



# the CLARifier

## CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 93 | Week 2 | July 16, 2021

## PROGRAM: Center for Restorative Justice Works, Liz Rios

Submitted by Sean Harrison



**Chris Hayes** introduces the speaker, **Liz Rios**, Executive Director of the Center of Restorative Justice Works. Liz is an east Los Angeles native; she grew up in a community heavily impacted by the criminal

justice system. Her own father was in prison for seven years and during that time she was only able to see him once and even then, the visit was through a glass partition with a phone. Her negative experience with the prison system led her to pursue an education that would position her to support children in this situation.

Liz first asked how many people are incarcerated in California state prisons? We didn't know. Several years ago, research showed that the California state prison population was around 165,000. As of 2021, research shows around 99,000 are incarcerated. Although the number of incarcerated has gone down, it is still an unfortunate number of people. Based on the 40% decrease, the number of children impacted by this is about 117,000. Get on the Bus directly serves these children.

Get on the Bus was founded by a group of Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, led by Sr. Suzanne Jabro and the late Sr. Suzanne Steffen. The nuns were eager to support

incarcerated women which led them to on a journey to discover how they could best provide support. They went around to several institutions and asked the women what it was they were missing and found a common sentiment around women in

prison. They often lamented that they were unable to see their children. The institutions are commonly located far away from their homes, so it is difficult for people to visit. So, the nuns surprised the women with the first Get on the Bus experience, where they were able to hug and kiss their children for the first time in years. Even the guards looked away during this and allowed it to happen since typically there is not supposed to be physical contact in these institutions.

Liz described how incarceration affects children. It has a tremendous impact on their behavior and often leads to depression. Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to use drugs and they typically have lower educational attainment. They have restricted economic re-

CRJW



California prisons are largely far north of LA.

*Continued, page 3*

### Watch it!!

You can hear this program at about 51 minutes into the meeting. Here's a link to the [recording](#)  
Passcode: Rios!July16  
It will be available until 8/6

### Next Zoom Meeting

July 23: Featuring Stuart Wood, Sustainable Claremont  
[ZOOM LINK](#)

### Inside This Issue

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## ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING

*submitted by Harry Sparrow*

**Mark Carson** opened the meeting by simulating the ringing of a bell. He immediately mentioned that he had been at the Rotary Happy Hour gathering at Nunos the evening before this meeting. About 15 folks attended. Mark said he was ready to give the Smile song a go, but he wondered whether anyone knew the origin of the song. He asked **Lee Goldman** who said he did not know but suggested we could Google the answer. At this point the song was sung. It was fun, but the result was pure cacophony.

In this writer's breakout session, **Dennis Smith** said that he had looked it up in the Claremont Rotary Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book and found the answer. It was written by club member Bill Blanchard, who was known as 'Doc' Blanchard, probably sometime in the late 1940s.



Mark Carson

## WELCOME GUESTS!

Mark welcomed frequent guests **Bill Gershon** and **Rotarian Biffy Dankwerts** from the eClub of Greater Capetown, S.A.

**Kelly Carson** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Susie Ilsley** formally announced the happy hour gathering at Gus's Barbeque on July 22. It will start at 5:00 PM.

**Gail Sparks** announced that CHS Interact Advisor, **David Sawhill** was recently on The Price is Right and that his episode will air at 10 AM Friday.

**President Mark** asked for help with a work project that the San Dimas Rotary Club is planning. The project will restore a home that is a transition facility for women who have been incarcerated, run by Crossroads, which we support. The home is a large craftsman style home in Pomona. The project will occur on the weekends of August 7/8 and 14/15. Mark asked **Bridget Healy** to check with the Interactors to see if they are interested.

**Mark** also announced that there will be a food drive that will be a coordinated effort among the over 60 clubs in District 5300 and district 5330. DG Betsy Barry is asking each club to select a food bank of choice and then on February 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., each club will distribute the food items at their food bank, for us, Hope Partners.

## BREAKOUT REPORTS

Mark sent us off to our break out rooms with the suggestion that in our groups we share what inspires us to serve and/or talk about Rotary projects that we have been involved with.

After we returned, **Lyn Childress** said that **Biffy** had been in her group and that they had discussed the social unrest in South Africa.

**Joe Atman** said they had discussed the immigrant children being housed at the Fairplex. **Joe** explained that the population of these "unaccompanied minors" ages 6-18 has been



## INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

### Bobby Hyde

Last week Mark mentioned that the Rotary theme for this year is "Serve to Change Lives." Bobby reminded us that Rotary International president Shekhar Mehta has urged members to become more involved with service projects saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live, because it changes other people's lives and also our own. This brought a Chinese proverb to mind for Bobby.

If you want happiness for:

- an hour, take a nap
- a day, go fishing
- a year, inherit a fortune
- a lifetime, help someone

Bobby urged us all to go out and do the work of the Rotary so we can do good and live right.



## RETURN TO DOUBLETREE?

Mark reported that things are continuing to evolve with the DoubleTree. The Board will soon discuss issues related to the cost of meals at in-person meetings. Anita said that the Doubletree would no longer offer a light lunch option, but instead would offer, as an alternative to the full lunch, dessert and coffee for \$17.50, and could charge as much as \$33 for lunch. Buff posted a poll for all of us to respond to, the results of which could help the Board.

The poll included two questions.

1. Would you pay \$28-30 for a full lunch?
2. In the past did you choose the light (salad and desert) option?

The results came in as 50/50 re willingness to pay for the full lunch, though some answers may be ambiguous, with an additional yes or two for the full lunch since a light lunch may not be offered.

## SERGEANT Mike DeWees

Mike jumped right in with "It's a fine day."

Mike asked **President Mark**, "Why do you hate the Smile song?" He said today's singing of it clearly indicated Mark doesn't like the song. The fine was \$1.

Next came **Don Gould** and **Zoe TeBeau** who committed the sin of arriving after the breakout sessions. \$1

Mike called out **Rich Laughton** as the "bionic man." Rich said it was true — he had a shoulder replaced, and now he can't go through a metal detector. Mike said he was originally going to fine Rich \$2 but then realized Rich only had one arm worked on so it would be just \$1. Rich countered that it was only half of one arm and so the fine should only be 50 cents to which Mike responded that the fine now was \$1.50.

Mike called on **Karen Sapio** to ask about her sabbatical. She said that she had already started it and that she had just returned from visiting family. Now she will spend some time in research and studies. \$1

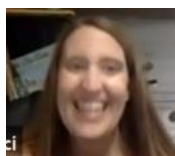
**Chris Hayes** was asked to tell us about her furry neighbors. Chris said that the bears love the hummingbird food and it has cost her six hummingbird feeders so far. (Hummingbears?) Showing no mercy, Mike fined her \$1.

Mike asked **Lee Goldman** about his green thumb. Mike said he heard that Lee was harvesting all forms of produce. Lee said it was true; he and his wife have gotten into sourcing their own food. He said that he had harvested some chilis that morning and was planning to make soup with them that night. \$1

**Sarah Jo Antonucci** was welcomed as a new management team member and then fined \$1 for it.

Mike said that while he greatly appreciates all of the excellent work **Buff Wright** puts into editing the Clarifier, he noticed the issue for last week had just made it under the wire minutes before the start of this meeting. \$1 (She tossed it back, hoping to be fired....)

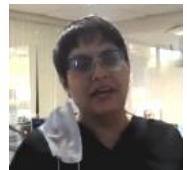
Mike called on **Susie Ilsley**. He said that he liked her comment in her email invites that say, "Come when you can, leave when you must." However, it seems that for Susie there



is a tag-line of "don't show up if you don't want to." It turns out Susie had arranged for the meeting at Nunos, but forgot that she had a previous commitment that couldn't be broken and so she didn't come to her own gathering. \$1

Mike said he was fining **Joe Atman** \$1 for plugging Middle Tree. Joe retorted by asking if Mike was in a closet. Mike explained that he was in a small storage room because it was the only place at work he could find that was quiet enough for the meeting. Mike raised Joe's fine to \$1.50 for his question. Later, Mike's lights went off for a second and the club decided Mike should be fined \$1.

Poor **Anna Torres** got the biggest fine of the day, \$3 just so she could talk about the program she had attended at the DoubleTree where scholarships had been awarded.



## BREAKOUT REPORTS continued from p. 2

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Mark sent us off to varying from 1000 to 1500 and will soon increase to 2500. The facility and project are Federal and technically the facility is a "detention center," but Joe has been there and the atmosphere and setting is very positive with no sense of detention. The children typically are relocated from the center to homes within about 15 days. Want to volunteer? Joe has routinely received conflicting feedback from the folks who are running the project. The federal team says that what they need is "trained" personnel for assistance, but the general situation is chaotic; getting any clarity is a challenge. No one person appears to be in position to make a decision. Joe will again reach out and tell the federal folks that our club would like to help. **Bernadette Kendall** asked if they need clothes and shoes. Joe said he has been told that those are being provided, but he will ask. **Anita Hughes** asked **Karen Sapio** to describe what her church has been doing; they purchased gift cards (e.g. Target, Walmart) and toiletries that will be useful for the children as

## GOTB, continued from page 1

sources which in turn leads to being six times more likely to become incarcerated themselves.

Get on the Bus (GOTB) is a unique program that focuses on uniting children with their parents in prison. Participation in the program has a positive effect on the child's well-being and they show an important increase in self-esteem. They have lower dropout and suspension rates, as well as increased parental involvement when the parents are released. GOTB believes every child has the right to see their parent, regardless of their history and current situation.

Once a year, GOTB holds an event for each institution in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day. Staff and volunteers assist with the application process. Free transportation to the institution is provided and free meals are provided for the day, including breakfast and lunch with their loved one and dinner. They also provide travel bags and photos with the parent. The parents write a letter to their child(ren) with the idea that it will be opened after the visit. Then the letter is coupled with a teddy bear as a gift for the children to remember the event. It becomes an incredibly special keepsake for the children; often it's the first gift they have received from the parent in months or even years. A post-event counseling session is provided for the kids; this is essential because there are instances where a child might not even know their own parents, so it has the potential to be a very emotional experience.

GOTB structures emotional bonding and fun activities like face painting during the visit. That way, they avoid potential awkwardness of just sitting there; everyone gets to have some fun during the visit. The visit also helps provide a chance to be "parented" by mom or dad. For example, they are served lunch by their parents. It is an amazing opportunity for emotional growth and helps establish or continue a relationship with their parent. The ability to be held by mom and dad, something a lot of us take for granted, can be extremely special for these children. It gives them the opportunity to feel an actual relationship with mom or dad.

You can see videos about the program of the [CRJW web-site](#). And [here](#).



"I got to see my mom today and I adore her. There is no one in the world I have like my Mom."  
— Chris, Age 11, GOTB Participant

How does GOTB do all this? Typically, the organization employs around 10 staff members. Normally they serve over 150 children a year, a monumental task for 10 people, so volunteers play an excellent role supplementing all the work that needs to be done. Sponsoring agencies provide additional support through donations. Liz thanked our Club for supporting their efforts. She suggested that other ways we can help include:

- Host a fundraising event
- Fieldwork (helping families with applications — done via video and phone calls)
- Program support -- helping to edit family videos, generating program fliers, assistance with social media posts
- Serve as a bus coordinator
- Chaperone a child

Chris Hayes-Shaner has helped with this program, and can provide more information about her experience. You can contact Liz at [lrrios@crjw.org](mailto:lrrios@crjw.org), phone 562-716-5782.

## Claremont Courier

A LOCAL NONPROFIT NEWSROOM

**Claremont Courier** Publisher and Rotarian **Peter Weinberger** will present a program to the Club September 10 about the changes in his organization as he transitions to non-profit status and improves on the Courier's online presence and impact. The Courier is an important source for local news and information and helps draw our community together. The *Courier's* content will be available online for non-paying customers for a while. [Check it out.](#)

Among other interesting articles, a recent edition included the obituary for [Percy and Stan Barnes](#), which provides some insight into long term Rotarian and Club PP Stan Barnes' life and interests.

Also on the Courier webpage is an article about the state of [COVID](#).

In April, the *Courier* cited **Tom Shelley's** ranger role at the Wilderness park when he and others successfully [rescued a dog](#). You can thus learn fine worthy highlights about our members ahead of Friday's meeting. The sergeants always welcome input from alert members!

Read more online about these and other stories about our fair city.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

July 23	Sustainable Claremont, Dir. Stuart Wood
July 30	Craft Talks: Beatrice Casagran & Steve Juliar
Aug 6	Community Banking, Muir Davis



**Mark Carson**

Claremont Rotary  
President

2021-2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Help end Polio by feeding the virtual pig.

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



**Bacon Bits**

Let's fill up the pig!



*Rotarian on Vacation: Blanca Aguilar in Puerto Rico*

### Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are always available on DACdb and [www.claremontRotary.org](http://www.claremontRotary.org)

### Join us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont)

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

### July Birthdays

Marc Winter 7/4  
Cameron Troxell 7/9  
Karen Sapio 7/12  
Carole Dorsey 7/18  
John Bifone 7/19  
Abe Esquibel, Felix Villanueva 7/24



*Notes by Harry Sparrow and Sean Harrison; Photos by Steve Schenck*

*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