

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 06, 2021

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



Rotary



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

RI President 2021-22  
**SHEKHAR MEHTA**

District 5340 Governor 2021-22  
**DANIEL GENSLER**

LJGT Rotary President 2021-22  
**JACQUIE REILLY**

## SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

**AUGUST 2021 - SPEAKER**

- 20..... Molly McClain  
The Life of Ellen Scripps
- 27..... David Ellenstein  
Artistic Director; North Coast Repertory Theatre



## Dan Gensler District Governor 2021 - 2022

Dan Gensler was 32 years old when he joined Rotary. Now at 58, after having been on many humanitarian trips, he sees Rotary in a different way compared to when he first joined. Over the years, Gensler has grown as a Rotarian dedicated to helping others. Recently, Gensler was chosen to be District Governor of Rotary and will serve in that position until June 30, 2022.

"I have stayed in Rotary all these years because I came to believe in the incredible humanitarian impact we make throughout the world...I've grown to appreciate Rotary in a much different light," he has shared in a speech.

Gensler has served as president of the Coronado club from 2006 to 2007 and was Rotarian of the year in 2004.

Looking back, Gensler moved to Orange County from his native Wisconsin in 1987, and by 1993 he and his wife moved to Coronado. After working in the financial world for some years, he opened his own business, The Gensler Group, in 1995. He is a certified financial planner and was recognized by Forbes Magazine among America's Top Financial Advisors.

Gensler was introduced to Rotary through an acquaintance and first joined the Point Loma Club, eventually moving to the Coronado one. A few years later, Gensler was invited to get involved. He believes that based on the fact that someone asked him and believed he could do it, was the big motivating factor to get involved.

Fellow Rotarian Bob Watson asked him to start a prosthetic clinic in Ensenada, Mexico. "It sure sounded interesting and he assured me that there were plenty of Rotarians who would be willing to help," recalled Gensler. While visiting a medical clinic in Ensenada he found out the clinic had some land that could be used to build a workshop to manufacture prosthetics. A friendly challenge was issued between two Rotarians, a contractor and an architect. The contractor would build the workshop if the architect provided the plans. The architect did come up with the plans and the contractor brought a crew down, and the workshop was built in 14 hours. Gensler then met a prosthetist, Herb Barrack, who helped design the inside of the workshop. "The clinic is still open today, almost 20 years later, in large part because of him," said Gensler.

Gensler recalls how he was touched by the first

prosthetic patient, a 10-year-old boy named Victor, a double amputee due to an accident. Soon after receiving the prosthetics, the boy was seen playing basketball in the courtyard of the rehabilitation hospital. "It was magical and watching this all unfold seemed like such a miracle," said Gensler.

Years later, Victor went back to the clinic as a 17-year old riding his bike. A new set of prosthetic limbs were made for him and after putting them on he started doing trick bicycle show. Gensler believes that volunteering and seeing the amazing changes that can be brought to less fortunate people can change your life. "You'll experience the good in humanity and realize the best in yourself along with an enhanced sense of purpose. What you're able to do for others and the lifelong friendships you'll make along the way will change you and your life forever in ways you never imagined," he said.

Gensler's "life changing moment" was when he met Sister Ethel 15 years ago, during a convention in Copenhagen. Sister Ethel moved to South Africa and established the Missionvale Care Center outside Port Elizabeth. After hearing her speak, Gensler went to see her and set up a meeting. "I was so enamored and drawn into Sister Ethel's passion and love for the poor and the extreme challenges she faced," said Gensler.

Since that day Rotarians have provided 13 grants, set up a not-for-profit and sent \$685,000 for educational and humanitarian needs to Missionvale. In 2010, an opportunity came along to partner with TOMS Shoes for Missionvale. "Our first shipment contained 20,000 pairs of shoes which meant the little feet of Missionvale would no longer have to suffer. For many, this was the very first new pair they had ever owned," he recalled.

*Continued on page 3....*



# REPORT

from the last meeting



## THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE  
THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT  
THE TRUTH?

Personal note: Since I didn't quite get there last week (were busy roasting in Florida), I had the delightful pleasure of seeing everyone for the first time today. It was lovely--smiles and hugs all around. I was surprised at the BIG TABLE set up for all the tech necessary to make this hybrid meeting possible. Many thanks to Bradley Day and Melanie Geschwind for making this happen—and to our new president Jacquie Reilly for spearheading this. It keeps us going through all sorts of life conditions! We are RESILIENT!

Now into my reporter mode.

Rotarian of the Day was Stephen Tako. A new member, he has jumped in with great energy. He was very open about a difficult childhood being bullied, then learning to forgive. He talked about the importance of gratitude, and being aware of how short a time we have on this earth, and how small we are in the universe. He writes children's books, among other activities. Welcome, Stephen.

Prez Jacquie told us we need to respond to the RSVP requests for each weekly meeting for now, so she can notify the Marriott of our food needs. So please go into the Evite and respond there—the sooner the better.

The current policy on bringing guests is that they can attend at no charge for the first meeting, then \$25 per meeting after until they hopefully join.

Charlie MacKay announced our upcoming beach day at La Jolla Shores on August 8th. The Social Committee is aiming for 2 events/month! Wow!

Our Quintessential Festival is coming up on September 25. Club

members will not be required to buy tickets, but need to work hard on seeking sponsors and guests to the event.

*Save the Date Cards are ready.*

Immediate past District Governor Steve Weizman attended to give a special recognition of our long-standing member Mike Bardin. Mike has joined the Archie Klumph Society which entails a donation of \$250,000 to Rotary International. He also now has his name on the wall at RI Headquarters. In addition, he has left another nice gift to the Bequest Society, where you leave money in your Will or Trust to Rotary. He is now at Level 3 of Bequest giving. It is easy to join the Bequest Society—ask him! Painless while you're still here!

Mike is also part of the District Anti-trafficking Committee.

We then had the honor of meeting many of the members of the Club Service Committee who quietly keep a lot of things humming for the club. Chair is Melanie Geschwind, who has put together a powerful team.

--Ajay Asher, who keeps producing our beautiful newsletters.

--Michael Slentz, who manages the front desk.

--Bradley Day and Melanie G. managing the tech for hybrid meetings.

--Bill Keane has been our fabulous photographer for many years. Bill is rarely seen without a camera in front of his face.

--Chris Richards, who now has the thankless job of recruiting reluctant club members to be Rotarian of the Day. Please don't be too hard on her. Say yes.

--Rick Binder and Dennis Jacobs will be Finemasters. So better be on your best behavior when they're around!

--Stephen Tako and Bev Fritschener will be getting us our great speakers every week. Send them your suggestions.

--Garry Kachkovsky will be in charge of meeting reporters. Also say yes to him!

--The club website will be managed by Lisa Galstian and her team of Jan Bernardy, LeeAnn Cusick, and Janine Peck. Send them photos and stories about your events and projects. As an all-female team, it will be fabulous!

--Family of Rotary will be Lori, watching out for weddings, births, big anniversaries and memorials.

--Membership will be Nancy Gatschet and Ronjon Lahiri. Send them your member prospects. Our club had 9 new members this past year, through the pandemic. The District count was down.

Mike Bardin will also manage mentors for new members to help them find their right spot in the club.

My apologies to anyone I have omitted or been mistaken on. There was a lot going on.

Next week will be the visit from our new District Governor, Dan Gensler.

Be sure to come and hear about Dan's plans for the district. And don't forget to RSVP!

~Reporter

*Dory Beatrice*

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WILL IT BE  
BENEFICIAL  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?



# LAST MEETING PHOTOS



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gensler was there with other Rotarians, friends and families who volunteered, and was shocked to see the conditions of some of the kids' feet and how small they were for their age. He noticed children were worried that they may not get shoes if they did not get the first pair they were offered.

"As the proper fitting shoes went on their feet, the huge smiles on their faces provided a simple, yet profound expression of gratitude," he said.

As District Governor, Gensler has three goals he wants to accomplish: increasing membership by 50; international experiences like the trip to Guatemala next February and the home building project in Mexico; and third, vocational dental training trip to Kenya headed by Coronado Dentist Suzanne Popp.

One of the very first experiences with humanitarian projects was when Gensler visited a hospital where doctors were performing cleft palate surgery in Mexico. He took his oldest daughter Lauren, who was about 10 years old at the time, to bring lunch for the volunteers and share the experience with her. Coronadan Jim Vernetti, a dentist, was the founder of this program called Thousand Smiles.

Becoming involved for Gensler has become part of who he is, and he feels a lot of satisfaction doing that. "I found myself to be a connector, found the problem and identified the solution... that brings joy to so many of us...the more you push yourself, put yourself out there, the people you meet... life is enriched and has purpose for us," he said.

Gensler doesn't have major plans past the next year but he knows more opportunities to help will come along.

"Doors open, doors shut. I'm energized by doing community work, it has changed my life," he said.

He feels he has developed many friendships over time both here and outside the U.S. with people he has worked with, sharing a common goal. "When you embark on these trips. You see the suffering going on in the world. It's a privilege to see it and lend a hand in any way, shape or form," he explained.

Gensler is always amazed to see local volunteers who are willing to help, some who may not be well off and they could use the time to work an extra shift and earn more money instead of helping out.

In his new position, something he has prepared for the past two and-half years, Gensler will visit all 60 Rotary clubs in the district. He has visited five so far and hopes to visit three a week and finish in the fall. His role is to speak to each club but also go into specifics with individual boards to find out what challenges they are facing and how the district can help with tools and support. "I get to see it through a different lens. Each club is unique and different, it's fun to learn all those things," he said.

"There are a lot of good people in the world, when you meet one who feels so strongly, you [are motivated] to want to help those in need," he said.

## THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE  
THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT  
THE TRUTH?

02

IS IT  
FAIR TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

03

WILL IT  
BUILD GOODWILL  
AND BETTER  
FRIENDSHIPS?

04

WILL IT BE  
BENEFICIAL  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

HERBERT J. TAYLOR



# La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

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## LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2021 - 2022

PRESIDENT ..... Jacquie Reilly  
PRESIDENT ELECT (2022-23) ..... Nancy Gatschet  
PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2023-24) ..... Dennis Bucko  
TREASURER ..... Sharon Council  
SECRETARY ..... Nancy Gatschet  
PAST-PRESIDENT/FOUNDATION ..... Emidio DelConte

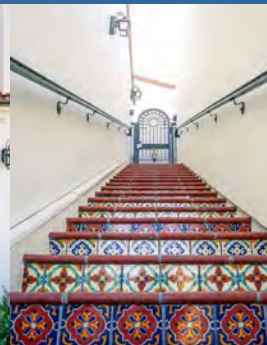


JULY 2021

August 13 - Brian Eichenberg



ROTARIAN  
OF THE DAY



### "THE FOREVER RETIRING ARCHITECT"

## WAYNE DAVIS

As I was last Rotarian of the Day over 3 years ago, and for the past year and half our meetings have been online where may face rarely appeared in the ZOOM connection, I guess I should re-introduce myself as we do have several new members that have yet to meet.

I was born in the small town of Santa Paula, California, attended Ventura College 2 years while working in an architect's office where the owner quickly mentored me into getting an education in architecture. I continued working and going to school for next 8 years when I obtained my architects license in 1970. Started my own practice in 1974 and for the past 5 years have been slowly moving into some form of retirement --- maybe another 18 months to wrap the last large project now under construction.

My wife Joy and I have 3 children between us from previous marriages and 2 wonderful grandchildren. For several years, we had pleasure of several trips to the Mediterranean coast of Turkey as a result of our daughter, Phoenix, meeting and marrying a Turkish gentleman. We attended the wedding which was held in a 4,000 year old amphitheater overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. After 10 years and starting their family, they are now here in South Pasadena. My two sons, Michael and Steven are married, one living in Oceanside and the other in Valley Center.

After 37 years in our home in the Mount Helix area with one major remodel/addition 20 years and 2 more interior remodels in last 5 years, we decided to scale down and slow down by selling. We did that last October and now live in a new 2-story townhome in the Del Sur area located between Rancho Bernardo and Fairbanks Ranch. We love the area which has miles of walking trails, parks and 11 community pools for the residents.

The process of my retiring is often challenged by my missing the enjoyment of the design process and final realization of seeing a project completed - hence I do keep taking on some smaller projects that don't take years to see their completion.

In the meantime, I am assisting my wife Joy in her endeavors as a new author. She has completed and "self-published" the first book of a trilogy she is developing. She was inspired to create a fantasy world based on interactions with our grandchildren where she created "fairy and gnome" characters who were protecting a beautiful garden in a valley with hidden treasures. These stories emanated from our Mount Helix home located in a small valley with a stream where Joy and our grandchildren created their own "Fairy Garden". This will be a very enjoyable process to follow over the next year or so.

