

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 26 2024



RI President 2023-24  
**GORDON MCINALLY**

District 5340 Governor 2023-24  
**DON FIPPS**

LJGT Rotary President 2023-24  
**CHRISTY WHITE BROOK**

## AOS MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

1st Friday of the Month.....Community Services Committee  
(follows club meeting)

2nd Friday of the Month..... Youth Services Committee  
(follows club meeting)

4th Friday of the Month.....Peace Committee  
(follows club meeting)



## THE ENTREPRENEUR ACADEMY (TEA)



Judie Nocera  
TEA Leader



Mamta Buch  
President



## THE ENTREPRENEUR ACADEMY: BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW!

The Entrepreneur Academy (TEA) is an entrepreneur program hosted at the University of San Diego's Knauss School of Business for high school and middle school students, offering mentorship, coaching, and access to a wide network of entrepreneurs. Our curriculum focuses on vital skills such as ideation, team building, and compelling pitching. Students create their own start-ups with the opportunity to compete "shark-tank-style" in the TYE Global Final Competition for cash and non-cash prizes.

We are a non-profit organization powered by a passionate community of business leaders, accomplished entrepreneurs, and dedicated volunteers. Our mission is to empower the next generation of innovators and change-makers through education, mentorship, and hands-on experience. We believe in the transformative power of entrepreneurship, guiding students on their journey to become confident, creative, and resilient entrepreneurs.



# REPORT

from the last meeting



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2024

### FEBRUARY - SPEAKER

- 2.....Kelly Martinez  
San Diego Sheriff Updates
- 9.....Toastmasters  
The Power of Public Speaker
- 16.....Michelle Saul  
Integrity and Levels of Agreement
- 23.....Brian Lee  
The University Club

### MARCH - SPEAKER

- 1.....
- 8.....
- 15.....LJGTRC Financial Members  
Panel of Club Members  
in the financial industry
- 22.....Sophie Williams  
Pointeworks - Arts & Culture  
in San Diego
- 29.....Toastmasters  
The Power of Public Speaker

President **Christy White Brook** brought the meeting to order. She noted that today is the annual joint meeting of the La Jolla Clubs. Christy introduced **Barbara Brown** of the LJ Club, **Sam Doyle** of the LJ Sunrise Club and **Fernanda Torres** of the San Diego Coastal Club.

**Don Fipps**, District Governor then gave a brief memorial to past District President, **Chuck Preto** who recently passed away from leukemia. He recognized him with a moment of silence. Chuck's funeral is Wednesday morning at 10 am and his celebration of life is Wednesday 1 – 4 pm at Liberty Station.

**Jay Hatfield** then led the clubs in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of God Bless America. The group then played three games. **Barbara Johnson** won the longest rotary member with 37 years. **Doug Cramer** was the newest rotary member and **Carlos** won the most rotary pins with more than 31.

Each of the clubs then reported on some of their service projects. La Jolla Sunrise reported on:

- Maintaining and providing safe access to the La Jolla Coast Walk Trail.
- Helping pediatric centers in developing countries including Dominion Republic, Egypt, Pakistan and Romania.
- Their Global Grant Scholars program
- Providing 50,000 girls with menstrual cups in countries in Africa, Ukraine, and Nepal
- And their annual Litchfield swim fundraiser that provides funds for San Pasqual Academy.

The La Jolla Club reported on the Scholars Lab which is a Tijuana program to keep at risk students ages 14 – 18 in school. They also described their program that teaches English and computer skills – noting they have taught 200 students through 20 classes.

The San Diego Coastal Club has 18 members. Their focus is on peace and youth. They installed a peace pole in a Rotary peace park, have a peace maker award and offer peace scholarships. They are always ready to partner and work on programs. They have a sister club in Tijuana and they jointly support the Tijuana fire department toy drive. In addition, they are looking for players for their invitational softball game on March 2nd and are in the planning stages of a Barrio Logan basketball tournament.

La Jolla Golden Triangle talked about their Ensenada school refurbishment project. This year's project was the seventh school refurbishment project the club has completed in Mexico. Everyone is invited to participate and it would be great to make it a La Jolla club event. A total of 55 – 75 people participated including members from five separate rotary clubs and UCSD and SDSU Rotaract clubs. They plan to work on the same project in October, which will be mostly painting and electrical. The club noted it also collected about 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that morning which were to be delivered to Interfaith Services for distribution to unhoused members of our community.

**Christy** then introduced the Honorable San Diego Council President Pro Tempore and District 1 Councilmember **Joe LaCava**. He is a civil engineer from SDSU and worked in public infrastructure and private housing earlier in his career. He has been in office for three years. Councilmember LaCava feels it is important to connect with constituents. He and his staff go to the La Jolla Farmers Market on the 1st Sunday of the month and attend the Pacific Beach farmers market each month to get input from constituents. He is Chair of the San Dieguito River Valley Board and serves on the board of San Diego Community Power which buys electricity for San Diego. San Diego Community Power is reducing electricity rates by 20% in 2024 and it has a goal of being 100% renewable by 2045. He leads the city's environment committee and they are putting pressure on SDG&E because San Diego has the highest electric rates in the country. He is running for a second term and because he doesn't have any competition, he only needs one vote.

He said many of the challenges we face as a city are due to what we haven't done in past, when we kicked the can down the road. The challenge is that everything gets increasingly expensive.

Councilmember LaCava then opened for questions.

One attendee asked about road repair. Councilmember LaCava agreed that our roads are in terrible condition. The city has been aggressive for the last three years including paving La Jolla Parkway which was the biggest project in 3 years. He felt the city has done an excellent job repairing potholes and fixed 60,000 last year. One challenge is that after we repair roads, utility companies tear them up and repair them with six inches to 3 ft trenches and the repaired road is never as good as the original road. The city

recently put new language into law requiring utility companies to repave the road curb to curb or make a payment to a road repair fund. Another attendee is part of a group of swimmers in LJ Cove and he commended two city staff members for cleaning the public toilets. He asked how their group could recognize the two staff members. Councilmember LaCava said he could arrange for the staff members to attend a club meeting and he said it would mean a lot to them. He said that pre-pandemic, all employees worked at a desk. When the pandemic hit, the City's IT department made an extraordinary effort to allow the city to shift to remote work. The city is now looking at the need for office space and expects to save money by reducing space.

The city is looking at the use of technology in public safety including smart streetlights, police monitoring and how to operate more efficiently. Another attendee asked about the city parks. Councilmember LaCava feels the Director of Park and Recreation is the hardest job in city. It has the biggest scope and is the most public facing. One major challenge is that it has a huge number of job openings because compensation is low. A fourth attendee expressed concern about getting a ridiculously high-water bill and found it exceptionally difficult to get it corrected. Councilmember LaCava said the water department has a bad reputation which is well deserved. He said 25,000 rate payers have not gotten a bill – many don't get a bill for many months and then get a giant bill. He said it continues to be a challenge. His office tries to help resolve bills and is encouraging the water department to improve customer service.

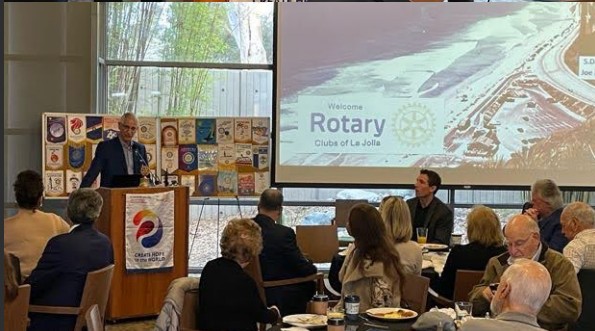
After Councilmember LaCava finished his remarks, **Christy White Brook** recognized the City of Rosarita guests and Lieutenant District Governor **David Oates**. David spoke about his friend, Chuck Preto saying Chuck focused on service and really loved people. Chuck would bristle when someone wasn't happy and then would give them a hug or crack a joke. He was happy when you were happy. Dave had known Chuck for 17 years and missed him already. He suggested we text someone, share a joy, give a hug, and share your love with someone in Chuck's memory. Christy then adjourned the meeting.

~Reporter

*Carolyn Fritz*



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



Peacemaker Award

## PEACE AWARDS

Diann Crowland, Rotarian of the Southeast San Diego Rotary Club, presented the Peacemaker Award to Rosemary Williams III, CEO of Young Black & N' Business, and the YB&NB Team are honored by local Rotary Club. (Ed Walkers, president of the San Diego Coastal Rotary Club.)

Roosevelt Williams III, CEO of Young Black & N' Business, and the YB&NB Team are honored by local Rotary Club.

BY LIT STAFF



## Membership Tips:

IT SOUNDS SIMPLE, BUT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GROW MEMBERS IS "ASK SOMEONE"

REPEATEDLY INVITE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS UNLESS YOU GET A DEFINITIVE "NO" FROM THEM.

ENSURE THAT PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FEEL IMPORTANT. INTRODUCE THEM TO OTHER MEMBERS AND SIT WITH THEM.

## 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 2023 - 2024**

- PRESIDENT .....Christy White Brook
- VICE PRESIDENT ..... Linda Stouffer Wallis
- PRESIDENT ELECT (2024-25) ..... Luke Ervin
- PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2025-26) .....David Chong
- TREASURER ..... Sharon Council
- SECRETARY ..... Ranjan Lahiri



**FEBRUARY 2024**

- February 2 - Douglas Cramer
- February 9 - Steve Brown
- February 16 - Jim Frost
- February 23 - Theron Morgan



**ROTARIAN**  
 OF THE DAY

**RON SPILSBURY**

I was born in Boulder City, Nevada on January 7th 1959 to my teenage parents Jacklynn McDevitt Spilsbury and my father Jerald Mac Spilsbury. Both families immigrated to the Navoo, Illinois in the early 1800's (Father-England, Mother Ireland). The families both came to meet Joseph Smith where they joined the LDS Church before taking the 1st wagon train to Salt Lake before settling in Southern Utah. My grandparents moved to Las Vegas in the 1940's. I moved to La Jolla in 1995 where I was married to my wife in 1998. We have 2 children, Matthew Spilsbury age 23 born in La Jolla and my Daughter Megan Spilsbury age 20 was born in Newport Beach. We moved to Newport Beach in 2003 for business reasons before returning to La Jolla in 2010 where I currently reside. My wife and I separated in 2018.

My father started an Air Conditioning Business where I became the first employee at 12. Upon graduating Clark High School, I enrolled in a 4-year Union Sheet Metal and Welding Apprenticeship through Clark County Community College. Upon completing my apprenticeship, I attended University Nevada Las Vegas with a Finance major and Psychology minor for 3 years. I then passed the State of Nevada Mechanical Contractors (full C-21) test at the age of 25. Becoming a Union Mechanical Contractor until moving to California in 1995. Over the years I worked on various housing tracts, hotels, hospitals, commercial projects, including federal and state contracts. I enjoyed working at Nellis Air Force base the most. I learned to drive on the base at the age of 14. Federal land did not require a driver's license. It was always a bonus to be on the flight line when the Air Force Thunderbirds would practice. Nellis and EGG was where I first encountered technology's benefits.

After moving to La Jolla, I became a licensed Realtor for Prudential California La Jolla until 2003. My wife and I also started a Clinical Research Organization in 1997 as a prime contractor for Allergan Pharmaceuticals in Irvine California. The business grew rapidly, so we moved



to Newport Beach in 2003 to open an office next to Allergan's main campus. Our contracts were mostly ophthalmology based clinical trial management, protocol development, and training for Allergan's employees. In 2010 we moved back to La Jolla, and I retired to spend more time with the kids. My hobbies are motorcycle riding, bicycling, snow skiing, sailing, surfing, and skateboarding. Mostly just blessed to enjoy living at the beach in La Jolla, while enjoying all the benefits of living in beautiful San Diego.

My current aspirations are simply enjoying life and volunteering where I can. My current ambition is returning to Real Estate development to help find a solution for the affordable housing crisis. My true goal is to just leave this world a little better than I found it.