

2021 - 2022

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Joan D'Onofrio: Editor
Clayton Worsdell: Photographer
Mary Kemnitz
Rich Lueck
Barbara Reifschneider
Bill Selb

ROTARY DISTRICT 5160

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Dess Benedetto: Assistant DG

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Monica Fraga: President
Mary Kemnitz: President-elect
Vicki Sexton: Treasurer
Joan D'Onofrio: Secretary
Bob Sundberg: Sergeant-at-Arms
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Tommy Wolf: New Generations
Ken Nishimori: RI Foundation
Ben Wentling: Community Services
Tommy Wolf: Membership
Larry Hutchings: International
Barbara Reifschneider: Club Services

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Mary Kemnitz: Vice Chair
Vicki Sexton: Treasurer
Steve Weir: Secretary
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Bob Sundberg
John Wenzel
Hugh Toloui

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

8/11/21 Board Meeting 7 AM
Zoom
9/13/21 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM
Zoom



MEET THE 2021 ROTARIANS OF THE YEAR



PROMO DEMO JULY 31, 2021

Meet the Fab Four who are this year's Rotarians of the Year. Clayton Worsdell, 12-year member, is staff photographer; Joan D'Onofrio, 7-year member, is the newsletter Editor and Board Secretary; Ken Nishimori, 41-year member, is the Rotary Foundation Chair; and Larry Hutchings, 30-year member, is President of the Charitable Fund.

(Continued on pages 7)

“The 6th zoom meeting will now come to order.”



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: *Mary Kemnitz*



***“You’ll be surprised how many times
you have to cross the same river.”***

THE FOUR-WAY TEST: *Herb Muyinga*

Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRENDSHIP?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



GUESTS



HERBERT MUYINGA
Past DG
Rotary Club of Muyenga, Uganda



DEB LUYIIMA
International Services



PAT FLAHARTY
Lamorinda Rotary
Membership Chair

TODAY'S SPEAKER

PAT FLAHARTY

Program Chair Miles Bell introduced us to the Membership Chair of the Lamorinda Rotary, **Pat Flaharty**, who spoke to us about how to increase club membership. He outlined several formulas his club follows to gain the attention of people of all ages; thereby, encouraging interest in what Rotary is all about, what it does, and how they can increase memberships.

Among some of the suggestions he discussed—all of which they do in the Lamorinda Club—are the following:

- create a survey to find out what members want
- create and distribute a club brochure
- include club information quizzes in their bulletin
- hold social meetings one evening at the end of the month
- get members to speak about their occupations
- invite people to attend and speak at a meeting from ads received in the mail
- contact former members to find out why they stopped attending
- provide babysitting at weekly meetings
- get involved with the local Chamber of Commerce and Toastmasters
- hold 'good character' awards

Pat described the Membership Binder that contains all the practices their club follows, and he will send a copy of the Survey they composed and distributed for us to follow. He will also send a copy of the Membership Binder.

To contact Pat: patflaharty@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

PAT FLAHARTY is a native of the San Franciscan West Portal District and graduate of San Francisco State University. He is an Independent insurance broker specializing in employee benefit plans for businesses, life, medical, disability, and retirement planning. Pat is a 28-year-member of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise having joined on September 24, 1993. He served as President in 2008 and is currently the Membership Chair. Despite his busy schedule, he still finds time to devote to his hobbies that include: hiking, backpacking, sailing, swimming, cooking, and baking.



ANNOUNCEMENT QUICKIES

CORRECTION: Orinda Car Show

Your editor misspoke—or is it miswrote—about the C2C booth at the 9/11 Orinda Car Show. Your editor wrote that it was for the District Conference. It wasn't—although there will be a booth at that event as well—it was for the car show in Orinda.



BACKPACK UPDATE

Rich Lueck reports that he delivered 30 Backpacks for Rotary to the Cornerstone Campus Sunday. **Cynthia Altamirano** extended her deep thanks and said they reached their backpack goal. Thanks to all who contributed and especially to Rich.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

President Monica reminded us to be sure and register for the October 29 - 31 District Conference that will take place at Squaw Creek. It promises to be a fun weekend. So far, Monica, Mary and Dave, Barbara, Bob Sundberg, and Irene, will be attending.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Services Chair Ben Wentling reported that the Home Team will be up and running as will the Adopt-A-Street program. He will have dates soon.

Supervisor Karen Mitchoff reported that health officials of the Contra Costa Health Services Bay Area issued orders requiring masks indoors in public places *taking effect* Tuesday, August 3rd at 12:01 a.m. The new Health Orders require individuals entering businesses, to implement the indoor face covering orders and are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health. For more information visit: cchealth.org/coronavirus or call Health Services Media Line, 925-608-5463.



MILESTONES: *Length of Service*



Vicki Sexton is now officially a Past President having served for the 2020-2021 term as our very accomplished President. She is an 11-year Rotarian who joined our club in 2017 and was a member of the Brentwood Rotary for seven years. She is a Paul Harris Fellow and has and is still serving as our Treasurer.

Lisa Truesdell became a Rotarian on August 2006 that makes her a 15-year member. You may remember that Lisa is the owner of State Farm Insurance whose parking lot our Community Services groups gather in for coffee, doughnuts, and service instructions.



UGANDA: Update

Uganda Pediatric Clinic

Herbert and Deb sent this photo of the signage that will be added to the building upon completion. Meanwhile the work continues.

As of July 22



This is the signage that will be added when job is completed.



The sign on the left will be dedicated to Hugh and Flor's parents and our Rotary Club.

HAPPY BUCKS

COMPILED BY BARBARA REIFSCHNEIDER

THE 2021 ROTARIANS OF THE YEAR AWARD: THE FAB FOUR



Joan D'Onofrio gave 40 happy bucks that turned out to be 10 bucks each for the four recently awarded Rotarians of the Year. She was thrilled to be honored along with Larry, Ken, and Clayton.

Larry Hutchings is five bucks happy for Torsten and Tineke hosting the Promo Demo party and for making Dennis an Honorary Rotarian.

Ken Nishimori is five bucks happy for being one of the four Rotarians of the Year. Ken said it was a very nice honor.

Clayton Worsdell had five happy bucks for being able to join the other three Rotarians of the Year. So its official, we can now refer to them as the Fab Four.

Tommy Wolf gave a happy 10 bucks. Tommy is happy that his two days seminar went well. After all that work now he's heading to San Diego for his father-in-law's retirement party. He told me that he is also pretty happy about being able to stay in the same hotel that he and Vanessa stayed in when they got married. Tommy was also happy that he and Vanessa finally hired some extra needed help.



Monica Fraga sadly had a grumpy buck for Riches untimely accident. If that wasn't enough, she apparently got in a scuffle with Kaiser over not being able to get an appointment for an MRI soon enough. In the end she got her appointment and now we just wait to find out the dilemma. As you recall, Richie was supposed go to Texas very soon.



Hugh Toloui gave a happy 10 bucks because his friend in Sierra Leone told him that the students they support from high school to college who had all their computers stolen are happy to report that the computers have been replaced. He also is happy to tell us that the orphanage he supports in Nepal is providing food packages to very grateful people.



Torsten Jacobsen had a happy 10 bucks for the beautiful Promo Demo party held at his house. He also announced that he held a family gathering on the lawn the very next day.

PROMO DEMO 7/31/2021

THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Past President **Irene Davids-Blair** introduced the **Promotion** of **Monica Fraga**, the new President, and the **Demotion** of President **Vicki Sexton**. That got the Hawaiian-themed party off to a great start. Besides the food and fun, members were honored for their work and dedication to Rotary. We are a small club doing big things. Here are the highlights of the event.



THE PROMO

THE DEMO

THE MAJOR DONOR AWARD: *Steve Weir*

On behalf of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, we are honoring long-time Rotarian and generous contributor to The Rotary Foundation, Steve Weir, by presenting him with the Major Donor recognition award. Today, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, past-presidents, and our Club members have the honor of expressing our appreciation to Steve for the substantial contribution he made toward the goal of international understanding and peace. In doing so, he has shown his support for the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation that make a difference in the lives of others. Steve is among a dedicated group of humanitarians who have committed themselves to helping others less fortunate. Contributions like his enable the Rotary Foundation to carry out an array of programs through Rotarians and Rotary clubs around the world that include:

- Improve living conditions for needy families.
- Increase food production and clean water programs.
- Provide classrooms and educational materials for schools.
- Alay the suffering of the sick and disabled by providing immunization, medical treatment, and rehabilitation.

Steve was presented the Major Donor pin and the Major Donor crystal that's engraved with his name and depicts doves bearing olive branches, which is the universal symbol of peace.



THE FOUR WAY TEST AWARD MARY KEMNITZ, BARB REIFSCHNEIDER & STEVE WEIR



ABOVE & BEYOND SERVICE AWARD BILL SELB, RICH LUECK & BOB SUNDBERG



HUMANITARIAN AWARD HUGH TOLOUI & TORSTEN JACOBSEN



NEW HONORARY MEMBERS: *Performance behind the scenes.*



HONORARY MEMBER DENNIS CLARK has long been a proud Rotarian of his spouse, **Larry Hutchings** and has been operating behind the scenes for many years. Dennis was born in Monterey, attended college in San Jose, worked as a legal secretary for several small law firms, and eventually moved to San Francisco where he became the administrator for the Kirschenbaum Law Corporation. He has been active for over 30 years as an officer and director in the San Francisco Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. He encouraged Larry to go to Peru and dedicate our club's first international grant project. He also helped hosting Russian bakery managers for several years as part of our Club's leading role in the State Department's Professional Enhancement Program. Dennis serves and supports many of our Club's programs but is especially dedicated to the Cars 2nd Chance program where he prepares and sends all thank you letters and correspondence to the car donors, prepares the IRS forms that must be provided to all donors, and updates the data base which includes a minutia of information that generates the spreadsheets accessed by the C2C Team.

HONORARY MEMBER LOIS NELSON was **Fred Nelson's** spouse who was known to all of us at our Club as Mr. Rotary. Fred was the Board Secretary for as long as anyone can remember who kept track of everything and always had the answers to problems no matter what they were. As a Rotarian for 33 years, Fred was the go-to-person and always the guy everyone could count on. He was a Paul Harris Fellow, President in 1993-1994, and Rotarian of the Year in 1989, 2008, and 2011. Fred earned a Bachelor's Degree in Theology, served as a Youth Director in Omaha for five years before moving to Walnut Creek where he worked at Trinity Lutheran Church. He became part of the Concord business community when he and Lois established the Nelson Press & Graphics Company that won many awards from the Concord Chamber of Commerce throughout the years.

HONORARY MEMBER RUTH OWEN was **Owen Murray's** wife who was a Paul Harris Fellow and a member of our Club for 31 years. Owen earned an Associates of Arts degree at Diablo Valley College; a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Economics at St. Mary's College; a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at JFK University School of Law, served in the Strategic Air Command and worked for Pacific Telephone Company. After returning to law school and passing the California State Bar, he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and had the distinction of serving on an all-attorney jury that was the only time in the history of American jurisprudence that a jury was composed entirely of practicing attorneys. In 1998, he and Ruth they began home-hosting Russian businessmen and were devoted to aiding in the democratization and economic development of Russia.

HONORARY MEMBER CAROL WOLFE was John Irvin Wolfe's wife who was a member for 27 years where he served for many years as Program Director. He was Rotarian of the Year in 1994 and again in 2016. Thanks to his dedication to Rotary, John made sure his wife Carol, daughter Wendy, and son Bruce were Paul Harris Fellows. In fact, shortly before his unexpected death he enrolled his granddaughters Analiese and Ariella into the fellowship making them a true Paul Harris family. He earned a bachelor's degree in Geography from UCLA and an MBA in Taxation from Golden Gate University. He served in the United States Air Force and worked as a tax compliance manager for Pacific Bell in San Francisco. When he retired, he served 11 years as the Executive Vice-President of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER: *Susie Lim*

Susie is now an official member of our Rotary. Here she is receiving the red badge from her sponsor Vicki Sexton. Susie and Vicki work as volunteers at the Discovery store in Walnut Creek. We will learn more about Susie when she presents her five minute bio at next week's meeting.



AND NOW, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY



PAST PRESIDENT IRENE DAVIDS-BLAIR GETS THE FESTIVITIES STARTED



Let's pretend we're on zoom.



THEIR SPIRIT WAS WITH US

THE GALLERY



An orange sunrise indicates that smoke is in the air. This photo was taken by Barbara Reifschneider while she was on her early morning hike.

“ALWAYS LEAVE ‘EM LAUGHING”

Compiled and Edited by Bill Selb



RED LIGHTS

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car. Both could barely see over the dashboard. Cruising along, they came to an intersection. The stoplight was red, but they just went on through. The woman in the passenger seat thought, “I must be losing my mind. I swear we just went through a red light.”

A few minutes later, they came to another intersection, and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. This time, the woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was mistaken. She was getting nervous and decided to pay very close attention to the next intersection to see what was going on.

At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was definitely red, and yet they went right through. She turned to the woman driving and said, “Mildred! Did you know we just ran through three red lights in a row! You could have killed us!”

Mildred turned to her and said, “Oh, am I driving?”

THREE STRIKES

A farmer and his brand new wife were riding home from the chapel in a wagon pulled by a team of horses, when the older horse stumbled.

The farmer said, "That's once."

A little farther down the road the poor old horse stumbled again. The farmer said, "That's twice."

A little while later the horse stumbled yet again. The farmer didn't say anything, but reached under the seat, pulled out a shotgun and shot the horse.

His brand-new wife yelled, telling him, "That was an awful thing to do."

The farmer responded, "That's once."

. . . That's all folks.

