

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 27, 2021



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

RI President 2021-22  
**SHEKHAR MEHTA**

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

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

## SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 2021 - SPEAKER**

3.....Dark



## David Ellenstein



### EXPERIENCING NOW THROUGH THEATRE

David Ellenstein celebrates the past season and previews the coming one, while discussing the power of live theatre to strengthen community and celebrate human resiliency. North Coast Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director since 2003 with more than 140 productions there to his credit. David was born into a theatrical family, spending his entire life working in the theatre as an actor or director, he has worked at theatres from San Diego to Maine and from Alaska to Miami, and most places in between. Former Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Repertory Company and the Arizona Jewish Theatre, David has taught at numerous universities and appeared in three dozen film or television shows.





# REPORT

from the last meeting



## THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE  
THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT  
THE TRUTH?

**President Jacquie Reilley** welcomed everyone to the meeting and yes, once again those with cooler heads and enviable patience wrestled with various technical and audio issues but they somehow figured it all out. As this “technical magic” was a bit time consuming, once we could hear Jacquie, she wisely decided to immediately pivot to our Rotarian of the Day (ROTD) Steve Brown. Steve started off by reading an amazing and poignant poem by Michael Josephson – What Will Matter. The first sentence was powerful, and it only got better from there: Ready or not, one day it will all come to an end. The poem ends like this: Living a life that matters doesn’t happen by accident. It’s not a matter of circumstance, it’s a matter of choice. Choose to live a life that matters. We then paid our respects to the flag, led by ROTD Steve Brown. Again, good choice Steve. I signed off Zoom and immediately searched this poem up online, printed it out, and have it posted now in my home-office. Did I already say this was a powerful way to start our day?

**Steve** shared the most recent information he has received from two-longtime supporters of our programs in Jalalabad, Almas and Ishaq, regarding the current political status in Afghanistan as well as the continued funding and support for various educational issues. As a local knowledgeable source that our local San Diego media turns to concerning issues in Afghanistan, Steve then shared a very recent Fox News clip-interview where he provided an overview of the various efforts undertaken, in part, by the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary. The clip highlighted a very recent meeting where new Taliban leadership met with those on the ground helping to advance the education programs that our Rotary Club (and others) has been involved with for near two decades. Steve stressed the swift transition of power that is taking place and it continues to evolve on a daily basis. While cautiously optimistic that our rotary education and services programs will continue, he stressed the biggest risks could include a possible change of command. There’s a division of interests with the new Taliban leadership and those on the ground. In addition, the banking system is terribly compromised and a run on the banks has occurred. Steve said the country is basically broke and for years it has been financially supported by outside interests. Steve suggested we are basically in the first chapter of a new book concerning Afghanistan and there are many questions and unknowns. How to get money to the schools is an issue? Evacuation of people is a big issue? Steve closed by informing us there are many, many requests for fundraising coming from Afghanistan – but the banking instability is such there is currently no way to get money to the schools. He strongly suggested that we all hold off as many of these requests to not appear to be legitimate.

With a few minutes to spare, Jacquie let everyone know that **Emidio’s memorial** service had been set for Saturday, October 9th at Gillespie Field, with more information to follow. Please remember we are not meeting on September 3rd. On September 5th, there will be a planned club social walk in Mission Hills, the Seven Bridges Walk – again, more details to follow. And finally,

the Rotary District Conference is taking place on September 10th – 12th at the Hotel Del Coronado with a robust line-up of business and social engagements planned.

A photo was shared of those LGT Rotary Club members and friends that participated in the Stand up for the Cure that was **organized by Brett Morey**. Jim Davies then narrated a short power point highlighting our annual club fundraiser with this year’s theme: The Quintessential Fly In – scheduled for September 25th starting at 4pm, at the Allen Airways Flying Museum, located at Gillespie Field in El Cajon. Jim drove the point home that we are The Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World, and this gathering is again evidence of that. We have had many events over the years to raise money for very worthy causes – the last few years using a theme of Beer/Wine and Crafts for the annual major fundraising event. But this year Jim stressed we are trying something new, and he requested we all be “open-minded” to the location and the format. While we were forced to cancel last year’s annual fundraising event due to Covid circumstances, many of the sponsors from last year allowed us to keep their contributions as they, too, support what Rotary does for communities. So, that is good news! But – the reality is that costs of doing things are much more expensive this year. Fortunately, **Luke Ervin** obtained a community grant to help offset costs for this year’s event – again good news. Jim stressed “this is a one-of-a-kind” place and it will only be realized and enjoyed if all of us step-up and support what is a significant undertaking. Pictures of old memorabilia, vintage aircrafts and tractors, roadsters, paintings, were shared on the screen. The venue is both indoor and outdoor – an open-air event, perfect in this uncertain time of Covid and the new Delta Variant. We will have a DJ so wear your dancing shoes and be ready as **Tony Grillo** will be providing his famous “Surprise Slushy”! And yes – for those of us that love a good auction – there will be both a silent and a live auction with all proceeds to fund our Avenues of Service Projects. A \$300 buy-in is expected from each club member – this gets you two tickets to what will be a memorable evening for all.

Our guest speaker **Dr. Molly McClain** is a history professor at USD and an author for four books. A ninth generation San Diego, her most recent book is: *Ellen Browning Scripps – New Money and American Philanthropy*. Ellen Browning Scripps was born 180 years ago. One of ten siblings, she was the only one to attend college. She came into her own late in life, never married, and seemed to search for a valued role within her family and with her siblings. She was born in London and spent most of her adult life in Detroit. The family came into their wealth in the 1870’s – 1880’s, during the industrial revolution. Infrastructure was how they made their money, and newspapers were considered a key ingredient in the developing infrastructure of America. She and her brother EW Scripps created American’s largest chain of newspapers, linking Midwestern industrial cities with booming towns in the West. At 50, slowly edged out of the family business, it was clear she

needed to make a change. Her brother EW suggested she pursue “other activities for middle-aged old maid women”. It was then she made it clear to her brother that she did not know how to be an old maid. #GoEllen

**In 1890**, she found a renewed sense of purpose while on a trip to California. She and a younger brother EW made their way to Southern California when she was 60. They landed in La Jolla, and it was there she made a home for herself and largely turned her attentions to the field of philanthropy. Ellen Browning Scripps was vitally interested in the workings of the world – in cultural issues, progressive causes. She founded the Bishops School in La Jolla for girls in 1909, then branched out to the underwrite the establishment of the Scripps College in Pomona.

**Scripps** may have been what was a very early environmentalist and was the founder of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She loved nature and wanted to ensure areas like Torrey Pines State Reserve were preserved for all eternity. She also gave millions to dollars around the world to advance democratic principles, and women’s education, driven by a movement towards freedom and democracy. She saw herself as a working woman. Dr. McClain described her as indecently wealthy, although she never acted the part of a rich person. She was also a very clever investor, noting she even charged interest to other family members when it came to loaning money. Scripps lived in a radically simple house built in 1915, took public transportation until age 80, and always let her neighbors use her car. By the 1920’s, Ellen Browning Scripps was worth an estimated \$30 million (or \$388 million in 2020 dollars), most of which she gave away. She viewed her wealth was a “trust for the benefit of humanity, verses a status symbol”. Ellen Browning Scripps died in 1932 at the age of 96. Her philanthropic commitments extended to all, with a fervent hope that her contributions would favorably create and sustain communities.

**Dr. McClain** ended her presentation by reciting a quote that was written by Ellen Browning Scripps:

**Look Upward, not Downward  
Look Outward, not Inward  
Look Forward, not Backward  
And be Sure to Lend a Hand**

Our Rotarian of the Day for August 27th will be **Debra Kelley** and the speaker will be North County Repertory Theater’s Artistic Director **David Ellenstein**.

**Jacquie** closed the meeting with some factoids regarding Afghanistan:

- Geographically it is about the same size as the state of Texas
- Their population is around 38 million people with a medium age of 18, where the medium age in the US is 38.5 and in Europe it is 43
- They are the largest opium supplier in the entire world

~Reporter

Sara M Katz



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



## FOUNDATION NOTICE

At the regular meeting of our Club, our Foundation will hold a Special Meeting of the Members of the Foundation on August 27, 2021, in order seek the approval of the Members to elect Erik Mjoen to replace Linda Stouffer Wallis as a Director. The Board of the Foundation has unanimously voted in favor of Erik to replace Linda.

### 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



### SEPTEMBER 2021

September 03 - Dark

September 10 - Allan Galgut

September 17 - Mike Schwarz



ROTARIAN  
OF THE DAY

## DEBRA KELLEY



I was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and am still an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers. My family moved to South Florida when I was a teen. I spent my college years at Florida Southern College, the University of Madrid, and ultimately graduated from Florida International University with a BA in History and an MS in Management Science. I moved to San Diego in 1979.

After a brief foray into retirement, I now work full time for the County of San Diego Tobacco Control Resource Program and am also a consultant for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. We are fighting to loosen big tobacco's grip on kids by reducing youth vaping and eliminating the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Young people often know a lot more about vaping than we adults do. My team is offering a well-received presentation called, "What Adults Should Know About Vaping, But Didn't Know to Ask". It takes about 30 minutes and is perfect for staff and volunteers who work with youth. If you know of a group that might like a presentation, please pass on their name and I'll reach out to them. My phone is 619-972-5008 and email is [debra.kelley@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:debra.kelley@sdcounty.ca.gov).

In the few hours a week when I'm not working or consulting, I find a good band, an outdoor venue, and dance up a storm with my friends and dance partners. Dancing outdoors may be hard on the knees, but it keeps us moving, nourishes our spirits, and brings us joy.