

the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 51 | June 25, 2021

Program: President Buff Wright's Annual Report 2020-21

It has been a privilege to serve as president in this peculiar year. This is a brief end of the year report, my last chance to talk before the debunking at 5:30 after which I will be muted for a year or so. I gave a similar (but shorter) presentation at the District Conference.

FUNDRAISING

With the Taste of Claremont cancelled in spring 2020, which typically contributed about \$60,000 for our projects for the subsequent year—we pulled together an alternative to drive business to local restaurants and businesses at a time of their own need.

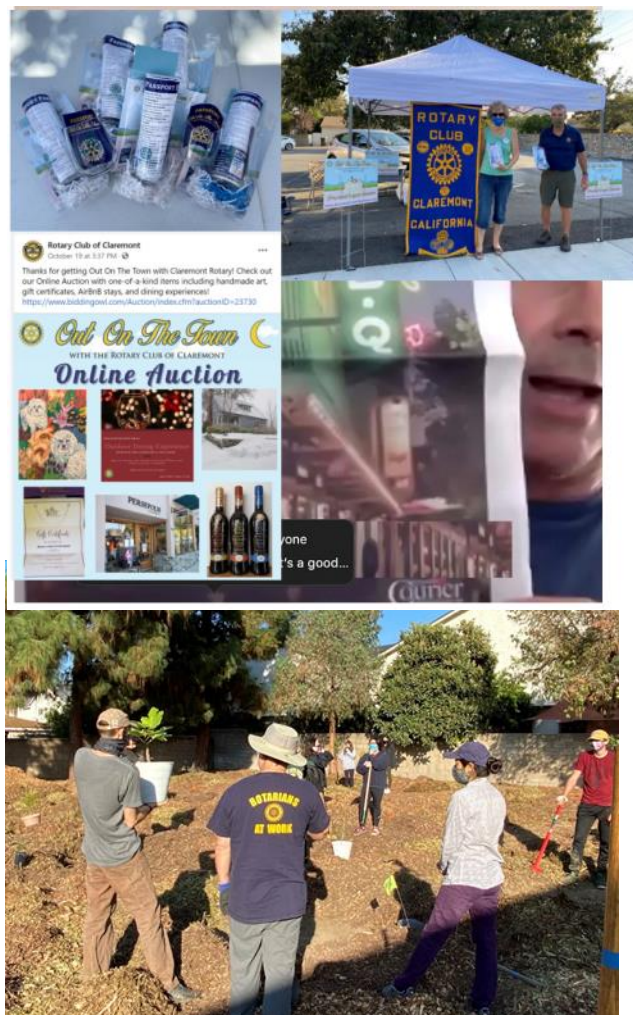
For just \$10, we issued wine glasses and a passport to be used at local restaurants, where they'd get a stamp and simply pay their bill. The stamped passports could be turned in to participate in a raffle for donated items. An online auction was also held. With sponsorships and the auction, we wound up with about \$30,000 for our local programs in 2021-22 and a lot of good will in the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In a year when we weren't sure we could do hands-on work, we took up shovels and paint brushes and did things in smaller groups. The Rotary Club of Claremont sponsored or participated in the following projects in our community:

- We planted citrus and avocado trees at San Antonio High School with Uncommon Good, joined by Webb and CHS Interactors

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Watch it!!

Link to the [meeting recording](#).
Passcode: LastGasp!June25

It will be available until 7/30

Next Zoom Meeting

**July 9: Featuring
President Mark Carson's
Annual Assembly
[ZOOM LINK](#)**

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ROTARY, THE LAST ZOOM MEETING OF 2020-21

President Buff opened this unofficial meeting, noting that it was her version of **Jerry Tambe's** request for three more months at the end of his presidency (not granted). She had learned that other Clubs have an end of the year report, and, with hope that this will become an annual event, opened her last meeting as President (debunking aside). Buff welcomed the three past district governors (**Jerry Tambe**, **Sylvia Whitlock** and **Randy Pote**) and one debunked almost past DG, **Greg Jones**, who was warned about the Club's dueling PDGs. PDG Randy praised DG Greg for the DG pinning ceremony in person last week. **Biffy Dankwerts** reported that she is sitting by a fire in the middle of winter in South Africa, while President Buff is soon heading for Portland where it will be 115 this weekend.



WELCOME GUEST AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Buff welcomed frequent guest **Bill Gershon**, frequent visiting Rotarians PDG **Randy Pote** from the Las Vegas WON Club and **Biffy Dankwerts** from the eClub of Greater Capetown, SA, and surprise guest **DG Greg Jones**. We also took a moment to recognize occasional guests offering proof of life during the pandemic, Buff's grandson Leo, getting his polio vaccine, lamenting the pandemic, and living in the wild, and Hawke, grandson of PE **Mark Carson** and Kelly.

In place of the Welcome song, Buff played an inspirational song request made by **Sylvia Whitlock** earlier in the spring. The message is clear: tell people you think they're wonderful and you may feel wonderful too. [Click on the link](#) if you dare...there may be an earworm in your future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next regular meeting is July 9, Mark Carson's Club Assembly.

Please make sure you return your choices for 2021-22 Committee Assignments to Anita Hughes. After July 1, you may have to sign yourself up through DACdb. (Is that an incentive?)

We have made good friends on zoom this year. Buff raised an RI Convention session by Rotaractors from last summer (on zoom) that posed the question, "Knowing what you know about meeting on zoom now, what will you be doing differently in five years?" DG Jones chimed in that many Clubs are going to continue with hybrid meetings or meeting online a time or two a month, which enables the good results from zoom that we ought not to lose, like the ability to bring in great speakers and cement friendships from afar.

Biffy Dankwerts reported that she has put in benches and arts and crafts stuff at the Isiphiwo School Arts, Crafts and Music Room, and is looking for a xylophone and African drums. **Bernadette Kendall** noted how remarkable Biffy's project is, and how it was facilitated by **Chuck Cable** who knew Biffy and connected **Doug McGoon** with Biffy when Doug traveled to South Africa for AfrikaBurn. How amazing it is that this relationship has yielded so much fruit. **Sylvia Whitlock** also connected with Biffy in South Africa.



INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

Submitted by Jim Lehman

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.



Don Ralls announced the Pomona Rotary 100th anniversary celebration on October 23.

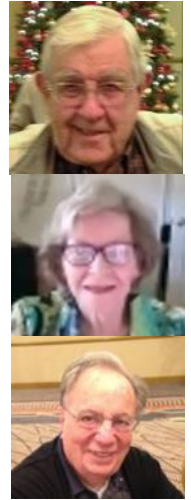


NEW HONORARY MEMBERS IN 2020-21

Earlier in the year, **Willis McAllister** was made an honorary Rotarian. He joined the Club in 1978 and is a Paul Harris Fellow. More recently, the Board voted at its June meeting to bestow honorary memberships on two other valued, long term members, Betty Sheldon and Bob Siliciano.

Betty Sheldon has served since 2002 and is taking a well deserved retirement from active duty. We thank Betty for her service and for offering to bring Lyn Childress up to speed for the Taste of Claremont following your many years of managing the permits and logistics. Betty has been indispensable.

At his early 95th birthday bash on Wednesday, we told Doctor **Bob Siliciano** that he was also so honored, having served the club well since 2002 as a Rotarian since 1958. Congratulations!



Wait...who just muscled in to this august page? **Immediate PP Cameron Troxell!** He still has six months to serve on the Board as Immediate Past President. No honorary status for you, Cameron!!

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION *presented by President Buff Wright*

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, established in 1957, acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

Many notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk. Today, I want to add another to their ranks.

You all virtually know my good friend **Bill Gershon** who has been attending our meetings on zoom almost without fail since August. I met Bill when I was asked by a mutual friend to help him edit his memoir. I did that and through it all, we became good friends, and I learned a lot about his career in public service.

Bill served in the Army Air Corps at the end of WWII. He had a career in the Social Security Administration, with one stint in Hollywood where, among other things, he was charged with producing fifteen minute shows and commercials including various stars including the likes of Joey Bishop, Godfrey Cambridge, Jayne Meadows, Ava Gabor, Jim Fregosi (Angel's all-star short stop) and Fred Shaus (Lakers coach in the 60s when they always lost to the Celtics) – on a \$50 per episode budget. He also had to persuade Casey Stengel, who was manager for the NY Mets but then lived in Glendale, to file for social security. That one got him tickets to all the Mets games at Dodger stadium in the box next to the dug-out. He also served us little people, making sure that social security was ensured for all who qualified.

Bill realized that civic engagement would be beneficial, and joined the Glendora Chamber of Commerce, and the Glendora Coordinating Council, followed by the Lion's Club. He took leadership roles in all three.

After retiring from Social Security at 52, Bill did a number of things, and he and his wife Pat eventually started a travel agency – where, interestingly, he crossed paths with Cameron Troxell.

Bill has been a Rotarian all his life....he just didn't know it. In honor of this service, I am presenting him this Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

It gives me great pleasure to present Bill with the emblems of appreciation given to a Paul Harris Fellow – a certificate and pin (when next we meet.)

The Club joined Buff in recognizing our newest Paul Harris Fellow, William P. Gershon.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

William P. Gershon

is hereby named a

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.



K.R. Ravindran
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Trustees

Holger Knaack
President, Rotary International

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- With Interactors, we planted the welcome garden for California Botanic Garden (District Grant)
- We participated with the Azusa Club in a Habitat for Humanity Work Day
- We are particularly proud of the special fundraising we conducted to address food insecurity through Inland Valley Hope Partners. \$12,000 donated provided 50,000 meals for people experiencing food insecurity in our area communities.
- We conducted the 42nd annual (virtual) "Together We Prepare" training all 8th graders in CPR and emergency preparedness, virtually, because emergencies don't take a year off.
- We delivered after school supplies to area elementary schools to help ease the return to school.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Our Club often uses its own Foundation funds to accomplish immediate goals and provide smaller grants.

For example, we paired up with the San Clementi Rotary to support a medical and dental clinic, named for **Ned Paniagua's** mother. The project has been a challenge to run during COVID. This funding will help with medical and dental clinical services outreach into the community. We hope to expand this to a Global Grant partnership in the future, including field trips for the Club and Interactors.

We continue to support the Piyali School for Girls in India, with Club funds and through member **Sylvia Whitlock's** assistance with teaching and assessment skills during her many visits to the school.

We also provided funds to buy books for an elementary school in Tanzania, which had been teaching with only a blackboard. The books will make a big difference.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

In the interest of building rotary and toward a better tomorrow, we are very pleased to have added a high school Interact Club at the Webb Schools. They were off and running, developing hands on projects for seniors in the community. Thanks to **Cameron Troxell** and **Jerry Goldman** for serving as Club liaisons.

Both high school Interact Clubs have kept active, participating in our projects as well as creating their own, and creatively raising over \$2000 for service, which bodes well for our collective futures! Among their projects:

- Drive Away Hunger, a fundraiser for Hope Partners (Claremont High School)

- Senior Center holiday packages (Webb Schools)
- Bikeathon raising funds for Bikes for Kids (CHS)
- Work Days: Planting with Uncommon Good, and the CalBG (CHS and Webb Schools)

Our El Roble Interact Club also survived the pandemic, as reported to the Club on June 11. The CMC Rotaract Club is a bit in desuetude, because students weren't here in town, but the now-graduated leaders from 2019-20 are working to regenerate a team for fall.

We continued to fund high school senior scholarships for Interactors, for Community College goers, and AVID scholars, and conducted the Stover Music, Four-Way Test Speech and Hensel Ethics Essay Contests, but had to put the Club Student Citizenship Awards aside for another year. We lament that we were not able to send students to Teen Leadership and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camps due to COVID, and plan to jump back in full steam ahead when they resume. Both are very important programs to develop leaders for our collective future.

MEMBERSHIP

This year proved the resilience of our Club. Only four active members (of 85) didn't attend a zoom meeting; most meetings had around 45 people in attendance.

One reason for good attendance is that we had great programs weekly, for example, the surgeon general of Mexico talking about vaccines, and the conductor of the LA Master Chorale, and the Director of the Claremont High School Chorale, both providing breathtaking virtual concerts. On June 4, Deepa Willingham talked about the Piyali School for Girls. And the following week, a founding member of Mediators without Borders spoke.

One profound program, not long after a local student suicide, was by Claremont High Grad Diana Chao who founded Letters to Strangers, a global youth-run non-profit seeking to destigmatize mental illness and increase access to treatment for youth aged 13 to 24. After the program, PDG Randy Pote bought Diana's book and forwarded the information to others, increasing our program's impact. Especially this year, we all need to attend to mental health issues, particularly among our youth.

We initiated a project to address the sound system at in-person meetings for members and guests with hearing impairments. An initial survey of members indicated that only 41% of the 53 respondents never have a problem hearing at meetings. That means most of us

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do! We're working with the DoubleTree to address this before moving full time back to in-person meetings.

We added six new members!

Two corporate associates: **John Bifone** and **Gregg Mossman** (with **John Allen's** firm);

Another corporate member: **Joseph Atman** of *Middle-Tree*, and his two associates **Andrea Blockinger** and **Trisch Deehring**.

And most recently, **Stephen Juliar**.



We inevitably lost seven members.

Honorary member **Ron Murphy** died in the fall and long time Honorary member and past president **Stan Barnes**, and his wife Percy, died this spring.

Two members retired, **Lark Gerry** and **MJ Neault** (the Gardens will appoint a replacement for MJ).

And three members relocated: **Jim Elsasser**, **Mary Segawa** and **Felix Villanueva**.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

I'm proud to report that the Club met its RI Foundation Goals. So far this year, donations to the RI annual fund have surpassed our goal of \$13,000 at **\$15,242** and donations to Polio Plus surpassed the goal of \$2,500, at **\$4,141**. Thank you all for your generosity.

Our Club also added two new first time Paul Harris Fellows, 14 more received Paul Harris Plus pins, ranging from Plus 1 to Plus 6, and one achieved Benefactor Status.



CLUB FOUNDATION BUDGET

Our Club's Fundraising activities enable us to fund a number of activities and programs locally. This year was fully funded from the 2019 Taste of Claremont (we always fund a year into the future). The Board adopted a flexible budget to allow for allocations throughout the year as we assessed how much money should be reserved for the next two years that will be impacted by the inability to hold the Taste of Claremont in spring 2020 and 2021. The list of activities and organizations we were able to fund follow:

YOUTH

Camp Bravo
Edwards (Stover) Music contest
Four Way Test Speech Contest
Hensel Ethics Essay Contest
Scholarships (paid in fall 2020)
CHS AVID Awards
Community College Scholarships
Interact Scholarships
CHS Chamber Singers

COMMUNITY (many of these are for youth)

Ability First
ARTstART
Center for Restorative Justice Works
CERT
CLASP
Crossroads
Cal Botanic Garden (District Grant Project)
Forever Kids--Case for Character
Lefler Grant project (Shoes that Fit)
Hope Partners
Priceless Pets
Summer Camp Claremont (Clty)
Uncommon Good/Clinic to College



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INTERNATIONAL

Piyali School for Girls--India
 Jeff Domond Foundation -- Haiti Health Clinic project
 Guatemala Health Clinic Project w San Clementi Club
 Books for Notre Dame Osotwa School in Tanzania
 Shelter Box

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF

Taking care of the business end of the Club, the Board voted to fund a \$6000 reserve in the operating budget (per policy) and updated and approved policies in four areas:

- Diversity
- Handling Donated Funds
- Financial Hardship (updated)
- Membership and attendance policy (updated)

FELLOWSHIP

And last but surely not least, our Club figured out how to have fun against all odds. Breakout sessions during the meetings helped keep us current. A number of members met weekly on zoom for a happy hour. And the big one, borne out of a happy hour discussion, was our Mardi Gras celebration on zoom which captured **Susie Ilsley**, **Nona Tirre** and **Buff** delivering adult beverages and masks, as well as the partiers. The good times rolled that night! And we made a little bit of money for good works.

Rotary International and the Convention

President Buff encouraged those nine members who attended the RI Convention to talk about their experiences, partly in order to encourage members to consider going to the 2022 RI Convention in Houston. She played the world premier RI Convention video of first female President **Sylvia Whitlock** being interviewed by now first female RI President Elect **Jennifer Jones**, introduced by RI President **Holger Knaack**. (The video begins at 29 minutes into the meeting recording.)

Comments about the convention.... **Sylvia** loved the DJ Dance Party, which only she saw among us, but there was other entertainment that was also very entertaining. **Susie Ilsley** was really moved by the vastness and international character of it. **Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo** also felt moved by sessions. Both women are attending the meeting in Houston. **Kebokile** reported that had tried to establish an international partnership in her home town in Zimbabwe, which didn't gel as much as she had wished. A convention program about a STEM program in Kenya re-energized her to try again, realizing that she didn't have to wait to Rotary to get something going. She is already helping two boys to go to college in Zimbabwe, because students can't wait. This effort can be the root of a bigger program.

Our Club does a lot of small programs abroad using our own local funds. In doing so, we leave money on the table. While Global Grant rules seem to have gotten more complicated, they have done so to ensure accountability and sustainability. **John Tulac** reported that we have a lot of expertise in the Club on water projects, and can do more.

Biffy Dankwerts reported on how easy it can be to get a Global Grant. She has gotten about two a year. She says its important that you do your homework and seek out good, sustainable partners. 75% of getting a global grant is research. She is happy to consult with us on zoom.

John Tulac reminisced about when the RI Convention was in LA. Our Club really participated. When you go to Houston for the conference next summer, you aren't necessarily just visiting Houston! (Buff noted that she didn't explore Hamburg in summer 2019.) The convention can be engrossing and stimulating enough. There are so many people to meet and greet and learn from. **Bobby Hyde** reinforced these comments and recommended connecting with another Club abroad so you can learn more about



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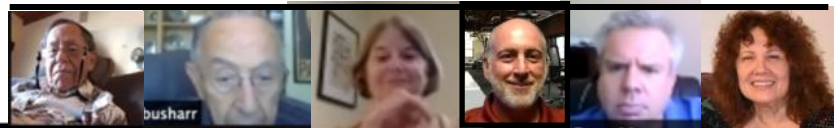
their country and projects and possibly create partnerships. Bobby stayed in contact with international Rotarians from that meeting for many years. **Randy Pote** recommended searching out hospitality suites of other Clubs.

Finale

Buff thanked everyone who participated on zoom. She thanked this year's program committee for bringing in great programs, and encouraged members to recommend speakers to **Lucinda McDade** and the program committee, and to remember that we can bring in people from afar while we're on zoom or having hybrid meetings.

She thanked **John Howland** and Mike DeWees for completing their service on the Board. She also thanked the Management Team and Board for maintaining their focus. **Cameron** noted that Buff did a lot of things behind the scene that improved our Club processes in all three positions in which she served in the presidential chain. Buff closed with a reluctant invitation to the debunking at 5:30, wondering whether it would build good will and better friendships and would be the truth... **John Tulac** assured us that it would be a good time.

Discovering that it wasn't too late to learn new zoom tricks, costumes and decoration ensued.



Apologies to those not shown



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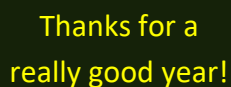


2020-2021



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

June 25	5:30 Debunking: presidential year zoomed by 7:00 Dinner at Nunos
July 9	Club Assembly: The Carson Era Begins
July 16	Center for Restorative Justice Works, Liz Rios



**Help end Polio by feed-
ing the virtual pig.
Send fines and donations
[here](#) or mail your check
to
PO Box 357
Claremont 91711**



Let's fill up the pig!

Photo of the Week by Buff Wright

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

June Birthdays

Jenna Irish 6/3
Mark Carson 6/5
Harry Sparrow 6/10
Zoe TeBeau 6/12
Buff Wright and Francis Limbe 6/16
Mike DeWees 6/20
John Howland 6/23
Randy Prout 6/27



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

**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*

