

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

www.lajollagrotary.org



LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 4 2025



RI President 2024-25  
**STEPHANIE URCHICK**

District 5340 Governor 2024-25  
**DIANNE CRAWFORD**

LJGT Rotary President 2024-25  
**LUKE ERVIN**

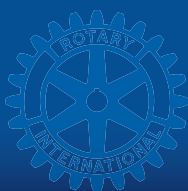
## AOS MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

1st Friday of the Month.....Community Services Committee  
(follows club meeting)

2nd Friday of the Month.....International Services Committee  
(follows club meeting)

3rd Friday of the Month.....Youth Services Committee  
(follows club meeting)

4th Friday of the Month.....Peace Committee  
(follows club meeting)



## RICK BAKER

Director of Advancement for Institutional Giving at the San Diego Symphony



The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park - Plans in motion for our first Field Trip!



Our members show up for Opening Night! Jacobs Music Center



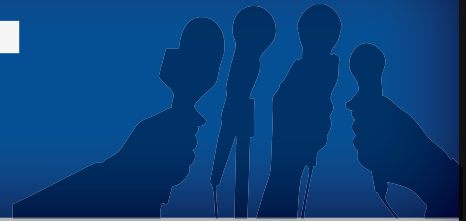
**TODAY, LJGT ROTARY WELCOMES THE SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY!**  
**CHANGING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC: AN ORCHESTRA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Rick focuses on foundation grant writing, corporate partnerships, and government relations, building and broadening relationships to support the Symphony's mission. With 11 years of experience in the arts and entertainment fields, Rick is passionate about fostering connections that sustain and expand the impact of cultural institutions. A native San Diegan, Rick was born and raised in the region but also spent nearly 20 years in Seattle, developing a deep appreciation for both cities. He now resides in Kensington with his wife, Michelle, and their black cat. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring all varieties of arts and culture, following sports, cooking, and traveling.



# REPORT

from the last meeting



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2025

APRIL - SPEAKER

18.....Dr. Justin Eldridge  
Associate Teaching Professor in the  
Halcioglu Data Science Institute  
at UC San Diego

**PRESIDENT LUKE** opened the show with a big bell bang. The entire club welcomed everyone to **"THE MOST DYNAMIC ROTARY CLUB IN THE WORLD!"**

Rotarian of the Day, **STEPHEN TAKO**, the TALLEST LJGT Rotarian ever, offered a powerful thought for the day: "Anyone who does anything to help a child in his or her life is a hero to me." Following our Pledge of Allegiance, Stephen told of his early struggles as a youth being bullied. This led to his commitment to help today's children with similar experiences getting through those challenges of early life. Several books and films evolved from his heart. Each of us is born with a purpose. Stephen obviously has found his.

We were honored to have several guests, some potential new members.

**LUKE** announced that our LJGT club will be purchasing a brick to be installed in support of the new Midway Freedom Park downtown.

Past President and Past District Governor **LOUISE ANDRES** has resigned from the club due to health challenges. We wish her the very best.

General **JIM DAVIES** has announced that our club

will participate in a new painting project at Camp Pendleton. All participants will need to provide multiple elements of identity. Do it! Remember, those guys have guns!

**ERIK MJOEN** reminded everyone that they need to fill out and sign the District Youth Certification form because so many of our projects involve youth.

**BONNIE ARORA** announced a Community Service project "Oasis Community Book Giveaway " April 8 and needs volunteers.

**CHRISTY WHITE** demonstrated access to our revised Webb site and **EVELYN**, President of UCSD Rotaract announced a networking event April 13.

**GARRY KACHKOVSKY** reminded us of the May 16 Fund Raiser. Sign up or Garry will be very upset .... He's also got guns!

**BRETT'S MOREY EEELS** lead the membership drive with five potentials.

**KATHLENE ROSE ACOSTA-ALVARADO**, a senior at Preuss, told of her progress toward her desire to have a career in clinical psychology. Those Preuss students are so inspirational.

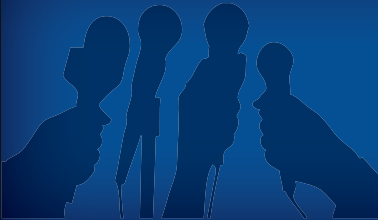
**DR. WILLIAM TWAYIGIGIZE** was initiated into the club by **MICHAEL SLENTZ**. Welcome, William!

**STEVE BROWN** introduced **RICHARD KIY**, President and CEO of the Institute of the Americas, a private, a political, nonprofit institution dedicated to promoting economic development and integration in the countries across the Americas.

In particular, he described the impact of foreign policy in our San Diego/Tijuana/Imperial County region which contains seven million people, 40% of the entire Mexican/US border. Their emphasis is Energy, Climate Change and Economic Competitiveness.

In 2023, 69,000,000 people crossed into our region from Mexico. This creates unique challenges regarding immigration, crime, drugs, etc. He contrasted the operational environments of China and the US. The new Tariff requirements and deportations were discussed. It is critical that we promote the North American agenda.

**TRIVIA:** When was the last time the San Diego Padres won the World Series .? .... In your **DREAMS !**



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



**mdj**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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La Jolla Golden Triangle  
**ROTARY CLUB**  
 Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

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**LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2024 - 2025**

PRESIDENT ..... Luke Ervin  
 VICE PRESIDENT ..... Christy White Brook  
 PRESIDENT ELECT (2025-26) ..... David Chong  
 PRESIDENT ELECT NOMINEE (2026-27) ..... Tim Fronczek  
 TREASURER ..... Sharon Council  
 SECRETARY ..... Sandi Rimer  
 PAST-PRESIDENT ..... Christy White Brook

**ROTARIAN  
 OF THE DAY**



**LORI BENDE**



Lori has been a member of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club for over 25 years. She is a recipient of the Rotarian of the Year award by LJGT, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, past board member, past Fine Master, past Family of Rotary Chair, past treasurer and charter member of the International Eyecare Fellowship of Rotarians, past LJGT Road Rally Winner, and past Road Rally Dipstick "Winner".

Lori is a past president of the San Diego County Optometric Society and was awarded the "Young Optometrist of the Year" (a few years ago, ahem) by the California Optometric Association.

After 20 years in private practice optometry in University City, then worked at an optometry practice in Rancho Penasquitos for several years until last month. Currently working in optometry offices in La Jolla and Rancho Bernardo.

Lori's twins are juniors in high school. Lori and her husband Joost and kids are very involved with Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts), Girl Scouts, Marching Band volunteering, pit orchestra, and San Diego Youth Symphony. Lori and Joost are very much into the tiki culture and visiting new tiki bars whenever possible.

Lori continues to value the friendships she has made, and continues to make, in the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club; truly the Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World!



**APRIL 2025**

April 18 - Lisa Galstian

**MAY 2025**

May 2 - Tony Grillo



**Ellen** BRYSON

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**Rotaract**  
 San Diego State University



**SDSU Rotaract Networking Event**

- Sunday, April 13th, 5pm-7pm
- Montezuma Hall, SDSU (2nd fl. of the Aztec Student Union)
- Professional Attire Required
- Complimentary to Attend



RSVP email: [sdsurotaractpresident@gmail.com](mailto:sdsurotaractpresident@gmail.com)