

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 18 2022



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

FEBRUARY 2022 - SPEAKER

25.....David Tansey - Rotary Club
Peacemaker of the Year Recipient Choice

MARCH 2022 - SPEAKER

4.....Sylvia Whitlock
Women in Rotary

11.....Vivi Lin
President of San Diego Strike Force Professional Football



DAN WILSON



SAVING OUR AFGHAN ALLIES – ONE VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Wilson, U.S. Army Retired will talk about his experiences in getting at-risk Afghan allies evacuated from Afghanistan, and his continuing efforts to assist Afghan refugee families rebuild their lives here in San Diego County.

Dan spent over 26 years in the U.S. Army, including three combat deployments to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. In his last tour in 2011-2012, he commanded an Infantry battalion task force in the Kunar and Nuristan provinces of eastern Afghanistan on the border with Pakistan.

Since 2016, Dan has been deeply involved in trying to help Afghan interpreters obtain their Special Immigrant Visas. Most recently, since the fall of the country to the Taliban, Dan has been working to evacuate at-risk Afghans from Afghanistan, advise commanders at the refugee processing centers on cultural awareness, and volunteering with local resettlement agencies and other non-profits to welcome our new Afghan neighbors.

Dan is a member of the Oceanside Rotary Club, and currently serves as the co-lead of the Social, Emotional, Cultural and Volunteer Working Group on the San Diego County Afghan Resettlement Task Force.



REPORT

from the last meeting



THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

01

IS IT THE TRUTH?

President Jacquie opened the meeting at 7:31 and introduced our Rotarian of the Day, **Erik Mjoen**, our world traveler extraordinaire. Before the Pledge of Allegiance, Erik asked us to take a moment to think about all the friends we lost this past year and reflect on our gratitude for each of them.

It's been about 1 ½ years since his last Rotarian of the Day and he has been thinking back at what has happened. At that time he was 6 months into a family road trip thru the West Coast. Now we're still in the pandemic, and thinking back, one of the silver linings of this environment that we're in has been that it forced them to do things together outdoors as a family. As he spoke, Erik shared stunning photos of some of the amazing places their road trips have taken them on their adventures together. They love skiing so in the winter they have spent as much time as possible on the slopes. A favorite place has been Lake Mary at Mammoth. A favorite view was of Mt. Rainier from atop Crystal Mountain. Some day he plans to hike Mt. Rainier to keep up with his aunt and 2 uncles who did it before him. They've spent many weekends traveling by car to camping sites along with their camping bunnies, Buddy and Max, who have

been to more national parks than most people. They've spent time in the far northwest corner of the redwoods (Ask Erik what the difference is between redwoods and sequoias!); in a place called, Lost Coast, with amazing scenery; a cool camping spot at the Oregon Sand Dunes; Catalina Island; San Jacinto Mountains; hiking Mt. Langley summit in the Sierras and New Year's in the Mojave Desert. And, they found time to make it back to Scandinavia as well. What wonderful memories for your daughters and an inspiration for us, Erik!

President Jacquie introduced 2 guests. **Diana Shimkus**, who heard Ron (Kohl?) speak at her club, was interested in our speaker today and wanted to check out our club; and **Sandy**, a red badger, who is checking out other clubs.

Dianne Day and **Erik Mjoen** are hosting a Youth Services Committee meeting immediately following this meeting. It will be on a separate zoom link which was sent by email and was also listed in the chat.

Jacquie shared that Alex Monroe's family is dealing with covid so he and Alice will not attend the dinner and play which he helped to coordinate. The evening starts at 5:30 with dinner at Pizza Nova, followed by

a play at the North Coast Rep Theatre. 25 people are signed up to go.

Kaci Madden is ready with plans for a Road Rally, most likely in May, if enough show an interest. To keep it safe, it will just be a one day event, starting in South County and ending somewhere in North County. It will end early enough so no one has to drive home in the dark. Those interested were asked to post in the chat and Chris Richards will keep track.

Our next club meeting, on February 18, will be live again, at the Marriott in the larger Soledad Room.

Nancy Gatschet announced that **Christy White** has stepped up to replace Nancy as Club Secretary when Nancy becomes President this July. Thank you so much, Christy! Nancy also announced that we still need a President Elect-Elect to follow when her term ends. She asked us to think really hard about whether it's our turn to step up. It's ok to serve more than one term, so past presidents can also come forward. If interested, even vaguely, contact Nancy or Jacquie.

Steve Brown provided an update on Afghanistan. Our computer labs running in the high school have

04

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?



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been shut down since the take-over. **Almas** had a meeting with the local director of education who said that he wanted to hear from the community. He received many letters from parents, community elders, and other locals. The local director responded that, now that the situation is more normal and based on suggestions received, he now requires that the computer labs be opened and kept going. He also decided to open up education at all schools, including for the girls. We are now in the process of seeking grants to get everything going again.

Marty Rosenstein introduced the student of the month, **Brian Ponce** and his mother, Irma Ponce. Marty was impressed with how Brian dealt with adversity throughout his life and during lockdown, when he taught himself to play the guitar and worked out a lot. His faculty advisor, Miss Ackerman, was unable to attend. Brian shared that he was diagnosed with autism in 1st grade. He learned early on to open himself up to others. Opening up to his teachers helped him to become a writer for the school newspaper. A passion for journalism began in 5th grade and he wants to become a journalist. He aspires to attend a 4 year university, specifically SDSU which has a great journalism department. His other passion is guitar which he has been learning since 2019. He's now into song writing which helped him land a role in a highly selective school program. So many complements for Brian were coming up in the chat as he spoke.

Tax collections are up and the department has to assure that the money is invested and safeguarded to serve over 200 public agencies and the \$16.9 billion pension system. \$14.4 billion are in the investment pool. Also they have staged 4 symposiums for local government agencies: on debt processes, investments, cash handling and fraud prevention & ethics.

Dan also told the story of how they revised the property tax bill to give it a better look and make it easier to read, with the help of input from 5th graders at Kate Sessions Elementary School. He recommended E-check as the best (and free) way to pay property tax. Today 68% of the property taxes are paid electronically.

His tax allocation chart shows that 45% of the revenue last year, went to schools.

Jacque ended the meeting with some club nostalgia...a video taken at a club meeting a while back of **Dr. Antonio Grillo, Denny, Rich Papike** and **Jim Davies** roasting Past President **Alex Monroe**.

Ellen Bryson introduced our speaker and her friend, **Dan McAllister**, San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, who was here to discuss how San Diego is doing today. His department is taxed with billing, collecting and investing tax payer monies.

~Reporter

Bonnie Arora

02

IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

Steve also reported on how our club is approaching giving to the Rotary Foundation due to changes at the headquarters and at District level which have impacted our ability to do grants. Going forward, those who pay by check should make their contribution payable to our Club Foundation. Details are in the email sent to members recently. Our Club Foundation will hold the money and send the funds to the Rotary Foundation. That will allow us to do one 30K global grant per year. He is hopeful for at least \$250 per year per member. Some are Paul Harris members who give \$1,000 annually.

03

WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

04

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?



PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

Pandemic friendly Viking family Outdoor Adventures



01

IS IT THE TRUTH?

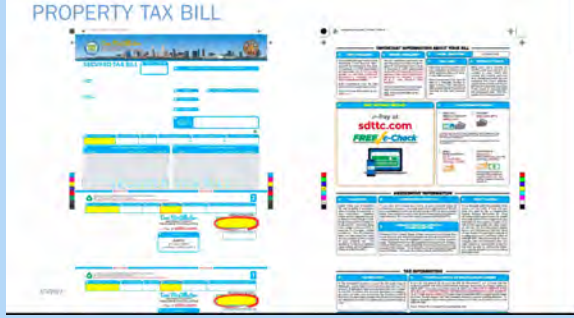


Mt. Rainier



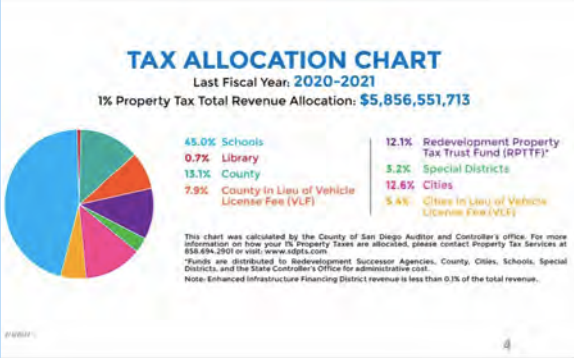
02

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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



FEBRUARY 2022

February 25 - David Tansey

MARCH 2022

March 4 - Rick Papike



ROTARIAN
 OF THE DAY

SHEILA HENRY



Sheila Henry is a leading expert on helping individuals achieve greater happiness in their lives. Now she is specializing in helping single women over 50 find a great relationship.

She has worked in the field of psychology with a private practice of over 25 years. She enables women to clarify what they want in a mate, overcome old baggage of dysfunctional patterns that might impede a new relationship and then plan and activate an action course to meet that man.

She had been a divorced mother that had full financial responsibility for her son. At the same time while being a teacher in the San Francisco school district, she got a Master's Degree in clinical psychology from the University of San Francisco.

She then left teaching to work full time as a counselor. Ever since she was a child, she has loved dogs. Almost her entire life she has been lucky enough to have the companionship of wonderful dogs. Currently she has a wonderful Belgian Shepherd Malinois, Zoe.

She has been a member of the Golden Triangle Rotary Club for 18 years. In this Club she has made many wonderful friends while engaging in projects to help others.

She currently lives in a retirement community, Pacific Regent, with her new partner, Lyle Brady, whom she met at age 82. After meeting Lyle, under the direction of her mentor, she then decided to become certified in that fantastic method where 80% of educated women find their ideal mate within two years.