

Phoenix  
West Rotary  
Club

# WEST SIDE STORY

MARCH 21, 2024

RACHEL BRANNAN

SKY HARBOR NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

One's destination  
is never a place,  
but a new way  
of seeing things."

~ Henry Miller

## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

March 8 Wilma B. Emerson  
March 13 Diane Drummond

### Club Anniversaries

### Wedding Anniversaries

### GET WELL WISHES TO:

MIKE HARRISON

## ★ CLUB EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR ★

Meetings at DUET  
10000 N 31st Avenue

- 3/21 **DIAD—St. Vincent de Paul— 12:30-2:30**  
**2130 S. 3rd. Dr.**
- 3/28 Canine Unit
- 4/4 Megan Jeffries, Read  
Better/Be Better
- 4/11 Larry Jeffries Phi Cares
- 4/18 DIAD
- 4/25 Student of Month

Prez **Ellen** called on guest **Casey** to lead the pledge—the first time he’s led the pledge since his scouting days, he says. **Susan** led the Four-Way Test and **Wilma** gave the prayer. We welcomed guests Casey, Cheryl’s significant other; Leslie, David’s “first and only” wife, and potential member Joe Crist, who is looking for a volunteer organization like Rotary to give back to the community. Ellen reminded us that next week our DIAD will be a two-hour shift at St. Vincent de Paul from 12-2. We’ll be “going to the dogs” on March 28 when the Canine Unit visits. Other programs listed below left. Ellen then shared that she and Regan attended a Women in Rotary event—the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tea Celebration in Recognition of Women in Rotary in Mesa last week. It featured speaker Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the now eighty-nine-year-old PDG D5300 and first woman President of a Rotary Club. She was instrumental in the 1989 Supreme Court decision allowing women to become Rotarians. Can you imagine Rotary now without women?? Speaking of women, Ellen then shared a Rotary Minute on Rotary Annes and Partners. See picture and article page 2.

Happy Bucks flowed from the following Rotarians and others--**Susan** was pleased with the recent write-up about the club’s involvement in funding Teacher Mini-Grants through the Osborn School District Educational Foundation; **David** was happy that his son-in-law celebrated his first birthday here in the US; **Tyrone** was happy that he was “still standing” after his first full week with Leslie being laid off and **Cheryl** was happy for guests Joe, Leslie and of course, Casey.

**Cheryl**, a member of the Membership Committee gave an update on the work of the committee thus far. Other members include Ellen, Chair; Charlie and Rusty. Items included reinstatement of the “buddy/mentor” system so that new members have an identified “go to” person; inviting former members to social events, and formalizing a system to check in with Rotarians who miss a



A book, Princess Cora and the Crocodile will be donated to an Osborn School in honor of our informative speaker Rachel Brannan.

meeting/s. Also, plans are in the works to find ways to highlight Rotarians who are doing exceptional work. Also, it is suggested that each member attend one meeting of another Rotary club to garner ideas about how they’re structured and to perhaps plan an activity our clubs can do together. The upcoming Week of Service might be a good time to pair up with another club if we don’t have a project of our own. Regarding mentors, our thanks to Cheryl for stepping up to mentor Alise and Alan to mentor Gloria. The great thing about such partnerships is that both mentor and mentee benefit!

Our speaker today was **Rachel Brannan**, **Volunteer Coordinator at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport** for the last 14 years; she’s actually worked for the City of Phoenix for over 20 years. She reminded us the City of Phoenix owns and operates Sky Harbor, Goodyear and Deer Valley airports. She also shared several statistics about Sky Harbor—48.8 million passengers went through the airport last year—133 thousand daily. This month there are an extra 25,000 people daily using 23 airlines to 143 destinations with over 1300 flights daily; this includes both arrivals and departures using the two terminals and

(Continued, Page 2)

## SKY HARBOR NAVIGATOR PROGRAM (Continued)

three runways. Clearly, Sky Harbor is a very busy place, especially so during March!

Rachel shared some of the new additions to the airport during the last three years:

- In 2022, the Sky Train was extended to the Rental Center, the eighth concourse opened in Terminal 4, and Sky Harbor became the first airport to offer service via Waymo's autonomous vehicles.
- In 2023, a Green Curb allowed for electronic vehicle pick-up and Feb. 13 was the busiest day of the year with over 200,000 Super Bowl passengers.
- In 2024, Air France will add a direct flight to Paris beginning in May and American Airlines is adding two new destinations—Tijuana, MX and Pasco, WA. Rachael also talked about a new free PHX RESERVE program to reserve a time at TSA Security Check Point Screenings during specific times. Check out the website for more details.

The rest of Rachel's program was devoted to the volunteer opportunities available through Sky Harbor's four distinct volunteer programs:



Two "fascinating" Phoenix West Rotarians!

Prez Ellen and Prez-Elect Regan attending the 1st Annual Tea in celebration of women in Rotary.

**Phx Sky Harbor Navigators**—groups of friendly, trained volunteers whose mission is to make guests experiences faster, easier and more enjoyable. **Navigator Buddies**—since 2017, teams of furry friends and their handlers help de-stress weary travelers, **Navigator Chaplain**—chaplains offer spiritual care to travelers and workers at the airport. And **Teen Navigators**, a summer program for 14-18-year-olds who volunteer weekly during June and July. Navigators basically work weekly four-hour shifts with a brief break due to the fact that the volunteers are on their feet during the entire time and on terrazzo to boot! Starting in 2000 there were 20 volunteers, today there are more than 350. Training classes are offered 3-4 times a year. Perks for volunteers include a parking pass for terminal parking. They can also earn travel parking passes, based on their volunteer record, good for up to 21 days.

Got a good pair of comfortable shoes? Need exercise? Like people? Interested in volunteering? Well, you, too, can become a Navigator! Check it out.



### ROTARY ANNS/ROTARY PARTNERS

In many Rotary clubs throughout the world, wives of male members are affectionately called "Rotary Anns". This designation was never one of disparagement, but rather grew out of an interesting historical occasion. The year was 1914 when San Francisco

Rotarians boarded a special train to attend the Rotary convention being held in Houston. In those days few wives attended Rotary events, and until the train stopped in Los Angeles, the only woman aboard was the wife of Rotarian Bru Brunnier. As the train picked up additional convention-bound delegates, Mrs. Ann Brunnier was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann. This title soon became "Rotary Ann." Since the clubs of the West were inviting the Rotarians to hold their next convention in San Francisco, a number of songs and stunts were organized which would be performed in Houston. One of the Rotarians wrote a "Rotary Ann" chant. On the train's arrival at the Houston depot, a delegation greeted the West Coast Rotarians. One of the greeters was Guy Gundaker of Philadelphia, whose wife was also named Ann. During the rousing demonstration, someone started the Rotary Ann chant. The two petite ladies, Ann Brunnier and Ann Gundaker, were hoisted to the men's shoulders and paraded about the hall. The group loved the title given to the two women named Ann. Immediately the same term of endearment was used for all of the wives in attendance, and the name "Rotary Ann" was here to stay. Guy Gundaker became president of Rotary International in 1923 and Bru Brunnier was elected president in 1952. Thus, each of the two original Rotary Anns became the "first ladies of Rotary International."

Very few clubs have Rotary Anns, but many have Partners organizations, some are still called "Inner Wheel." The word Rotary Ann can be heard on a rare occasion, and now you know where it came from. NOTE: Phoenix West Rotary has at least two Anns—Leslie "Anne" Caplan and our Prez, Ellen Ann!