



Rest in Peace Chris

Former club president and longtime member Chris passed peacefully on the afternoon of 26 Dec 2020 at her home in Falls Church from complications of COPD, which had limited her Rotary activities the last few years. Chris joined Rotary in 2005 and quickly became a force within BXRC, the community, the District, and the Zone. She served in many roles within Rotary. She became a trusted advisor to several BXRC presidents and District Governors. She built a career for herself in the maritime industry and loved to tell sea stories to anyone that wanted to hear about them. She will be missed by all of us.

Rotary Blessing for Chris

Oh Lord, help us to sit a bit wider – to help fill a now empty chair. A fellow Rotarian, Chris, died last week. She was most often seen sitting right over there. Now there is an empty space at the table. It is up to our current members to do a bit more if able; regardless of how we close the gap her death has left, help us to honor her and her Rotary service, by sitting just a little bit wider. Amen.

Today's Program: Club Forum

Today is our quarterly club forum. This is the opportunity for the Board to present a recap and preview of events. It is also the opportunity for club members to discuss issues that are on their minds. During today's forum, we expect to have a discussion on the proposed changes to our current club bylaws. This is your opportunity to provide guidance and direction for our club. All members have a voice in this club and it is important that you exercise that right.

Congratulations Otto!

Last week, Club President Bob presented Otto with his Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) +3 pin. PHF recognition is given in appreciation to anyone who contributes, outright or cumulatively, a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, PolioPlus Partners or the Humanitarian Grants program. The recognition consists of a certificate, pin, and medallion. Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition is extended at subsequent \$1,000 levels (e.g., \$2,000, \$3,000). Recognition consists of a pin with additional stones corresponding to the various levels. Contributing a little every month is an easy thing to do should be something we all strive to do. Thank you, Otto.



Calendar Call: 9 Jan, Drive-thru Food and Toiletry Collection

BXRC members have the opportunity to support our community by participating in the monthly Drive-thru Food & Toiletry Collection to support our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, held on the second Saturday of every month from 0900-1200 at Clarendon Presbyterian Church. Curbside drop-off, masks required and no physical interaction is necessary. The Food Drive supports families at Bridges to Independence in Clarendon. They need: rice, sugar, vegetable oil, boxed cereal, applesauce, juices, pasta sauces, ramen, microwavable meals, instant pancakes, syrup, sealed fruit, canned goods, breakfast bars, mayo, jam, and other dry foods. The Toiletry Drive supports individuals at Residential Program Center on Columbia Pike. They need: razors (men/women), toothbrushes, toothpaste, queen bed sheets, deodorant, new men's underwear (XL, 2XL, 3XL), new women's underwear, new socks, combs, brushes, shower flip flops, bar soaps. Clarendon Presbyterian Church is located at 1305 North Jackson Street in Arlington. Next collection events occur on 12 Feb, 13 Mar, and 10 Apr.

Here's Our Guest!

Do you remember when we would meet at Goodwin House and every so often, we would welcome a guest or two to our breakfast? Just because we are meeting via Zoom doesn't mean we can't invite some guests. How did you become a Rotarian? Probably because someone invited you to a meeting. Why not extend the same invitation you got to someone you know? Every present member knows someone that might be interested. This is a great opportunity to find potential members and Zoom makes it an easy commute.

<u>Today's Program</u>	
Pledge of Allegiance	Announcements
Invocation	Program / Speaker
Birthdays / Songs	4-Way Test
Guests	

<u>Rotary Birthdays</u>
Dennis, 7 Jan
Sam, 9 Jan
Otto, 9 Jan
Ava, 10 Jan

<u>Rotary Anniversaries</u>
Harry, 8 Jan 2010
Ian, 13 Jan 1995

Speaker Schedule

8 Jan	Club Forum
15 Jan	Meesh, eSwatini Projects
22 Jan	Sally Lawton Author of The Nurse Who Found Herself in 1916
5 Feb	Mark Little, Human Trafficking

Calendar Call: 18 Jan, Food4Thought Snack Bag Collection

The Rotary Club of West Springfield is holding its annual Food4Thought snack bag collection event to help feed local school children who often go hungry over the weekends and holidays. They would like households to purchase snack items and pack 8-10 snack bags in 2-gallon Ziplock bags in your home; any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated. Their goal is 2,000 packed snack bags collected 1200-1400 on 18 Jan 2021, MLK Day. One of each of these 10 snack items are needed in each Ziplock bag: Easy Mac, Fruit Snack, Granola Bar, Fruit Juice Container, Cereal Box/Cup, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Tuna or Chicken, Fruit Cup. The organizations receiving the donated snack bags include: Montrose Learning Center, ECHO, Koinonia, Cardinal Forest Elementary and Keene Mill Elementary. No-Contact Drop-off Location: Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150. You may also drop off your bags early at the Hilton front desk from 11-15 Jan.

Editor's Prerogative

When I sat down to write this week's newsletter, I knew that I wanted to speak about my friend Chris after hearing of her death. Isn't it funny how the universe will slap you up side the head with something when you don't expect it? I opened my desk drawer to pull out my BXRC Directory (remember when we had those printed last year?). I had to dig to find it, but



before I got to it, I had to move some business cards. Among the cards was the one pictured below. Isn't it amazing that a friend can still touch you when they are gone? Chris was an amazing woman. She transferred from the Rotary Club of Dunn Loring to BXRC in 2005 and became one of the trusted voices of the club. Prior to my year as President, I took some time to ask Chris for some guidance and advice. Even though she was busy with a home renovation project, she took the time to meet me for breakfast. Listening to her was like listening to Master Yoda. Her guidance was very valuable and I am sorry she will not be able to mentor our newer members. The other photo shows Joe presenting Chris with a Paul Harris pin. You can see the happiness on her face. She was that sort of person. Harry accurately captured Chris this way: "You could always tell when she disagreed with you by the raised eyebrows and a high

pitched 'huh, is that so?'" It was her way to open a discussion, not shoot down an opinion. I think I will miss that part of her the most. Sympathy cards can be sent to the Lydick family, who took care of Chris in her final year. Rest well dear friend.

