

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 5 2025



## LUIS R. CARRANZA

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2025-2026, ROTARY DISTRICT 5340  
ROTARY CLUB OF RANCHO SANTA FE



### WELCOMING DISTRICT GOVERNOR LUIS CARRANZA

Luis Rogelio Carranza is honored to serve as the 2025-2026 District Governor for Rotary District 5340, which encompasses San Diego and Imperial Counties, a region rich in diversity, culture, and Rotary spirit.

Luis is a passionate and dedicated Rotarian with over 20 years of service. A proud member of the Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe, he has served as Club President and chaired his club's signature fundraising event, the Taste of Rancho Santa Fe.

Throughout District 5340, Luis has been a committed and inspiring leader. He served as an Assistant Governor for five years, supporting two key areas, Area 4 and Area 8, helping clubs strengthen membership, leadership, and service. In 2023, he served as Chair of the Rotary Foundation Fundraiser for both District 5340 and Rotary Zone 26/27, bringing together Rotarians from across the western United States to advance Rotary's life-changing global work.

Luis strongly believes that at the heart of Rotary is our individual inspiration and shared purpose. As District Governor, one of his greatest passions is to remind every Rotarian why they joined Rotary, and to help rekindle that original spark of service, fellowship, and hope that inspired them. He encourages clubs and members to reflect on their Rotary "why," to deepen their impact, and to keep growing Rotary's reach in their communities and beyond.

Professionally, Luis is a Senior Loan Consultant for PrimeLending with more than 20 years of experience in the mortgage industry, helping individuals and families achieve the dream of homeownership — a role that mirrors his dedication to building stronger communities.

Luis's District Governor theme for the year is inspired by Rotary's call to "Unite for Good" and by his message: "Don't Miss the Bus", a call to action for Rotarians to embrace every opportunity to serve, lead, and create lasting change.

In addition to Rotary, Luis enjoys music, travel, family life, and celebrating the cultural richness of our beautiful binational region.



## 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)

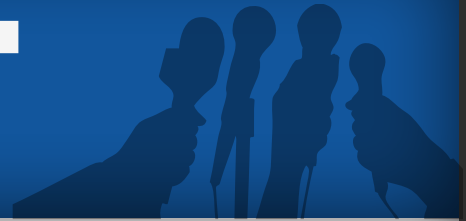
4th Friday of the Month.....Peace Committee  
(follows club meeting)





# REPORT

from the last meeting



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2025

### DECEMBER - SPEAKER

19.....Senior holiday event

**President David Chong** opened the meeting which featured a special Veteran's Day program and introduced **Ron Kohl**, a Navy veteran, as Rotarian of the Day. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ron read a letter of gratitude received from the principal of the Ensenada school which our Rotarians and Rotaracts painted on our club's 8th Ensenada project this past October. Ron thanked everybody for its success. He thanked **Maria** and **Tim** for being our photographers. That day we distributed 140 stuffed animals donated by the Torrey Pines Rotary Club who have a project that involves standing at the fairgrounds exit collecting donations of stuffed animals. **Linda Andrews** donated a box of Spanish books for the children. ISC covered much of the expenses for paint and supplies. A grant from Copley Foundation provided funds for sports equipment and extra paint and supplies. ISC, CSC and YSC donated funds to help subsidize the costs for the Rotaracts to attend. 61 Rotarians and guests from San Diego attended, including 31 Rotaracts from SDSU and UCSD. Also 19 Ensenada Rotarians and Rotaracts and 8 teachers from the school were there helping. Ron thanked the leadership team, **Tony Grillo, Jim Davies, Garry Kachkovski, Ranjan Lahiri** and **Jim Frost**, for helping everything run smoothly. **David Chong** won the award for bringing the most guests. In the evening the Ensenada Rotary Club prepared a paella dinner for us at the Bahia Hotel.

**Jay Hatfield** introduced today's guests, including **Tracy Henry**, who may become a member soon, several Rotaracts from UCSD, and 1 Rotaract from SDSU.

On Zoom were **Cynthia Villis, Susan Brown** and **Matt**.

**President David** listed November birthdays (**Mike Bardin, Dory, Pam Russell, Antonio Grillo, Susan Schwarz, Ajay Asher**) and Rotary anniversaries (**Dennis Bucko, Ajay, Tony, Kathleen**) and then led us in singing happy birthday to our newer member, **Sarah Saluta**, who had a birthday today.

#### Announcements

**Jim Davies** listed several CSC projects coming soon, including Ronald McDonald House at Rady Children's Hospital, CCSA Food Baskets (to be delivered on Dec 10, contact **Janine Pack**), Wreaths Across America (deadline to purchase wreaths (online) is Nov 28 and 12-15 persons are needed to place wreaths on Dec 13. Contact **Janine Pack**).

**Past President Luke Ervin** spoke about

donations to the Club Foundation. For those who have an RMD to take, giving to our Club Foundation is a great way to use your RMD funds. Also, a generous donor has offered to match up to \$5,000 of member donations to the Club Foundation.

**Alex Monroe** is hosting our club Holiday Party, coming up on December 14th. For those who want to participate in a gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift under \$20. Come party and don your festive colored club scarves from our Promote/Demote. Several hands went up to volunteer to bring dessert or champagne.

**President David** spoke about our new meeting schedule and the effort to have activities going on when there is no meeting. Our small social committee includes **Samson, Dory** and **Lisa**. Get in touch with one of them if you are interested in hosting an activity.

**Jan Percival** spoke about the schedule for next year's meetings. The dates are set and were listed in the Nov 7 Bulletin. An International Zoom is coming up on Thursday, December 11th at 3:30 PM, an unusual time because the guest is speaking from South Korea as she is the current Swiss Ambassador to South Korea. She was the Swiss Ambassador to Iran who helped negotiate the release of the 5 American hostages who came home on September 19, 2023. She will be sharing her perspective on what's going on in South Korea and Asia but also reflecting on her time in Iran. Please join if you can.

#### Speaker

**Jan Percival** began today's special program celebrating Veterans Day 2025 with some fun facts about Veterans Day. There are approximately 240,000 military veterans in San Diego, included active duty, and we are still the largest military complex in the US. She asked the veterans of our club to stand up so we could salute them and say thank you.

Then Jan introduced our own Vietnam veteran and proud Seabee, **Rick Clark**. On a local level, Rick was the driving force behind the flags for Vets at Miramar National Cemetery and has either led or participated in a number of hands-on projects at Camp Pendleton and law enforcement facilities around SD County. Internationally, he was involved in the design and planning of 5 buildings in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, including our Rotary School, which we estimate to have educated over 40,000 boys and girls since it opened in 2004.

Rick was privileged to join Honor Flight San Diego for a trip to Washington, D.C.

in September. He shared a video of that trip later in his presentation, so first he spoke about some of the experiences he had with the Seabees. It all started back in 1968 when he was about to graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in architecture. Rather than joining the Army, he joined the Navy and reported to Officer Candidate School. From there he was eligible for the Navy Civil Engineering Corp and joined the Seabees, who are responsible for construction support. He spoke about his training and shared stories of his time in Vietnam. Just one of his stories was the memory of his camp being hit by a rocket attack and a close call while he and his buddies were crouched down in a mortar pit with sandbags along the wall.

Fast forward about 57 years, he was privileged to go on the Honor Flight in September. He said that it would not have been possible to go without **Fary's** help, as she stayed with **Nilsa**, who is recovering from a broken leg, the entire time he was gone. The Honor Flight included 90 veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. On the flight they were each given a bag of cards, from school kids, church groups, etc. Rick was at first confused when he was given a 2nd bag of cards. As he opened the cards, each one was from a Rotarian. He was so touched to receive them and thanked **Jan** for making it happen. He introduced us to his guest, **Veva**, who was his guardian on the Honor Flight (*each vet had a guardian who accompanied them on the Honor Flight weekend*). Then we watched a video that Rick made of his Honor Flight experience. It was emotional to see Rick and the other vets on the plane opening their cards, visiting the military sites in Washington, D.C., Rick at the Vietnam Memorial, and then returning to a warm and cheering welcome back to San Diego. Rick summarized the Honor Flight as 'a trip that is difficult to explain and one you'll never forget'. Thank you for your service, Rick.

#### Correction/addition to last meeting report.

**RotD:** the VAYU bubble Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (bCPAP) system has treated 360,000 (not 360) babies to date.

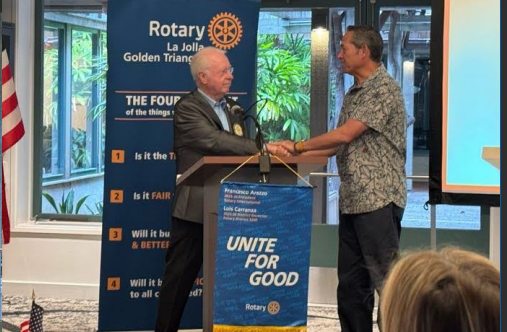
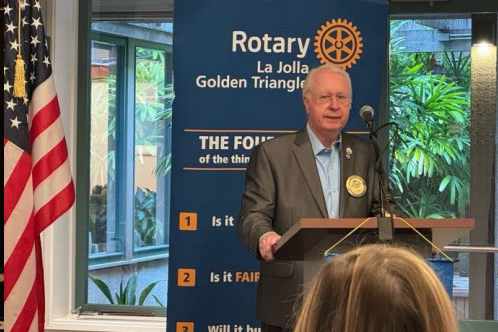
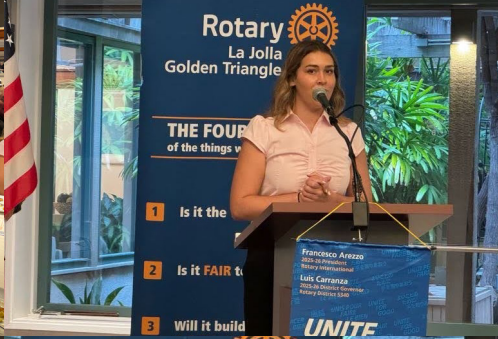
**High Fives:** A high \$100 was given in memory of **Judy Colaneri** of Spanish Steps who passed away in October. Judy made it possible for our club to do a Rotary Camino Fundraiser which netted about \$26,000 for our club projects in 2017.

~Reporter

Bonnie Arora



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



**mdj**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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**LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2025 - 2026**

- PRESIDENT ..... David Chong  
 VICE PRESIDENT ..... Christy White Brook  
 PRESIDENT ELECT (2026-27) ..... Timothy Fronczek  
 TREASURER ..... Sharon Council  
 SECRETARY ..... Lisa Galstian  
 PAST-PRESIDENT ..... Luke Ervin

**ROTARIAN  
 OF THE DAY**



**GARRY  
 KACHKOVSKY**

I was born and spent the first ten years of my life in the then Soviet Union. My clearest memories of growing up in Moscow are playing outside for hours with kids from my neighborhood, terrorizing my cousin who I spent what felt like every weekend with, seeing completely empty shelves in grocery stores, and waiting hours in line for bread only to be told that the rations ran out. And, despite that, being completely happy. When I was ten, my family and I immigrated to Chicago. And, IN SIX DAYS WE WILL BE CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN THIS AMAZING COUNTRY.

In 1997 I received my bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in Economics and Russian and immediately moved to Arizona to escape the crummy Chicago winters weather. There I met my wife Emily and started a family. In our bi-lingual household, we are raising two daughters – Ava who is 14 and Elle who is 10. The kids are bi-lingual and Emily knows enough to be dangerous. We moved to San Diego eight years ago to be closer to Emily's family and have loved every minute of it. What's not to love about paradise?! Well, may be taxes, real estate prices, failing infrastructure, congestion... but I digress.

My career in the financial services industry began in Phoenix in 1997 where I spent the next twenty years. My business partner and I will be celebrating our company's 25-year anniversary next year. We specialize in helping uniquely successful individuals and families by coordinating the different aspects of their financial lives and act as long-term stewards of their assets through comprehensive financial planning, sophisticated wealth management and strategic legacy planning. We have offices in Colorado and San Diego. This past year has been interesting and rewarding. Clients marry, start families, celebrate personal and career milestones, some divorce, pass away, life moves on, and we are there to shepherd them through important financial decisions.

My past volunteer interests have included coaching a boys' after school basketball team, being a big brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Arizona and helping build homes for Habitat for Humanity. Emily and I volunteer at our daughters' schools in UC. Aside from these charitable endeavors, as a family, we enjoy travel, beach time, camping, trail running, hiking, mountain biking, skiing/snowboarding, Brazilian jiu-jitsu (just me), and spending time with family and friends.



**DECEMBER 2025**

December 19 - Rich Papike



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