



SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

SANTAANANORTHROTARYCLUB.ORG

# The Rotations

## May 7, 2014

## OC Community Housing Corp

Nora Mendez and Monica Cardenas joined us from OC Community Housing Corp, along with Juan Sandoval of Stepping Up Testing Services, which operates under OCCHC.

Nora is the Executive Director of OCCHC and began as a child, with her family as clients of the group which provides affordable housing to very low income families. Their motto is simply "We change lives".

In addition to housing they provide a lot of youth services, with a goal of all children attaining higher education. This includes college awareness and support on the path to get into college. They pair students with an academic advisor for counseling and planning & preparation for whatever their chosen path is (financial aid, application packages, support in testing scores, targeting strategies, etc). Of their students served last year, 98% entered a 4 year college and the other 2% entered military service.

Juan runs the testing service component. He parlayed a test prep instructor job from his undergraduate time to a program at Think Together and now Stepping Up, which just started in January with 150 students. As with all OCCHC programs, the goal is to enhance and develop clients' self-sufficiency.

Juan addressed the importance of test score results to get into a good college. In his program he also advises the students on college targeting (considering factors such as acceptance rates and the availability of not only need-based scholarship, but also merit-based scholarships).

We enjoyed the talks and appreciated the work Nora and Juan are doing to build lives of the OC residents they serve.

We meet Wednesdays at noon  
at Antonello Ristorante  
3800 S Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, CA

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

**May 14**, our own Penny Byram will tell us about Rotary assistance in Philippines.

**May 28**, noon to 2 p.m. **OFFSITE** hands-on service being Book Doctors for Think Together – slightly new location, 2101-B (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) E . Fourth Street, Santa Ana. This is our regular club meeting, though we understand if you need to leave at 1:15. We will bring in lunch so please **RSVP to Denise Habjan, our Service Chair**, so we have enough food. This is also a great opportunity to bring guests and friends to participate in hands-on service with Rotary.

**NO LUNCH MEETING June 11**, as we're having Mel's Continuation Celebration that evening – see below



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 16**, Governor's Transition Party (and Gov. Rae's birthday!) Register online at DaCdb. (Except for Mel and guest, we pay our own way, so if you're interested in going, please let Mel know.)

**June 11**, evening, Antonello: Not your average demotion party – we're having a **Continuation Celebration** for Mel! If you haven't already RSVPd to Lisa Scaglione, please do so.

**May 31**: OC Legal Aid Society fundraiser: Wine Festival at the Great Park in Irvine (in Hangar 244), from 2-5 p.m. with beer and wine from about 40 providers, and about 10-15 restaurants. There will also be live music, a silent auction, and an opportunity drawing. Tickets are \$75 through May 12 and \$100 thereafter, with a designated driver ticket available for \$20. For more information go to [www.greatwinefestival.com](http://www.greatwinefestival.com)

## NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Century High School (home of the Interact club we sponsor) annually holds exit interviews with seniors. In addition to faculty, community members are invited and encouraged to participate, as a way to learn more about what the school does. Since we are involved with the school via the Interact club and our participation in the school's Academies scholarship programs, we've been invited. Any individual member who is interested should RSVP (info below) and you may attend for whatever time you can. The sessions are Wednesday and Thursday May 28 and 29, from 7:30 – 10 a.m. My impression was one is not required to attend the full two and a half hours if one's scheduled does not allow. Just RSVP as available. I think this would be a good way for us to show our support and learn more about the school and programs we do support at Century. The school is on Grand, near Edinger.

### Century High School Senior Exit Portfolio

You are invited to serve as an interview panelist for the Class of 2013 presentation of electronic exit portfolios. This student-focused process allows students to:

- \* Reflect on work and see growth accomplished throughout four years >of high school;
- \* Receive positive feedback from staff and community;
- \* Practice the interview process for real-world application;
- \* Focus on strengths;

- \* Begin a life-long process of reflection and service; and
- \* Connect work to post-secondary goals.

WHEN? Wednesday, May 28, and Thursday, May 29, 2014  
TIME: 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to sharing the accomplishments of our seniors with you.

Click below to go to the hyperlink to the form:

<http://www.sausd.us/Page/21518>

Thank you,

**OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR INTERACT CLUB** and Century High School's eBusiness Academy (presented to our club by our Interact faculty advisor Alan Gersten around July 2012?)

But first an opportunity to help yourself: Many of the students are seeking summer internship opportunities. Generally this would be for a couple of months, up to 20 hours per week, and may be paid or not. If your company would be interested please give me whatever contact info you would like me to pass along to Mr. Gersten. Remember the students are Santa Ana based, near the school at Grand x Edinger.

Now, back to how we can help them: as you know our club helps with the funding mechanism of the school's scholarship fundraiser. They have several Academies (like the eBusiness one) who combine to do a big basket raffle (opportunity) fundraiser, and the money goes to scholarships which are awarded to applicants based on merit (The funds are only released to a student after (s)he has presented documentation of enrollment in / attendance at college.)

We can help in two ways:

(1) buy raffle tickets – you can do this online and they will put your tickets in your chosen baskets for a chance to win

(2) we can put together a basket. An easy way to go would be a bundle (or tree) of gift cards – easy to participate, just buy a gift card from wherever you like, and bring it to a Rotary meeting and I'll collect them. (Need to know the \$ value on the card) Or if you'd like to give actual items for a basket, Rita has very kindly offered to turn it into an attractive offering.

Thank you for your support! Note that a lot of our Interactors are in the eBusiness or other academies so we may well be helping them too.

## CLUB ANOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

### President's Remarks – Mel El Guindy

RI Conference will be in Sydney June 1-4.

**Ali Danta** reminded us of upcoming fundraisers by two other Rotary clubs. Tustin Santa Ana will have their annual Lobsterfest, with unlimited lobster and steak for \$75, Saturday **May 17**. On the same date, Saturday **May 17** the Brea club will host their annual wine and food fest, \$100 admission.

**Rita Burgueno** reported favorably on her Aruba trip, noting the food was deliciously replete with flavorful spices, and they had the best beer she's ever tasted – which they do not export. Rita found the people very friendly and was impressed the children speak four languages at a young age: the local language (a polyglot), French, Spanish, and English. The crime rate is reported as 0.8%.

**Ben Sottile** celebrates ten years as a Rotarian!

**Mel** will attend Santa Ana College scholarship presentation May 16 and on behalf of our club will present the scholarships funded by Maureen Bricken in honor of Gordon's strong support of education. We hope Maureen and Tricia will also be able to attend.

**Memorial Day, May 26, 10 am.:** **Gordon Bricken** is being honored as part of the annual service for the veterans at Santa Ana Cemetery. Although not a veteran himself, Gordon for many years provided support to this annual ceremony.

**Maureen Bricken** wanted us to have the information for those who are able to attend.