



Rotary



BE THE INSPIRATION

# The Joshua Tree



June 4, 2019

## THE JOURNEY OF A LONG DISTANCE RUNNER

Due to time constraints, our speaker this week, Dan Mitrovich, never really got off the starting line (pun intended) for his incredible and inspirational story in having a statue placed in Central Park. Since Dan never really got the chance to share the message of his presentation, we have included selections from a 2004 article by Joyce Purnick entitled "A Long Run, but He Broke the Red Tape"

Thousands see it every year at the finish line of the New York City Marathon, and all but maybe the youngest know they are looking at a bronze statue of Fred Lebow, the marathon's founder. What they don't know is how that statue came to be, that its path was long and costly and nearly blocked. Its sponsor had to raise contributions from afar and hold meetings with commissions and lawmakers, the mayor and the governor.

This little saga began in 1990, when a runner from San Diego named Daniel S. Mitrovich ran in the New York marathon. "I felt it was one of the greatest events I'd ever been in," Mr. Mitrovich said.

He was so impressed with New Yorkers and with the determined, willful Mr. Lebow, that he thought he should be honored with a statue. He started the equivalent of a campaign, even though he had just met Mr. Lebow, who created the marathon in 1970 and grew it into a world-class institution.

In the government relations business, Mr. Mitrovich knows his way through the political maze, as does his older brother,

George, president of the City Club of San Diego and a former press adviser to Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Charles E. Goodell of New York.

The elder Mr. Mitrovich helped get Mr. Lebow a visit with the first President Bush in the Oval Office. The younger Mr. Mitrovich asked a San Diego artist, Jesus Ygnacio

Dominguez, to work on the statue, and

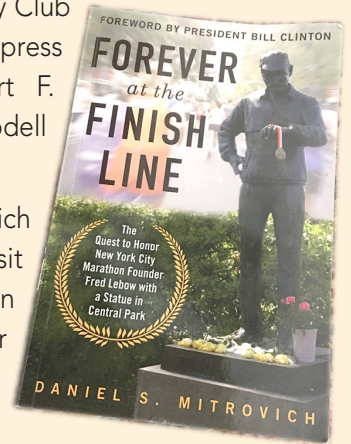
he got such luminaries as Grete Waitz and George Plimpton to join his effort. "George said, 'You think you're just going to put up a statue -- do you know how tough that's going to be?'" recalled Mr. Mitrovich, who concedes he hadn't realized how hard New York could be.

He soon found out, starting when he first met a dyspeptic Henry J. Stern, commissioner of parks and recreation. "Henry told me, 'This is not going to happen.'"

The Californian did what any good government relations man would do. Over the next several years, he gathered broad support from public figures. In Rudolph W. Giuliani's administration, he consulted often with the mayor's spokeswoman at the time -- a marathon runner -- Cristyne F. Lategano.

The statue was unveiled at the marathon on Nov. 4, 1994, a few weeks after Mr. Lebow died of cancer at the age of 62, but did not find its semi-permanent home for another seven years.

Today, the statue stands in Central Park near 90th Street and Fifth Avenue, not far from the headquarters of the New York Road Runners. It is still moved each year to preside over the finish line of the marathon.



### This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: David North

Flag Salute: McKenzie Tarango

4-Way Test: Esther Mears

Finemaster: David North

## COOKER'S CORNER



For the most of you that were absent this week, you missed a great speaker with a great story! Thank you to **Daniel Mitrovich** for the inspirational take of grit and determination of getting a statue placed



in Central Park, New York.

Please keep **Stew Anderson** in your thoughts and prayers as he has now been discharged from the hospital on oxygen and is resting comfortably. We hope to see you back on your feet and with us soon!

A movie has been selected! We will be viewing the 1987 classic comedy "Overboard" with Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell during Movie Night at the home of **Jon & Linda Hove** on July 27 at 6pm. Please make sure you sign up and bring a lawn chair, blanket and side dish or dessert, if you desire.

Nomination forms are now available to award this year's Rotarian of the Year. Nominations are now due. You may choose someone who's contribution to our Club not only spans this year, but in years past as well. Please keep in mind that someone can only win this distinction one time. Nominations are now open for future Club Presidents. If you are interested in serving at this highest level, please speak with **Mike Page** for more information.



## NEW ROTARIAN



Dr. Bowtie is in! Our Club was honored this week to induct our newest member "**Bowtie Brian**" **Nyamwange**, lead pharmacist from CVS Pharmacy on Bear Valley Road, across from Desert Valley Hospital. With the induction led by **Mike Page**, Brian was joined by sponsor **McKenzie Tarango** (other sponsor **Dr. Ron Williams** was unable to attend), Brian shared that as a boy growing up in Illinois to the son of Kenyan parents, he learned to serve at a very young age; even though they had their own home, there was someone always there staying, who needed a place and even though they had money, they were constantly sharing it with those less fortunate. Because of that, service has become a big part of Bowtie Brian's life.

Brian is a graduate of Loma Linda and was a health care professional for many years, and is now a pharmacist with CVS; still taking care of his patients, but in a different arena.

Welcome "Bowtie" to the Rotary Club of Victorville, with a great group of leaders who love to serve, just like you!

## THE POLIO PIG

**Collected this week: \$10.56**

**Collected to Date: \$16,382.78**

**Total equals: 93,936 Doses!**

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

# BE THE INSPIRATION

## LUCKY BLUE DICE



*Arsalee Morales (aka Lady Luck) did it! With 9 dice to pick from and \$325 up for grabs, Arsalee picked the elusive Blue Dice and went home with the big Money!*

*We will start anew next week with 14 dice and \$200 up for grabs for a lucky Rotarian who can get the Blue Dice!!*

## FINE SESSION



**David North** was our Fine Master this week and chose for his fine session not in his usual style of questions, but in celebration of Rotary anniversaries and member birthdays. First to empty his wallet was **Ron Kablin** in the amount of \$31 for this 31 years as a Rotarian, and **Chris Ackerman** was hit with a \$26 fine for his upcoming birthday on June 26.

The final fine levied was to **Mike Page**. For Mike, it was extra special as it was a three-pronged fine. As a Rotarian for 27 years, his birthday coming up in June 12th and for being a marathon runner who does 26.2 miles, Mike went away with a fine in the amount of \$62.20!

**Club Assembly June 18th, 2019**  
**2019 - 2020 Boards of Directors**  
**2019 - 2020 Budgets**

Rotary  
Club of Victorville, CA

## ROTARY GUESTS

This week we welcomed the spouse of speaker **Daniel Mitrovich**, **Linda Mitrovich** along with their daughter **Heidi Brannon** and staffer **Pricilla Fuentes**.

## RAFFLE

Going home with prizes this week was...well... **Arsalee Morales!** Lady luck went home with two USB wrist bands from **Kevin Kane** at VVTA, a \$25 Midway Home Solutions gift card from **Don Lager** and a goodie bag from **Esther Mears** at DCB!

The only other winner, under the "you give, you get" category was Esther, who went home with a VVTA phone charger.

## SPOON OF EXEMPTION

One of our newest Rotarians, **Oscar Garcia** had his first week with the Spoon and used his time to give a quick background on all that his company Elementum Services does. Elementum is a

company you hope to never have to call, but if you do, they are ready to help! With their customers being their number one concern, Oscar and his staff handle water and fire damage restoration services, as well as mold removal and more, all with free assessments.

Elementum Services is family-owned and operated in Hesperia since 2001. At Elementum Services, Inc. every customer is treated like they are part of the family.

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[www.victorvillerotary.org](http://www.victorvillerotary.org)





## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2018-2019 .....	Margaret Cooker
President 2019-2020 .....	Steve Orr
Immediate Past President .....	Dwight Johnson
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Administration ...	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Kevin Kane
Community Service .....	Dwight Johnson
International Service .....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Rob Kilpatrick
Vocational Service/Speech Contests .....	Dr. Breada Leach
Scholarships .....	David North
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership .....	Jon Hove
Club Service/Sergeant At Arms .....	Arsalee Morales

### Members-at-Large:

Mark Taylor • Dan Dever • Steve Murray • Russ Stringham • Don Lager

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Marilyn Buttlerwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Safety Awards .....	Rick Bessinger
Dan Stover Music Contest .....	Marie Langley
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising/Flowers and Gifts .....	TBD
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville

### Make-up Days and Locations

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St., Hesperia Adelanto Club meets 2nd Wed. at Chamber Room at Adelanto Stadium at 11:30 a.m., and the 3rd and 4th Wed. at Budweisers, Adelanto Rd, Adelanto at 8am. San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Los Domingos, 1520 E Main St, 12:00 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Apple Valley Country Club, noon Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## CALENDAR DATES

### June 10: Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 pm Meeting  
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Hesperia and Silica Roads

### July 13: New Year Celebration

At the Scott's Home in SVL • 4:00pm  
Bring Friends, Family, + Potential Members

### July 27: Movie Night at the Hove's

6:00 pm • Home of Jon & Linda Hove  
Bring Lawn Chair & Pot Luck Dish

## UPCOMING ROTARY PROGRAMS

**June 11:** Richard Rorex **TOPIC: "Fulfilling our Nation's Promise: No one should be left behind. Bringing home and Identifying remains of our MIA's"**  
(Page)

**June 18:** Treasurer Donna Wells **TOPIC: "Update on Club Finances"**  
Past President Margaret Cooker **TOPIC: "2018-2019 A Year in Review"**  
Incoming President Steve Orr **TOPIC: "What to Expect in my Year"**

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