THE GOLDEN
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Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle
LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 21 2026



CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Rotary

RI President 2026-27
OLAYINKA HAKEEM **BABALOLA**

District 5340 Governor 2026-27
JEB **BAKKE**

LJGT Rotary President 2026-27
TIMOTHY **FRONCZEK**

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)

Sou Fang, M.Arch

Director, TRIO Upward Bound
Institute of College Initiatives
University of San Diego



Upward Bound: Empowering Students, Families, and Communities
Including a tribute to our dear, beloved Dr. Cynthia Viii is, whose vision and leadership was instrumental in establishing Upward Bound at the University of San Diego

Sou Fang serves as Director of the University of San Diego TRIO Upward Bound, where he has secured more than $4.5 million in grants to expand college access for low-income and first-generation students in San Diego's underserved communities. The program supports more than 120 students year-round through tutoring, mentoring, academic advising, college preparation, and a fully funded summer residential component at USD. Before entering higher education administration and leadership, Sou trained as an architect and taught undergraduate and graduate design studios at Syracuse University - School of Architecture, focusing on urban revitalization and community-centered design. Ethnically Hmong, Sou was born in a refugee camp in Phanat Nikhom, outside Bangkok, Thailand, and immigrated to Linda Vista in San Diego. He currently serves on the board for the Advance Forward Foundation, Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek, and the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

AUGUST - *SPEAKER*

21.....Sou Fang, M.Arch
Director, TRIO Upward Bound

SEPTEMBER - *SPEAKER*

4.....Garry Robbins
San Diego Union-Tribune

Overview
The meeting featured Sandy as Rotarian of the Day with a retrospective on her 1988 start in Rotary, a moving tribute to the late **Dr. Cynthia Villis,** recognition of **Jim Davies** with the Governor's Recognition Award, and a keynote visit from **District Governor Jeb**, who shared personal stories on Rotary's power to change lives locally and internationally.

Rotarian of the Day: Sandy's Rotary Journey
Sandy joined the Escondido Rotary Club on December 10, 1988, when that club was already 64 years old with over 200 members — a sharp contrast to the La Jolla Golden Triangle club, which was only a year and a half old at the time. She compared the two clubs across eras:
• Escondido was a "singing club" that performed two songs before every meeting, including a custom parody about each week's speaker.
• Membership then included builders, bankers, school administrators, stockbrokers, journalists, and two past district governors (Bob Piva and Doyle Dannenberg).
• Escondido has since shrunk from 220 members to 98, with an average age of about 75.
Sandy became club president six and a half years after joining — Escondido's first woman president. Through president training under then-District Governor Steve Brown, she learned about matching grants and helped generate a $100,000 grant to rebuild infrastructure in Ecuador after sea surge destroyed homes there. She closed with the story of her 1996 "promote-demote" party, and Jay played the parody song written for her *("The First President to Wear Pantyhose")* for the club.

Visitors and Youth Ambassador
• District visitors: **Governor Jeb, Roy Means**, and **Sharon Schender**.
• **Ethan Leem**, youth ambassador introduced through Sister Cities, has spent two years in Kenya teaching students computer skills and developing an AI program for cultural preservation in underserved communities. He will speak at UNESCO in Saudi Arabia next month and is seeking opportunities in San Diego.
• Three prospective members visited: **Claudia Morville, Marvin Holston,** and **Jeff Milton**, along with numerous member guests.

Birthdays and Anniversaries
Birthdays (first half of month): **Linda, Rich**, and **Diane Day**. Club anniversaries: **Antonio, Sharon, Pamela, Linda, Alex**, and **Jay.**

Memorial Tribute: Dr. Cynthia Villis
Steve Brown paid tribute to Dr. Cynthia Villis, a longtime member who passed away July 10. For 25 years she supported the peace scholar program at USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies, which has hosted 38 scholars from 22 countries. Steve read condolence messages from scholars across the globe — Ecuador, Eritrea, Pakistan, Uganda, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, and Brazil — as well as from Almas, director of the Afghan Youth Connect program, which held a Qatm al-Quran ceremony in her memory. Cynthia wrote the original AYC grant proposal and built its international educational connections. Steve will lead an effort to document the program's history and her legacy.

Announcements
• Ensenada work project — October 3–4: **Ron** reported that a scouting team toured the Niños de Paja orphanage (49 children). The site is one option under consideration but not yet confirmed, as the facility is in good shape; other options are being evaluated. Sign-up sheets were on the tables, and follow-up details will be emailed.
• Breakfast brunch coming up; attendance highly recommended.
• Next meeting: Friday, August 21 — speaker from Upward Bound on empowering students, families, and communities.
• La Mesa Rotary donation: Surplus DDF funds from La Mesa Rotary supported the club's computer lab project in Mexico. **Tim** visited La Mesa Rotary that week to thank them in person.
• National Purple Heart Day: Members were encouraged to wear purple honoring wounded and fallen service members.

Recognition
• Challenge coins were presented to **Matt Brown** (website overhaul that has already generated new member leads), **Jim Davies,** and **Bonnie** (steady behind-the-scenes guidance), each with a second coin to pass along in conversation about Rotary. Jim gave his second coin to **Pam Davies.**
• Governor's Recognition Award — **Jim Davies:** District Governor Jeb and President Tim honored Jim as the club's unsung hero. As chair of the Community Service Committee for two years running, Jim has led flag installation and removal for fallen veterans at Miramar National Cemetery, the patio refurbishment at Urban Street Angels, food drives for Just in Time, book deliveries with Oasis, Frosted Faces senior pet placements, and ongoing San Diego volunteer connections.

District Governor Jeb's Address
Jeb (Rotarian since 1991, elected District Governor 2026–27) shared four stories illustrating Rotary's impact:
1. Members helping members: Early in his career, fellow Rotarians quietly covered his dues during financial hardship. His club later created the Jim Cass Memorial Fund to do the same for others confidentially — it has kept three members in the club.
2. The power of the district: A district-wide collaboration raised $75,000 across 28 clubs and two districts to build seven homes in a single day in Tecate/Tijuana for families living without floors, electricity, or running water.
3. 1000 Smiles: The 50-year-old cleft surgery program continues in Mexico; a nurse now serving there was herself a patient 20 years ago.
4. Local impact: His club's annual holiday party for Title One school children, where kids almost always choose gifts for family members rather than themselves — including a first grader who asked him to wrap cereal boxes for her brother "so he can eat." His message: say yes to uncomfortable opportunities, treat fellow members like family, and reach out if you're struggling — help is available and given with dignity.

Q&A highlights: The District Foundation impact celebration will be held November 14 at Rancho Bernardo High School, organized by Trudy Armstrong's committee. Jeb also encouraged future presidents (welcoming incoming leaders Sampson and Nil) and praised the club's new-member stipend program for funding fresh service ideas.

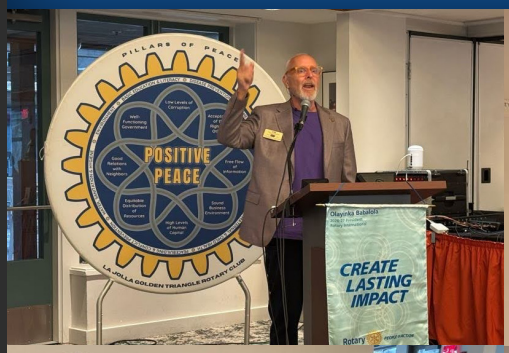
Closing
Tim led the Four-Way Test — with the club's added fifth question, "Is it fun for everyone?" — and closed with his sign-off: "Let's be Rotarians out there." A brief board meeting with Jeb followed.

~Reporter

Samson Tse

PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING

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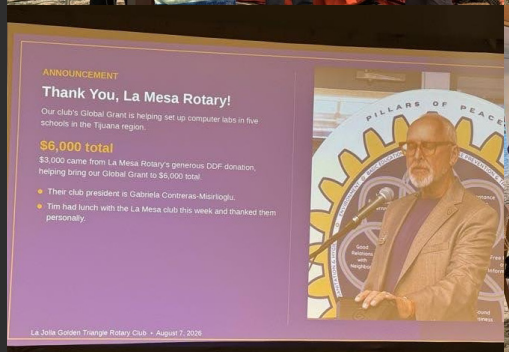
















La Jolla Golden Triangle
ROTARY CLUB
Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

P.O. Box 13023
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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2026 - 2027

PRESIDENT ..... Timothy Fronczek
VICE PRESIDENT ..... Christy White Brook
PRESIDENT ELECT (2027-28) ..... Samson Tse
TREASURER ..... Sharon Council
SECRETARY ..... Lisa Galstian
PAST-PRESIDENT ..... David Chong

ROTARIAN OF•THE•DAY



JOHNATHAN CHITTULURU



SEPTEMBER 2026

September 4 - Sarah Saluta

September 18 - Jan Percival

Johnathan was born outside of St. Louis, MO but grew up in Champaign, IL, the home of the University of Illinois, where he completed his K-12 education before completing his bachelor's degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Johnathan next moved to San Diego to complete a PhD in computational structural biology at The Scripps Research Institute. Since graduating from TSRI, Johnathan has served as an educator and is currently in his seventh year as a teacher at The Preuss School UCSD.

As a teacher, Johnathan focuses on helping students succeed academically, socially, and athletically. Johnathan has taught a wide variety of STEM subjects including chemistry, biology, physics, biotechnology, computer science, engineering, robotics and statistics. Recently, Johnathan served as a DoW (formerly DoD) STEM Ambassador, building awareness for critical STEM careers and educational pathways in service of the US DoW. Within the scope of that work, Johnathan completed an impact (action research) project demonstrating that simple activities promoting social connection in classrooms also support students academically, socially, and emotionally. Johnathan's love for teaching and instruction extends to the athletic field, where he has coached football for over twenty years.

Starting as a volunteer flag football coach for nine-year-olds at the North Claremont Recreational Center in 2006, Johnathan has coached a diverse array of football teams including two CIF Division 1-AA state champions, three NPSFL (national first responders league) national champions, and many other youth and high school teams. Regardless of the level of football he's coaching, Johnathan enjoys sharing the game with all those who love it.

When he's not teaching or coaching, Johnathan enjoys golfing, exercising, and spending time with his family. Johnathan and his wife Adriana will celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of their first date this September, happily sharing the occasion with their dog Bentley (15 years old) whom they adopted in April from The Frosted Faces Foundation.

As a Rotarian, Johnathan looks forward to supporting animal welfare, youth services, and community service. However, his greatest joy as a Rotarian will continue to be provided by the fellowship he enjoys with all members of The Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World!