

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 410 | April 9, 2021

Program: LaKenya Pitchford, Service Center for Independent Life

submitted by Sean Harrison

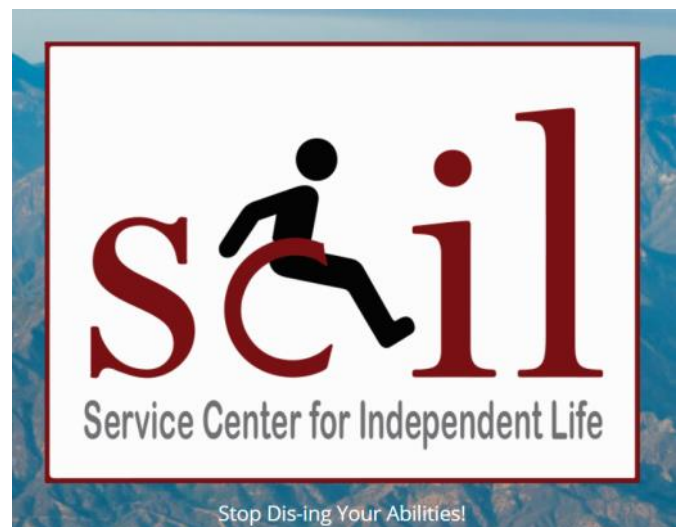


The guest speaker for this week was LaKenya Pitchford, a system change advocate for the Service Center for Independent Life (SCIL). The organization’s main purpose is to advocate for people with disabilities. An example of something they advocated

for in the past was to keep the Metrolink station in Claremont. According to LaKenya, the station is a necessity for their consumers.

Who are they and what do they do? Their mission is to empower all persons with any disability in their quest for greater personal independence, and to advocate for a barrier free society. They are a non-profit organization, part of the 28-center-strong independent living system in California. Independent Living Centers are consumer controlled, volunteer driven agencies with the objective to provide core services to persons who are disabled and seeking assistance. With all the amazing things they provide, their services are provided at NO cost to the user.

LaKenya mentioned two different types of advocacy they engage in. The first is individual advocacy. The goal of their services is to help consumers to get to a self-empowered state through advocacy and support ser-



vices. They provide individuals the resources they need to live a more independent life. For example, an individual might be having trouble with a landlord who doesn’t give reasonable accommodation for making the house accessible for their specific disability. SCIL will advocate for their clients to make the landlord provide the proper compensation. Another important aspect is to make sure people know their ADA rights, which makes a huge difference in knowing the proper compensation.

The other type of advocacy is system change, a grand-

Continued, p. 4

Watch it!!
 You can hear the program at about **33 minutes into the meeting!**
 Here’s a [link to the recording](#).
 Passcode: **Apr9!LaKenya**
 It will be available until 4/30.

Next Zoom Meeting
April 16: Features How HOPE brings hope to communities.
 Sandra Bowers, Regional Director, Hope Through Housing
[ZOOM LINK](#)

Inside This Issue
 P. 2 The meeting begins
 P. 3 Sergeants Fine
 P. 4 Program cont’d
 P. 5 Homelessness, CBG, Supplies!
 P. 6 Virtual Rotary & COVID update
 P. 7 Bacon Bits, events, club info
 P. 8 Las Vegas Night

ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING

submitted by Harry Sparrow

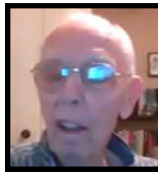
There was the usual banter as President Buff waited for us to achieve critical mass for our breakout sessions. During this period **Anita Boling** shared sad news regarding her son-in-law, who has stage 4 lung cancer. She asked the group for prayers.



Buff started the meeting noting that we're pushing our way through April and her last quarter as President. Next week's program is How HOPE brings hope to communities with Sandra Bowers, Regional Director of Hope Through Housing. Buff wants to dedicate some discussion time to issues of homelessness in this last quarter. We have supported causes that help – especially with food insecurity, but there is evidence that homelessness is a growing problem that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. She has in mind two meetings with speakers, followed by breakout discussions. Would this interest you? Please talk about it for a few minutes in the breakout. How does homelessness impact our community and what is our responsibility in it? John Tulac noted that this topic had come up after the Management Team meeting had finished. Basically, they noted that homelessness clearly is a problem for a number of people in Claremont, and they concluded we need to get on top of it before it escalates. See Breakout discussion, page 5.

WELCOME GUESTS

Bill Gershon was at his usual post of "guest who is really more like a member." **Arman Ariane** introduced **Steven Julian**, who, according to Arman, "makes the best beer in town." Our program speaker, **LaKenya Pitchford** was also welcomed.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nona Tirre is leading our club's efforts to provide assistance to Claremont Unified School District (CUSD), which provided a list of needed items to help our elementary students safely return to campus, and we are ready to deliver! Over the past week we have purchased and organized supplies for the various schools and need some Rotarians to assist with dropping off the items. This is the first week the elementary kids are going back so time is of the essence. We will do all the drop offs this Wednesday because there will be few kids on campus. One person will be in charge of picking up the supplies from Tim Harrison's office and the rest to meet at the schools.

The Stover Music Awards will be conducted **April 17** at Claremont High School. Contact **Brett O'Connor** for details.

Lucinda McDade talked about the recent planting activity at the California Botanic Garden (CaBG), funded by a District Grant. A group of six CHS Interactors, Buff and **Bridget Healy** assisted with weeding and planting last week. Bridget made a big hit with the Interactors by bringing sunscreen and cookies; we suspect it was the cookies that were the actual hit. Wednesday, April 14, Interactors from the Webb school and club volunteers were involved in planting. Both of these activities were focused on the welcome garden at the entrance to CaBG; the original planting of this garden was a desert theme. The efforts we and the Interactors are supporting are to add floral elements to the gar-

INSPIRATION OF THE DAY



Sylvia Whitlock offered the inspiration for the week.

Being a Rotarian is not OK
 OK is comfortable
 OK is the status quo
 OK is not the reason we serve, it's not the reason we donate, It's not the reason we spend our time helping the community and our world.
 We are not in Rotary to be comfortable.
 We are here to change things. We are here to build a better world for everyone.
 Being a Rotarian is not OK! Being a Rotarian is awesome!
 Be fun, be positive, be the inspiration!
 Life is good, make it beautiful
 Work for a cause, not for applause,
 Live life to express, not to impress
 Do not strive to make your presence noticed
 Just make your absence felt!

den.

Of interest: **Bridget** conducted a poll of the six CHS Interactors and was surprised by the outcome. All six Interactors said they would continue with distance learning rather than return to school in person. **Peter Weinberger** confirmed he and the Courier staff had found out through their reporting efforts that 50% of students would return to classes in person. Nona said that all three of her children would be returning to in-person learning.

SERGEANT Nona Tirre

John Howland pointed out during announcements that Lucinda just received the highest, most prestigious award for her efforts in the world of all things botanical. It was reported in this week's Courier. (and last week's Clarifier.) Nona immediately fined John Howland for stealing her Sergeant material.



Nick Quackenbos was called out next. Nona said that she heard him refer to Buff as "Biff" (or was it Beth?). This likely was inspired by the fact that we have had **Biffy Dankwerts** from South Africa at several of our recent meetings.



Francis Limbe was next on Nona's list. She said she was so taken with the "slick photo" of Francis wearing a bow tie that he uses when his video is off, that it had to be highlighted with a callout.



Nona surprised **John Tulac** with a fine for "animal cruelty." Nona said that every time she drives by John's house on Indian Hill she is taken by the "crane" peering out of the attic. John said that it is actually a goose, there to carry on a tradition associated with the house. The prior owners of his house had a goose, which led to home being referred to as the "Goose House." John and Elizabeth are simply honoring that tradition. Good story or not, Nona fined John.



Zoe TeBeau was next. Zoe has an ongoing online estate sale and Nona gave her the chance for a "shameless plug," Zoe shined a light on assistance she was receiving from both **Bernadette Kendall** and **Steve Schenck** with the Hueter House estate sale. Bernadette assisted with staging and Steve did some amazing artwork and photos for the online website.



Lucinda McDade is apparently drawing too much attention because she was again fined by a Sergeant. Nona fined Lucinda for employing child labor to maintain the Garden. (Interactors)



Nona said **Jerry Tambe** had suggested that **Tom Shelly** be fined for his "Ranger Shelly" photo on the front page of the April 2 Courier. The rangers and LA County Fire Department walked a mile to rescue an injured dog

Because **Frank Bedoya** is on the Claremont Police Commission, Nona assumed he would be able to provide some insights into the excitement last Tuesday Frank said the main insight was that a car chase through Claremont and homicide. When the chase concluded, a call regarding a house fire came in at exactly 4:20 and a marijuana grow with a street value of over \$1M value was discovered. Nona noted that it was too bad it hadn't happened on April 20. If you don't get the joke, this writer will have to be blunt; you are out of joint with pot, oops, I mean pop culture.



Apparently, something **President Buff** did last October has been festering in Nona's mind ever since and it came out at this meeting with a fine. Nona said it came to mind because today was the day the Dodgers were to receive their rings from last fall's World Series victory. The October Rotary board of directors meeting was scheduled on the night of one of the world series games. Nona pointed this out because Buff, egregiously per Nona, suggested that the game could be recorded and viewed after the meeting. Clearly, Buff did not grasp the importance of a game that would lead to the Dodgers' first World Series win in 31 years. Per Nona, if that isn't fine worthy, nothing is.

Michael Fay is unfined for having a difficult reaction to the COVID vaccine.



Announcements, cont'd from page 2

Buff again brought up that the Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club is hosting a virtual fundraiser this Saturday, April 17, featuring a number of performers including Carrot Top. The price for access to this event per household is \$85. The La Vegas club has invited us to participate; for each ticket, our club will receive \$25 of the \$85 access fee. In addition, each ticket comes with a \$25 gift certificate for a Pizza Hut pizza. Details on page 8.

Service Center for Independent Life, cont'd from p.1

er scale of change. The goal is to push positive changes in society to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through advocacy at the city, state, or federal level.

SCIL also provides information and referral services. If they cannot provide the service themselves, they connect to a number of recourses within our community and work with people to find a solution that works for their circumstance. The goal is always to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Assistive Technology plays a huge part in independence: SCIL provides technology for people who need to live independently in their homes. This includes funding options for people to maintain or increase their ability to live a more independent life. Walkers, wheelchairs, grab bars, shower chairs, visual aid devices, hearing devices and more. They even have a re-use program that accepts donations of gently used electronics to be converted to help assist people with disabilities.

They also offer transition and diversion services; this includes helping people transition back into a living setting of their choosing rather than being institutionalized. The diversion programs also allow consumers at risk of being placed in a nursing facility to stay in their homes by providing devices or equipment to help increase their ability to function independently in their communities. SCIL helps guide people to the right programs that can assist them in living an independent life.

SCIL also provides Youth Transition Services. The transition from adolescence to adulthood is critical. They work together with their consumers to help them acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to maximize their independence and self-sufficiency. They are currently in the process of revamping their youth empowerment workshop. Classes are small enough to provide a one-on-one learning experience.

For a fee, SCIL provides Braille Embossing services to translate documents and materials into an accessible format. Cards With a Special Touch are tactile greeting cards with creative designs and unique graphics and they are customizable too!

Fitness classes provide low to moderate paced classes in a friendly and fun atmosphere, free of charge.

Currently virtual cooking classes teach skills or build on the ones you consumers already have. Classes include knife skills, plating skills, proper measuring, culinary terms and much much more. All in the comfort of their own homes!

Classes provided for the visually impaired include computer classes and braille classes to learn to read in braille.

SCIL provides virtual peer support groups. Through peer support, they provide an open platform of discussion for people to connect.

They help people to prepare before an emergency or disaster happens. They provide a disaster kit with over \$100 value, including a solar phone charger.

Finally, they offer a food pantry which delivers food every Monday. They prepare bags/boxes upon request. About 60 families are using this program at the moment. They get the food from Feeding America and another organization. For more information about the Food Pantry, contact Gina Hernandez, Gina@scil-ilc.org or call 909-621-6722.

All-in-all, SCIL provides extremely important services that help improve the lives of all their participants. The Service Center for Independent Life can be contacted at 909-621-6722, LaKenya is at Lakenya@scil-ilc.org. Chelsea DiGerolamo at Chelsea@scil.ilc.org

During the Q&A, LaKenya explained that the funding for SCIL comes from the federal and state government. They also receive donations. Volunteers come from college student interns for the most part. During COVID, they have used fewer volunteers, though more will likely be tapped as they reopen. They do some training, but try to use volunteer skills as best they can. LaKenda started as a volunteer.

Donations of in-kind items are often welcome, particularly durable medical equipment in good shape and adult diapers and such. They are happy to receive items that they need that aren't well covered by their regular funding or that free their funding for reallocation to higher needs. For example, reams of paper or PPE are welcome. Zoe TeBeau often has durable medical items from her estate sales and Bernadette from the sale of homes they would be happy to donate.

It was great to learn about another service organization in our community. Many thanks to LaKenya for ably stepping in for her colleague today. We welcome her to attend future meetings!

Virtual Money Management



SCIL works with both low and high functioning consumers to provide them with the skills necessary to manage their money and increase their financial independence through:

- ✓ Currency Recognition and Understanding
- ✓ Hands-on Money Handling
- ✓ Technical Training
- ✓ Budgeting and Saving

SCIL offers classes to help people with money management .

Breakout Discussion of Homelessness

When we returned from the breakouts, it appeared that most of the groups had indeed discussed the subject of homelessness and what role our Club might have in addressing it. **Nick Quackenbos** said that in his group they had discussed a possible housing solution component that Nick is strongly in favor of. Nick notes that there are many inactive military facilities with barracks that could be remodeled to provide housing for homeless. He said that gardens could be planted and maintained by those living there. In addition, Nick said the residents could be responsible for the housekeeping and possibly some of the meal preparation and cleanup activities. Buff noted that this is a substantive idea, and that there are many factors (e.g. mental health and local community) that would need to be taken into consideration to facilitate the success of such an approach. **Chris Hayes** noted that Volunteers of America in Pomona is doing something like what Nick suggested. Key to their success is building a sense of self-determination.

Sylvia Whitlock reminded us that we heard an important presentation by [TriCities Mental Health](#) in January and that mental health issues are often a driver of homelessness.

Tom Shelly offered that while there are homeless people in Claremont, he had not seen any tents or makeshift shelters where they may be living. He said this makes him wonder how they are being taken care of at night.

Harry Sparrow noted that **John Tulac** had made the remark that the newly homeless are often more open to assistance in getting out of a state of homelessness than are many of those who have been homeless for an extended period of time. Assuming this is true, Harry said that perhaps helping the newly homeless might be a good place for our club to invest its efforts. **Karen Sapio** said she too thought this and suggested that we might want to meet with Zach Courser to see if he has any thoughts about the merit of this idea. Zach talked to us, as reported in the [11/15/19 Clarifier](#), about efforts in Claremont.

Last year, **President Cameron Troxell** obtained a District Grant to help with Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program (CHAP), a small Claremont based nonprofit volunteer organization focused on providing “empowering mentorship to enable single men and women to work again and secure sustainable housing.” CHAP’s provision of temporary housing was impacted by COVID.

Please give your ideas for speakers and Rotary Projects concerning homelessness to Buff.

California Botanic Garden Project



This year’s District Grant funded a planting project at the California Botanic Garden. As part of its rebranding and focus on plants native to California, the California Botanic Garden designed planting near its new sign and along the welcome walk upon entering the Garden. Our club bought the plants around the welcome sign and contributed to the purchase of the plants for the welcome walk.

Following up last Wednesday’s planting by CHS Interactors, on April 14, Webb Schools Interactors, their advisor, **Cameron Troxell**, and **Francis Limbe** spent two hours planting along the welcome walk following training by garden staff. It was another beautiful day for service!

CUSD Elementary Supplies Delivered!

Thanks to Nona’s organizing skills and the Tim Harrison crew’s preparation, we delivered welcome supplies to CUSD Elementary schools: Sycamore (John Howland & Susie Ilsley), Sumner (Lucinda McDade & Susie), Oakmont (Mary Segawa & Buff Wright), Mountain View (Buff, Sylvia Whitlock, Nona and JJ Miranda), Condit (Nona, JJ, Jerry Tambe & Sylvia), and Chaparral (Cara Araiza, Jenna Irish & Lyn Childress)



Oakmont above, MountainView below



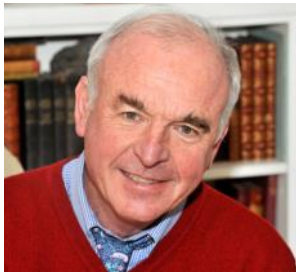
VIRTUAL ROTARY IN YOUR SPARE TIME

Brought to you by [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland](#): TogetherTalks. New talks will be scheduled soon.

You can catch up on all the events so far on the [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland's YouTube channel](#).

Highly recommended by Buff is the talk by [Daniel Flynn](#), Chief Visionary and Co-Founder of [Thankyou](#). Daniel's corporation provides the proceeds from selling water and other products to charity. His remarkable business development story is quite interesting and inspiring!

And from our friend **Biffy Dankwerts** 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

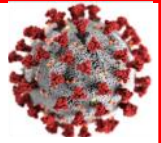
planning unit of Anglo American in the 1980s and operated as its CEO in the 1990s. He has found a calling in mounting unique and creative solutions to fit circumstances no longer defined in a box. He has given presentations globally and has become an ambassador of expert knowledge for South Africa.

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.

COVID Vaccination Update



Melisa Acoba, health program analyst from LA County Public Health will speak to our club on April 23.

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

As of April 1, all people age 50 and over are eligible. This group in LA County includes 1.4M people who will now be seeking vaccines!

As of April 15, all people over 16 are eligible

Vaccine supply is still an issue.

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

NEW: Smaller sites may have waiting lists. Try Von's on Baseline.

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

Equitable Distribution of Vaccines?

There is abundant data about the equitable distribution COVID 19 vaccinations. Los Angeles County posts distribution data online and has compiled a COVID-19 Racial, Ethnic & Socioeconomic Data & Strategies Report

[View the Report](#)





the CLARifier

The Clarifier, P.O. Box 357, Claremont, CA 91711



Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

April 16	How HOPE brings hope to communities. Sandra Bowers, Regional Director, Hope Through Housing
April 23	LA County COVID Response, Melisa Acoba, LA County Health Program Analyst
April 30	City of Claremont News, Jennifer Stark, Mayor



Send fines and donations [here](#) or mail your check to
PO Box 357, Claremont
91711



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!

Webb Interactors helped out at Uncommon Good on Wednesday. Story to follow. Photo of the Week by Cameron Troxell.



Sergeants committee gathers before each meeting by email. Anyone is welcome to share information!!

Nona Tirre, chair

Clarifier Committee

- Mike DeWees
- Bill Burrows
- Sean Harrison
- Bobby Hyde
- Jim Lehman
- Steve Schenck
- Chris Hayes Shaner
- Harry Sparrow
- Peter Weinberger
- Buff Wright, editor



Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are always available on DACdb and www.claremontRotary.org

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont

Club [Bylaws](#) and [Policies](#) are posted for member access on DACdb

April—May Birthdays

- Pete Robertson 4/21
- Sylvia Whitlock 4/28
- Lyn Childress 5-16
- Bill McAllister 5-18
- Frank Bedoya 5-19
- Chris Hayes Shaner 5-20
- Bob Hauducoeur 5-26



Notes by Harry Sparrow and Sean Harrison. Pictures by Buff

The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom at 12:00 on Friday until further notice

In the house... Your house

DO YOU MISS VEGAS? WE'RE BRINGING THE STRIP RIGHT INTO YOUR LIVING ROOM.



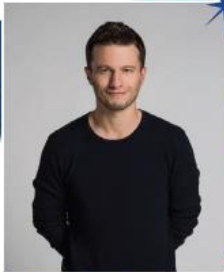
Your ticket comes with a **\$25 Pizza Hut online coupon.**



Streaming Saturday, April 17
at 6pm

Encore performances all night long after the first show!

Headliners include:



Magician Mat Franco
Comedian Carrot Top
Fantasy Show Girls
Frank Marino as Joan Rivers
The Australian Bee Gees
The Carpenters Tribute
Neil Diamond Tribute
The Kingston Trio Tribute



The **Summerlin Las Vegas Rotary Club** has arranged a fundraiser opportunity only a Las Vegas club could! And they want to share it with other clubs in the district!

For every ticket sold with the code CLA, our club will get \$25 of the ticket price of \$85 per household, which also includes a \$25 Pizza Hut online coupon good anywhere any time. [Buy your ticket here!](#)

The Vegas Show Night is **Saturday, April 17 at 6:00 pm** with repeat performances (it's video, after all) after that for those who cannot make 6 pm.

They tried to keep the Summerlin brand as discreet as possible with this in mind, although they do feature charities that feed those in need, serve homeless teens and care for families with children with cancer, and most of the remaining \$60 will go to these great Rotary causes. We can donate our \$25 per ticket to any cause we wish.

Don't hesitate to share the link to buy tickets, along with the Code CLA, with friends and family, including people far away from Las Vegas. Pizza Hut is everywhere, as are people tired of watching the same old TV shows. Make a night of it and bring some funds into our Club's foundation at the same time.

[Click this link for tickets.](#)

Register as a guest and use the code **CLA**

You'll get the program link and the coupon by email!

That's it!

Invite vaccinated and/or socially distanced/masked friends and family, and what happens in Vegas will come to your house!