

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

[www.lajollagtr Rotary.org](http://www.lajollagtr Rotary.org)



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

RI President 2017-18  
**IAN H.S. RISELEY**

District 5340 Governor 2017-18  
**SCOTT C. CARR**

LJGT Rotary President 2017-18  
**ALEXANDER S. MONROE**

**SPEAKERS**  
AND EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 2017 - SPEAKER**

29..... **Andrew Lowy**  
Pancreatic cancer: Are we making progress?

**OCTOBER 2017 - SPEAKER**

06..... **Phil Bresnahan**  
Smartfin

13..... **Garner Palenske**  
Wyatt Earp In San Diego

## Zahn Innovation Platform Launchpad



### Corey Polant

Development and Community Relations Officer  
Zahn Innovation Platform Launchpad  
San Diego State University

Corey Polant manages the external partnerships to the Zahn Innovation Platform (ZIP) Launchpad from philanthropic to overall community relations engagement opportunities. The ZIP Launchpad is the on campus startup incubator for SDSU students, helping bring their early stage idea to life.

Corey works daily with entrepreneurs, San Diego business leaders, foundations and corporations to build and grow the overall entrepreneurial community connected and engaged with the university's entrepreneurial efforts. As a native New Yorker, he also leads the SDSU alumni engagement efforts for the New York region and travels back east three times a year to build the alumni network.

Corey graduated from SDSU in 2015 with a degree in Sociology and is now pursuing his Masters at SDSU in Public Administration. He's involved with San Diego Rotaract, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Young Leaders, a "Big" for Big Brothers Big Sisters and volunteers as a foundation board member to Thrive Public Charter Schools.



**Cathy Pucher** works with aspiring entrepreneurs at SDSU's Zahn Innovation Platform Launchpad. Zahn Innovation Platform Launchpad helps SDSU students, faculty and staff launch a start-up from their early stage ideas. Forty teams and over 100 students work concurrently to bring their idea to life while receiving mentoring, pro bono legal guidance, prototyping services, business acumen, and access to early stage funding in 24/7 co-working space on campus. Since opening its doors four years ago, one in ten teams has launched their business and collectively received \$3.2M in early stage funding.

She helped create EvoNexus and served as their first Executive Director. EvoNexus is an incubator dedicated to simulating the growth of new high technology companies in San Diego. EvoNexus has raised over \$1B since opening in Oct 2009.

She brings 20+ years of experience in the high tech industry and has worked for established and start up technology companies.

Mrs. Pucher earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at University California, San Diego. She enjoys spending time with her husband, two kids and two dogs.



**SEPTEMBER 2017**  
22..... Luke Ervin  
29..... Leanne Cusick  
**OCTOBER 2017**  
06..... Wayne Davis

# REPORT

from the last meeting



## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



### NANCY GATSCHERT

Nancy has over 35 years of leadership experience in consumer and commercial banking. Nancy holds her BA from the College of William and Mary, with some post-graduate work at Drexel University. She has held the Series 7 and 66 financial licenses as well as life and health insurance licenses. Nancy is a lifelong volunteer, feeding the homeless, walking Town Watch, serving on the boards of several community organizations as well as the national board of the National Lung Cancer Partnership. She founded the Pennsylvania Lung Cancer Partnership raising \$1.5 million in 6 years. Nancy has a son serving in the Army and a daughter working on her MS in nutrition, and 1 grandchild from each.

Meeting opened by Esteemed President Alex Monroe.

Our Rotarian of the Day was none other than the famous Rick Clark, who is known for his multiple talents and gifts but especially for his fabulous videos. He showed us one of his long roadtrip driving alone all over Europe as a young man. He mostly slept in his little Triumph but occasionally splurged on a hotel if desperately needed. It was a great adventure, and only cost a little over \$1000! He came back homeless and unemployed, and proposed to Nilsa—who miraculously accepted and is still here to tell about it. He closed with a quote from somebody: “Life is all about special moments, but don’t wait for them. Instead, make them happen.” Rick has done a lot of this!

We then went on to induct a new member: Nancy Gatschert. She has been in banking, and loves to volunteer. She also likes meditation, and in our club so far has shown an interest in Vocational Service. A warm welcome, Nancy.

In announcements Pete Griffith, District ShelterBox

Director, had spoken last week about the efforts of Shelterbox to assist in hurricane recovery from Harvey, and now Irma as well. Shelterbox is often a first responder in natural disasters all over the world, rushing in with tents, water filters, etc. for emergency assistance. Afterwards, Jim Frost generously donated \$1000. Today it was announced that the Community Service Committee has decided to donate \$500 as a match to club donations, either from individuals or committees, to ShelterBox. Thanks, Jim and Community Service!

Cynthia Villis told us about the need of our visiting scholars for FANS in the hot weather. It is hard to study in this heat!

Our speaker was Karin Davies of Saving Babies’ Lives in Ethiopia. She is a retired San Diego pediatrician who lived in Ethiopia as a child. She had learned that many infant deaths in Ethiopia were preventable if the right medical care was available. So she designed a program to train medical staff at the University of Gondar—doctors, nurses, midwives—in recognizing and treating newborn difficulties, especially with breathing. She and a

colleague worked with a Rotary Vocational Training Team who made 4 visits to Ethiopia over 2 years, to train obstetricians, pediatricians, etc. Much of the training was hands-on, so providers could be sure they’d mastered the skills. They also learned that Teamwork and Communication skills were needed and requested, so this was added to the program. They then went on to a further program involving training the trainers. They also provided birthing kits. Our very own Fary Moini was instrumental in developed Skype conferencing.

Davies and crew then went on to start another grant to integrate the courses into the university curriculum.

Karin expressed her thanks to La Jolla Golden Triangle RC for our assistance and involvement.

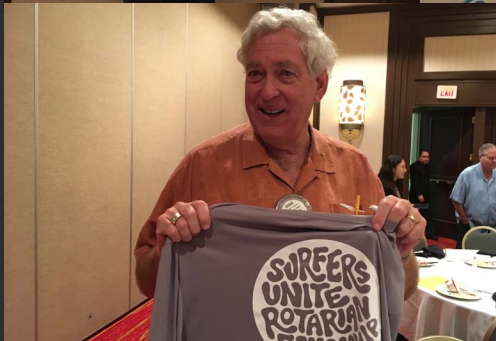
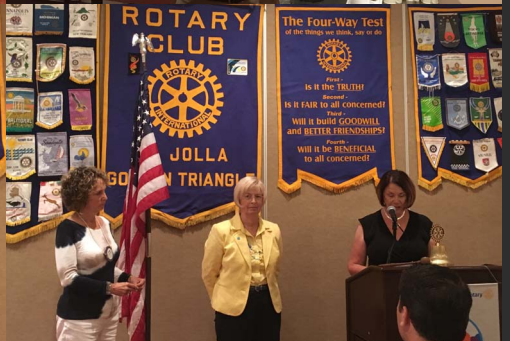
The meeting closed with President Alex trying to stump us with “Name that Tune.” He’d play a tune, and we got to guess the name and singer. We usually prevail!





# PHOTOS

from the last meeting





# La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

P.O. Box 13023  
La Jolla, CA 92039  
[www.LaJollaGTRotary.org](http://www.LaJollaGTRotary.org)

## LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2017 - 2018

PRESIDENT ..... Alex Monroe  
PRESIDENT ELECT (2018-19) ..... Rick Binder  
PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2019-20) .....  
TREASURER ..... Sharon Council  
SECRETARY ..... Beverly Fritschner  
PAST-PRESIDENT/FOUNDATION ..... Antonio J. Grillo-López, MD



### UPCOMING ROTD

**SEPTEMBER** 2017  
29.....Mike Schwarz

**OCTOBER** 2017  
06.....Brett Morey  
13.....Sheila Henry  
20.....Denny Jacobs  
27.....David Chong

ROTARIAN  
OF THE DAY

## MICHAEL SLENTZ



I grew up in Mesa, AZ and lived there until I was 18 years old. I was into playing sports and hiking and camping with my Boy Scout troop. I went to college at the University of Arizona in Tucson. I majored in Biology and spent time volunteering as a basketball coach for the YMCA. I also spent a year and a half volunteering as a court appointed special advocate (CASA program) to represent the interests of children involved in custody cases with the state. I minored in Psychology and worked for a couple of years after graduation doing

research in the psychiatric department at the University Medical Center in Tucson.

In 1995, after I finished my Masters, I moved to San Diego and started a career as a software engineer. I have lived here ever since. I worked at several .com startups in the late 1990's. In 2001, I went to work at UCSD in the Business and Financial Services department. I worked there until 2005 when I went to work for my current employer, Innova Systems International. I now manage a couple of software development teams and we build software for Marine aviators.

I got married in 2001 and my daughter was born in 2004. I enjoy hiking, paddle boarding, reading and playing Chess.