THE GOLDEN
rotarian
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Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle
LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2 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)

Steve Bender

Chairman of the US Green Chamber and President of the Rotary Club of Newport Beach



"Building Bridges through Rotary"

Steve Bender is a global sustainability leader and strategic advisor with decades of experience building partnerships, launching environmental initiatives, and helping organizations grow in ways that are both responsible and resilient.

He is the CEO of Sea 2 Sky Solutions, an international consulting firm focused on sustainable innovation and collaboration; the head of Newport Homes, where he leads work in green building, affordable housing, and sustainable building design—including new product lines made from recycled materials and food waste; and the CEO of The 7 Seas Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting the world's oceans. Steve also serves as Global Head of Strategic Partnerships and Revenue Growth at EarthX.

Through Sea 2 Sky Solutions, Steve works with organizations across six continents to develop sustainability strategies, partnerships, and growth plans. The firm operates with partners and offices in Newport Beach, Dallas, Mexico City, Finland, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Panama, supporting projects in climate action, ocean conservation, green infrastructure, and community development. His work includes initiatives such as EarthX, Sustainable and Traceable Seafood Initiatives, Oceans Week Mexico, the 7 Seas Initiative, and the founding of The Rotary Reef Project, which focuses on ocean restoration and resilience for island nations and coastal communities.

Steve also serves as Chairman of the Board of the United States, Green Chamber of Commerce, helping guide its national and international growth. As a founding director of both the U.S. Green Chamber and the California Green Chamber, he is widely recognized for bringing business, government, and nonprofit leaders together around shared sustainability goals—always with a focus on making sustainability work for business.

His conservation and civic leadership include, serving as President of the Rotary Club of Newport Beach (The Rotary Global Service Club), as well as Director of the Environmental and Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) for Western North America, supporting environmental projects across more than 1,700 Rotary clubs. He also serves on the Rotary Climate Action Team and is a former President of the Newport Bay Conservancy, where he helped protect and restore one of Southern California's most important coastal ecosystems.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

OCTOBER - *SPEAKER*

2.....Steve Bender, Chairman
U.S. Green Chamber

16.....Thad Kousser
Trust in American Elections
Headed toward the 2026 Midterms

NOVEMBER - *SPEAKER*

6.....Nathan Moeder
Is San Diego building
the right housing?

Jan Percival, our Rotarian of the Day, led the Pledge and shared an account of her 2025 solo walk along the Camino de Santiago. Her roughly 500-mile route across northern Spain fulfilled an ambition that began 25 years earlier. Blisters, poor weather, and inconsiderate cyclists made parts of the journey difficult; quiet sunrises, remarkable architecture, and friendships with fellow pilgrims made it worthwhile. Jan remains in touch with several of those friends and plans to walk with them again. Her account made clear why she is eager to return.

We welcomed nine guests, including honorary member **Peggy Martin** from Gig Harbor, returning prospective member **Vanessa Davila Conn**, and Samson's fiancée **Alice** and her parents. Peggy invited us to visit her club, which adds a fifth question to the Four-Way Test: "Is it fun?"

Rich Papike, in his second week as Fine Master, provided some evidence that our club would pass that test. A photograph of Samson in a suit earned Samson a fine for startling **Jim Davies.** Rich then invited the room to attempt my last name. I explained how to pronounce it and was fined $5 anyway (all in good fun!). **Tracy** fared better: she agreed to become *"Tracy Charger Henry"* for Chargers–Raiders week and avoided the fine.

High-fives included **Jim Frost's** announcement that his seventh grandchild is on the way and **Dennis Bucko's** news that his grandson would enjoy the house and car while Dennis and Sally were away. **Michael McQuary** celebrated his granddaughter's nursing degree; his wife, daughter, and granddaughter are now all registered nurses. **Eric Freeberg** also thanked Peggy for her early work with Michael Bardin, **Steve Brown**, and **Pam Russell** on the club's membership and foundation records.

Our service announcements reflected a busy fall. **Michael Slentz** encouraged members to support the September 19 Life Rolls On adaptive surfing event at La Jolla Shores, emphasizing the experience it provides for people with disabilities. Dennis confirmed Friday, October 30, for the children's zoo visit. **Melanie Geschwind** has volunteered, and additional volunteers and unused guest passes would be welcome. **Garry Kachkovsky** outlined painting, cleaning, and demolition work at an Ensenada orphanage, followed by a paella dinner at Chateau Camou. Bus passengers should arrive at Frost Hardwood by 6:45 a.m. Saturday with their actual passports; the return bus leaves Ensenada at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Other announcements included **Cami's** September 26 Stroll, Snack, and Swim; Ronald McDonald House on November 10; the art museum outing on November 13; and the District Foundation Impact Celebration on November 14. **Cynthia Villis's** celebration of life is Sunday, November 15, at 2:30 p.m. The club also needs a host home for a visitor from Italy.

Tim presented **Michael Bardin** with a Challenge Coin in appreciation of his work on peace. Michael received a second coin to give to someone else and continue the conversation.

Samson Tse concluded the program with a discussion of artificial intelligence. Drawing on his software engineering experience, he described how AI agents perform much of the programming, artwork, and other work for his game company. He also discussed the risks: convincing scam calls, substantial electricity and water demands, and answers that sound authoritative but may be wrong. Samson was optimistic about AI's usefulness and skeptical of doomsday predictions, though he acknowledged its effects on employment.

His discussion returned to the Four-Way Test and the responsibilities that accompany these tools. In response to a question about education, he recommended asking students questions that reveal their understanding of the material. He also disclosed that his own presentation had been generated with AI under his direction. For all the work these tools can perform, Samson emphasized the continued importance of personal communication and human relationships.

Our next meeting is October 2, when **Steve Bender**, chairman of the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce, will speak on Building Bridges Through Rotary. **Thad Kousser** will follow on October 16 with a discussion of trust in American elections.

See you on October 2nd!

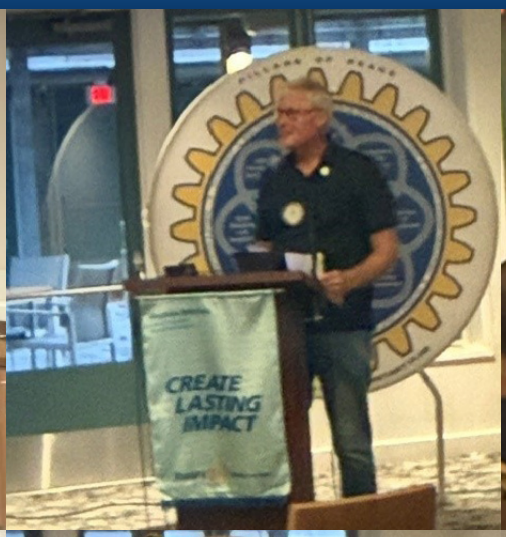
~Reporter

Johnathan Chittuluru

PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING

JAN BERNARDY
ROTARY • REPORTERS



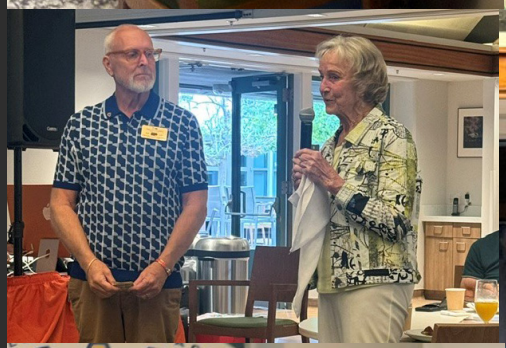




















La Jolla Golden Triangle
ROTARY CLUB
Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

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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



AJAY ASHER

As you all know, I am Ajay Asher and have been a member of our Rotary Club since 2005. My business of 29 years is Printing so I have been publishing our weekly bulletin since I started membership. I migrated with my family from Tanzania where I was born in a small town of Moshi on the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. I started my printing business in San Diego in 1997 and have owned this business since then. We have a state of art store on Miramar Road and cater to small to large businesses around San Diego. Replica San Diego(my business) also works with a lot of non profit organizations to help them in their printing needs. Since last 29 years we have also established ourselves as one of leading printing companies in San Diego and specialize in events printing for people from out of state having their conferences and events in San Diego. San Diego has become one of leading destinations for conferences and events.

My wife Malini, is an elementary teacher in Poway district teaching and just adores her profession. It is very interesting to hear new stories everyday as she tries to bring a positive change in her kids at school. Both our adult daughters work in Education as well. After working at Google for 6 years our older daughter Krupa started working for CalBright College California as Director of Business Development and younger daughter who finished her Masters last year now works at Northeastern University in Boston as Assistant Director of Student Services.

We love taking vacations exploring different countries and since last year we have been to Costa Rica, India(north India in the Himalayan Range at over 12000 ft – did a pilgrimage) and Cambodia.



Two important events have happened this year in my family – Happy Event – our daughter's wedding with an awesome man who is a Chemical Engineer/ VP at a biotech company in San Diego and Sad Event – my wife's mom passed in Tanzania in July after a short illness.

I look forward to our Friday meetings and feel blessed to be a member of our Rotary Club – the most dynamic Rotary Club in the world!



OCTOBER 2026

October 16 - Jan Bernardy

NOVEMBER 2026

November 6 - Lisa Galstian

November 20 - Eric Freeberg