

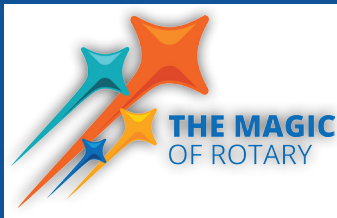
THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 31 2025



RI President 2024-25
STEPHANIE URCHICK

District 5340 Governor 2024-25
DIANNE CRAWFORD

LJGT Rotary President 2024-25
LUKE ERVIN

DEAN DARREN KEW



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)

THE KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

Darren Kew (Ph.D. in International Relations, Tufts University, 2002) is Dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, where he is also a professor. He studies the relationship between conflict resolution methods – particularly interfaith and inter-ethnic peacebuilding – and democratic development in Africa, Northern Ireland, and the United States. Much of his work focuses on the role of civil society groups in this development. He has also been a consultant on peace and democracy initiatives to the United Nations, USAID, US Institute of Peace, the US State Department, and to a number of NGOs, including the Carter Center. He monitored the last seven Nigerian elections and the 2007 elections in Sierra Leone, and in 2023-24 co-facilitated a working group of religious leaders focusing on religion and peacebuilding in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Professor Kew was asked by the British and American governments to join an influential international commission requested by the Nigerian government in 2010, which contributed to a major overhaul of its election system. He is author of numerous works on Nigerian politics and conflict resolution, including the book *Civil Society, Conflict Resolution, and Democracy in Nigeria* (Syracuse UP, 2016), and his articles have appeared in *International Negotiation*, the *Journal of Democracy*, and *Current History*, among others.

Areas of Interest

- Civil society, conflict prevention, and transnational civil society development
- Religion, ethnicity, and peace and conflict resolution
- International security, crisis intervention, and Early Warning/Early Response
- Conflict resolution efforts as grassroots approaches to promoting democracy
- Conflict and democracy in Africa (especially Nigeria), including elections
- International negotiation and mediation
- Restorative Justice
- Nonviolence as a practice and social movement development





REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2025

FEBRUARY - SPEAKER

- 14.....Valentine's Day Special:
Grandma Sparky
- 21.....Dr. Danielle Haulsee & Don Kent
Hubbs-SeaWorld
Protecting ocean health in Southern
California - issues and solutions

The morning started with plenty of networking opportunities where Rotarian friends gathered to discuss their businesses, their philanthropic endeavors and their personal lives, with one another.

Our charismatic president, **Luke Ervin**, started the morning meeting promptly at 8:30 with a packed room! We had approximately 60 attendees, including Rotarians and their guests. Late comers were still at the breakfast buffet and elected to pause and participate in the morning Pledge of Allegiance.

On this chilly morning, we were warmed by the many (and I mean many) stories shared by our friend and long-term Rotarian **Sandi Rimer**.

Sandi loves serving the community where she lives and works. With a long history of volunteer work for Rotary International that began in 1988, she has held a variety of top-level positions, including serving as the first female Rotary District Governor for San Diego and Imperial Counties and Rotary Foundation Chair. She spoke very highly about her Rotary Experiences and inspired us to step up to the plate and be involved.

President Luke then called up several members to make announcements to all members and guests. **Garry Kachkovsky** addressed the group to discuss our club's upcoming Wine Soiree Fundraiser and we are looking forward to many more details. Last year's event was a sell-out and a smash success, and this year will be even better!

Carolyn Fritz invited everyone to participate in the Love Your Wetlands Day event on February 1st. There are a couple of options to help clean up the wetlands, either by foot or by kayak! Have

fun with fellow club members, while helping the environment! This is a great way to get involved with the club.

Brett Morey reminded everyone that the Ronald McDonald House community event will be held on February 11th and lunch will be served by Rotarians to feed the family members of children staying at Rady Children's Hospital. If you are looking for a true hands-on experience to make a difference in people's lives, this is a great event to attend.

It was approximately around this point in the meeting, when **Rich Papike** walked anxiously over to **Stephen Tako**, who was still enjoying his breakfast and morning coffee, to remind him that he had signed up to be the morning reporter that day..

Several guests were announced and we are always so grateful to have prospective members join us for breakfast and networking. **Jean McGrath**, whose late husband **Frank McGrath** was a club Charter Member, just celebrated her 1st anniversary as a full-fledged member of our club! She's being doing an AMAZING job with many projects already!

Marty Rubenstein presented the Student of the Month award to **Tristen Castro**, a Preuss student. Tristen shared how he evolved from very troubling times at school, to now excelling at many courses and with future plans to join the FBI. Congratulations to this young student for turning his life around!

Jan Percival-Lipscomb has been doing an amazing job as the Program Chair, and we really appreciate all the work she has been doing for our club. The morning's speaker, introduced by **Luke Ervin**, was **Mr. Azim Khamisa**, founder of the **Tariq**

Khamisa Foundation. The title of his presentation was "Peace Thru Forgiveness".

Azim has visited our club previously, and we were delighted to have him return to share more information about the tremendous work his organization does for students in grades 4th-10th. The Tariq Khamisa Foundation teaches children how the importance of forgiveness may save many lives, and they are looking to collaborate with more nonprofits in the San Diego market.

Tariq Khamisa was the 20 year-old son of Azim and he was tragically murdered by a 14 year-old gang member. As Tariq would have been reaching the age of 50 this year, Mr. Khamisa reflected on the past thirty years and how his foundation has reached millions of children with powerful messages that have been transforming many young lives.

After his presentation and Q&A session, **Janine Pack**, Chair of our club's Peace Committee, presented Mr. Azim Khamisa with the prestigious Peacemaker of the Year Award. This annual award is given to an individual or organization who demonstrates a remarkable history of promoting peace in the world.

The meeting ended on time with **President Luke Ervin** providing a fun tidbit of trivia and announcing the Peace Committee would be meeting right after the club meeting. If you want to be involved in a worthy committee, please consider joining the **Peace Committee**.

~Reporter

Stephen Tako

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) Jan Percival
TREASURER Sharon Council
SECRETARY Sandi Rimer
PAST-PRESIDENT Christy White Brook

ROTARIAN OF THE DAY



JANINE PACK



JANUARY 2025

February 14 - Fary Moini

February 21 - Jim Frost

February 28 - Marty Rosenstein



War, Peace and.....Love

In the last year, I've been a member of the Pathways to Peace Committee. My friends wondered how a committee could contribute to peace in the world. It seems to be in an ethereal prize, particularly these days.

But, let me tell you a story within my own family that exemplifies how the children of former enemies can unite in love: On August 9, 1945 an American B-29 carried a second nuclear bomb toward Kokura, a Japanese steel town and imperial army arsenal. A teenage girl lived in a town nearby. The weather that day was cloudy and the target in Kokura was obscured by fires set by an earlier American raid. The mission to Kokura was aborted and the bomber flew to the secondary target-Nagasaki. Forty thousand Japanese civilians died with an estimated final death toll of 80,000. At the time, my father was a sergeant stationed in New Guinea and my husband's father was in the Navy, both fighting the Japanese.

Kokura and the Japanese teenager were both spared. She grew up, married and had a daughter Setsuko. Setsuko grew up, married and had a daughter - Mari Momii. Fifteen years ago, Mari was traveling for work to San Francisco and at the last minute decided to attend a party. There she met Michael Pack, our son. They were happily married for 13 years until she died in April from breast cancer. In May, we traveled to Japan to be with our son and help him grieve the loss of his wife and our dear daughter-in-law. There was much sadness but also a shared love, uniting our Japanese family with our own, joined by laughter and wonderful memories of Mari. The Momii family showered us with hospitality and kindness.

This Christmas, we reunited with the Momii family to enjoy our traditional American Christmas with them in Japan. We had an America- style Christmas dinner and as pictured below, we once again enjoyed the warmth of each other's company (conversation aided by my son and Google Translate). We also shared a love for American baseball. I am a Dodgers' fan and Shohei Ohtani, a prized Dodger player, is held with great pride by the Japanese. (On the other hand, my son is an avid San Diego Padres fan.) Mari was always in our thoughts and we toasted her with her favorite champagne.



We enjoyed our Christmas festivities in Japan with our Japanese family.

In the end, we must remember that all families love equally and although peace may seem to be a distant state, it is achievable. Former enemies of war, peoples with no understanding of one another, can unite in love years later.



Ellen BRYSON

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