

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 20 | November 13, 2020

Program: Elijah Tangenberg—Rotary Global Grant Scholar

Submitted by Bill Burrows

Tom Shelley introduced our program speaker this past week, Mr. Elijah Tangenberg, a Rotary Global Grants Scholar currently pursuing graduate studies at Oxford University. Elijah was kind enough to join our Friday afternoon meeting from Oxford, England where it was nearly past his bedtime!

Elijah is a Rotary Global Grant Scholar from District 5190 in the Water and Sanitation Focus area, working toward an MSc in Water Science, Policy, and Management from the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment. He studied Political Science and Economics at Houghton College in Western New York, where he served in numerous roles, including class president, a tutor to recently arrived refugees, a participant in public debates on current political topics, and a research assistant on topics relating to the sustainable use of natural resources. Elijah grew up in Claremont, going to elementary school at Condit, and graduated with the CHS class of 2016. Claremont was also his first experience with Rotary. He says that although he was not a member of Interact while in high school (something he regrets in hindsight!), he remembers being recruited, last minute, by Tom Shelley to help out with the annual "Bill's Bikes for Kids" effort one year, and he openly credits that experience with



Elijah, in front of his Oxford Flat

the birth of his interest in Rotary and the importance of community service.

Elijah told a compelling story. While in college, he had an opportunity to go on a mission trip to Sierra Leone where he first became interested in the complicated and vitally important issues surrounding community water access, distribution, and sanitation. He returned to Houghton to finish his degree in Water Science and Policy, and then COVID hit and shut everything down. While weighing his options this past spring, he got the opportunity to take his studies to the next level at Oxford — with an acceptance letter on March 24 after the pandemic had set in. After he recovered from the shock, he leapt at the chance. Getting to Oxford involved less leaping than slogging, and was an incredible experience, including a total of three COVID self-isolations, the third of which is ending for him this week.

Although a young man of 23, Elijah shared with us his "Four Lessons" philosophy that described his own per-

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Watch It!

Here is the link to the [meeting recording for November 13](#) featuring Elijah Tangenberg talking about his Rotary supported experience at Oxford.

Next Zoom Meeting

The meeting on 11/20, features Lucinda McDade talking about the changes in the California Botanic Garden.

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ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING: *submitted by Chris Hayes*

As she started the meeting and sent us off to breakout rooms, President **Buff** suggested that we talk about how we might participate as individuals in **Rotary Gratefulness Week** that starts on the 16th. She is writing letters to the people that help at her home, like the mailman, trash collector, etc., to thank them for their help. What a great idea! After the break, **Sylvia Whitlock** noted that she had sent personal notes to people not on Zoom for a while, and they showed up for today's meeting! So while an organized Club effort is nice, a personal thanks may be most meaningful!



WELCOME GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

We welcomed guests **Bill Gershon**. Former member **Fiammetta Piazza** gave us an update of her life since she left the Club for Law School. She graduated, passed the Bar, and is practicing in Century City in Structure Finance Transactional Law and Commercial Lending and Capital Markets with Financing. WOW!! She was visiting her Mother and Brother locally in OC, and is staying in Claremont with her fiancé. Great to see her!! **Ron Coleman** asked Fiammetta a joke: What is the difference between an Accountant and a Lawyer? (She didn't venture a guess) Accountants know they are boring... UGH!!



We also welcomed visiting Rotarians **Sharon Douglas**, and **Biffy Dankwerts** from Cape Town showing Table Mountain in her background. Biffy reported on the slightly rigged duck race, where Sylvia Whitlock came in second in a VIP race. (Buff's duck didn't even show as far as we know, but had a good swim in the cleaned up canal.)



For our musical interlude, **Karen Sapio** played a recording of the [Redlands Club](#) singing the Welcome Song as background to slides about their club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lark Gerry is leaving Rotary. She thanked us for the years of fellowship. We are grateful for her extraordinary and cheerful service!! We must now try to replace her on the Board of Directors and the Clarifier staff.



Rich Laughton and **Bonita Ramos** are working with Debbie Foster at El Roble to possibly do a Virtual Together We Prepare during the dates of February 15 to 18th of 2021. They will keep the club posted on their progress in making this happen.

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INSPIRATION OF THE DAY, BOBBY HYDE

KINDNESS: There are many different dates in November that has cause for celebration of sorts. The month of November itself presents a time to celebrate change and be thankful for what it brings.



November 1st and November 2nd is celebrated by Christians to remember those who are no longer living. November 3rd came quickly this year and we celebrated our right to vote. November 11th, Veterans Day, the day that honors all those who have served our country in war or peace-dead or alive is a day we celebrate and honor American veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms that we enjoy in our country. November 26th, Thanksgiving & November 27, Native American Heritage Day are both coming up.

Oops! I FORGOT TO MENTION NOVEMBER 13TH! Friday the 13th, today's day of superstition. I will leave that for the sergeants. How bad can it get?

Today is also World Kindness Day. It has been celebrated since 1998. Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate as well as acts of goodwill, with, tenderness, selfishness and benevolence.

Mark Twain described kindness as "the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

We're lucky in Rotary in that acts of kindness are featured in so many of our programs. BIKES FOR KIDS, HOPE PARTNERS, PLANTING TREES AT SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL, and ADOPT A FAMILY are a few of those acts of kindness. These are programs that allow us as individuals to demonstrate our kindness through our Rotary Club.

I even say thank you to the bidders in our silent auction and the paddle auction for their donations to our foundation.

I will finish with a short hypothetical question that I heard from a friend of mind playing golf this morning.

"If you were in a room full of people and one of them was your Messiah, and you didn't know who it was, would you act differently? If you were sitting at a table and one was your Messiah, would you act differently? And if you being in the room, *were* the Messiah, would you act differently?"



Sergeant John Allen

Bill Burrows and Don Gould both were fined for their sartorial sense given the hats they were both wearing.



John Bifone was in San Luis Obispo tasting Wine last week. No excuse. You're fined!

John Tulac was asked to say a tongue twister from Susie Ilsley: Susie's Small She Shed. Fine!



Nona Tirre skipped out last week on the sergeants for her She Shed.

Chuck Cable, John Howland, Mark Carson, and Don Ralls all were moving manure (mulch) for the trees on Wednesday! 10 Damien High School kids came and provided some real muscle!



Following that, **John Allen** tried to come up with his own joke: What do you get when you gross a retirement home administrator, and lawyer, a tombstone manufacturer, and a Rotarian? You are going to get a pile of something (**Jim Marchant** came up with the answer).



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!

Once Upon a Time Reading Program—we'll have training for those who would like to do online reading to young kids. **Betty Sheldon** will chair the effort.

Coming Soon: We have a District Grant to support the California Botanic Garden with plantings planned for two locations, both in the near future and in the year ahead. One location is near the new sign along Foothill Boulevard, the other is near the entrance where foot traffic enters the Garden. Interact students will be assisting, along with Rotarians and friends. Got questions? Ask **Lucinda McDade** and/or **John Tulac**.

December 7. Community Projects Chair **Lyn Childress** announced a request for volunteers to work with a nonprofit called Hope Through Housing in Montclair. Hope through Housing is looking for people to assist with its upcoming event for the holidays. They would love to have members of our Rotary Club (and Interactors) assist with the angel tree project for kids. They need 5 people in each of two 1.5 hour shifts to help with wrapping. Details to follow! Contact [Lyn](#) if you're interested or would be willing to help coordinate the volunteers.



The NY Rotary Club meeting guest on **December 3rd at 9 am PT** is Colin Coleman, a Senior Fellow at the Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. He has a 25 year history in banking prior to the Jackson Institute, before which he was involved in South Africa's anti-apartheid movement.

Link to the Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86205822490>. For more information, [click here](#)

On **December 10 at 9 am PT**, the speaker is Amiri Anderson, author of "Five Feet of Water," an inspiring new novel about overcoming obstacles in domestic life. Despite challenges faced in her foster homes and/or college, she managed to complete a degree in Business Administration. Only 3% of foster kids graduate from college.

Link to the Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86842854073>

ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued from p.2

Cameron Troxell gave thanks to the Uncommon Good Rotary Work Group, who showed up for many hours last Wednesday to work on distributing mulch, and many who would show up on Saturday the 14th for the Planting. (See p. 4 for pictures of both!)

Cameron Troxell and **Jerry Goldman** are working with students at Webb Schools to establish an Interact club. The students are genuinely motivated to get out there and try to do good! They are working on coming up with projects for their club. One is Trash clean up in Claremont, and possibly help at the Joselyn Center for Senior Lunches around Thanksgiving, as well as supporting Hope Partners.

The **District Peace Convention** is now [available online](#). Speaker Quentin Wodon, Lead Economist with the World Bank, gave an excellent talk about the economics of literacy. We will be inviting Eugene Whitlock to speak to the Club in the near future.

ADOPT A FAMILY (HOPE PARTNERS)

John Howland is coordinating the Hope Partners Adopt-A-Family for the Club. Thanks to all who signed up! John will let us know the wrapping requirements, how to identify the recipient on the gift card or label, and where to bring them. John will take the presents to Hope Partners between November 30-December 3, and December 7-10.

Elijah Tangenberg, continued from page 1

sonal advancement through the Rotary support process, but now he also sees it has applications for his graduate work and for others, including the community service ambitions of Rotary. Elijah's Four Lessons are actually five, including his "Lesson 0" as follows:

Lesson 0 = Invest in what you do. He needed to believe in himself and what he wanted to do. To prepare, he worked with refugee children and went to Sierra Leone to work with a hydroelectric project development plan. He also studied water issues, including California groundwater issues!



Sierra Leone hydroelectric project

Lesson 1 = Be open to opportunities. His acceptance to Oxford came as a surprise — and he wasn't quite ready! So this evolved into "Be ready for opportunities" by building a support network (particularly challenging during COVID).

Lesson 2 = Bring on "investors." Both financial and personal investors are needed to accomplish such an endeavor. Elijah referred to the Rotary Global Grant he applied for and submitted with a lot of help from Tom Shelley, as a good example of this Lesson. His local Club is Auburn Gold Country in District 5190. When he asked about the scholarship, he received a 10 page application form with one week to complete it! He gained funding from three Rotary Clubs! The host clubs for the grant were the Rotary Club of Reno and the Marlowe Club in England.

Lesson 3 = Communication Be clear on what you need as well as what your network's expectations are of you. Getting into Oxford was one thing, but getting TO Oxford was a challenge. (Funding, Visas, etc) Two-way communication with many parties, including the Rotary partners, was needed for success. Zoom helped!

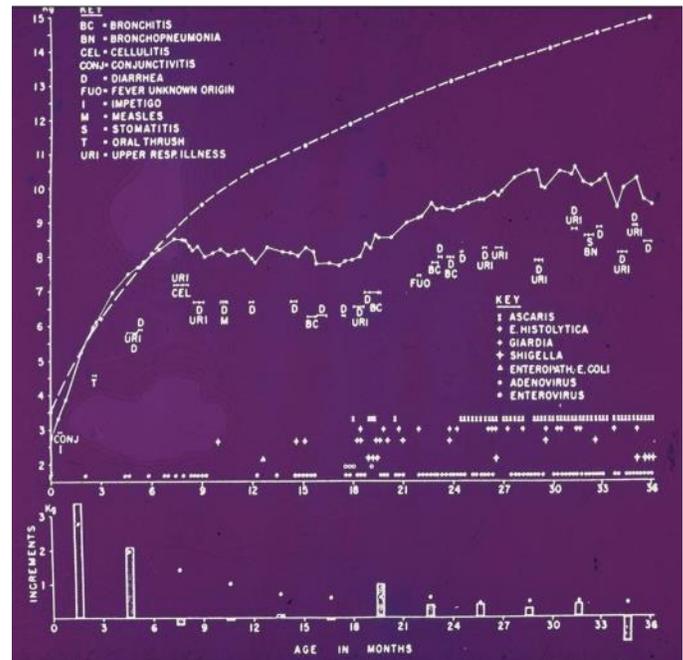
Lesson 4 = GO! Sometimes you just have to dive in and go with no time to test the waters or ease your way in.

Elijah shared that he uses his four lessons in the work that Rotary does, and still needs to do in its mission to improve water issues around the world. There are lots of challenges to face, but together we can persevere and press on.

Elijah entered the water and sanitation field because he has learned the value of empathizing with water uncertainty as a daily worry for so many people in the world today. He witnessed it first hand in Sierra Leone in 2019. He feels that over the past 10 years, water issues have moved beyond just building infrastructure to provide supply. Now we have to also build the water management bureaucra-

cies for the communities using the water, including sanitation infrastructure. Moreover, as we understand more about human behavior, non-western systems for water management, and the economics of water, we have opportunities to create innovative systems.

The UN Sustainable development goals for 2030 provided a set of ambitious targets capturing a water systems approach to development, inspired by the success of the Millennium Development Goals. Unfortunately, it looks like we are not on track to meet them. ([See more](#)) Elijah notes that COVID has really exposed water access inequity.



Mata, L.J., 1978. *The children of Santa Maria Cauqué: a prospective field study of health and growth*. The MIT Press, 28 Carleton Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 USA.

He brought this home by referring to research on how clean water impacted two infants in Guadalupe. The chart above shows the growth of a baby with clean water on the top arc, and the poor growth of one without, shown on the jagged line with notes as to bouts of diarrhea and other ill health. This impacts everything!

Returning to his lessons, they clearly have application to people new to the field of water resources: they must use what they have invested to be ready for opportunities, find people who are invested in our projects, communicate results, and go out into the field.

He ended saying he was grateful to Rotary for enabling his education, and importantly for *being* an education. "They've really taught me how to take advantage of opportunities in my field."

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In the Q&A, he reminded us that a lot of the early Rotary projects were not sustainable — giving rise to the new Rotary Global Grant standards. Recent evidence, done by some of his Oxford professors, have shown that handpumps, the traditional model of rural water service, will rarely if ever be self sustainable, since the maintenance programs can't cover the operational costs. There are additional concerns about demography, ecology and hydrography. It may be harder to sell than wells and WASH. 'We built a well' almost always sounds better than 'we built bureaucracy'. Rotary has been responsive to criticism, now emphasizing sustainability and community buy-in.

Lee Goldstein pointed out that we have water projects in California; a water project of Lee's Visalia Club in the San Joaquin Valley received funds from a Club in India!

Bill Burrows pointed out the book, Cadillac Desert, which Elijah has read. It's a great story about water wars in CA.

Nick Quackenbos raised the question of desalinization, which could be a solution for some. Elijah noted that it takes a lot of power, and creates other externalities. Biffy Dankwerts noted that there's work on Solar power for it. Tom Shelly also highlighted projects in Dubai.

Great presentation! After the meeting, people stayed on to talk further with Elijah.

COVID is still with us! *By President Buff*



Who imagined when we went into suspense mode in March, we'd still be at it in November! I'm grateful that so many of you attend the meetings weekly on zoom. I hope we can extend our reach and find ways to meet safely in small groups and/or meet in discussion groups on zoom. In the meantime, study up on vaccine distribution ([Santos 8/7/20](#)) and let's all pay attention:

As of November 23, 2020, Claremont has had 618 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 11 deaths. The number of cases is updated Monday-Friday at noon on the [LA County Public Health website](#). Neighboring cities in LA County: LaVerne has had 734 cases and 14 deaths. Pomona has had 7719 cases and 148 deaths. In [Upland](#), 2327 cases with 34 deaths.

The Claremont Police Department has 6 confirmed cases. [Press Release - PD COVID](#)

For information on where you can get tested, visit: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> I got tested at the [Walgreens](#) drive up at 495 E. Holt. Ave. There's a simple screening and then the test is free and easy with results in 2 days. [San Bernardino County testing](#) sites.

Please be safe and healthy. Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep a safe distance. This too shall pass.

OOTT AUCTION

The OOTT Auction ended with a number of happy Rotarians and others who participated in this pandemic inspired event. **Bobby Hyde** is busy distributing the goods to the winners. **Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo** successfully bid for a pair of diamond earrings! Lovely! **Buff Wright and Bernadette Kendall** paired up to win the curated dinner at Nuno's. A good time was had by all. **Mark Carson** will be reporting out the final financials soon, but the success of the entire event, an experiment done in a perilous time, was unmistakable. Thanks to all who participated!



ROTARY WORK DAY

On November 14, Rotarians, and Interactors from Webb School and Claremont High School combined efforts with Uncommon Good to plant 16 citrus and avocado trees at the San Antonio High School. The planting project began on Wednesday with the moving of mulch, and culminated in more mulch moving and tree planting on Saturday. Very satisfying work on a gorgeous fall Saturday!



Distanced for directions.



Above, Eva Paniagua and Sophia Bachoura from Webb Interact Club pose with advisor Cameron.



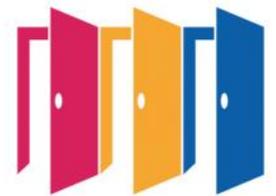
Instruction by the Uncommon Good arborist on planting techniques was a bonus!





Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Nov 20	Changes at the California Botanic Garden — Its Not Just in the Name! Lucinda McDade
Dec 4	Political Risk and the Future of Business post COVID: UC Irvine Prof. Ian Oxnevad
Dec 11	Annual meeting (voting for officers), program tba

Photo of the week



Stone Pine Needles



Photo by Steve Schenck

Does smelling Pine Needles help with COVID?

Only if you also wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds and wear a mask or two when you're out and about! Just do it! BE SAFE!



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!



Sergeants committee gathers before each meeting by email. Anyone is welcome to share information!!

Nona Tirre, chair

Clarifier Committee

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

Club [Bylaws](#) and [Policies](#) are posted for member access on DACdb

November Birthdays

- Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo 11/3
- Marla Lefler 11/6
- Blanca Aguiar 11/10
- Mike Pearlman 11/15
- Jim Marchant 11/22
- Sean Harrison 11/30



Notes by Bill Burrows and Chris Hayes. Pictures by Steve Schenck

The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom at 12:00 on Friday until further notice