

Rotary



Club of Livermore

Club Meeting

Livermore
Meets at We are meeting via
Zoom for the foreseeable future.
Zoom
Livermore, CA 94551
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM
No story selected for story_1

Club Leaders



Carolyn Siegfried
President



Ken Perine
President-Elect



Glenn D. Kubiak
Treasurer



David Michael Rounds
Secretary



Kathy S. Coyle
Training Officer
Past President



Barbara Hickman
Attendance Secretary



Dennis William
O'Brien
Club Director



Sblend A. Sblendorio
Parliamentarian



James P. Schmidt
Club Director

Sonya Sheffield
Membership
Coordinator

Spur Report August, 2020

By Kathy S. Coyle on Thursday, August 20, 2020

Spur Report August 19, 2020: Patrick Coyle reporting



President Carolyn shared a photo of a house with a **Let Love Lead** sign from her Walking Livermore initiative.

President Carolyn Siegfried rang the Zoom meeting to order at 12:30. She noted it was nice to have Chuck Hartwig join us from the great state of Wyoming. Plus, Bill Groth helped Vern Green get online to join the Zoom meeting. Welcome Vern and Thanks Bill!

Bill Groth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rotary players Michael Ferrucci and Stu Frazier played a pre-recorded, layered, mixed, multi-track production of *Work it Out*, a great Beatle tune very appropriate for the program. They're exploring tools to be able to do high quality musical performances online think music scholarship fundraising concerts. Looks like they've worked through the technical and presentation issues. Take another listen to their fine production here:

<https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/OfmvAt1o3Y8Aeug2cASTJO/>

Singers and Thinker



Thought for the day: Kathy Coyle shared a thought based on listening to



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Sergeant-at-Arms



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[Keith Beck](#)
International Service
Chair



[Mary Anne Rozsa](#)
Youth Services Chair



[Jay Davis](#)
iPast President

Events

No Events found



Rotary Opens Opportunities

podcasts by Brene Brown **Unlocking Ourselves**: As Kathy put it, It seems that every day we're dealing with issues that are troubling. We tend to parse everything into right or wrong with people on each side of the issue believing they are right and digging in. I've been listening to podcasts by Brene Brown who is a highly regarded and published professor at the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work. One of the main takeaways I have from listening to her is her motto or mantra: I'm not here to be right I'm here to get it right. I wasn't sure what she meant by that at first. Because in order to get it right you have to understand what that is. Brown believes we often shy away from things that make us uncomfortable. So, after thinking about this for the past six months, what I believe is right is the Four-Way test. Is it the truth? Will it build goodwill and friendships? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it be a benefit to others? It is not easy to achieve this for everything. Bob Jacobs will point out that even mediators can't mediate their own lives. We are human, after all. But if we try to approach issues using the test, and the answer is no for one or more, then we are not getting it right.

Carolyn introduced and thanked the Zoom meeting front line, and other meeting support folks.

Visiting Rotarians introduced themselves:

- Jill Duerig, our Area 4 Assistant Governor, is from Livermore Valley (the morning club), and is on the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

Guests of Rotarians:

- Palvir Shoker, introduced by Bob Jacobs, will be co-presenting during the program

Member Talk

Mike Thompson shared his story with us. He was born May 12, 1940 at the height of the Battle of Britain, although Mike claims not to remember much about it. At age 11, he passed his exams and went to Beverley Grammar School which claims to be the oldest public school in England, he later learned. Mike went on to college at Exeter in Devon where he majored in physical education with a minor in math. He and a friend decided to teach for a couple years and then take off. So, in 1964 they left England on an Icelandic Airlines DC-6 and, 17 hours and a few stops later, landed at JFK airport. They took a Greyhound bus to Niagara Falls and then to Detroit. They got to drive a two-year-old Cadillac Seville to Oakland and had quite an adventure, lots of fun details left to our imaginations. They got to Oakland in October and then went to San Francisco where it was 95°F. They walked around and found a Japanese hotel where they stayed. With green cards to work, but only \$175 each, they went to the state employment office. The lucky guys bumped into people from the Athens Athletic Club. They got an interview and then a job, which they shared at \$300 a month, split between them. Mike said it was a great facility with a pool and all kinds of recreational facilities (It's since been demolished. But see https://localwiki.org/oakland/Athens_Athletic_Club).



Family: Mike married early. In 1965 after a rugby game he met a woman. His first wife worked at the Lab and so that's how he came to Livermore. He has two kids who live here and grandchildren who've done very well. He remarried 29 years ago to Anita, who many of us know. Like Carolyn, she's been walking around Livermore. He sometimes

joins her when he doesn't golfing.

Work: He got an interview with a copier company, sold them for a time, got more experience in the industry, and in 1974 he started his own business. His brother, Paul, joined him in the two businesses they had: one for office systems and another for public copiers and faxes. At one point, they were the largest public copier and fax company in the United States. These days, just to stay busy and keep his mind sharp, he runs a new business importing and selling products from Canada.

Activities: Mike played rugby until his back acted up, then soccer including leagues where he played against Lynn Seppala and MaryAnne Rozsa. He took up golf in his early 50s, loves basketball, backpacking and hiking still goes, although these days to more comfortable campgrounds. He coached youth soccer for 19 years and was a varsity coach at Livermore High.

Rotary: Mike joined Rotary in 1976 and when he was president during 89-90, our club raised \$65,000 for Red Cross and Watsonville earthquake relief. He hosted and chaired lots of Rotary fundraising events. He was proud to be the first recipient of the John Shirley award (after John Shirley). He's a strong supporter of the RI foundation and our local Rotarian Foundation of Livermore. He's pleased to have brought in members John Linn and his brother Paul. He likes seeing the new young members that have joined the club. Finally, despite rumors, he's really not a cross dresser.

The Rotary Foundation News

Pat McMenamin recognized members of our club for their generous giving to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Glenn Kubiak (right), our Club Treasurer, received a recognition certificate and his first Paul Harris Fellow Pin.



Past President Randy Schlientz received his Paul Harris Fellow + 8 pin and has been a Paul Harris Fellow since 1982. That's 38 years ago! Randy joined the Rotary Club of

Livermore in 1966 and has provided outstanding leadership and service to our club and community for the past 54 years. Pat expressed our gratitude and appreciation to Glenn on becoming a Paul Harris Fellow and to Past President Randy for his very generous giving to The Rotary Foundation over many decades.

District 5170 News

- o Carolyn announced that club Members Keith Beck, Norm Bregman, Paul McCandless and Jeff Youngsma were participating in the District 5170 Leadership Academy.

Club News

- o Club Member Survey Update ♦ President Carolyn shared that 76 members completed the survey. The board will review it at their meeting tomorrow report back on it to the club, and use the input going forward.

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund ♦ Kathy Young,



President and CEO Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, presented a few slides about the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund which grew out of seeking ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund (see <https://tvnpa.org/tvnf/>) was established in March 2020 by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, in collaboration with Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF), to help stabilize six regional nonprofit safety-net service providers responding on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The six organizations were identified by the cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton as best positioned to meet the increased demand for basic needs and services during this time. So long as funds are available, donations are matched at 100%. To date, \$63,818 has been donated and matched, for \$127,636 distributed. She discussed supporters, including our own Goud and Kala Memula, who have encouraged us to donate as well. Ongoing fundraising, including innovative virtual events, is continuing to increase the ability to meet the community needs.

Next week's program will be Geoff Neumayr, Chief Development Officer, San Francisco International Airport

This Week's Program

Ken Perine introduced Bob Jacobs to discuss Mediation Benefits and Process. In addition to his JD, Bob is certified in Mediation Skills Training through Northwestern University and is certified in Arbitrator Training through the Bar Association of San Francisco. Bob serves as a mediator on the Contra Costa County Superior Court, Alameda County Superior Court Day of Trial, Santa Clara County Superior Court, Bar Association of San Francisco, California Association of Realtors, and California Lawyers for the Arts mediation panels.



Bob used Zoom poll questions very effectively: what mediation is best described as, when is it generally used, what kind of experience and/or training are required to serve as a California mediator (nothing turned out to be the answer but there are big differences in levels, skills), considerations that are important, how to resolve disputes, when mediation is really necessary, and the difference between mediation and arbitration.

In the polling, Rotarians did pretty well in picking the right answers.

Bob does mediation for business, real estate, probate, and other areas. Bob stressed it is key for mediators to be able to pivot from one party to the other and impartially acknowledge and validate their feelings with empathy and compassion.

One problem he sees too often is disputes where people are under insured on their auto or home coverage. The result is the insurance carrier pays the limits per the policies, but people are faced with disputes for the balance of the claims. He noted an umbrella insurance policy to provide \$1M coverage can be purchased for a few hundred dollars a year.

Bob introduced Palvir Shoker, Director of Congress of Neutrals (see: <http://www.congressofneutrals.com/>), where people can get involved in community mediation. He noted this can be very satisfying volunteer work.

The Congress of Neutrals started 20 years ago, and they do free mediation in Contra Costa courts. They get a small grant and raise funds through donations as well. They train and mentor mediators. They encourage people to do a 40-hour mediation training program. After completion of that program the mentors are assigned to observe cases, then co-mediate them with an experienced mediator, and then finally independently mediate cases themselves. The approach used is called facilitated mediation.

As a lawyer, she noted it's sometimes difficult to mediate cases when you bring an attorney's perspective to it. Rather facilitated mediation is a preferred approach.

During COVID-19 they've been on hold. However, they expect they will be slammed with cases as the courts open up and the need for mediation rises. So, they're trying to get volunteers ready for that. They're also looking at perhaps doing virtual mediations. As noted before, donations help, including in-kind donations.

She encouraged people who want to learn more or get involved to go to the website and check it out.

She said that it really helps to get the emotional component that Bob spoke of expressed. It has value even if the parties are not able to come to a mediated agreement. When the case goes to court, at least those feelings have been expressed.

She also discussed their Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Contra Costa County, which is a community based restorative justice program designed to facilitate agreements between juvenile offenders and victims of crime with the goal of making things as right as possible. Sometimes, if the victims are not interested in face-to-face meetings the youth can write a sincere letter of apology. In these scenarios they can keep the young person out of the courts and criminal justice system. She encouraged people to check out the website and see if it's something that appeals to them.

Carolyn thanked them for the presentation and asked if they could stay to take questions after she closed the meeting at 1:30.

Post-meeting discussion:

Does Alameda County have such a program? Yes, they do, but it's different than this end-to-end program that Congress of Neutrals runs in Contra Costa.

Bob added that he's on a panel for Alameda County for day-of mediation. The judge asks people with cases to try the volunteers and see if they can get an agreed-to a resolution. If not, they come back to court the next day. Bob indicated he could put interested members in touch with the people who run the program.

He stressed that mediation training is very useful in other contexts, that it provides valuable conflict resolution skills that can be applied in various parts of our lives.

Kathy Coyle spoke of her experience doing four years of mediation in small claims court 15 years ago. Said that it was very satisfying. She asked if Palvir had experience with Youth Courts. It's not a program that they currently do. They might be interested in trying to move into that area in the future.

President Carolyn asked whether mediation is legally binding. Bob indicated in all mediations he's involved in, they try to get an

agreement with a written, signed document that is an enforceable legal agreement. So, yes.

Palvir added that most settlement agreements are confidential. In the majority of cases, the parties settle. And, 99% of those who settle, honor their agreements. This is in contrast to cases where a judgment is awarded, but not acted on. These cases often go back to court with the party seeking that the judgment be honored.

It was a good Q&A and discussion. Several commented this was a great example of the use of polling in Zoom, that it was a very useful and interactive way to engage the club. Watch the video to check it out.

We closed with reports of fire related evacuation orders for Mines Road.

Links and Advertisers

Check out our Flickr site for all of today's photos and more!
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/62794352@N07/albums/with/72157709710922731>

Today's video will be available on our web site: <https://livermore-rotary.org/2019-2020/>



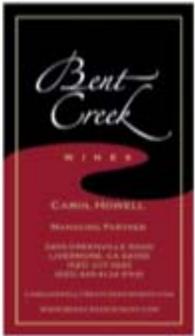
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