



the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 1 | January 3, 2020

Program: Craft Talk: Francis Limbe

submitted by Lark Gerry



Introducing **Francis Limbe** for his craft talk, **Ron Coleman** noted that he often talks with folks about Rotary. Francis' company did contract cleaning at Ron's office, and Ron started talking to him one day about Rotary. He discovered that Francis was also a Rotarian, but at the far-away Rotary Club of New York, celebrating its 110th year as NY7 (the 7th club established in Rotary International.) Ron invited him to consider transferring to our Club, a shorter commute, and he did!



Francis is from the Republic of South Sudan in Northeast Africa, which gained its independence in 2011. Apologizing for being late to our meeting, Francis said it brought back a childhood memory of being late for class. As a child in elementary school, anyone from Africa

beating, so, one day as he was late, he saw his very tall teacher awaiting him. Quickly thinking up a good story why he should be excused for his tardiness, Francis said that he could not get his shoes because his parents were having a domestic quarrel inside his house that prevented him from going back in. The story worked and he escaped the dreaded beating!

Francis' home town is Juba in South Sudan. In 1989, due to war, his family moved to the northern part of Sudan. He moved again to Egypt to attend the University of Cairo for his undergraduate and graduate studies in Business and Finance Risk Management. In 2000, he became a leader in the South Sudanese Graduates in Cairo to support refugee status for South Sudanese students. Believing in the saying "where there is life, there is hope," he and his wife Estarina started a family while living in Egypt. At a time when the Egyptian government and its people became more vocally hostile to the Sudanese presence, life became very dangerous, with arrest of foreigners made in the streets for human organ trafficking, also known as Tropical Trade. The circumstances for raising a family were not only challenging, but

knows that teachers will punish students late to class with a

Continued on page 4

NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

Our club continues to grow! We congratulate **Vadim Shtil**, **Sarah Jo Antonucci**, and **Patrick Tambe** who were inducted as our newest members. Vadim joined as Sarah Jo's spouse, and Patrick as Jerry Tambe's son under our family membership policy.

Please take some time to introduce yourself to them and help them become acquainted with the work you are doing on behalf of our club.



L-R : Susie Ilsley, **Vadim**, **Sarah Jo**, **Patrick**, Jerry Tambe, Cameron Troxell, and John Tulac.

CLAREMONT ROTARY: THE MEETING

submitted by Felix Villanueva

President **Cameron Troxell** rang the bell. Songleader **Chris Shaner** launched "Smile," **John Howland** led the pledge. Chris then led us in singing "God Bless America." We had the privilege of hearing two moments of inspiration. The first, presented by **John Tulac**, invited us to reflect upon what is really important in life. (Read more on page 3) The second, by **John Howland**, taught us how the New Year has not always been celebrated on January 1st. It's almost random!



WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Lark Gerry led the introduction of guests.

Honorary Member **Lee Goldstein** introduced his nephew, John LeDell, a college professor who is interested in learning more about Rotary.

Harry Sparrow introduced his wife, Suzanne.

Barbara Troxell introduced her brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Olya Hart from Cincinnati.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Our next regular meeting is January 10th.

Think about helping with **CHAP** and the **City of Claremont's Nutrition Program**. **Anita Hughes** sent out information. There are volunteer opportunities to serve lunch and to provide administrative help with the shelter.



The 40th **Together We Prepare** is coming February 19, 20, and 21. **Lee Goldstein** was one of the founders, as were **Rich Laughton** and **Jerry Tambe**. Sign up sheets will be on the tables or you can sign up by contacting Rich. Rich explained that days one and two require simple crowd control as the kids learn about natural disaster response and bandaging. Friday's volunteers will help students with CPR for infants and adults. CPR training will be provided. The committee will get together after the January 10 meeting.



Bill's Bikes for Kids was a great success. Thanks to all who participated. Cameron noted that Bill Gruber's widow was at the event, and we presented her with his Presidential Badge.

Rotary World Peace Conference is January 17-18, in Ontario. There will be over 150 local and international experts to share solutions that work. Six plenary sessions and two special dinners will include world-changing speakers. Make your plan and [register](#) today.



ELECTION RESULTS

Immediate Past President **Ron Coleman** started in the usual way: "A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says 'Hay!' The horse says 'sure!' Plunging into the business at hand, Ron reported that he was not ready to announce new president elect, elect, elect. If ultimately not successful, Mark Carson will serve another sentence, er, term. (Har Har Har,...wait, was that not a joke?)

Ron announced that Susie Ilsley and Gerry Goldman had been elected as Directors. They were congratulated with NY whistles. Their 3 year terms begin July 1.



SERGEANT

Sergeant Harry Sparrow distributed new year whistles for all to blow along with the new year theme.

Arman Ariane manned the pig, likely because he didn't want to be fined for having his phone go off during the meeting.

Everyone who stayed up til midnight on New Year's Eve was fined for not acting their age.

Harry presented 2020 glasses to Optometrist **Anna Torres** and a fine for a year of free advertisement for perfect vision.

Buff Wright was fined in advance of her impending presidency and adorned with a lit up new year tiara. (She thinks Cameron would have looked great in it.)

Harry asked **Ron Coleman**, "What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on NYE." Ron got it right, "She got 12 months." (Like it was out of Ron's own play-book.) And "What is a new year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other."

Anita was not fined for her daughter Kelly's [article](#) in the Courier about her father on the 30th anniversary of his death. He was a great citizen and a fine Rotarian in our Club. Wouldn't it be interesting if we all knew more about the people for whom buildings in Claremont are named?

Tom Shelley was fined for numerous quotes in the Courier [article](#) about new bike repair station

Harry wanted to fine **Cameron** just because — but now can fine him for working on the Lion's Club float. (See page 4)

We will actively fine new members til they're blue in the badge, and for now, Harry fined **Lucinda**, the most recent blue badge recipient.

Harry touted his first anniversary that will happen this year. He wrapped with, "I don't know about you but I can't wait til NY day 2021, when I'll be able to say hindsight is 2020."



Inspiration of the Day *submitted by John Tulac*



One day a very wealthy father took his son on a trip to the country for the sole purpose of showing his son how it was to be poor. They spent a few days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

After their return from the trip, the father asked his son how he liked the trip. "It was great, Dad," the son replied. "Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the

stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others."

"We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "It showed me just how poor we really are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Sometimes it takes the perspective of a child to remind us what's important.

Limbe Craft Talk, cont'd

also presented existential threats. Fortunately, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) came



to their rescue after granting refugee status. Approximately 200 Sudanese graduate students were granted refugee status and allowed to immigrate to various countries such as the United States.

Today, Francis and Estarina are parents of four children, all are proud U.S. citizens and are fully abiding by the laws of the country and the obligations of good citizenship. He works hard to ensure that his kids and will be able to get a college education and opportunities for professional careers. His eldest, a daughter, is a

senior at the University of Iowa with a major in Medical Anthropology. His second born, a son, is a junior at University of California. Francis studied and loved the field of Insurance. It was his first job in the United States, however, he soon learned that he was not meant to work in an office on commission, awaiting phone calls. He worked at a printing press company until 2008 when the economy tanked and the business closed. Francis decided to be an independent contractor by opening KK Cleaning & Building Maintenance, which is operating to this day.

While living in Egypt, he lived only 7 miles from the Pyra-

mids. Francis shared the fact that Egypt has a population of almost 99,500,000 million most of whom live well below the poverty level. For example, near Cairo International Airport, a 15'x10' house would be inhabited by four families and their children. Francis and Estarina decided to help however they could, supplying household goods, sewing machines for the women, clothes for the kids, and establishing classrooms for children to learn basic education in an apartment rented by Francis and Estarina. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees became aware of children's plight and stepped in to relocate these refugees to a better life. Some now live in Australia and are doing very well.

Francis believes in service and education. He is currently working on developing software for teaching the Bari language, a language that is spoken by only 500,000 people as a first language, mostly in South Sudan, to preserve it for future education of children of the Bari tribe.



He has tremendous respect for Rotary International, the effort to end polio, bring peace, and put smiles on the faces of millions of children across the world.

We look forward to getting to know Francis better!

Rotary International Rose Parade Float: Hope Connects the World

President Cameron Troxell and guest Olya Hart, talked about their experience as volunteers in building the 2020 Rose Rotary Parade Float. Tom Shelley also participated. (They also helped with the Lion's Club float, building good will and better friendships!) The float won the Volunteer Trophy for most outstanding floral presentation of the Rose Parade Theme for a float 35 feet tall and under in length.

PDG **Randy Pote** has been elected as the Chair of the 2021 Rotary Rose Parade Float.

If you'd like to volunteer next year, remember that Cameron is a pro now.



Cameron risks his life for the Lion's Club float, built by the same company as the Rotary Float



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



Cameron Troxell
Claremont Rotary
President
2019-2020



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Jan 10	Mid-Year Assembly
Jan 11	Rotary Leadership Institute—Las Vegas (
Jan 17	Keeping Local News Alive, Peter Weinberger
Jan 17-18	International Peace Conference-Ontario
Jan 24	Pilgrim Place, Ron Bolding, CEO

Photo of the Week



New Year's Day 2020

Photo by Steve Schenck



I helped out on the Rotary Rose Parade Float!

It honored the Polio Pig?

Maybe next year...We're THIS close.... (Keep giving!)



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!



Sergeants committee meets every Friday at 11:30 AM in the Orchard Lounge at the DoubleTree Hotel and anyone with information to share is welcome!!

Clarifier Committee

- Bill Burrows
- Mike DeWees
- Lark Gerry
- Bobby Hyde
- Jim Lehman
- Steve Schenck
- Chris 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

January Birthdays

- Frank Hungerford 1/16
- Anita Boling 1/17
- Butch Henderson 1/21
- Chuck Cable 1/22



Notes: Felix Villanueva (meeting), Lark Gerry (program). Photos: Steve Schenck
The Claremont Rotary Club meets at the Claremont DoubleTree on Foothill at 12:10pm

