

# La Rueda

S E R V I C E   A B O V E   S E L F  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTEREY, RI DISTRICT 5230

## Jason Blazakis

### Trump's Deployment of Terrorism Designations: A look at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Russian Imperial Movement



Jason Blazakis is a professor at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) where he focuses on threat financing, sanctions, violent extremism, and special operations related research. He is also the Director of MIIS's Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism where he directs research on domestic terrorism, terrorism finance, recruitment, propaganda, and the use of special operations to counter transnational threats. CTEC provides expert guidance to and reports on the nature of far-right and far-left wing extremism to a world-leading Silicon Valley company as it fends off extremist efforts to abuse its platforms.

From 2008-2018, he served as the Director of the Counterterrorism Finance and Designations Office, Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State. In his former role, Jason was responsible for directing efforts to designate countries, organizations, and individuals as terrorists, also known as State Sponsors of Terrorism, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, and Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Jason previously held positions in the Department of State's Political-Military Affairs, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Intelligence and Research Bureaus, and at U.S. Embassy Kabul.

Prior to working at the Department of State, Jason served as a domestic intelligence analyst at the Congressional Research Service. In addition, he was the national security adviser to a United States Congressional Representative. He also has worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Technology Administration.

Jason is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Soufan Center and a Senior Advisor at the Soufan Group. Jason is also on the editorial advisory board for the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence.

He has published articles in Time Magazine, Slate Magazine, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The Hill, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Lawfare, and many more. He regularly is quoted by the media (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Reuters, ABC, CBS, NBC, amongst others) on a wide-range of terrorism and sanctions related matters.

He holds degrees from the University of Mississippi, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University.

## Featuring Fellow Rotarian Member: Dick Crowell



**Dick Crowell** has been a proud member of Rotary Club of Monterey since 1992, and has served on the Board, chaired several committees and was twice Treasurer (we are still trying to reconcile the books!). Prior to moving to Monterey, he joined Rotary in Santa Ana and served as president in 1988-89. He has been a Rotarian for 46 years, is a Paul Harris Fellow +6 and a Rotary Benefactor.

Back when he had a real job, he founded and was president of an insurance brokerage firm in Newport Beach specializing in professional liability insurance for architects and engineers. He sold his business and retired to the Monterey Peninsula, but didn't enjoy retirement so he un-retired to join a local insurance company as Senior VP of Marketing for 10 more years, and finally re-retired in 2001.

Dick is a licensed private pilot and enjoyed flying for pleasure around Southern California and occasional business trips up here to Monterey. He is deeply interested in military history, especially military aviation. His other hobbies include traveling the world (he once flew around the world east to west, and has flown supersonic on Concorde twice), exploring his family's roots (his Ancestry

# AUGUST

**Tuesday – 08/11 COG Meeting – 5:30 PM**

**Thursday – 08/13 Board Meeting – 7:30 AM**

**Thursday – 08/13 Dr. Kanno – Nanao – Monterey Rotary Relationship**

**Thursday – 08/20 Lukeas Beebe – The FBI In Monterey County**

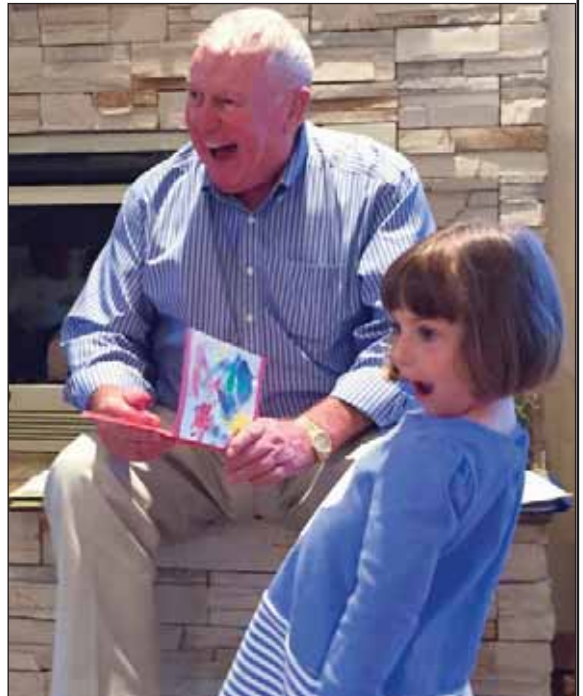
**Thursday – 08/27 Dan Baldwin – Community Foundation 75th Anniversary Year**

tree numbers 28,500 humanoids so far), exploring archeological sites (he finds old bones fascinating!) and making videos of his travels, which he foists onto unsuspecting Rotary Clubs desperate for a program. He's given 62 programs in the past 10 years hereabouts, including 14 to this club alone! Do you know how many free rubber chicken meals he's eaten? No wonder he looks so familiar to us, he's always at the darn podium! Dick also enjoys the sport of Lawyer Twitting, which is unfair since they are such easy targets to twit. He enjoys doing this even though both his brother and his daughter are lawyers (he says, "Oh the shame of it! Oh the humanity!")

Dick graduated from UCLA with a BA in Psychology and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard. He served on active duty on a Coast Guard cutter out of Long Beach, and during his tour of active duty, is proud to say that not one successful invasion of Long Beach was ever attempted! He stayed in the Coast Guard Reserve 13 years and retired as a Lieutenant. Commander.

In addition to Rotary, Dick has been active in the Church in the Forest, chairing both its Board of Directors and Foundation, and served on the board of Pac Rep Theater and of several other non-profits. He recently served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to review the latest Airport Master Plan for Monterey Regional Airport.

Dick and his wife Sheila, a professional writer, live in Carmel Valley. They met 30 years ago when she was assigned to edit a 500-page book he was writing on contract law for architects and engineers. She's been trying to edit his behavior ever since – unsuccessfully, as we all know!



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at the CFMC that provides grants to local  
non-profit organizations supporting youth  
and scholarships for students.

**For More Information:**

<http://www.cfmco.org/about-us/fund-list/rotary-club-monterey-martin-hurd-fund/>



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Kim Stemler – August 9

Nels Wiegand – August 11

Dan T. Albert Jr. – August 11

Tom Meyer – August 12

