat**, **Dick Murphy** and **Joe Horiye** are Rick's sponsors.

(B) 619.752.7531

(F) 619.578.7360

(E) [rickg@sdhc.org](mailto:rickg@sdhc.org)

# FACES IN THE CROWD AT THE CLUB 33 MEETING



*Steve Hubbard*



*Bill Dick*



*Martha Dennis*



*George Alexander*



*New Member Serhat Pala*



*New Member Rick Gentry*



*Left: Buddy Thomas*



*Right: John Littrell*

**LISC**  
San Diego

**Joseph M. Horiye**  
Executive Director  
jhoriye@lisc.org

LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION  
450 B Street, Suite 470, San Diego, CA 92101-8007  
Ph 619-239-6691 ■ Fax 619-239-3207  
www.lisc.org/san\_diego



*Guest speakers Lamont Siller & Erin Phan*