

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 16 2022



Rotary



IMAGINE  
ROTARY

RI President 2022-23  
JENNIFER **JONES**

District 5340 Governor 2022-23  
CHARLES **PRETTO**

LJGT Rotary President 2022-23  
NANCY **GATSCHET**

## SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

DECEMBER 2022 - SPEAKER

16..... Malte Niebelschuetz  
Shore Buddies



## MALTE NIEBELSCHUETZ



### FIGHTING OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Malte Niebelschuetz is the founder and CEO of Shore Buddies. Malte is a German native who moved to San Diego, CA in 2011.

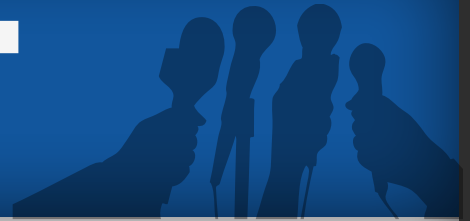
Inspired by the beautiful coastline of Southern California, but confused with the intensive use of single-use plastic in this precious coastal community, Malte took on the challenge to improve the world. Shore Buddies was founded in 2014 and is the world's first stuffed animal made from 100% post consumer recycled plastic bottles.

Shore Buddies has kept over 1,000,000 plastic bottles from entering the environment and turned them into cute, soft stuffed animals. From San Diego to the world. Shore Buddies is sold in 10 countries across 3 continents, bringing sustainability into play.



# REPORT

from the last meeting



## THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE  
THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT  
THE TRUTH?

Technology can be our friend and on occasions, it is our worst nightmare. The latter on Zoom was today's experience. Unable to hear when fellow Rotarians are talking from the audience, it is even more challenging when the laptop lost its internet connection at the start of the speaker's presentation and the Zoomers were left on an island alone. So, honestly, all Zoomers dropped off, signed on again – and collectively discussed the possibility that this could be an anti-zoomers initiative to force us to attend in person. As such, protest plans are underway.

Here's what I was able to capture given these insurmountable hurdles. **Nancy Gatschet** welcomed everyone to the most dynamic Rotary Club in the world. We immediately were asked to watch the screen for the video debut of **Rick Clark's** movie clip of our new physical breakfast home, beginning January 6th. Apparently, the message included how to get there, where to park, where you pay for parking, and how to find the actual breakfast facility. That said, no one on zoom could see the screen and as Nancy shared with everybody, the audio was not working either. Off to a good start!

We were fortunate that **Krishna Arora** was ROTD. Post our Pledge of Allegiance, Krishna read a lovely salutation from a birthday card he received: You give your heart and your soul to everything you have... Krishna touched upon the love affair that he and his beautiful bride Bonnie have for their numerous treks on the Camino Santiago. He talked about love from the heart and giving back to include the role he and his bride play with 52 children in India. He shared with us how he had learned about Rotary at the age of 10. We learned that it was love at first sight when he met Bonnie. agreed to do 2 pilgrimages in their lives, one Hindu pilgrimage and one Catholic pilgrimage. Krishna is an author, which I'm not sure everyone knew – having written a book on his family history. He talked about the importance of microfinance which he learned from a Rotary presentation many years ago. At the end, he stated it's been a privilege to be a foot soldier for the past 13 years for the LJGT Rotary Club.

**Bonnie** introduced guests, but we Zoomers couldn't hear names. But we all agreed that we were pleased

they attended. In addition, returning Rotarians **Matt Shillingburg** and **Pete Griffith** were introduced and yes, the typical harassment of Pete ensued. And a couple of Rotaract students were there which is always nice.

**David Tansey** announced a Peacemaker of the Year award will be awarded to Almas from Afghanistan. He's been working with Rotary since 2003 and will receive the award virtually on February 10th.

**Linda Wallis** gave an update on the basket assembly project: 22 baskets were assembled and have been delivered to 11 families in need, who collectively have 36 children. A great time was had by the nearly dozen Rotarians that participated.

A reminder was provided for the Canyon Cleanup project taking place in City Heights tomorrow from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, with a lunch to follow. Nancy mentioned that the Wreaths Across America project is still slated for December 17th. **Nancy** shared an opportunity to attend an event at the Veterans Hospital to spend time with individuals in the spinal cord unit on December 14th – reach out to Nancy if you are interested in participating. And finally, **Jim Davies** talked about a community service opportunity. Unable to understand the name of the organization, but he did say the four Rotarians that participated felt really good about the contributions made, including the \$1200 donation provided by the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club which was warmly received. Tis the Season!

**President Nancy** reminded everybody about the club's holiday event, taking place tomorrow December 10th at the ZLAC Rowing Club in Pacific Beach. The start time has changed to 5:00 PM given the Pacific Beach Parade of Lights and SeaWorld fireworks that begin at 5:30 PM.

Unable to clearly understand what **Brett Morey** was saying, I heard something about Rose Parade float decorating in his announcement. Familiar with Brett's commitment and years of contributions to this event, I'm sure those who plan to attend will have a great time. Call Brett if you're interested. And finally, the one and only **Rich Papike** closed out the updates in his role as our lifelong fine master. He did, however, announce that no fines would be levied today

due to the holiday season. He asked for high fives which a few were shared, but again consistent with the clandestine anti-zoomer initiative, we couldn't hear who was speaking but we celebrate their high fives regardless.

**Lori Bende** introduced our speaker: **John Wood**, Assistant Fire Chief with the San Diego Fire Department, who has been with the department since 1996. He currently oversees all aspects of SDFD business and operations including the emergency command and data center, employee services, logistics, and community risk reduction. Chief Wood enjoys pickleball, golf, and snow skiing. He grew up in a military family. The family plan for him was college with a business degree and then employment in the big corporate world. But a long drive to Mammoth Ski resort with a friend and firefighter during his last year of college changed that trajectory. Chief Wood started his career in 1996 as a firefighter and progressed through the ranks. For 17 years he was a part of a blended unit with the FBI. This led him to obtaining a certification as a bomb technician in the SDFD bomb squad.

Chief Wood shared with us a little bit about the structure of SDFD. Fourteen hundred (1400) people strong, they must run the department like a private business. There is one fire chief and two assistant chiefs. He crystallized the mission of the fire department as: We give service in a time of need. He also shared that 86% of their calls are for emergency medical services. Their operating budget is \$324 million which represents 17% of the overall budget for the city of San Diego.

Unfortunately, at that point Zoom lost contact with the club. **Jim Frost** suggested this may have been intentional given he was caught multitasking during Nancy's introductory remarks. Others, including myself, suggested a subtle plot to discriminate against those of us that prefer participation via Zoom. We discussed the possible need to protest this clandestine initiative. Futile attempts were made to reach out to let the club know that we were abandoned in Zoom land. With no ability to communicate, we dropped off the call knowing no one cared.

~Reporter

Sara Katz





# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



## Canyonlands Clean Up and Holiday Party



## 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?

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

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**LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2022 - 2023**

PRESIDENT .....Nancy Gatschet  
 PRESIDENT ELECT (2023-24).....Christy White Brook  
 PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2024-25).....  
 TREASURER ..... Sharon Council  
 SECRETARY.....Christy White Brook  
 PAST-PRESIDENT/FOUNDATION ..... Jacquie Reilly



DECEMBER 2022

December 23 - Dark

December 30 - Dark



**ROTARIAN**  
 OF THE DAY

**STEVE BROWN**

**Short chronology of Steve Brown's life ages 0 to 75**

- Lived first 13 years in small farming community of Colfax located in Eastern Washington State.
- In 1960 pyromaniac facilitated family relocating to Spokane, Washington.
- 1962-65 attended high school with more students than population of Colfax.
- 1965 started dating Susan Shafer whose family lived in our neighborhood. (Thank you pyromaniac for facilitating the relocation.)
- 1965-69 attended Washington State University graduating with BA in Accounting. Susan attended and graduated as well.
- 1969 traveled to Europe for 3 months making sure to be back in time for our wedding in June.
- 1969-72 attended Stanford Law School graduating in June. After graduation Susan and I traveled to Europe for 4 months.
- 1972 commenced work at Luce Forward law firm in San Diego.
- 1986 became Charter Member of La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club.
- 1990-91 La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club President.
- 1995-96 Rotary District 5340 Governor; Had last legal billable moment around this time.
- 2002 made first of 12 trips to Jalalabad, Afghanistan.
- 2010-14 Trustee of The Rotary Foundation.
- During the last 30+ years have done a bunch of Rotary stuff, much of which was international.
- Present, unsuccessful in avoiding being Rotarian of the Day.

