

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 17 2023



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)

December 9.....Holiday Party at ZLAC
(see Bev Laursen for details)



DEACON JIM VARGAS

UPDATES ON HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO



Deacon Jim Vargas, OFS, as President and CEO, oversees all facets of Father Joe's Villages, the largest homeless services provider in Southern California. This includes the comprehensive housing and supportive services offered through St. Vincent de Paul Village, the Village Health Clinic, Therapeutic Childcare Center and the agency's portfolio of affordable housing.

Prior to Father Joe's Villages, he oversaw Human Resources operations for 5,000 employees across a chain of newspapers of The Copley Press, Inc., with news bureaus in multiple U.S. locations and Mexico. He also served in various director and vice president positions of

Human Resources at Citicorp/Citibank.

He is a deacon of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego serving the community of Mary, Star of the Sea in La Jolla, previously having served the community of Our Lady of Angels in downtown San Diego.

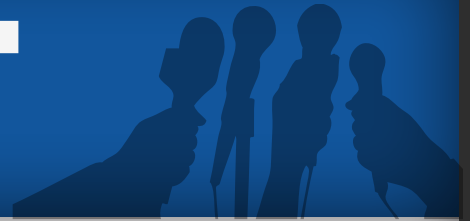
Deacon Jim holds degrees from New York University. He is the current Secretary on the Board of the Regional Continuum of Care on Homelessness in San Diego, a member of the Board of the Downtown San Diego Partnership and The San Diego County Taxpayers Association. He is the past Chair of the Board of Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego Foundation, founding chair of Epiphany Prep Charter School of San Diego, and is past Chair of Casa Cornelia Law Center.

Deacon Jim lives in La Jolla with his wife and has three adult children.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2023

NOVEMBER - SPEAKER

24.....Dark

DECEMBER - SPEAKER

1.....Dan McAllister
San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector

8.....Mike Schaefer
What is the Board of Equalization all about?

15.....Shaun Tomson
The Code for the Next Wave

22.....Dark

29.....Dark

As usual, a great meeting (we are SO spoiled...) for Veterans' Day.

We opened with Rotarian of the Day, **Linda Andrews** She read a very moving and wise poem, *"What Will Matter."*

Then she went on to tell us how proud she is of her grandchildren who like to foster puppies. They have now cared for about 400! Linda was a teacher in her early years. She went on to demonstrate the type of conversation she'd have with students who were a bit challenging, with **Rich Papike** playing the challenging student. (A difficult role?!)

Then our guests were introduced. We were very happy to welcome **Jean McGrath**, wife of now deceased and greatly loved **Frank McGrath**. We also had 3 Rotaractors present.

President Christy awarded a Rotary mug to **Erik Mjoen**, who does so much for our club. Well deserved!

Past District Governor **Sandi Rimer** gave a

"Rotary Minute" about becoming a District Governor. Thanks, Sandi. We then had a new member to induct: **Doug Cramer**. His father was a Rotarian, and he is eager to get involved. Welcome, Doug. (But club members: don't all ask him to help at the same time...)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Wallis is collecting food or money for troubled families.

Rich Papike announced that he is selling his business and retiring. **Stephen Tako** has a passion to stop bullying, and happily announced that his program is about to open. Best wishes, Stephen.

Jacquie Reilly is coordinating *"Wreaths Across America"* to place wreaths on the graves of deceased soldiers who gave so much for their country.

Our speaker chair told us that we are now booked into February, with many excellent speakers. But we are also welcome to submit suggestions.

Finally onto our speaker and recent new member of our club: **Johnathan Harris**, NAVY SEAL extraordinaire.. He has been in the SEALS for 7 years, and is now a trainer. He showed some videos of the training the hopeful SEALS go through, using words like "phenomenol", and "fun" to describe what looked like death-defying activities. Only 20% of the young men who start the training are able to complete it—it is extremely rigorous and demanding. Women have begun the training but also dropped out. Johnathan has been deployed in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He said that while training you're "wet" all the time. And probably very cold or very hot. Thank you, Johnathan, for a fascinating talk.

The meeting closed with a touching video by **Rick Clark** which was a tribute to the military.

~Reporter

Dory Beatrice

PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



BRETT MOREY
ROTARY REPORTERS



HELLO!
New Members!



Theron Morgan

Embodying the Rotary spirit and work ethic instilled by my Rotarian father, I grew up in a close-knit Central California farm community. As an Eagle Scout, my appreciation for leadership and service runs parallel with the mission of Rotary. My professional path began by learning the ropes at my father's wealth management firm, setting the stage for a business degree from Fresno Pacific University.

Post-graduation, I broadened my expertise at LPL Financial in San Diego, gaining access to ways financial advisors best serve their clients across the country. This culminated in the launch of Avidity Capital in 2021, where I now dedicate myself to helping families preserve and enhance their estates.

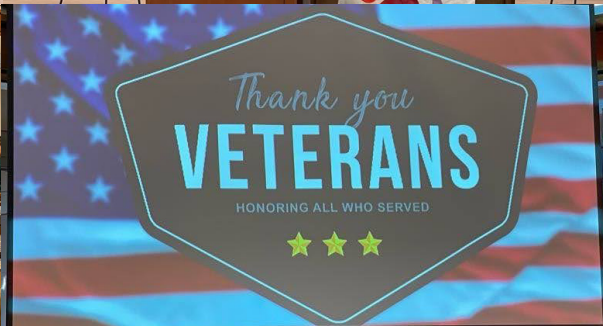
When I'm not deepening my professional impact, I'm passionate about automobiles and living a healthy life. Whether it's bonding over cars, riding my bike, or completing Spartan Races, I enjoy being on the move.



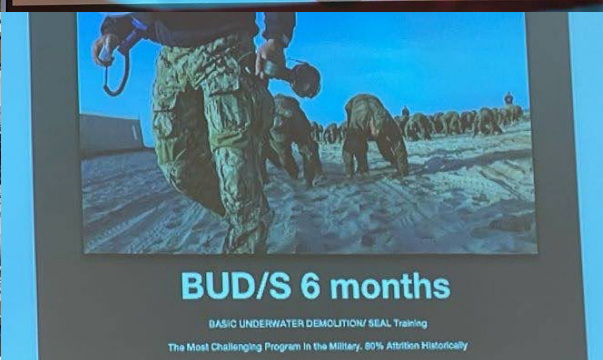
THE FOUR WAY TEST



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
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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2023 - 2024

- PRESIDENTChristy 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



NOVEMBER 2023

November 24 - Dark

DECEMBER 2023

December 1 - Melanie Geschwind

December 8 - Jan Bernardy



ROTARIAN
 OF THE DAY

RANJAN LAHIRI

My father was an oncologist from West Bengal and my mother was a bio-chemist from a suburb of Birmingham, England. Both of them emigrated to the US in the 1960s and met at Children’s Hospital in Boston, MA. I was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, but grew up in Bakersfield, California. I spent my high school years in Monterey, California, and then moved to San Diego.

I graduated from UCSD with a BA in History and a minor in Sociology. I then obtained an MS in Environmental Management and a JD from USD.

I am a partner at Wood Smith Henning & Berman, a national law firm, where I have worked for almost 20 years. I am a litigator who defends business and insurance companies against a number of litigated claims, including premises liability, construction claims, environmental and toxic exposures, and general business matters. I also am trying to branch out to handle cyber claims, which is a newly emerging field of law.

My brother is a DPT who lives in Albuquerque and works for the University of New Mexico healthcare system. My sister lives in Houston, where she is chasing after my nephew, Kiran, who is 12 years old. My brother in law, Keith, is a project manager for BP.

I have been in Rotary for over five years now and really enjoy the friendships I have made. I am a Lifetime Member of Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship, even though I am a terrible surfer. I also really enjoy our painting and construction projects, such as Operation Pendleton and the Ensenada projects. I like the feeling of doing an honest days work and looking back and seeing a newly painted building or other tangible measure of progress.

I have also held a number of positions with the club, including organizing the notetakers, membership chair, board member, and now club secretary. I am also the Membership Chair for our district. I look forward to many new projects and new friendships as I continue on my Rotary journey.

