

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 7 2022



Rotary

La Jolla

Golden Triangle



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

OCTOBER 2022 - SPEAKER

7..... Janessa Goldbeck  
Vet Voice Foundation

## JANESSA GOLDBECK



## VET VOICE FOUNDATION

Janessa Goldbeck was born and raised in San Diego County and has built her career around creating a safer and more equitable world for all.

She is the CEO of Vet Voice Foundation, a national nonprofit organization with over 1.5 million members. VV Foundation mobilizes veterans and military families to have a voice in our democracy by providing them with the support, training, and tools to shape policy and impact outcomes in their communities.

Janessa's commitment to the San Diego community is showcased through her work on the board of MANA de San Diego, as co-chair of the San Diego LGBT Center's board, as a member of Rotary Club 33, and as a member of the UCSD Chancellor's Community Advisory Group.

She lives in Talmadge with her wife, their dogs, and a small flock of hens.





# REPORT

from the last meeting



## 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?

With a smooth stroke, **President Nancy** struck the bell and the Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the world came to order. This week's meeting took place in the smaller room of the beautiful Embassy Suites and the tables were full of smiling faces.

The Rotarian of the Day was **Stephen Tako**. He delivered an inspirational prayer, recognizing trials & tribulations the world over. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance at full voice.

Stephen spoke about his son, Alex. After being diagnosed with Autism at 3, the UCLA Medical Center proclaimed that he no longer met the four criteria of the disease. Alex is "the first to have his diagnosis reversed" after their therapy.

Alex proved to be Stephen's inspiration for his career as an author and his work on various anti-bullying campaigns. From this first book ('Motivated To Act' - 2012) to his upcoming release ('Yet, Set, Go' - TBD), Stephen's life work and his son Alex are inextricably tied.

The introduction of the guests was done by the one & only, **Bonnie Aurora**. The club was happy to host the following friendly folks:

- [Chris Muhart's guest]
- [Stephen Tako's fiancée]
- [Krishan Auroa's mentee]
- [Sara's father, Jim?]
- Members of the Downtown Evening Club, Maricela & Marie
- Rotaract member, Christian

President Nancy continued the weekly traditional of "Guess the Member"

#1

- I have been an avid stamp collector
- I work for a large firm breaking

down collections from auctions  
**Steve Busch**

#2

- I once lost a football bet and dress like a woman (Old Town Mexican Cafe)
- Limo, black dress and pearls  
**Rich Papike**

This was followed by a flurry of announcements:

- 10/1: Stop Human Trafficking Summit - All-day event in the conference center of Liberty Station
- 10/8: UTC Oktoberfest Family-friendly games Lots of beer
- 10/10: Deadline to apply for District Governor
- 10/22: San Diego Canyonlands Clean-up
- 10/29: District Conference Officers and directors encouraged to attend Halloween party dinner to follow
- 11/5: Potluck Chili Cookoff at the Papike residence Jamul, CA
- 12/10: Holiday Party at the ZLAC Rowing Club

The club had a lot to celebrate this meeting with birthdays (**Tucker**), anniversaries (**Steve**), and marriages (**Brett**). Happy days!

**Kindra Hixon** of San Diego Canyonlands was this week's program. She is the non-profit's Outreach Manager. The organization works to protect and restore our canyons and to influence policies towards their protection.

They also conduct educational

programs for children to learn about our unique wildlife and ecosystems with hands-on experience. Kindra started as a Restoration Technician in 2018 and eventually created the Outreach Program.

As the eighth largest city in the United States, San Diego is home to 150+ canyons and unparalleled biodiversity. In January 1998, the city planned to build permanent sewer lines and maintenance roads at the base of many of our canyons. The Sierra Club conducted a tour of Switzer Canyon and convinced them otherwise, which led to the creation of San Diego Canyonlands.

The organizations various pursuits are many and varied. Some of them include:

- Canyon Connections - Paid internships for City Heights High Schoolers
- ECO Initiative - Hands on training in the field
- Guided Hikes - Education walks through the canyons
- Community Stewardship - "backbone of our organization"

### Acknowledgements:

- Thank you to **Jacque Reilly** for helping with book pick up
- Happy Birthday to **Christie White**
- Thank you to **Will Moore** for his work on programming
- Thank you to **Gary K** for his work engaging the local community

Song of the Day - Youngbloods "Get Together"

Quote of the Day - "Being Happy is the greatest form of success"

~Reporter

*Charles Mackay*



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



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La Jolla Golden Triangle  
**ROTARY CLUB**

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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



OCTOBER 2022



**ROTARIAN**  
 OF THE DAY

**NIKI BROWN**

Niki Brown is the Director of Individual Giving at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, dog lover, and travel enthusiast. Growing up in the small town of Paradise, California Niki graduated valedictorian of her high school before going to BYU Hawaii. Two years later, she graduated with honors with a BA in Communications and Culture Studies followed by 3 months of service work at an orphanage in the small village of Boma la N'gombe just outside of Moshi, Tanzania.

Upon return to the United States, Niki returned to Northern California where she continued her career in the nonprofit world at Children's Hope Foster Family Agency and Shriners Children's Hospital while earning her Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management.

About two years ago, after a weekend vacation to San Diego, Niki found herself living on a speedboat at Sunroad Marina in San Diego. For three months she made new friends and enjoyed some excellent sunsets and foggy mornings with her French Bulldog Franky before returning to land and accepting her current role at Boys & Girls Club.

Niki gets profound satisfaction supporting an organization that provides life-changing services to San Diego youth. She is also a member of the North San Diego Business Chamber Emerging Leaders Advisory Board and Co-Chair of your LJGT Rotary Community Service Committee. A solo budget traveler, she enjoys vacationing when time allows. She most recently celebrated her 31st birthday in May with a solo vacation to Ireland where she explored the rich history of Belfast, the culture of Dublin and Galway, the sprawling countrysides of the Connemara, stunning landscapes of the Cliffs of Moher and Aran Islands, and a quick stop in Cork before returning home.

In her spare time, Niki enjoys beach days on the Silver Strand, good books, time with her pup, volunteering, and would like to get back into Muay Thai kickboxing. If you know any good MMA gyms, let her know!

