

2019 - 2020

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Joan D'Onofrio: Editor  
Mary Kernitz: Correspondent  
Rich Lueck: Correspondent  
Clayton Worsdell: Photographer

## ROTARY DISTRICT 5160

Tina Aikens: District Governor  
Cheryl Wilson: Assistant DG

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julia Dawson Aguilar : President  
Vicki Sexton: President-elect  
Vicki Sexton: Treasurer  
Fred Nelson: Secretary  
Rob Waldman: Sergeant-at-Arms  
Irene Davids-Blair: Vocational  
Monica Fraga: New Generations  
Ken Nishimori: RI Foundation  
Clayton Worsdell & Bob Huck: Community Services  
Tommy Wolf: Membership  
Ewa Sobilo: International  
Barbara Reifschneider: Club Services

## CHARITABLE BOARD

Chris Ruzicka: President  
Vicki Sexton: Vice President  
Steve Weir: Secretary  
Renee Rushworth: Treasurer

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Miles Bell: Program Chair  
John Wenzel: Webmaster  
Bill Kinsey: Public Relations Chair  
Bill Selb: Pancake Breakfast Chair  
Rich Lueck: Cars2ndChance

## CONTENTS

Call to Order  
Thought of the Day  
Guests  
Club Announcements / News  
Milestones  
International News  
Happy Bucks  
Service Above Self  
Guest Speaker  
The Gallery

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

4/14 Board Meeting 7 AM  
Buttercup Restaurant  
4/13 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM  
US Bank



# INSPIRING WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**International Women's Day** has a rich history dating back 108 years — the first glimpse of it was in 1909 when 15,000 women from the Socialist Party of America protested long work hours, low pay, and the lack of voting rights in New York City. Today International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year around the world and is a focal point in the movement for [women's rights](#). The [United Nations](#) began celebrating the day in 1977. In fact, Rotary International embraced this day and for clubs around the world, March 8, is a day worth remembering if only to celebrate the admission of women into Rotary in 1987.

The following members have served in many capacities in our Club and all have an impressive collection of skills and accomplishments:

**EWA SOBILO** was the first female member of our Club when she joined



in 1993. In 2003 she resigned to raise her children. During her tenure at the Club, she became the Group Study Exchange team leader for Japan, a member of the Paul Harris Society, and member of the Concord Ambassadors Sister City Organization. As a child, Ewa lived in Gdansk, Poland, the home town of the Polish Solidarity movement. Together, with her twin brother and parents, they lived in Mumbai, India and then moved to the United States. After graduation from the University of Illinois she worked for the Toyota Motor Company in Japan. Ewa and her husband are owners of the Moose Metal Company that specializes in metal sales and fabrication. Ewa returned to our Club on July 26, 2018, is the Treasurer-elect for the 2020/2021 term and lives in Concord.

**BARBARA REIFSCHNEIDER** joined Rotary on February 1, 2001, and was instrumental in



becoming our Club's first female President for the 2009/2010 term. Barbara was **Rotarian of the year** in 2007 and is a Paul Harris Fellow. After a lengthy career with Pacific Bell, she retired and joined Trader Joes's where she has worked for the past 14 years. Barbara grew up in San Mateo, and she and her husband, Mark, have lived in their Concord home for the past 29 years.

**IRENE DAVIDS-BLAIR** joined our club on January 25, 2008, and, three years later, she became



**Rotarian of the Year**. It wasn't long thereafter when she became President of the 2014/2015 term. Irene's presidential year also saw the club achieve the coveted title of "The Cliff Dochterman Spirit of Rotary Award," which is an outstanding honor, considering that the 71 clubs in our district were all vying for that award. She is a member of the Paul Harris Society, a major donor, and her husband, Max, is a Paul Harris Fellow. Irene is the manager of US Bank in Concord where she has served for 21 years. She is originally from Durban, South Africa.

**JULIA DAWSON** joined Rotary on February 1, 2001, and is our current President, and in 2015



she was **Rotarian of the Year**. Julia had a long career in the corporate world where she was responsible for a plethora of occupations. She is now the owner of MelodyMusicStudios where she teaches voice, piano, guitar, and flute to students, their families, clergy, parishioners and served as a choir and band director, and liturgical minister for many years. She is currently lamenting the loss of her mother, who was an artist. Julia is a lover of the arts, her son Jordan, her pets, and is a 5th generation California-born native: Irish-English, German-French, Scottish Welsh, Russian, and resides in Clayton.

**VICKI SEXTON** joined our club on August 5, 2017, after being a member of the Brentwood



Rotary Club for eight years where she served as their Treasurer. Vicki is a Paul Harris Fellow and is our President-elect for the 2020/2021 term. She currently serves as our Treasurer, a role she is well suited for as banking was her calling. As a member of the Brentwood club, she was **Rotarian of the Year** during Mike Crosby's term as President. In 2016, Vicki retired from banking after 46-years-of-service, eight of which were, with the First Bank in Brentwood. Currently she is a volunteer at the American Cancer Society's Discovery Store, Mobility Matters, and the Leshner Center of the Arts. Born and raised in Castro Valley, she has four children, nine grandchildren and resides in Clayton

**MARY KEMNITZ** joined our club on June 4, 2015. She became the 2018 **Rotarian of the Year**, has served on the Board of Directors and the Charitable Fund, and is a member of the Paul Harris Society. For 14 years, she worked at Merritt Hospital in Oakland and East Bay Medical Imaging Billing Company prior to D&H. Mary was President of the state-wide Automotive Service Councils of California. She and her husband, Dave, are the owners of D&H Enterprises, and, together, they established the Cars 2nd Chance fundraising program that not only adds copious funds to our treasury, but also donated over 60 motor vehicles, campers, and vans to the victims of the recent Paradise fires. Mary is the operations manager of their company. She and Dave are originally from Renville, Minnesota and live in Concord.



**JOAN D'ONOFRIO** became a member in 2014, and one year later took on the Editorial duties of this newsletter: The Valley Sunrise. She is a Paul Harris Fellow, was recently appointed Commissioner of the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County, and is the Founder of the Michelangelo D'Onofrio Arts Foundation that provides art awards and scholarships for students in our local public high schools. She retired from a 35-year-career as an executive in legal and educational publishing and is in her twelfth year of service at H&R Block. Joan lived in New York and Minnesota before settling in Concord.



**MONICA FRAGA** became a member on October 20, 2011, is a Paul Harris Fellow and was the 2015 **Rotarian of the Year**. She served on the Board of Directors for many terms, and is currently serving as the Youth Services Director. Monica will be the President-elect for the 2021/2022 term. She has been the owner of Travel To Go for the past 10 years where she not only has the opportunity to indulge her passion for traveling and creating memories, but she makes that available for her clients, her friends, and her family. She enjoys raising her children with husband, Matt of 19 years, was born, raised, and lives in Clayton.



**RENEE RUSHWORTH** joined Rotary January 4, 2018, and serves as Treasurer of the Charitable Fund. In 2019 she was **Rotarian of the Year**. She has a bookkeeping business called Rushworth Bookkeeping Services where she has serviced various small businesses since 2004. She grew up locally and met her husband of 33 years in Concord. They later moved to Napa and raised four children before returning to the Concord area. Renee and her family will be moving to Arizona this summer and will rejoin a Rotary chapter after she settles in.



**CARRIE KROEGER** joined Rotary on September 29, 2011, and for many years she served as the Treasurer of the Charitable Fund. Carrie is the owner of Kroeger & Associates where she provides bookkeeping and tax services. Her dad was the late Art Kroeger who served as President of our club during the 1996/1997 term. Carrie lives in Concord



**LISA TRUESDELL**

**LISA TRUESDELL** joined Rotary August 1, 2006. She served as Membership Director on the Board and was a member of the Charitable Fund. Lisa is the owner of the State Farm Insurance Company in Clayton where she also lives.





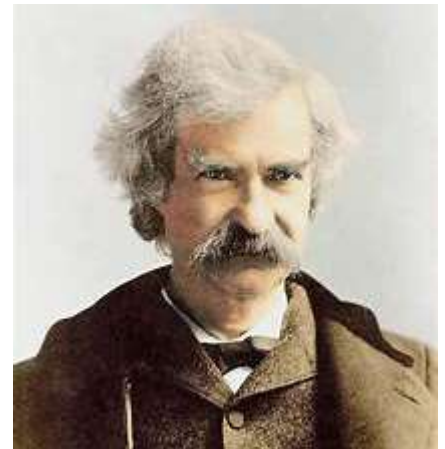
# “WILL THE MEETING PLEASE COME TO ORDER”



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY: *Fred Nelson*



Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile. Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.—Mark Twain.



## TODAY'S GUEST & SPEAKER



**LESLIE GLEASON**  
Trinity Center  
Executive Director

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## RAMIFICATIONS OF CORONAVIRUS

**District Governor Tina Akins** announced ramifications brought on by the Coronavirus situation regarding upcoming events around the district:

**The District Assemblies scheduled on March 21 in Red Bluff and April 4 in Fairfield will NOT take place.** District Trainer Claire Roberts is working with the presenters scheduled to speak at the Assemblies to create ways to share the content of their presentations in a different way. We are considering webinars or Zoom calls, for example. Please watch for additional info as these plans are developed.

**The Redding Passport to Adventure District Conference, May 1-3, has been cancelled/postponed.** The District Governor Line is working hard to figure out what's next. When can we have a conference? How do we structure it to insure a wonderful experience? Stay tuned for details as we put the pieces of the puzzle together.

These decisions were made by the current 5160 past District Governors. They all face the challenge of a daily response to the uncertainty about the Coronavirus pandemic. These decisions were NOT made lightly. The primary concern is the health and safety of **all**: you, your families, and the communities in which these events would have been held.

Governor Tina said: "I want to thank each of you who sent in comments. Your thoughts are appreciated. And a big thank you goes to the past District Governors' advisory committee, who continues to offer their advice and support. For a list of clubs and recent decisions re club meetings and events, see the *EVENT UPDATE LIST* on our district website. Got changes? Send them to me ASAP."

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE** is officially cancelled, however the party will still take place and everyone is still welcome to join in. It is at **President Julia Dawson's** house tonight, March 13, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Corned Beef and Cabbage and Bailey's Irish Cream Cake is on the menu at 440 Grenache Circle, Clayton at 6 pm.

## HOME TEAM

**HOME TEAM** is cancelled. It was decided that going into people's homes at this point in time wasn't a wise move.

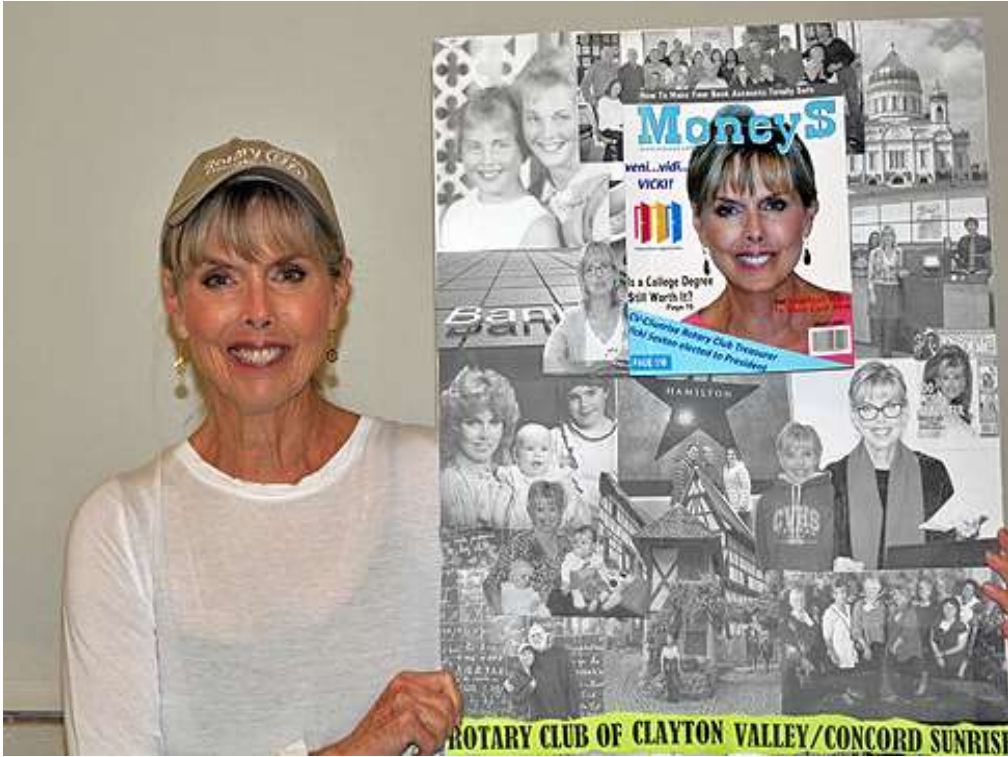
## ADOPT-A-STREET

**ADOPT-A-STREET** hasn't been cancelled yet, but stay tuned.



# HAPPY BUCKS

Check out **Vicki Sexton** and her PETS personal poster. Vicki tells us that her poster was the best one at the PETS training seminar. Thanks to Photoshop guru, **Clayton Worsdell**, his creation of the Money cover was brilliant. **Julia Dawson** downloaded the photos from Facebook and **Joan D'Onofrio** created the collage.



Check out fashion plate, **Torsten Jacobsen's**, hot-off-the-runway Coronavirus new look. We're told the headgear and gloves will be in stores one of these days. When? Go figure.



**Miles Bell** was happy to announce that he is a grandfather for the second time. His daughter gave birth to 5 lbs. 12 oz. **Ryan Anthony** last week. Now he has a boy and a girl and looks forward to teaching them how to golf. Mazel tov.



# TODAY'S SPEAKERS



**Program Chair Miles Bell** introduced today's speaker, **Leslie Gleason**, who is the Executive Director of the **Trinity Center**. Leslie told us how Trinity Center serves people who are homeless and experiencing poverty by offering a safe place off the streets. Their vision is to provide care for homeless people with compassion and provide a place of safety, friendship, and dignity. In essence, a place where everyone has the opportunity for abundant life; a place where everyone knows your name!

Trinity Center is the doorway to opportunity for the homeless and the working poor. They give care and hope to each one seeking help through supported access to services and resources. Trinity Center offers a Safety Net of Basic Human Services, including:

- Breakfast & hot lunch
- Showers, Laundry, Clothing
- Mail and Telephone Access
- Case Management & Referral Services
- Substance Use, Mental Health & Support Groups
- Help with benefit applications



Everyone is invited to participate in their mission either through a cash donation or as a volunteer at their Center. Contact them at: [info@trinitycenterwc.org](mailto:info@trinitycenterwc.org).

**Executive Director! Leslie Gleason** has 30 years of leadership experience in homeless service programs, building community collaboration, and developing strong teams in community-based organizations and government agencies. Leslie graduated from Yale University, holds a Master of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School and completed graduate-level coursework in public policy at the University of Massachusetts. Leslie is grateful to be part of this community that is committed to helping people *meet their basic needs and reach for their dreams*.



## ***Literacy Program***

**Leslie** signed this week's book that will be donated to the Clayton Public Library in honor of our Literacy Program. She said: "reading is fundamental."

# THE GALLERY



Check out that moon! Clayton  
does it again.



# ALWAYS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING

## Three Little Pigs

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read, "And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'"

The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think the man said?"

Little Johnny raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly, "I think the man would have said: 'Well, I'll be damned!! A talking pig!'"

## I Hate School

A mother repeatedly called upstairs for her son to get up, get dressed and get ready for school. It was a familiar routine, especially at exam time.

"I feel sick," said the voice from the bedroom.

"You are not sick. Get up and get ready," called the mother, walking up the stairs and hovering outside the bedroom door.

"I hate school and I'm not going," said the voice from the bedroom, "I'm always getting things wrong, making mistakes and getting told off. Nobody likes me, and I've got no friends. And we have too many tests and they are too confusing. It's all just pointless, and I'm not going to school ever again."

"I'm sorry, but you are going to school," said the mother through the door, continuing encouragingly, "Really, mistakes are how we learn and develop. And please try not to take criticism so personally. And I can't believe that nobody likes you – you have lots of friends at school. And yes, all those tests can be confusing, but we are all tested in many ways throughout our lives, so all of this experience at school is useful for life in general. "

"Besides, you have to go, you are the principal."

I

III

*...and that's all folks.*