

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 36 | March 5, 2021

Program: Desert Botanical Wonders, Maria Jesus *Submitted by Chris Hayes*



Our speaker, Maria Jesus, was introduced by Lucinda McDade. Maria works with the California Botanic Garden, and is completing a Masters Degree in Botany, after getting her initial college degree in English. She managed 35 people in the Great Basin, and is now working

on Public Policy in Land Management, and is now doing field work in the deserts of the West. She is becoming a Jack of all trades!!

Maria titled the presentation representing her research passion, Botanical Wonders of a Desert Mountain Range: A Vascular Flora of the Southern Inyo Mountains. This area is part of the ancestral home land of several tribes. Her study area



**CDC Guidance for COVID-19-
Vaccinated Individuals on p. 6!**

includes the Inyo mountains between Mt. Whitney and Badwater Basin. The Inyo are in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada, the highest and lowest points in the lower 48 states. The area has about 12 inches of rain a year. She has focused on the southern half of the mountains, where the Mojave Desert and Great Basin desert come together. In the Inyo Mountains there are lots of pine trees that need rain, but they can also withstand the very hot summer. They get just seven inches of rain.

Bringing in a bit of her love of literature, Maria quoted Mary Austin, who wrote in *Land of Little Rain*, "This is the country of three seasons. From June on to November it lies hot, still and unbearable, sick with violent unrelieving storms; then on until April, chill, quiescent, drinking its scant rain and scatter snows; from April to the hot season again, blossoming, radiant, and seductive. These months are only approximate...the land sets its seasons by the rain."

The higher elevations get more rain. Pleasant Point, at 9600 feet, gets about 14 inches a year, mostly as

Continued, p. 4

Watch it!!

This week's program is worth watching again! Here's a link to the [recording](#).

Passcode: Botanic3#5

It will be available until 3/30.

Next Zoom Meeting

March 12: Features Andy Winnick talking about Voter Suppression and Disproportionality in the American Electoral System [ZOOM LINK](#)

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ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING

submitted by Bill Burrows

Opened with lots of fun advice and experience-sharing on how folks have acquired their drivers licenses, Real IDs and Passport Cards needed for domestic air travel. We considered price comparisons, line-cutting strategies (Bill Gershon used his crooked cane), and general lamentations about the DMV. There was also some reminiscing about fun group trips on busses to District conferences far and wide with Rotary. One day, field trips will return!

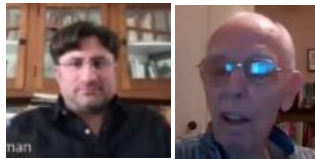


This week's program is about botanic wonders that abound in our desert mountain ranges. It's a good time of year to venture out to see them! President Buff thanked Lucinda for arranging and introducing the speaker.

Today celebrates the last Rotary social, held at the Magnolia Wine Bar, before we went off into Zoomland in 2020. Many of us were there – and some were not. Will you come to the first social we hold when it is safe? (Magnolia opens on St. Patrick's Day!)

WELCOME GUESTS

We welcomed guests **Joe Atman** and **Bill Gershon**.



We are very happy to see member **Perry Hillberg** who is back on screen after a time away.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Polio update: No new wild polio cases were reported this week in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and there were three new vaccine-induced cases around the world.

There is a special Rotary International COVID-19 Task Force Update on March 9 at 5:30 P.M. PST. You may have received an email from Johrita Solari with a personalized link to attend.

Buff thanked Lucinda for arranging our speaker today, Ms. Maria Jesus, a graduate student at CGU.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW Patrick Tambe

Randy Prout and **Jerry Tambe** came forward to do a special presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow to Jerry's son, Rotarian **Patrick Tambe**.

Randy introduced Patrick, announcing a special occasion coming up this Monday, Patrick's 31st birthday. A proud dad, Jerry has used his Rotary Foundation points to award a Paul Harris Fellow award to Patrick. It's a wonderful tribute to Patrick, showing faith in his willingness to serve and give as a Rotarian. Jerry encouraged him to work towards a PHF+1 as he supports the Rotary International Foundation. Congratulations Patrick!

If you would like to honor someone with your accumulated Paul Harris Fellow points, contact Randy Prout.



INSPIRATION OF THE DAY **John Howland**

Women's history month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society, and has been celebrated in March since 1987 to correspond with International Women's Day, which is on March 8.



When walking up Indian Hill Blvd this morning I looked at the sign in front of the high school which had the names of honored women. There was Maya Angelou, Sally Ride, and then " Sylvia Whitlock – Rotary." A very nice tribute.

Quotes

*I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that is as unique as a fingerprint, and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also letting the energy of the universe to lead you. **Oprah***

*At the end of your life you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband or wife, a friend, a child or a parent. **Barbara Bush***

*Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe you must become its soul. **Coretta Scott King**.*

Sergeant John Tulac's Very Fine Day

Randy Prout, Jerry Tambe and Patrick Tambe were fined for their Paul Harris Fellow presentation and award. Keep giving and feed the pig!

Randy Prout was fined for his CHS WolfPack hat. As an unexpected bonus, the hat covered a medical-quality haircut. A good look, but we're glad you're on the mend, Randy!



Buff Wright was asked by a reporter for the Madison Debunking Times to confirm whether she was a Green Bay Packers fan (just by virtue of living in Wisconsin). She did play French horn in her high school marching band at a Packers home game. Seems she will also be debunked for being a fan of large quantities of cheese (but she never wore the famous Cheese Head hat!).



Don Gould was fined for making predictions of another LA Dodgers world series victory (which means that the Yankees will NOT make it). And Justin Turner will hit safely in 57 consecutive games, breaking DiMaggio's record.



Frank Bedoya revealed 3 days of film crew activities (for season 5 of "Insecure") on campus despite the signs everywhere that say no one is welcome due to COVID. They're obviously trying to secure additional funds for the college. Double the fine in a COVID-free zone!



John Howland was fined for his Women's History Month quotes and sharing. And not to be outdone, Sergeant Tulac launched into calling on people to name famous women in history.



Lucinda McDade named a famous woman botanist, **Mildred Mathias** for whom the UCLA Botanic Garden is named, for her work promoting public gardens and tropical species.



President Elect Mark Carson was asked to name a famous woman in history and what she was famous for. After a hem and a haw, and calling on a friend, he came up with **Harriet Tubman** for her courage in setting the stage for ending the appalling conditions of slavery and for her pending appearance on the \$20 bill. (thanks for being Mark's lifeline, **Anita Hughes!**)



Bridget Healey named **Jane Todd Crawford**. On Dec 25, 1809, Bridget's ggguncle Dr. Ephraim McDowell of Danville Kentucky removed a 22.5



pound tumor from her ovaries, and she survived, though anesthetized with only Kentucky Bourbon.

In a lightning round, **Kelly Carson** recalled **Rosa Parks**, **Pat Hauducoeur** highlighted **Michelle Obama**; **Chris Hayes** noted **Jackie Onassis**, and **Betty Sheldon** named **Betsy Ross**. **Anita Boling** named **Florence Nightingale**, one of the first medical professionals who practiced and preached hygiene. (Masks and handwashing, anyone?) **Mary Segawa** named **Jacinda Ardern**, prime minister of New Zealand. (Mary razzed sergeant John for calling mostly on women; he wiggled out of a fine.) **Blanca Aguiar** provided **Madame Curie** and **Angela Merkel**, both great choices.



Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo broadened our perspective, adding **Wangari Maathai** from Kenya who won a Nobel prize, and her sister-in-law **Julia Tukai Zvobgo**, a Zimbabwean hero of the liberation struggle, activist, and feminist politician. When she died in 2004, she was buried at the National Heroes Acre, a shrine that honors independence fighters.



Nona Tirre volunteered in chat (she wasn't asked!) that **Bessie Stringfield** was the first African American woman to ride cross country solo on a motorcycle.



Randy Prout posted **Judy Wright**, a notable woman in Claremont history who wrote a book about Women of Claremont, 1887-1950. The book is still available at the [Claremont Heritage Gift shop online](#).

The links will further introduce you to these remarkable women in History.

Apologies to those members mentioned but not pictured. We just didn't capture all faces!

Desert Botanicals, cont'd from page 1

snow, and it's very dry in the summer. The other extreme is the Malpais Mesa Wilderness. At 4200 feet, it only gets about seven inches of rain a year.

Plants in Inyo have a tough time in such an arid area. It is also hard to be a botanist.



There is only one road into the area, and so study requires lots of walking. The goal is to document the plants that grow here, which she began doing in 2018. Visiting all the habitat types

and extremes, Maria collects plants, which are then stored and put on herbarium sheets to document them. Annie Alexander was a Botanist in the 1940's, and her work provides evidence that terminology and plant identification changes over time. For example, the species name for the plant illustrated at right, has changed three times, making it important to have central information sources!

Maria then shared with us many pines and plants in the area. A few are shown here. The video recording shows them all!

-The Single-leaf Pinyon Pine can live up to a thousand years, is common to the area and it is useful! For example,

its seeds are edible, the resin has medicinal value and the wood is used for building and firewood. In the 1860's silver was found in the area, and many pines were cut down and burned to provide charcoal for smelting, greatly diminishing this food source for wild life. Sera Gordo Mining took over the area for mining, and became a big part of the expansion of Los Angeles.



Single-leaf pinyon pine
(*Pinus monophylla*)

-Utah Juniper has cones with one seed, and the leaves are compressed scales.

-The tiny Tufted Townsend daisy blends into the rock. It is in the sunflower family.



Tufted townsend daisy
(*Townsendia scapigera*)

-One of Maria's favorites is the Flaxleaf monardella, which has an amazing minty scent, like salvia only better!



Flaxleaf monardella
(*Monardella linoides* s.l.)

Crescent buckwheat is pretty rare. One third of buckwheat species are found in CA. They're mostly in Eastern CA and Nevada, but abundant in the South Inyo Mountains.



Crescent buckwheat
(*Eriogonum mannicola*)

- CUPS rare
- Mostly E CA, NV
- Abundant in southern Inyo Mtns
- 1/3 of buckweats are here!

-Badger flat threadplant (with flowers only about the size of a pinhead) are very rare, and mostly found in the White-Inyo region, with several related species nearby. It was just catalogued in 2020! These plants are distinguished by three maroon stripes. A



Badger flat threadplant
(*Neomniodes dryocaulis*)

type of these can be found in Claremont!

When you get to the Inyo area above the Pinyon/Juniper line, there are ridges, and plants grow along these ridges. Study here is a tad treacherous! There are amazing views. In this area grow the following:

-Inyo rockdaisy has a great smell and is the only plant here that flowers in July. They are very glandular; you can smell them before you see them. It lives in just a 15 square mile area.



-Jaeger's hesperidanthus (it needs an easier common name. Bill Burrows suggested it be called cliff cabbage) is only found in these mountains at high elevations in rock crevices, and it likes shade. It may have been more abundant in cooler areas in the past.



-Shockley's rockcress at right is also rare. The plant elongates and it is hard to identify them as they mature.



Not all plants on outcrops are rare. The Desert globemallow, or apricot mallow, is common and does well on rocks.

Lower elevations have many trees and plants include:

-The Western Joshua Tree, which may be gone by the end of the century due to climate change. The Inyos are the only area that has these trees in abundance.

Desert Botanicals, cont'd from p. 4

The desert birds like Shrikes perch on Joshua trees as a look out.

-Desert mariposa lilies (orange) and Munz's mariposa (yellow), which sometimes grow side by side, have beautiful colors and are rare in the Mojave reserve.

-Desert Larkspur has a beautiful flower and is a favorite. (not shown)

-Inyo onion is a plant that looks and smells like onion and is edible, but is rare, so don't bite!

-Lilac sunbonnet blooms, especially when there's a lot of rain. Pretty!

-Mojave fishhook cactus has thin spines with colored flowers at the top of the stems. The little hooks are characteristic. The Engelmann's hedgehog cactus has thicker spines and flowers come out of the sides rather than the top. Cataloguing these is a challenge requiring bbq tongs and slicing. Maria tasted the fruit of the hedgehog cactus, and found it to be quite sweet!

-Shockley's prickleleaf (at right) is in the sunflower family, but doesn't look like it.

-Parry's monkeyflower is very rare. It is distinguished from less rare versions by its lobes that are each higher than the one before

This area of study has a high proportion of rare plants, about 8% of all species here are rare. This is one of the reasons so many of these plants are protected by the Bureau of Land Manage-



High proportion of rare plants (~8%)

1. *Allium atrorubens* var. *crispatum*, 4.3
2. *Abronia nana* var. *covillei*, 4.2
3. *Alicella tridact*, 2B.2
4. *Astragalus cinnae* var. *suffiatus*, 1B.3
5. *Astragalus inyoensis*, 4.2
6. *Blepharidachne kingii*, 2B.3
7. *Boechera dispar*, 2B.3
8. *Boechera shockleyi*, 2B.2
9. *Cordylanthus eremicus* subsp. *eremicus*, 4.3
10. **Cryptantha turnulosa*, 4.3
11. **Cuniculobolus gramineus*, 2B.3
12. *Diplocus parryii*, 2B.3
13. *Eremothera boothii* subsp. *alysoides*, 4.3
14. *Encameria nana*, 4.3
15. **Erigeron uncialis* var. *uncialis*, 1B.2
16. *Eriogonum eremicola*, 1B.3
17. *Eriogonum mensicola*, 1B.3
18. *Eriogonum microtheca* var. *panamintense*, 1B.3
19. *Gallium munzii*, 4.3
20. *Hecastocleis shockleyi*, 3
21. *Hesperandanthus jaegeri*, 1B.2
22. *Jamesia americana* var. *rosea*, 4.3
23. *Nemacladus inyoensis*, 1B.2
24. *Oxytheca watsonii*, 2B.2
25. *Perilyx inyoensis*, 1B.2
26. *Phacelia barnebyana*, 2B.3
27. **Pinus longaeva*, 4.3
28. *Scleroacanthus polyancistrus*, 4.2
29. *Sibara deserti*, 4.3

*Historical observation, no voucher
 **Pers. obs.
 ~Awaiting final determination

ment. However, while the BLM recognizes outstanding cultural and natural values of the area, they plants are not fully protected.

The federal 1872 Mining Act guarantees that mining can happen irrespective of protected status. A Canadian Company, K2Gold, got a permit to do mining exploration last summer and found reason to want to continue to look for gold. So, they have asked the BLM for permission to build a road into the area, and will mine, which may make the area barren. This picture of the type of mine that they would use, which is quite water intensive, shows why people are concerned.



Thus, there is a movement called "Protect the Land in the Eastern Slopes of Death Valley" to get the BLM to stop the mining. These are public lands, and so we, the people have an interest. She provided a link to the [Friends of the Inyo organization](#), with links to ways to weigh in to the conversation and find out more.

After giving due credit to all who have supported her work, Maria opened to questions.

How do you make sure that your findings are accessible to others? The indigenous people know these plants, so she is certainly not the first to find them. She is making sure that her findings are digitally scanned and put into an accessible database, and is publishing a checklist that will be on her website.

Have there been efforts with the Trust for Public Lands or any outreach to lobby for the buyout of the land? There is a Coalition of people working with Congress and the [Conservations Lands Foundation](#) to deal with the issue.

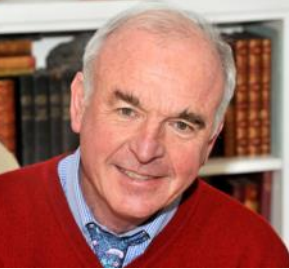
How do you check for older specimens? She looks into the history. She can log in to the [California Consortium of Herbaria](#). There are Smithsonian records from the 1800's. This is a lifelong project that never ends as new data come up all the time.

Were there any authors from your English degree that pulled you into the sciences? She read Thoreau who recorded his daily observations, but actually just being outside was inspiring. Bill Burrows recommended Aldo Leopold's [A Sand County Almanac](#), as a good book to read.

Thanks, Maria!

VIRTUAL ROTARY IN YOUR SPARE TIME

From our friend **Biffy Dankwertz** from the e-club of Greater Capetown comes an invitation to participate in an interesting program that will broaden our view! A link to buy tickets (a donation to Rotary for R100 = \$6.25) for the program is on [the website](#). The program is on Thursday, **April 15 at 10:00 am Pacific**.



Speaker Clem Sunter is South Africa's most highly regarded scenario planner and strategist. He is an icon and model of mental litness and has been expertly styled as the Foxy Futurist. He is an executive elite who was responsible for the scenario planning unit of Anglo American

in the 1980s and operated as its CEO in the 1990s. He has found a calling in mounting unique and creative solutions to fit circumstances no longer defined in a box. He has given presentations globally and has become an ambassador of expert knowledge for South Africa.

From discussing strategy in the 1980s with our former president, Nelson Mandela, to becoming a renowned author of several best-selling books, and rooted in bringing his new methodology to the people.

The two main scenarios Clem will be talking about are 'The gilded cage' (do we remain a divided planet) or a 'Friendly planet' (joining together to ensure a better future). He will also be talking about the 'Economic Crossroad' that SA faces, as to whether those responsible take the 'high road or low road'.

Mr Sunter is dually known for his book, *The Mind of a Fox*, which indicated the terrorist attacks on US soil on September 11, 2001.

And brought to you by [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland](#): Tue, 16 March 2021, 12:05 – 12:45 PDT

DATE: 16 | MARCH | 2021
TIME: 19:05 (LONDON)

YouTube PREMIERE

together

TALKS

"Finding Sanctuary in the Natural World:
Treating Each Other With Mutual Respect"

JENNY SEAGROVE

ACTOR & ANIMAL CHAMPION

together

CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN LA COUNTY

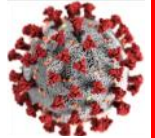
AS OF MARCH 4, 2021 (UPDATED WEEKLY)



Data do not include doses administered by providers in the Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena.

COVID Vaccination Update

We plan to have someone from LA County Public Health speak later this spring.



The LA area Megapods are still stressing second doses and appointments continue to be limited. They now advise you to go for a second dose on your appointed day and the time you went for your first vaccine. Be sure to bring your card and ID. About 490,000 65 year olds in LAC still need to be vaccinated.

Still need your first vaccine? Stay tuned. Blue Shield is apparently taking over administration of MyTurn.CA.Gov. With luck, the appointment finding will get easier.

From the [LA County Public Health Website](#):

All people 65 or over are eligible now. Recently added are those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:

- Education and Childcare - [More info](#)
- Emergency Services - [More info](#)
- Food and Agriculture - [More info](#)

[Find out when you can receive a vaccine.](#)

The COVID-19 vaccine will be free for everyone and will be offered to different groups in [phases](#). It is now available to the general public in Tier 1B. The general public will be eligible in Spring/Summer 2021. LA Public Health encourages people to talk to your doctor or [sign up](#) for their email updates to find out when vaccine will be available to you.

You can access all sites through [MyTurn.CA.Gov](#) or link to [all county information sites](#).

