

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 91 | Week 49 | December 7, 2019

## Bill's Bikes For Kids — The Buildathon!

*Submitted by Jim Lehman*

The overnight rain took a break, and Tom Shelley's driveway was adorned with pop-ups and tarps to keep the rain-soaked trees from dripping down our necks as we gathered to unpack and assemble bicycles for the latest iteration of Bill's Bikes for Kids at 8 am on Saturday morning, December 7th. Twenty-five or so Interact students brought their energy and enthusiasm, another twenty-five or so members of the Claremont Senior Bike Group (CSBG) brought their tools, bike stands and

expertise, and twenty-five or so Rotarians filled out the roster of happy elves eager to build presents for kids at our local schools. It was a community project!

Boxes were ripped open, wheels and handlebar units zip-tied to frames were liberated, and pedals were freed from their plastic wrapping. Wrenches, screwdrivers, and



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## 2019 Holiday Party

**Submitted with Thanks by President Cameron Troxell**

Saturday night our club came together and helped create a wonderful holiday event. A lot of work went into it beforehand, courtesy of our Holiday Party committee (Anita Boling, Anita Hughes, Susie Ilsley, Buff Wright, Frank Bedoya, John Tulac, Zoe TeBeau, Barbara Troxell, Pat Hauducoeur, Ron Coleman, and anyone else I forgot to include). The committee put in many hours of planning, plus decorating the room and tables earlier in the day. Party Chair Anita Boling deserves a big thank you. She really put her heart into

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## Bike Buildathon for Bill's Bikes for Kids, continued



hex-keys were brandished, and assembly teams broke into a sweat at their stations all over the drive way and back yard. In our team, teachable moments emerged repeatedly, but in the absence of an instructor we had to resort to failure as a substitute teacher and took the long way round to final assembly. For example: Turns out the front reflector sits on a mount that needs to be in place before the handlebar assembly is inserted into the top tube: the handlebar stem passes through the mount. C'mon—who knew?



The pedals are threaded so that they screw into the cranks with a motion that is in the direction of travel of the bike. That also means that the left pedal and right pedal are NOT interchangeable, and you can spend an embarrassingly long time trying to engage the threads of the right pedal on the left crank before the light bulb goes off or someone comes by and gently advises you to check the letter stamped on the end of the pedal: L or R. (What, we should remember this curious detail from one year to the next? At our age? OK smartypants--quick, what day of the week is it? See?)



There is a right way to orient the front fork when the handlebar assembly goes on: you could actually get it exactly backward.

There might be other examples, but right now they are repressed memories that will likely need hypnosis or some other specialized therapy to see the light of day again. Or they might surface a year from now as we gather to build bikes once again. Please let them emerge BEFORE we get too far along....



Our conclusion was that each assembly station probably should have had the benefit of at least one seasoned CSBG member. They have to do a lot of on-the-fly repairs while out riding, and many have extensive experience building and maintaining bicycles.

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## Teen Leadership Camp 2019

The Rotary Club of Claremont sent a record number of El Roble Students and enabled two alternates from the Ontario-Montclair Rotary Club to Teen Leadership Camp (TLC) at Camp Cedar Crest on the weekend of December 6-8! The students will report on their experiences after the first of the year.





## Bill's Bikes for Kids Buildathon, continued

Fortunately, Tom Shelley, Lark Gerry and the committee had thought to provision the assembled crew with coffee, cocoa, and orange juice as well as an array of doughnuts and pastries, so all were able to stay energized throughout the build and caffeinate their way through any embarrassment.

It must be said, despite all the missteps and retreads (and here I speak only for our team), the collective completed our consignment of 27 bikes in an hour and 15 minutes, which was speedy enough that Mike DeWees, arriving a little after 9 am with his daughter, Emma, discovered that they could only help inflate tires and eat the few remaining doughnut crumbs.

It was a record turnout and a record completion. Thanks to all who came to help! Come back next week for the sequel! Presbyterian Church on Mountain at 8:00 am.





## Holiday Party, continued

making this party special, with many touches such as the printed schedule and the assembled gift bags. Susie, top volunteer on the committee, took care of many key parts, including the RSVPs, centerpieces, and getting us a caterer who provided a rich menu. The food from Spaggi's was top-notch, and the crew did a great job. Buff helped to coordinate centerpieces, and put Rotary international flags on the Christmas tree. Anita H. was a guiding hand behind the scenes, making sure every detail was being considered, and served in an indispensable role at the party as cashier.

Other people serving in indispensable roles at the party included: 1) Ron Coleman, who served as DJ and provided the sound system plus several unsolicited jokes; 2) Paul Steffen, who along with Jerry Tambe tended bar; and 3) John Tulac, who served as MC throughout the evening, and as a spontaneous fundraiser, passing the hat for the CHS Chamber Singers, to offset the expenses for their performance trip to Carnegie Hall. (We also provided a check for \$500.) Thanks also to Bridget for helping to secure the always amazing CHS Chamber Singers ([listen here! \*Jingle Bells and Sim Shalom\*](#)), and to Lauri Harrison and Anita H. for providing tablecloths.

Thanks to the many people who brought desserts – so many desserts! A great example of Rotarians stepping up and contributing. Another way members contributed was through the centerpieces. From Sylvia's nativity scenes, to Jerry's menorah and dreidels, to Mike's Buddha, to Susie's Finnish and Swiss pieces, to Francis's Sudanese

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## Winter Holiday Invocation *submitted by John Tulac*

From the pre-dawn of history to relatively recently, humans have lived in a world lit only by fire. Historically, the long winter nights created great fear and superstition, but also gave rise to the great celebrations of hope and light arising out of the winter solstice.

The Winter Solstice falls on the shortest day of the year, the 21st of December, and was celebrated in Britain long before the arrival of Christianity. The Druids (Celtic priests) would cut the mistletoe that grew on the oak tree and give it as a blessing. The Druids also began the tradition of the yule log. Midwinter in the Druid tradition is called Alban Arthan, Welsh/Brythonic for 'the light of the bear'. Wiccans also celebrate in similar fashion the birth of the sun god with Yule logs, Yule trees and mistletoe. Feasting and gifts were common. Sound familiar?

And so here is a simple ancient blessing to begin our meal: Beneath the tree of light and life, a blessing at this season of Yule!



To all who sit at my hearth, today we are brothers and sisters, we are family,  
 Today we are at peace, We bear no one ill will.  
 Today is a day we offer hospitality to all who cross our threshold Blessed be.  
 From forest to stream, from mountain to field,  
 From fertile earth's nourishing yield,  
 I now partake of Divine Energy.  
 May it lead to health, strength, and love.  
 Blessed be.





decorations, to Buff's Russian dolls, to John Tulac's UK pieces, to Zoe's floral centerpiece, and to Barbara Shelley's California native plants, these were a way for members to share with us about their background and traditions. I also want to recognize members such as Anita Boling, Mike DeWees, Bonita Ramos, and Nona Tirre, who brought younger family members and helped make this event an affair for all ages.

When 8:45 rolled around, the majority of attendees were still present, having a good time visiting with each other. Thanks to all those who then pitched in and cleaned up quickly in order to have the room cleared out by 9 pm.

So thank you once again, thanks to all of you, who through your many contributions provided the warmth of fellowship and kindness on a chilly, wet December evening, and helped to make our Holiday party a true success.

Best holiday wishes,  
President Cameron



John Tulac passes Bob Hauducoeur's hat to raise funds for the CHS Chamber Choir.



Above, John Tulac's pieces representing the UK.

Francis Limbe brought items from his nation of origin, Sudan



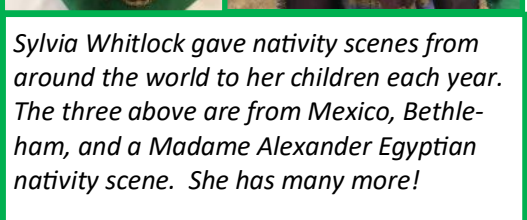
Mike DeWees' décor represented a patriotic American tree and Japanese Budha (his brother lives in Japan)



Zoe TeBeau provided a beautiful traditional holiday bouquet. Jerry Goldman shared a beautiful glass menorah and dreidels.



Susie Ilsley: Pieces from Finland dressed in reindeer fur and a St. Nick from Switzerland.



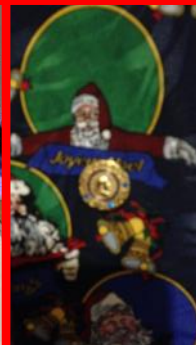
Sylvia Whitlock gave nativity scenes from around the world to her children each year. The three above are from Mexico, Bethlehem, and a Madame Alexander Egyptian nativity scene. She has many more!







And to All a Good Night!



And Now For Something Completely Different



Blanca Aguiar says happy holidays from San Juan, Puerto Rico





# the CLARifier

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

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**Cameron Troxell**  
Claremont Rotary  
President  
2019-2020



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Dec 13	Annual Meeting: Strategic Planning for the Club
Dec 14	Bill's Bikes for Kids 8:00 am Claremont Presbyterian Church on Mountain
Jan 3	Craft Talks! Frances Limbe, Clarina PioRoda

### Photo of the Week



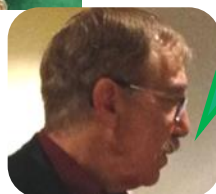
Photo by Buff Wright

Happy  
Holidays!

Don't forget your  
donations to  
Hope Partners



**Bacon Bits**  
Let's fill up the pig!



### Website

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

### Join us on Facebook:

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

### Dec. Birthdays

Lucinda McDade 12/3  
Adnan Aswad 12/6  
Perry Hillberg 12/7  
Nick Quackenbos 12/12  
Paul Steffen 12/13  
Ron Coleman 12/14



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 Hayes  
Harry Sparrow  
Peter Weinberger  
Buff Wright, editor

**Notes:** Jim Lehman (Bikes), Cameron Troxell (party). Photos: Peter Weinberger, others  
The Claremont Rotary Club meets at the Claremont DoubleTree on Foothill at 12:10pm