

San Marino Rotoscope May 9, 2024



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ROTSCOPE

Written by Paul Brassard

May 2 RECAP Valeria Shpak, Update on her journey out of war-torn Ukraine

Valeria was born in Sevastopol, Crimea. But when Russian forces occupied that region in 2014 she fled to Kiev, where she earned her university degrees. Then, when Russia invaded Ukraine-proper in 2022, she fled with her mother to Italy, then Poland and finally to the United States. Valeria visited our club two years ago. At the time, she had no job, no car, and no work permit. People of this community, including several Rotarians, helped Valeria get on her feet. Teddy and Nicole Basseri provided her with a car, Fary with dental work, Ginny with legal help and Dennis let her live in his ADU for 10 months. Now Valeria lives in Pasadena. Not only does she have a work permit, but she has a key role in a movie, called SHTTL, that will come out next month. Rotarians help many people through the on-going programs we have on the local, district and international levels. But Rotarians also help informally when they see a need. This is one of those examples.



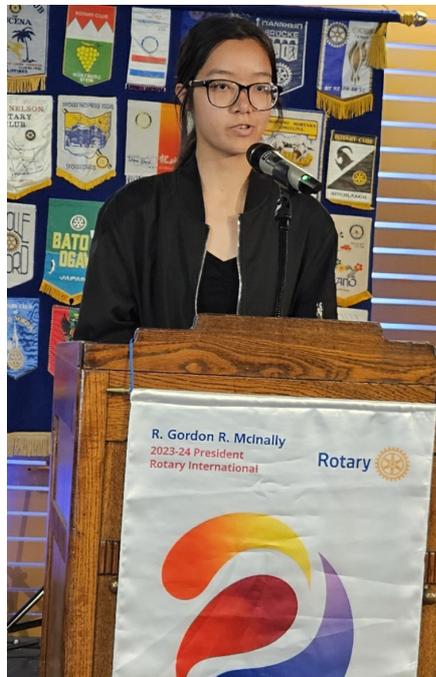
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

San Marino High School principal Dr. Ben Wolf brought two “students of the month” to the meeting.

--Karen Ng is very active in SM high music, including marching band and drum line.

--Ally Ramos is very active in the SM high school drama department and music theater.





MAY 9 MEETING: Michelle Cox, Community Grants recipient presentations and Tony Chou, Boy’s Volleyball at SMHS.

San Marino Rotary Charities is providing over \$30,000 for grants to 22 local organizations. Over ten of those organizations will be present to accept their grant and be recognized. Most of the funding for Rotary Charities comes from our participation in the San Marino Motor Classic, which is all the more reason we need to support that event through volunteer work and sponsorships.

Tony Chou, who serves on the SM city council and is a busy dad, somehow finds time to coach the San Marino high boys’ volleyball team. Tony will update us on the team and his coaching philosophy.

MOVING ON UP

Four hard-working Rotarians were awarded with the only thing really worth having—a Blue Badge. Congratulations to Joel Kim, Claude Delgado, Grant Fujiwara, and Peter Young.





ANOTHER NEW MEMBER JOINS OUR CLUB

Veteran community volunteer Rick Chou was inducted into our club last Thursday. Rick raised his children in San Marino and has served on the city's design review commission for the past five years. So we know he is not afraid to make tough decisions. Rick started his career in advertising photography and later co-founded a company that creates CGI and virtual reality content. Rick's co-sponsors are Gilda and Isaac.



A FESTIVE DINNER OF INDIA AWAITS YOU --RSVP Required--

Are you ready to have some fun? On Thursday, May 23rd we will be dark at noon so we can gather in the early evening at the spacious backyard of Barbara's home in the San Rafael area of Pasadena. There we will celebrate the Cuisine of India, including appetizers, main courses, beverages, and dessert. All for only \$25. (I told Dennis we need to charge more for these events). Anyway, to get this incredible deal, you must RSVP to Dennis (dkneier@socal.rr.com) by May 20th. When you RSVP you need to indicate if you want Dennis to charge your credit card on file or if you will pay at the door. RSVP no shows will be billed.

District Training Assembly & Foundation Gala

Rotary provides people the opportunity to get firsthand leadership experience by volunteering in the club. But Rotary also offers formal training. As a club member and certainly if you are a new board member or committee chair you need to attend the full day of learning, fellowship, and entertainment on Saturday, May 18th at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center, Pomona, CA. The training starts at 10:00 am, with lunch from 12:15 to 1:25, which will feature the 4-Way Speech contest winner. In the evening, there is a Foundation Gala to honor Rotary Foundation Donors. The reception starts at 5:45. The dinner will also feature the winner of the Dan Stover Music Contest. Register on the district5300.org website. Come meet other Rotarians and come support our future district governors, Mike Driebe and Gilda Moshir, who will be in the spotlight. Talk to Paul if you are interested in carpooling for this event.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule (Invite a friend)

May 16 Genevieve Osmena, Sr. Civil Engineer, LA Public Works Dept., The LA River Master Plan

May 23 DARK for lunch. Evening meeting at the Bice Backyard, RSVP required.

May 30 DARK, Memorial Day

June 6 Ryan Clinton, USMA Class of 2005, Captain, Ret., 20th annual Salute to the Service Academy Appointees.

Other Notable Dates

May 18 District Assembly and Foundation Dinner in Pomona
