

April 2022 Newsletter



Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

Well, we certainly have been action packed with so many great activities. Enjoy the great reports this month. Looking forward to seeing you on the 22nd at the FOCUS Craft Cocktail Party, sure to be a nice evening to socialize with fellow FOCUS members.

We have added a Gala report to the newsletter this month. It is going to be an amazing event that cannot be missed. We extend a huge gratitude to Lisa Alves for leading the way.



FOUR!

Focus was represented in the Rotary golf tournament by Carin Cross, Betty Lepore, Kris Hanson and Sharyn Blongiewicz.

Go Team!

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!

We now have 40th anniversary shirts in stock. We can order more, as needed.

Polo Shirts: 65% Polyester / 35% Cotton \$35

In Stock: **Ladies** 1 LG, 2 MED

Mens 1 XL, 2 LG, 1 MED

T-Shirts: 100% Cotton \$25

In Stock: 1 XL, 1 LG, 2 MED

Order Online at: www.focus-sdkids.org/shop





Executive VP, Denise Donato-McConnell

Thank you to everyone who came to the “Top Gun” Military Tribute on March 23rd!

A fabulous afternoon as our members and friends enjoyed each other’s company with a drink from the historic iBar and a delicious taco feast! It was heartwarming to see the pictures and read the stories of the military heroes and we thank all those who helped underwrite the event as they honored their loved ones. Sharon Shelton (a retired Navy Captain and our own Board Treasurer) did an amazing job with her informative, humorous, and inspirational introductions of each of the extraordinary military charity organizations. Each agency spoke about their mission and thanked FOCUS for all our efforts on behalf of military families in crisis. Our members in attendance shared how proud they are of the work of FOCUS to help our military aid partners!



Don't miss out on our next special event!

Cheers to 40 Years!

A special members and guests only cocktail party in a historic Coronado Village Home!

Your votes will determine the signature cocktail for our 40th Gala Event!

Limited Availability! Only 70 guests can be accommodated!

On Friday, April 22nd, you will have an opportunity to sample and select the FOCUS 40th Anniversary Signature Craft Cocktail! Three craft cocktails created just for FOCUS will be presented for your vote!

FOCUS Board Member, Carin Cross, has graciously and generously opened up her elegant Spanish Modern home at 631 Ave A for this special occasion! Spend the evening in the courtyard of this beautiful Designated Historic Home designed by the famous architect Charles Herreshoff, a noteworthy designer / builder of post WWI houses.

Select your favorite craft cocktail and then spend time visiting with fellow FOCUS members and guests enjoying delicious charcuterie and an open bar while celebrating 40 years of helping children in need!

Over 130 guest reserved spots for the Top Gun Salute so don't wait to reserve your spot to our Craft Cocktail Evening! www.focus-sdkids.org/event/cocktail

Remember space is limited!

Cheers to 40 years!

COME ENJOY CRAFT COCKTAILS AND CHARCUTERIE. CHOOSE THE FOCUS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SIGNATURE COCKTAIL

FRIDAY APR 22 | PATIO OF HISTORIC HOME 631 A AVENUE | 4-7 IN THE EVENING

MEMBERS ONLY \$40 | RESERVATIONS: | **40 FOCUS**

WWW.FOCUS-SDKIDS.ORG/EVENT/COCKTAIL



Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon Shelton & Kathy Tyner

FOCUS Financial Report for March 2022

Balance as of 1 Mar 2022

Available for Projects	\$	77,167.89
Reserve (Savings Account)	\$	50,016.39
Total	\$	127,184.28

Income

Donations	\$	10,125.49
Membership	\$	1,950.00
Gala Income	\$	6,600.00
Meeting Income	\$	5,794.81
Total	\$	24,470.30

Expenses

Projects	\$	2,174.02
Meeting costs	\$	7,224.54
Advertising, fees	\$	648.76
Total	\$	10,045.34

Balance as of 28 Mar 2022

Available for Projects	\$	91,592.85
Reserve (Savings Account)	\$	50,017.99
Total	\$	141,610.84

Our sincere thanks to those who are underwriting the Ruby Gala.



Ruby Gala, Chairperson Lisa Alves; Publicity Carolyn

Rogerson

We are very pleased to report that Lisa Alves is chairing our 40th anniversary gala this year. She is already in high gear and has reached out to many of you for assistance. Please let her know if you have some time to assist as lalves@focus-sdkids.org.

The 40th Ruby Anniversary Gala committee is making great progress securing items, adventures and experiences for both the silent and live auctions. This year FOCUS is introducing, 'Raise the Paddle' for added fun in our fundraising efforts. Hopefully you all have seen the fabulous colorful flyer announcing the Ruby Gala. All detailed information regarding the Gala is available on the FOCUS Website.

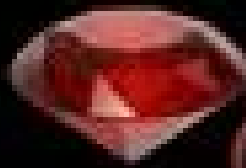
The FOCUS Board and Gala committee are in need of volunteers to help with the registration and check-in as well as check-out. Please contact Lisa Story at lmstorey9@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

Sharon Shelton is once again heading up the committee for Silent Auction items. If anyone has ideas on donating sports tickets (Padres baseball, Gulls Hockey, S.D. Legion rugby, SD Sockers soccer, SD Seals Women's LaCrosse, SD Wave soccer, World Team Tennis SD Aviators) let the committee know. Also needed are suggestions for restaurants off Coronado, ie, Imperial Beach, Liberty Station, Little Italy, etc, to be included in the silent auction. Please send contact info and ideas to Sharon Shelton at sshelton@focus-sdkids.org.

All members are invited to come and share in celebrating FOCUS at 40. It is you that have been so instrumental in FOCUS successfully supporting so many thousands San Diego children in need. Please check out General ticket and special VIP (valet parking, premium seating, premium cocktails, wine & beer) pre-sale pricing and ticketing information. Join us on May 15, 2022 for an elegant evening of Charity, Community and Commitment with old friends and new.

40 FOCUS

The Ruby Gala



Join FOCUS
as we celebrate
40 years
of providing for
San Diego County
children in need.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

5 PM to 10 PM

CORONADO COMMUNITY CENTER
1845 STRANDWAY, CORONADO

Wine / Dinner / Main Course / Dessert / Entertainment
Music & Live Auction / Live Video / Donating

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.FOCUS-SDCHILDREN.ORG/2022RUBYGALA

General Ticket: (Includes Open Wine & Beer Bar)

\$150 Person Persele

\$175 Person After April 15th

\$1000 Table of 8 Person

VIP Ticket:

(Includes VIP Parking, Open Wine, Beer and Premium Cocktails Bar,

VIP Cocktail Hour With Champagne & Specialty Appetizers,

Premium Seating Location)

\$250 Person Persele

\$275 Person After April 15th

\$1800 Table of 8 Person

WWW.FOCUS-SDCHILDREN.ORG



Projects Report: 2nd VPs, Sharyn Blongiewicz & Carin Cross

A great deal of time and thought has gone into the creation and organization of the 40th Anniversary in-kind grant. We have received applications and are expecting more prior to the April 1 deadline. We look forward to sharing the information with the board and members.

Membership approved the following Projects for March

ASYMCA (Armed Services YMCA)

Mission: is to enhance the lives of military members and their families in spirit, mind and body through programs relevant to the unique challenges of military life. The Horse of the Sun Ranch program focuses on healing the spirits of military families and at-risk youth.

Request:

Youth riding helmets for children attending equestrian programs at Horse of the Sun Ranch

Amount: \$1350.00

UNITED THROUGH READING

Mission: Together, we unite military families facing physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud.

Request: 3 Panasonic HC-V180K Full HD Camcorders and 170 Everything But Stromboli 16GB SDHC Class 10 Memory Cards

Amount: \$1600

FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN WARRIORS

Mission: Dedicated to honoring and empowering the women veteran community. **Request:** Items for a spring baby shower for new and expecting veterans

Amount: \$900.00

CASA DE AMPARO

Mission: To support those affected by and at risk of child abuse and neglect, through a range of programs and services that promote healing, growth, and healthy relationships.

Request:

15 giant 5' bean bag chairs to put in a comfort room being created for kids to have a therapeutic outlet. The soft surfaces will provide a comforting coping mechanism as well as a safe place to sit.

Amount: \$3000.00

A thank you to the following shoppers: Jeri Barsz, Roger Clapp, and Lorna Perez-Caster



Barbara Donahue & Therese Pallares

It was wonderful to see so many new faces at the TOP GUN Party. If your guests are considering becoming members, encourage them to join now.

We will be publishing our annual membership book soon, so please renew by April 1st to be included.

Current membership is 112.

Active: 59

Corporate: 4

Patron: 49

This month, we welcome:

New Members:

Michael Alves, Amy Haines, Kelly Kindorf, Dianne Lookabaugh, and Britt Zeller

New Corporate Members:

Mary and Jeffrey Shapiro

Rejoining Members:

Carolyn Carswell, Nancy Kennedy, and Lynda Wilkie

So for those of you who have yet to renew (or to join), please do so soon. Our website makes it quick and easy. Please use the following link for online renewals.

<https://focus-sdkids.org/membership/>

We accept both credit and debit cards, as well as PayPal payments on our website. If you prefer, renewals may also be made by mailing a check, payable to FOCUS, to:

FOCUS
P.O. Box 180023
Coronado, CA 92178

If you have any friends, neighbors or colleagues who might be interested in FOCUS, please invite them to join us at our Craft Cocktail Party on April 22nd or Ruby Gala on May 15th. Both reservations are available on our website calendar at www.focus-sdkids.org/calendar



Wishing a very happy birthday to all of our members
celebrating their birthday this month!

4/4 - Kaye Costello

4/20 - Sharyn Blongiewicz

Mona Milioti

4/25 - Dianna Durgin

4/27 - Jeanne Nigh

Many of you have not provided us with your birthday so we are unable to acknowledge you.
When you renew your membership, please provide your birthday so that we can update our
files.



Member Spotlight by Don Swanson

This being the 40th year of the founding of FOCUS, with the ruby being the stone enshrouded in traditional symbolism as the gemstone commemorating the 40th anniversary, I thought it be appropriate to write about the ruby as a gemstone. This decision came about after discussing rubies with Lisa Alves, esteemed FOCUS member who is handling the acquisition of donated rubies for the auction at our Gala Event.

What you probably do not know is that ruby is a species of the corundum family. Ruby is red, and all other colors are sapphire. Simple enough, and now we know that all sapphires are not blue. Yes, a sapphire can be clear and not exhibit a color, or a tint of color. It can be green, blue, yellow (often referred to as golden), or any color except red.

Corundum is hard, it is nine on the hardness scale, with diamond being 10. Common glass is about 5 1/2. Commercial grinding wheels and those found in home garages are made of corundum. It has a specific gravity of 3.95 to 4.05 which is the difference between the weight of the stone in air, divided by the weight of the stone in air minus the weight in water.

Of the six crystal systems, corundum belongs in the hexagonal system, which means a perfect corundum crystal will have six sides. Diamonds are in the cubic system, where a perfect crystal will exhibit four sides, like a cube of sugar. However, you will rarely find a perfect ruby crystal. The majority of rough rubies are contaminated by a mixture of intrusive elements, and/or the change in heat or pressure during the growth cycle. The chemical composition of corundum is aluminum oxide Al_2O_3 . The color is caused by chromium oxide in the red (ruby), titanium and iron oxide in the blue (sapphire) iron oxide in the yellow (golden sapphire), chromium and iron oxide in the orange sapphire, and chromium, titanium, and iron oxide in the purple sapphire.

There are a lot of other technical data that pertains to corundum, such as optical characteristics like refractive index, birefringence, optic character, and pleochroism. These features enable gemologists to identify an unknown gemstone given to them to identify. There is a true synthetic corundum with all the proper attributes of a natural stone. In the early 1900's synthetic rubies and sapphires were made in France, Germany, and Switzerland. Around 1947 the American Linde Air Products Company began production of synthetic corundum stones in the United States. A trained gemologist can identify a synthetic stone

by spherical gas bubbles seen under a microscope inside the stone, and by inclusions seen under microscope in natural stones.

Rubies and sapphires can be opaque, translucent, or transparent. They can also exhibit an asterism, or a six legged star. Orientation of the star is determined by a lapidary cutter, who must center the asterism at the top of the dome of the stone being cut to properly display the star.

When buying a ruby or a sapphire, first determine the usage. Do you want it in a ring, pendent, or other media ? Once you determine the size or shape, personal preferences come into play. The shade of color, whether it be opaque, translucent or transparent, synthetic, or exhibit a star is to be considered by the buyer. Also to be answered, is whether the stone of your choosing is a cabochon or a faceted stone. Cabochons are dome shaped, and flat on the bottom, while faceted stones are cut with many facets. like a cut diamond, Synthetic stones of course are usually cheaper to buy than natural stones, however they do still retain the natural characteristics and are flawless. Natural stones can contain flaws such as visible inclusions. but which is really not important because you are usually buying a ruby or sapphire for color and not pureness.

It takes about an hour or two hours to cut a cabochon, and twice that time, four hours, to facet a gemstone. Because of the hardness of corundum, cutters generally use diamond impregnated laps.

The majority of all school class rings, and military branch rings are made with synthetic corundum, both ruby and blue sapphire.

Corporate Sponsors

We thank you!



"I am very proud to be a part of FOCUS
as it has consistently benefited so many
children and persons in need for decades.

*Wishing much success, health and
happiness for a wonderful 2022."*



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Steps for shopping on Amazon Smile

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2. Log in just the same as you do with Amazon.com, using the same username and password.
3. On your first visit to Amazon Smile, you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. Search for **Friends of Children United Society Coronado** and select it.
4. Proceed with placing your order as you usually do.
5. Amazon Smile will remember your charity selection so that future eligible orders will result in a donation to FOCUS.



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Coronado, Ca 92178
www.focus-sdkids.org