



the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 91 | Week 44 | November 1, 2019

Program: From High Heels to Horseshoes: an Unexpected Life, Ada Gates

Submitted by Mike DeWees

Today we heard a biographical program from Ada Gates Patton, the first woman farrier licensed to shoe thoroughbred racehorses in the United States and Canada. A farrier is a craftsman who trims and shoes horses' hooves. Ada's path into this male dominated industry had a unique beginning.



Born into a wealthy, large family in Long Island, Ada grew up with a blended family including eight children, in a 28 room mansion on 3

acres of woods and gardens tended to by an English gardener. Her mother, Evelyn Byrd has Scottish English lineage that can be traced for 200 years of Evelyn Byrds. Her father worked with Corning and Steuben Glass and managed artists of the likes of Georgia O'Keefe. They moved in social and political circles including the Kennedys.

Horses were always a part of Ada's life as her mother was a horse rider and her father competed in steeple chase, but going from a debutante to shoeing horses was not a direct line. Her early life and career in the 1960's focused on modeling and acting in New York, where she was able to work with Edgar and Candice Bergen in "Sabrina Fair" and worked for rock producer Albert Rosen, which gained her access to the stage (not the mud) at Woodstock.

The entertainment industry proved to be a brutal business for Ada and she moved to Vail, Colorado where she skied, waitressed and got a horse. She enrolled in a horseshoeing school, in a class of 49 men, out of necessity when she could not find a competent horseshoer in 1971.

Despite hurdles, Ada graduated from horseshoeing school and she began practicing her craft around Colorado. Soon the press caught on to her unique situation and throughout the 70's she appeared in Time and People magazines, and on TV in "What's My Line" and Bill Cosby's talk show.



Ada and her favorite quarter horse Tupelo

Continued on page 4

Welcome New Member Francis Limbe (Wani)

Francis Limbe, originally from Southern Sudan, started the meeting as a visiting Rotarian from New York 6 (the 6th Club in the US), but finished the meeting as the newest member of The Rotary Club of Claremont (780th). His sponsor, Ron Coleman, was unable to be here today, but Francis received a warm welcome from all as he received his red badge, club pins and orientation materials. It took him a day to volunteer. (See Work day story p. 5)



CLAREMONT ROTARY: THE MEETING

Submitted by Jim Lehman

After **President Cameron** declared the meeting open, Songleader **Randy Prout** bookended a **Chuck Cable**-led pledge of allegiance with a bright “Smile” and an energetic “God Bless America.” The Four-Way Test was our invocation.

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS!

Frank Bedoya introduced visiting Rotarian **Francis Limbe** (nickname Wani) from New York 6.

Susie Ilsley introduced guests Sarah Jo Antonucci, Vadim Shtil, and their friend Leonardo Campos.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Thanks to **Bridget Healy** and the **Interact students** for their work, along with **Anita Boling**, to make the Scare Away Hunger fundraiser and food-raiser at Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's a big success.

Rotary Work Day is November 2, with morning and afternoon shifts to paint the offices of Hope Partners: two shifts for an anticipated two coats of paint with some drying time in between. **John Howland**, event chair, came forward to explain how to get there. Just past the Smart & Final, south-bound on Garey Ave., turn right and find parking immediately on your left.

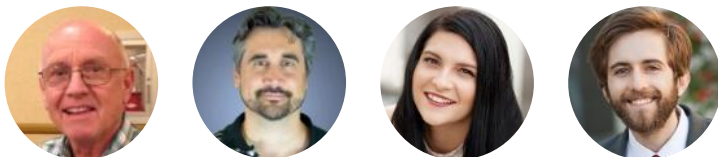
Bikes for Kids bike build is 12/7/19. Mark your calendars.

Our annual **Holiday Party** is also 12/7/19. **Anita Hughes** sent out a notice about the opportunity to decorate a table—centerpiece mainly—in whatever your family's tradition happens to be. The more international variety among our tables the better.

John Tulac has brought home a District Grant for CHAP and has submitted a Literacy Grant for our club. We'll hear more about it at a future meeting. For now, hooray! And thanks, John.

Our website, with new member **Sean Harrison's** diligent efforts, is up to date!

Bernadette Kendall spoke up to acknowledge the work of **Frank Hungerford**, **Mike DeWees**, **Jenna Irish**, and **Sean Harrison**, who devoted three days to TLC interviews and have now selected a splendid set of candidates for the camp.



Susie Ilsley reminded us that the next Rotary Networking Social is at the House of Pong, Foothill & Towne, next Tuesday, November 5. Be there!

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



John Howland's inspirational moment was the following from cellist Yo Yo Ma:

“Practice your humanity daily. Practice that truth. Let it power your decisions, let it inspire your thoughts, and let it shape your ideals. Then you will soar. You will fly. And you will help others soar and fly.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are flyers on the tables announcing **volunteer opportunities** at the Joselyn and Blaisdell Senior Centers. Some are related to the nutrition program, but there are a variety of other ways to help—special events, volunteering in the office, in the boutique, on the phone lines, etc. Contact **Anita Hughes** if you are interested. (We also got this as an email)

CHAP, the Claremont Homeless Advocates Program is also looking for volunteers. Again, Anita Hughes holds the key to adventure.

Harry Sparrow has volunteered to be Sponsorship Chair for next spring's Taste of Claremont. Thanks, Harry! It takes a committee, so when he asks, please say yes.

DISTRICT 5300 NEWS

Roger Gutierrez (Azusa) is the District Governor Designate, so he will be a regular in our District circles for the next several years. Congratulations, Roger.

Our own PDG **Sylvia Whitlock** is the District's Council on Legislation Designate, which means she'll be attending the next COL as a voting representative

Sergeant: A Fine Day for John Tulac

Sergeant John Tulac fined **President Cameron** for being insufficiently deferential or maybe it was because **Don Gould** wasn't there for him to pick on—hard to say with John.

Then he turned his attention to **John Howland**, who'd offered us YoYo Ma's inspirational thought. Channeling **Ron Coleman**, John asked, "What do you get when pianist Emanuel Ax and cellist YoYo Ma perform together? The Lizzie Borden duo: Ax Yo Ma." And John Howland had to pay the fine?

Randy Prout recently returned from a trip to Africa, with stops in South Africa and Zimbabwe, where they visited Victoria Falls. Apparently he still had some small bills in hand, so John snagged one for the pig.

Francis Limbe discovered that the warm welcome for new members includes an immediate fine from the sergeants.

Harry Sparrow, as sergeant last week, allowed **Ron Coleman** to take the microphone long enough to flog a "Polka Haunt us" punchline, and paid the price today. (Will John be on the receiving end next week?)

Sylvia Whitlock was fined for some snafu with a picture of her grandson, but it seems the problem occurred after she dispatched the picture to **President Cameron**. (Are we running out of material?)

Arman Ariane, whose empire includes Xerxes, Susa, and Acropolis, has been displaying exotic cars outside his enterprises—Lamborghinis, Ferraris, McLaren's, and the like. Turns out it was for Village Venture, a chance for his friends at CNC Motors to showcase some of the specialty cars in their inventory. Big Fine!

And finally, John asked **Roger House** to acknowledge that it was indeed a fine day, just because Roger attended.



SAVE THE DATE!! Put the Holiday Party on your Calendars! Saturday, December 7 at the Hughes Center..... (See attached flier).



Three Truths and a Lie

.....featuring MJ Neault

1. In the 1990s, M.J. worked for a Superior Court judge who was fond of roller skating in the back halls of the courthouse, his judicial robes trailing behind him.
2. M.J.'s advice to her kids when they went off to college: "Work hard, have fun, and if you have a chance to run naked across campus with your friends, DON'T pass it up!"
3. At Cal Jam 2 in 1974 at the Ontario Motor Speedway while Jackson Browne was playing, M.J. and her friend Kari were yanked away by security as they attempted to sneak on stage to hug their music idol.
4. M.J. never seriously considered burning her bra despite working for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (remember the ERA?) as an intern for the National Organization for Women in post-Watergate Washington, D.C.

(The lie was #3—they didn't try to sneak on stage)



Ada Gates Patton, cont'd

Ada focused on blacksmithing but she was still getting rejected by professional track shoers...doors slammed shut despite her grandfather being connected with a famous racetrack. She went to California and was able to get work at the Santa Anita Race-track after appealing to the head of the union, Harry Patton, who became her mentor and helped her pass the required track test for Santa Anita in 1977.

Track race shoeing is the Big Time for a farrier and Ada learned to shoe horses to run clean so that they did not hit their feet and stop running. She started to shoe the best horses: Chinook Pass, Chief's Crown and Wild Again. Wild Again's owners had to pay to get him into the 1984 Breeder's Cup race. So the race was a very exciting win. She showed the [Wild Again race video](#).

Ada married her mentor Harry Patton in 1988 and they lived together for 23 years before he died of cancer in 2002.



Horseshoeing has provided many opportunities for Ada including appearances on the Today Show and Late Night with [David Letterman](#). (Check out the video if you missed this meeting to give you a flavor for Ada's personality!)

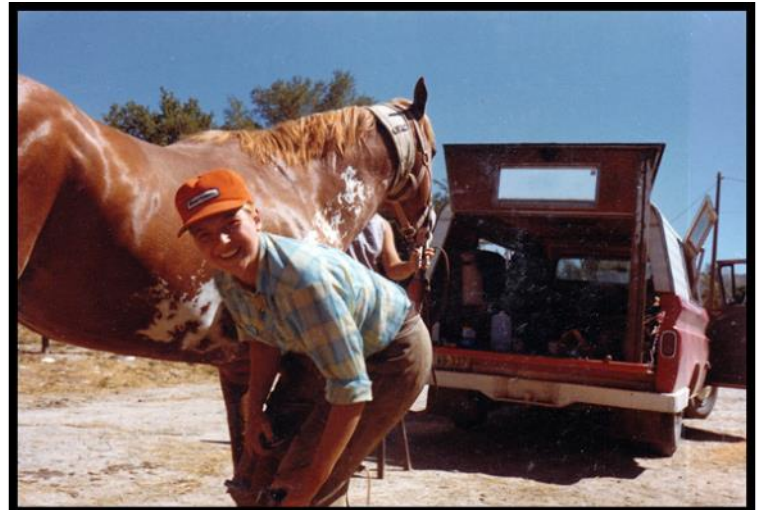
Her dedication to the industry has led to many years of service including as farrier liaison for the 1984 Olympic Games and official horseshoe inspector for the Rose Parade. She has been honored with awards and been inducted into the American Farriers Hall of Fame.

The exciting program ended with a Q&A session and those in attendance were grateful for the excellent presentation.

A profession with no margin for error. She nailed it!



People Magazine, March 1980

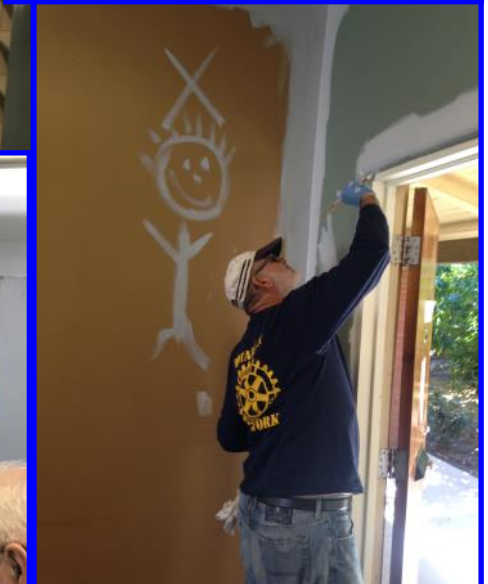
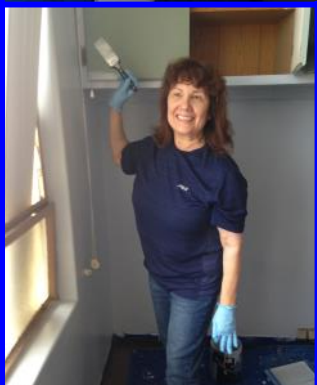


ROTARY WORKDAY AT HOPE PARTNERS

Brought to you by co-chairs John Howland and Jerry Goldman. Hope Partners CEO Kami Grosvenor and her little one were gracious, grateful hosts as we rolled and brushed our way to transform the office walls and cabinets. Thanks to Chris Shaner's donation enabling us to buy better paint, we finished early with one coat!



Front: Natalie and Emma DeWees, Blanca Aguiar, Lark Gerry, Buff Wright, Ron Coleman, Chuck Cable; Rear: Abe Esquivel, Cameron Troxell, Jerry Goldman, Mike DeWees, John Howland, Francis Wani (Ian Standley)





Cameron Troxell
Claremont Rotary
President
2019-2020



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Nov 8	Future of Liberal Arts Colleges Melvin Oliver, Pitzer President
Nov 15	The Homeless in Claremont: What we do for them Zach Courser
Nov 22	Veterans Program, Frank Campbell
Dec 7	Bike Build @ 8:00 am Holiday Party @ 6:00 pm

Photo of the Week



Skylight and Moon

Wow, Steve! How did you get this photo? So cool!

I waited for years in this very pose.

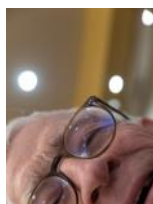


Photo by Steve Schenck



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

Nov.—Dec. Birthdays

Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo 11/3
Marla Lefler 11/6
Mike Pearlman 11/15
Jim Marchant 11/22
Lucinda McDade 12/3
Adnan Aswad 12/6 Perry Hillberg 12/7
Nick Quackenbos 12/12 Paul Steffen 12/13
Ron Coleman 12/14



Notes: Mike DeWees (program), Jim Lehman (meeting). Photos: Steve Schenck
The Claremont Rotary Club meets at the Claremont DoubleTree on Foothill at 12:10pm





Rotary Club of Claremont International Traditions Holiday Party

Saturday, December 7, 2019

6:00pm - Happy Hour

7:00pm - Dinner



\$20.00- Member prepaid
\$35.00 Non Prepaid and Guests

\$15.00 - children 13-17

\$5.00 - children 7-12

Free- Children 6 and Under

Hosted in the Padua Room at the
Alexander Hughes Community Center
1700 Danbury Road

RSVP to Susie Ilsley by Monday December, 2nd
susie.ilsley@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Number of Guests Attending: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____