

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 17 2026



PROFESSOR EMILY AIKEN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

DATA SCIENCE FOR TARGETING HUMANITARIAN AID

Emily Aiken is an assistant professor at the University of California San Diego, jointly appointed in the School of Global Policy and Strategy and the Halicioglu Data Science Institute. Her research interests are at the intersection of data science and development economics, with a focus on analyzing large digital traces to inform the design of social protection and humanitarian aid programs. Her work centers on the implementation and evaluation of data-driven allocation systems for aid delivery in low-income countries. Prior to joining UC San Diego, Aiken was a postdoctoral scholar at Carnegie Mellon University Africa. She received her Ph.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Information, and she holds a MS (UC Berkeley) and BA (Harvard) in computer science.



This topic should be near and dear to all Rotarians as it relates to our global humanitarian work. Professor Aiken will address how data science can improve our understanding of poverty and how we can make better use of resources to address this problem

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



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)





REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

AUGUST - SPEAKER

7.....Welcome District Governor
Jeb Bakke

From the First Meeting of the Rotary Year - A Sea of Orange Welcomes a New Rotary Year

The first meeting of the 2026–2027 Rotary year was more celebration than business meeting. Members filled the room wearing orange shirts, shoes, glasses, and accessories as a tribute to outgoing **President David** and the friendships that define the club. Ironically, **President Tim** was the only person not wearing orange. After the Pledge of Allegiance, members welcomed guests, celebrated birthdays and Rotary anniversaries, and enjoyed an upbeat start to the new year.

Rotarian of the Day

Steve's reflection began with America's upcoming 250th birthday before shifting to his own experiences serving in the U.S. Navy. He spoke about the freedoms and opportunities that service and democracy provide and noted that Rotary reflects many of those same values through community service and fellowship.

His presentation included *"The Tale of Three Shirts,"* which quickly became the morning's comic highlight. The first shirt, *"Chill, I've Got This,"* represented the optimism of retirement, although Steve admitted life doesn't always cooperate. His second shirt, *"It Is What It Is,"* reflected the calm outlook many members know him for. The final shirt simply read, *"I Have No Idea What's Going On,"* drawing laughter from the audience. Beneath the humor was a meaningful reminder to

remain grateful, continue serving others, and appreciate the positive impact Rotary has on communities around the world.

Announcements

President Tim introduced a new Rotary Challenge Coin tradition designed to encourage every member to become an ambassador for Rotary. Each recipient is challenged to start a conversation about Rotary, invite a guest to breakfast, or help someone discover the value of the organization. Tim emphasized that membership growth will be a major focus during the coming year.

The first challenge coins were presented to **Maria** for her outstanding behind-the-scenes service, **Sarah** as the club's new Membership Director, and **David** in recognition of his thoughtful leadership over the past year.

Additional announcements included next week's guest speaker from UC San Diego, reminders about the October Ensenada trip, and welcomes to visiting Rotarians and guests.

Speaker of the Meeting

Captain Bob Rohrbach captivated the club with stories spanning a lifetime of Navy service. Introduced by **Rick Clark**, Bob shared how a childhood fascination with Navy frogmen inspired his career, despite an early detour into law school. He also humorously admitted that although he has always feared heights, he still became a Navy parachutist.

The highlight of his presentation centered on his role with the Apollo 11 recovery team aboard the USS Hornet. Bob described the months of preparation required to recover Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins following humanity's first moon landing. One of his favorite memories was secretly painting *"Welcome Home"* inside the astronauts' recovery raft—an unexpected gesture of appreciation that reflected the human side of a historic mission.

Bob emphasized that becoming a Navy SEAL is less about physical strength than perseverance, teamwork, and refusing to quit. He was later joined by his sons, Chris and Ed, both retired Navy Captains, making the Rohrbach family the first known family to produce three Navy Captains. Together they shared lessons on leadership, integrity, humility, and caring for teammates.

President Tim concluded the meeting by presenting each of them with a Rotary Challenge Coin. The morning ended with a powerful reminder that both military service and Rotary service are rooted in the same belief: **ordinary people, working together with purpose and integrity, can accomplish extraordinary things.**

~Reporter

Sarah Saluta



PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



BRETT MOREY
ROTARY REPORTERS



Cynthia Willis



La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

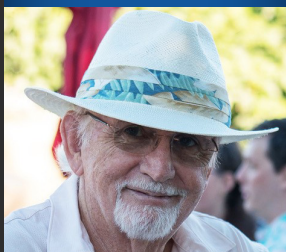
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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2026 - 2027

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



WAYNE DAVIS



AUGUST 2026

August 7 - Sandi Rimer

August 21 - Johnathan Chittuluru

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 4 - Sarah Saluta

September 18 - Jan Percival



So, it was 2 years ago when I was last ROTD having fully retired from my 50 years managing my own architectural firm. Joy and I began our retirement by taking a beautiful Viking Rhine River Cruise (thoroughly recommend) then a few more locally focused trips and family gatherings. I was truly engaged in the new slow life — and Joy noticed it. It wasn't long until she happily suggested some of my "slow time" could be put to use in one of her pursuits — create website a for her most recent endeavor - as "Author/Artist" for a series of books named The Fairven Trilogy she authored and illustrated. This is series she began in 2023 and she was deeply into the final book. The stories revolve around a living forest of fairies, elves and animals - all being challenged to rely on optimism, courage, and kindness to survive. (All available on Amazon being enjoyed by young adults and the young at heart)

Once I got into creating the content, wanted to compliment her website to give background to her creative artistic talents by adding a gallery illustrating many art pieces she had been creating since I met her over 42 years ago. Most were large canvas pieces - several too large for our home, found their way into my architectural office - which became a bit of a gallery. Subsequently, a number of my clients, seeing the art pieces ended up purchasing some for their homes or businesses. Of the more than 70 pieces she created, we have 15-20 in our home and the others were sold or have found their home in family and friends' homes.

Traveling is still one of our favorite things to do, be it more European river cruises, visiting the British Isles, wine country trips and now a new area for us - Rochester, NY. You ask - why Rochester NY? Well, our daughter, now a single mom with 2 teenagers, was struggling to buy a home in California. She discovered (through some NY friends), Rochester not only has great schools but the sales of "existing" homes was beginning to explode. So, a year ago April, she and I arranged with a sales agent to spend week viewing potential homes that met certain criteria. We quickly found it was a sellers' market with homes having multiple bids - and bid deadlines due with 2 - 4 days after the first available showing. We found 2 very good matches and were able to submit bids on each and was successful in getting the home our daughter preferred. By June of last year, they were moved in and settled.

Joy and I visited them in October last year and took the fall color and the surroundings of Lake Ontario, a trip up the Erie Canal and a quick venture into the Finger Lakes region. It's a beautiful area with so many 1- and 2-day trips from their home that we can share with them on many future travels.

So just this last February, we went back to be with our daughter as was diagnosed with breast cancer and needed to undergo a double mastectomy. That was totally successful and she is now completing the reconstructive process. There for about 2-1/2 weeks experiencing one of Rochester's longest continual snowy weather - I became very adept at daily driving in the snow for errands and taking the grandkids to and from school.

Our other travel plans were put on hold so Joy could get a full knee replacement - which she had the 1st. of May. For the first 6-8 weeks, I became chef, housekeeper, shopper, errand runner and most important, "tenderly" reminding her to do the needed PT routines. She's doing extremely well- and is determined to restart our postponed travel planning as soon as possible.

In the meantime, if you are so inclined, come down and visit the Maritime Museum where I became a docent a little over 2 years ago. Usually, a couple times a week you can find me either doing Deck Watch on one of the historical ships or roaming the collection of 11 ships on display and speaking with visiting guests.