



AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

2022 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & AWARDS PROGRAM

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022
NEWPORT BEACH COUNTRY CLUB





ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES

ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022
NEWPORT BEACH COUNTRY CLUB

PROGRAM

Welcome and Ceremonial Swearing In of the Executive Committee by Hon. James Crandall
Acknowledgement of Sponsors and Recognition of Dignitaries
Presentation of New Member Plaques
Acknowledgement of Student Scholarship Recipient, Sydney Leigh Martin
Message by ABOTA National President, Lewis Sifford
Message by ABOTA Foundation Immediate Past President, Doug DeGrave
Presentation of the Trial Lawyer of the Year Awards to Steve Rosa and Jennifer Russell
Acknowledgement and Appreciation of Past President, Jeff Braun
Closing Comments by William Haggerty

DINNER

Baby Blue Wedge Salad Entrée Duo
Pan Seared Filet | Pan Seared Chilean Sea Bass | Mascarpone Whipped Potato
Sautéed California Vegetables | Vegetarian Option: Wild Mushroom Ravioli

Dessert Display with Bananas Foster
Black and White Chocolate Mousse and Tahitian Vanilla Cheesecake

Please Enjoy Dancing and Music By “Vanity Fair”

THANK YOU

Rick Kraemer, Executive Presentations for Photography
Oliver Stahel, Backsy Networks for Technology and PowerPoint Development

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Kimberly Valentine

Christopher P. Wesierski

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OC ABOTA UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Dinner – August 2022

Judges' Night – October 19, 2022

Courthouse Steps Program – TBD 2022

Holiday Dinner – December 5, 2022



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By William C. Haggerty, Esq.

Welcome Orange County ABOTA members! I'll let you in on a secret.

Your Board was actually sworn in on January 12, 2022 and we have been working diligently on your behalf for the past four months. Although tonight's swearing in is ceremonial, nevertheless, we wanted all of you to celebrate with us. COVID may have postponed tonight's celebration but it wasn't strong enough to stop it.


There's a lot about our profession that is serious business. We deal with tragic losses and life-altering injuries. We defend clients whose professional livelihoods and businesses are on the line. Judges must make tough evidentiary rulings which can change a trial's outcome. All of this is pressure-filled and deadly serious stuff.

That is why tonight is so important. It's a celebration and a time to be not-so-serious. It's a time to tell stories and maybe a few jokes; to renew old acquaintances; to have a drink or two and share dinner with those, just like you, that have been through the fire, and not only survived, but succeeded. Indeed,



our Orange County ABOTA membership boasts the finest men and women trial attorneys and judges in the country. That is not hyperbole. As proud ABOTA members, we know the years of hard work involved in trying cases and presiding over

them. When you shake the hand of an ABOTA member, there's unstated respect and admiration that goes along with it. You've tried cases, weathered the storm and came out a successful trial attorney. It goes without saying that your fellow members are consummate professionals with the utmost civility and respect for their adversaries. Tonight's the night to celebrate that. It's worth celebrating, isn't it?

So, your President is requesting you eat, drink, dance and leave the serious side of what we do on a daily basis behind, at least for one night. If I can shake the hand of every one of you tonight and share a laugh, my night will have been made. It's such an honor to be amongst all of you wonderful judges and trial lawyers. I couldn't ask for anything better. My simple message for tonight: give thanks for who we are and CELEBRATE! 



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ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

We congratulate the recipients of the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award

Jennifer L. Russell

Stephen A. Rosa

and the 2022 Officers

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Always remember that the practice of law is first and foremost a profession.



Encourage respect for the law, the courts, and the right to trial by jury.



Always remember that my word is my bond and honor my responsibilities to serve as an officer of the court and protector of individual rights.



Contribute time and resources to public service, public education, charitable and pro bono activities in my community.



Work with the other members of the bar, including judges, opposing counsel, and those whose practices are different from mine, to make our system of justice more accessible and responsive.



Resolve matters and disputes expeditiously, without unnecessary expense, and through negotiation whenever possible.



Keep my clients well-informed and involved in making decisions affecting them.



Achieve and maintain proficiency in my practice and continue to expand my knowledge of the law.



Be respectful in my conduct toward my adversaries.



Honor the spirit and intent, as well as the requirements of applicable rules or codes of professional conduct, and shall encourage others to do so.

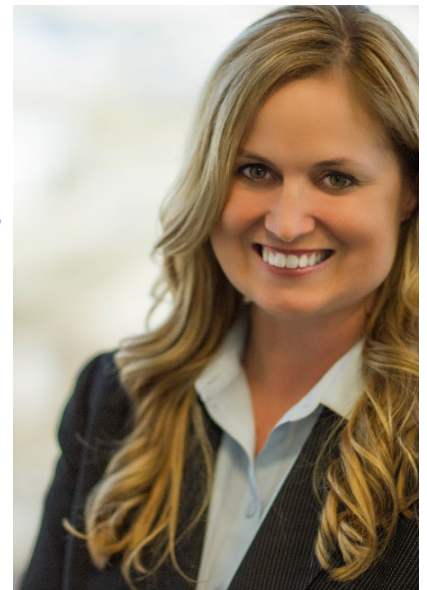


American Board
of Trial Advocates

FWHB congratulates Bill Haggerty on his installation as the 2022 President of Orange County ABOTA



We also wish to congratulate all the 2022 Executive Committee members including our Partners Juan Delgado as Secretary and Jennifer Russell as Member at Large.



Congratulations to Jennifer Russell and Steve Rosa as Trial Attorneys of the year!

Thanks to the 2021 OC ABOTA Board and volunteers for all their hard work!

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Congratulations

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PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Jeff I. Bruan, Esq.
2021 OC ABOTA Chapter President*



For my last message as President, I want to briefly highlight some of our chapter's efforts and achievements in 2021. Most noteworthy in October 2021, at the National meeting in North Carolina, our Chapter reached the unprecedented level of donating \$100,000 to the National Foundation. This established Orange County ABOTA as a Signer, **a first accomplishment for any ABOTA chapter in the Country**, placing it on a very short list of donors at the Signer level.

We also made a generous donation to the ABOTA Foundation toward National Teachers Law School to fund grant requests to support attending teachers. Last month, we pledged \$2,500 to the Constitutional Rights Foundation to host the California State Mock Trial Competition. These donations further our mission as an ABOTA Chapter.

The OC Chapter proudly continues its work in the Community Outreach Program. Links have been posted on the OC-ABOTA website for worthy local charities, such as *Operation Helping Hands* and *Wells for Life*, charities run by our two most recent Volunteers of the Year, Kim Valentine and Pete Callahan. We are asking members to identify other charitable organizations we can promote. Please write to anyone on the executive board with your suggestion.


Also, despite the limitations imposed because of the pandemic, our efforts remain focused on gender and racial diver-

sity. Our amazing executive board is on a mission to attend the other bar organizations in Orange County championing ABOTA as a companion, and not a competitor, in furtherance of its mission of civility and education of the 7th Amendment.

We professionally produced and taped a Masters in Trial program. The MIT, coordinated through the ABOTA Founda-

tion, was delivered at no charge to more than 80 members so far.

Finally, Teachers Law School for 2021 was a great success. The TLS Program featured a lecture by Mary Beth Tinker. Ms. Tinker is an American free speech activist known for her role in the 1969 *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District* Supreme Court case, which ruled that Warren Harding Junior High School could not punish her for wearing a black armband in school in support of a truce in the [Vietnam War](#).

It has been a great honor serving this Chapter as President in 2021. Not only because of the company that surrounds me, but also because of the respect shown to us at the State and National level. We continue to set the standard in achieving our goals to ensure civility remains prevalent in our practices and that the courts remain available to our clients as mandated by the Seventh Amendment. Thank you to all who have supported my efforts and applauded our chapter's successes. You are in great hands with Mr. Haggerty. I am excited to see where he leads us. 





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Congratulations to the 2022 Award Recipients and all of the Board Members of Orange County ABOTA!

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ABOTA FOUNDATION

Continues to Build Upon It's Cornerstones

*By John H. Kim, Esq.
President, ABOTA Foundation*



Thank you, Orange County Chapter, for your consistent contributions of talent, leadership, and resources to the ABOTA Foundation. In addition to being the first and only ABOTA Chapter to reach the highest level of financial contribution, members of the Orange County Chapter support the Foundation with their time and expertise.

I am particularly thankful for the contributions of 2021 Foundation President Douglas M. DeGrave for his leadership and guidance. Special appreciation is also needed for Deborah S. Tropp and Yoshiaki C. Kubota for their commitment to serve as 2022 Civics Education Committee Co-chair and 2022 Professional Education Committee Co-chair respectively. Their willingness to give of themselves is indicative of the commitment we have seen from so many members of the Orange County Chapter since the inception of the Foundation. The contributions made by your chapter and its members, financial and otherwise, allow us to continue our long tradition of quality education for lawyers,

teachers, and students.

The Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates was formed in 1991 to serve as the educational arm of ABOTA. Through the programming and resources offered, the Foundation aims to promote and improve the American civil Justice system and to preserve the Seventh Amendment right to civil jury

trials for future generations.

The cornerstones of this work been long been the Professional Education CLE Programs (Masters in Trial and Civility Matters Programs) and the Civics Education programs (Teachers Law Schools and James Otis Lecture Series) offered to chapters. The Foundation also provides yearly grant contributions made to like-minded organizations. With recent additions of virtual programming and the Civics Education Literacy Program, the Foundation has a diverse and robust suite to offer and a willingness to assist chapters in deploying these efforts.

No doubt these are provocative times for our coun-

Continued ►



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try. On May 12, we will present a wonderful program on the Preservation of the Rule of Law that was created in light of the unsettling events of January 6, 2021. We have a tremendous slate of speakers featuring the presidential historian Michael Beschloss. In addition, on May 11 the organization will be holding the program, “Dismissed with Prejudice: A Discussion on Race and the Trial of Civil Cases.” Both programs will be held at the Four Seasons, Chicago.

As an active chapter, you are familiar with the important work the Foundation does, but I am excited to share with you our plans for this new year. With a theme of “Breaking Boundaries,” 2022 promises content, programs, and initiatives that will take the Foundation to new heights.

Embracing a Virtual World

In 2021, the Foundation started down the road to digital programming:

More than 130 educators attended the first virtual National Teachers Law School that featured nationally known speakers discussing important issues dealing with social justice and the preservation of democracy for all. Mastering Virtual Advocacy, presented as a 4-week series with a combination of lectures and small group “workshops,” was designed to assist experienced trial lawyers in getting comfortable in the world of virtual depositions, hearings, and trials.

The success of these initiatives provided the proof-point necessary to break the Foundation through a barrier of our own. In 2022, we will launch a myriad of online programs and content, including monthly CLE webinars

covering issues of importance to the legal community. These webinars will not only cover advocacy skills training but also substantive legal education and topics of importance to current events, including access to justice, democracy, historical perspectives on justice in America, and others.


Expanding our Reach

Our promise to educators to help them succeed in the ever-changing landscape of civics education has led to the creation of lesson plans and resources that are thoughtful, researched, and ready to use. In 2022 we will double the size of our Online Resource Library while expanding the complexity of material and the age groups served. We must do what we can to assist teachers in educating our children.

Education for all

We will work with like-minded partners to provide reliable, informative content to Americans of all ages that educates them about the rights afforded to them through citizenship and the power that they have to contribute to and protect our democracy.

I think you’ll agree we are in for an exciting year. It will cost money. I ask that you consider becoming a Sustaining Member of the Foundation – a donation of as little as \$25 per month (charged automatically to your credit card) makes a phenomenal difference in what the Foundation can do. I also urge you to engage with the Foundation through committees and programs. Your involvement is paramount to our success, and we look forward to being part of yours.

Thank you for your service to ABOTA. It’s a privilege to work with you this year. 



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TREASURER

Deborah Tropp
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Yoshiaki C. Kubota
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Juan Delgado
SECRETARY

Jennifer Russell
MEMBER A LARGE

And, we honor the recipients of the
Trial Lawyers of the Year Award:

Steve Rosa & Jennifer Russell



TRIAL ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

JENNIFER L. RUSSELL




Jennifer Russell's ever-present smile belies what's underneath. She is a determined, hard-working attorney with the heart and soul of a trial lawyer. She has never backed down from any case that she felt needed to be heard by a jury, whether it be small or large in exposure. Those who encounter Jennifer in trial, battle a passionate, extremely civil and persuasive adversary. Unfortunately for plaintiff attorneys, Ms. Russell is also overwhelmingly successful.

Jennifer was born in Boston, Massachusetts, lived in Pennsylvania and moved west to Yorba Linda prior to starting high school at Esperanza High School. After graduating high school, Ms. Russell attended U.C. Santa Barbara receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law and Society. While working full time, Jennifer attended law school. She graduated from Whittier School of Law in 2001. In 2001, Jennifer joined Ford, Walker, Haggerty and Behar. Jennifer quickly became one of the firm's primary trial attorneys. During that course she had many successful verdicts. Clients have often asked Jennifer to step in and try their large exposure cases. In 2015, Jennifer became a partner at the prestigious law firm of Ford, Walker, Haggerty and Behar. That same year, Jennifer became Ford, Walker, Haggerty & Behar's first female trial attorney to be nominated and accepted into ABOTA. Jennifer's passion for the practice of law is demonstrated in her years to trial practice.

After her first year of practice she tried and won 3 cases. In the years thereafter, she has continued to try and win many cases. Recently, in 2019, alone, Jennifer tried seven cases to verdict, that included a defense verdict in a wrongful death case in which the demand prior to trial was \$100 million and a defense verdict in a contentious DUI case with punitive damages. She continued to try cases in 2020 and again in 2021 with excellent results, despite the Covid-19 restrictions. Jennifer has proven herself throughout the

years and has earned the respect as a trial attorney while upholding the principles of ABOTA. She was nominated and selected as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. She has lectured at seminars presented by the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and participated as trial counsel in ABOTA's Masters in Trial Programs. She was recently elected to serve on the Executive Board of the Orange County Chapter of ABOTA and will ultimately lead this organization as its president.

Jennifer Russell is a role model for young women who aspire to become a trial attorney. She mentors young attorneys. She is an example of a tough litigator who is professional and civil. Jennifer's career demonstrates that it is possible to be both. Jennifer lives in Huntington Beach with her husband, Scott, and their two teenage daughters, Samantha and Sydney. 



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Trial Lawyers of the Year

Steve Rosa *and* Jennifer Russell



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TRIAL ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN A. ROSA



Stephen A. Rosa is a co-recipient of ABOTA's Trial Lawyer of the Year. Steve is widely known for his successful handling of some of the most complex medical malpractice cases in Southern California. Beyond his 95% success rate in the more than 70 cases he has tried to verdict, Steve always exemplifies the civility and professionalism that are the hallmarks of ABOTA members.


Steve was born in San Luis Obispo and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. After graduating from Notre Dame High School, Steve attended the University of California, Irvine, graduating in 1977. Steve received his J.D. at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and admitted to the California Bar in 1980. In 2006, Steve became a named partner with Byron Beam, Dave Brobeck, and John West,

Steve is known as a leading medical malpractice trial attorney, specializing in catastrophic and major injury cases against health care providers. He has represented physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers in a wide variety of medical malpractice cases with a special emphasis in the complex area of birth trauma cases. He has tried a wide variety of cases involving major stroke and brain injuries, as well as all specialties including emergency medicine, cardiology, psychiatry, neurosurgery, orthopedics, surgery, and nursing. Steve has recently achieved

excellent results in several high exposure medical malpractice cases, including one against an emergency medicine group and another against university physicians. Steve has also enjoyed success in handling a variety of other insurance defense cases, including major injury trucking accidents, auto liability accidents, pharmaceutical, and product liability claims. He has provided coverage opinions, handled

bad faith cases, represented physicians in disciplinary matters before the California Medical Board, and has lectured at UCI Medical Center and other hospitals on a variety of medical/legal topics.

Steve remains overly modest about his trial successes and exploits and continues to demonstrate the character of gentleman that exemplifies the principles in the ABOTA Code of Professionalism, including "Be respectful in my conduct toward my adversaries." Dave Brobeck and John West have said they are blessed to have Steve as a partner for many years. Adding that, "Steve is a model of civility, hard work, and, most importantly, a strong faith."

Steve lives in Yorba Linda with his wife, Linda, and their two children, Megan and Matthew. In addition to enjoying time with his family and playing golf, Steve volunteers his time to "Autism Speaks." 



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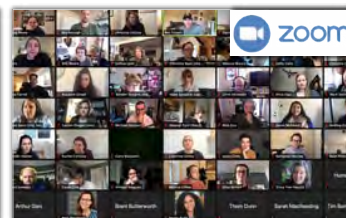
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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

2022 OC Chapter ABOTA Student Scholarship Recipient

SYDNEY LEIGH MARTIN

In 2020, Judge Nancy Zeltzer proposed a scholarship program for a third year law school student.

The candidate was asked to submit an essay on the importance of civility and trial by jury. The candidate is also interviewed by OC ABOTA Members.

We are happy to award the 2021 Orange County Chapter of ABOTA Student Scholarship award to Sydney Leigh Martin. Ms. Martin will graduate at the top of her class from UC Irvine School of Law in May 2022. Her law school career includes several honors and awards

including a Distinguished Decade Scholar, Class of 2022 Student Leader Award, 2022 Trial Blazer Award, UCI Community Builder Award along with 120+ hours of pro bono volunteer time achieving a Pro Bono Achievement Award. Her volunteer time included working with Legal Aid and protecting the rights of children, the disabled and elderly. She also served as a research fellow and earned a faculty award with the highest grade and was active in Moot Court and several other organizations. The ABOTA judges were impressed with her credentials, her motivation and goals and her desire to make a difference and help others. Ms. Martin demonstrated the high integrity and hard work ethic recognized by ABOTA.

OC ABOTA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM


Our yearly Fellowship program invites law students awaiting



bar results to work at a defense firm, plaintiff firm, and a judge for a thirty day interval. The program is designed to immerse the young future professional to the real legal profession. The Fellows gain valuable real life experience from the three month program. The Fellows gain practical experience by attending hearings, depositions, and trials with the firms that have graciously agreed to participate in the program. The Fellows also gain valuable insight and experience with courtroom and chamber proceedings from the Judge's perspective.

To participate in the Fellows program a

candidate must be at the top of their class with a strong interest in civil jury trial practice and the intent to work in Orange County. The 2021 ABOTA Fellows were Nia Bush and Eric Tran. *We congratulate Ms. Bush and Mr. Tran on their accomplishments and look forward to them becoming trial lawyers and someday members of OC ABOTA.*

We rely on local firms and judges to help make this program such a success. A special thank you to the Valentine Law Group, APC, McNeil, Tropp & Braun, Law Offices of William M. Crosby, and Ford, Walker Haggerty, and Behar for the participating law firms. Also a special thank you to Judge James Crandall and Judge Nathan Scott for opening up their courtrooms and chambers for the Fellowship program. If you are interested in participating in the Fellow program, please reach out to any board member. 

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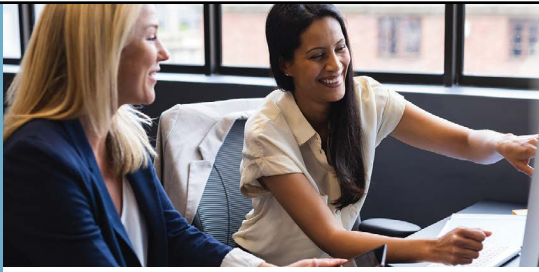
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Everyone at Burke | Argos extends hearty congratulations to William Haggerty, the new President of OC ABOTA, and to his incoming Board of Directors. We also send a special congratulations to this year's Trial Lawyers of the Year, Jennifer Russell and Steven Rosa



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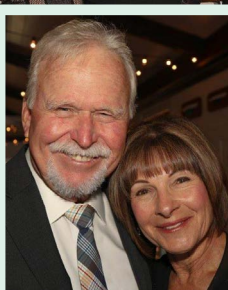
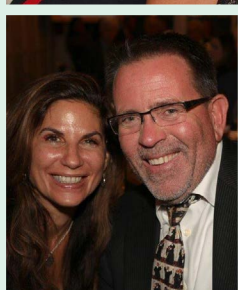
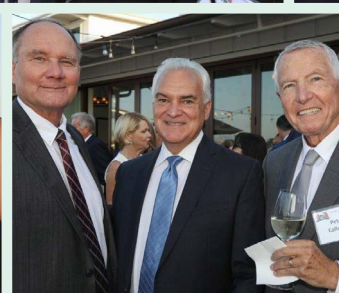
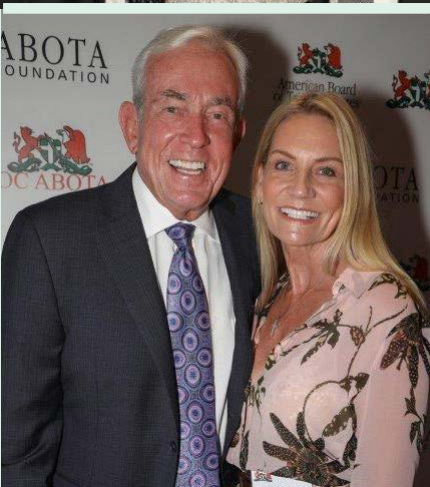
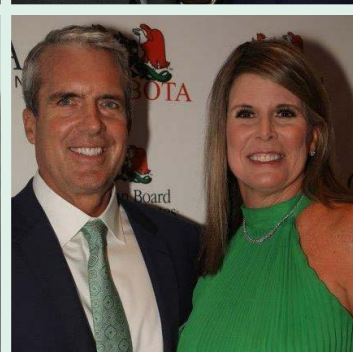
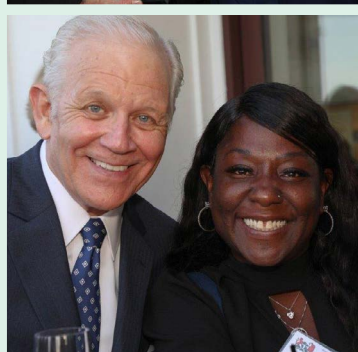


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May the wind be always
at your back.

May the sun shine warm
upon your face.

May the rains fall soft
upon your fields.

and until we meet again,

May the Lord hold you in the
palm of His hand.

– an Irish Blessing

