



# the CLARIFIER

## CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 91 | Week 17 | April 24, 2020

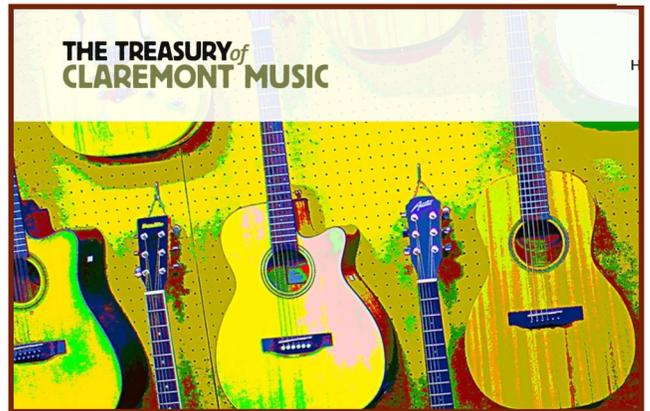
### Treasury of Claremont Music, Claremont Heritage Director David Shearer

Submitted by Harry Sparrow

David Shearer provided an overview of Claremont Heritage’s new Treasury of Claremont Music (TCM) program. Buff, who is on the Claremont Heritage Board of Directors, introduced David, the Executive Director of Claremont Heritage. David has a 30+ year career over which he has curated and produced more than 100 exhibitions relating to decorative arts, architecture, design and photography. His career includes having been a retail gallery owner. He has been the Executive Director since 2011.

The mission of the Claremont Heritage organization is to advance, preserve and celebrate the historic architectural, natural and cultural resources of the community of Claremont through collaboration, education and advocacy. The Treasury of Claremont Music archive project clearly supports that mission. This project was conceived several years ago by Tom Skelly, an artist, radio DJ, and avid music fan, in order to document Claremont’s expansive music community and the musicians who have called the Inland Empire home over the years. These artists and musicians have made an indelible impact on the community’s cultural history, the objective of the project is to document and share this legacy for future generations to experience.

In February, the Treasury of Claremont Music (TMC) [web-site](#) was launched as an online digital “Living Archive” intended to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Claremont’s musicians both past and present. It provides context for the vibrant musical scene that still exists to this day. The artists who are being featured now and whom David talked with us about, are Chris Darrow and Norma



Tanega. In addition, David talked about another artist, who shortly will be featured on the website, Claudia Lennear. Sadly, Darrow and Tanega recently passed away, an example of why compiling the Treasury of Claremont Music is so important; it will keep the music and accomplishments of these artists readily available to us.

*Program continued: page 3*

#### LAST WEEK’S MEETING ONLINE

*submitted by Cameron*

[Here is the link](#) to the recording of the video meeting from Friday, April 24. Thank you to our speaker David Shearer David Shearer from Claremont Heritage, shared about the Treasury of Claremont Music Project. We also learned some interesting facts about club member Bill Burrows! Thanks as always to those who participated, brought guests, and shared in virtual fellowship.

#### INSIDE

- INSPIRATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS P.2
- PSEUDOSERGEANTS P.2
- THREE TRUTHS & A LIE P.2
- EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS P.6

**Watch your email for a video link for the meetings on Friday noon.**

## Rotary: the Meeting

### Inspiration of the Day, John Tulac

Several famous people talk about “never.”  
 Never answer an anonymous letter. *Yogi Berra.*  
 Never slap a man While he’s chewing tobacco. *Will Rogers.*  
 Never give up your seat for a lady. That’s how I lost my job as a bus driver. *Milton Jones*  
 Never get annoyed if your neighbor plays music at 2am. Call them at 4am and tell them how much you appreciate it. *John Tulac?*  
 John concluded that there are 750 things that you should never say never, or never do. (like continuing to tell us more!)



### Welcome Guests

**Sarah Jo Antonucci** introduced her guest Genoveve Talbot, a Claremont attorney who is supervising Sarah Jo’s apprenticeship studies.



Speaker David Shearer is also a guest of the Club. Ordinarily that would get him a free lunch. Oh well!

### Pseudo Sergeants

**Paul Steffen** was true to form...a bit late to the meeting. Fine! During the program, Paul made a note that Joan Biez lived in Claremont. Someone noted that Paul also grew up in Claremont, or at least he’s working on it.



**Juli Minoves-Triuell** was the only guy to show up in a tie, from his gazebo at home. (He came from another meeting where they are actually keeping to business protocols.)



**Cameron Troxell**, who has only 2-3 students in his math classes who share their videos on zoom, doesn’t even want to think about what the others are doing. Probably, you know, multitasking. Who shall we fine?

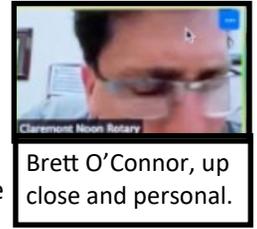
Cameron admitted he wished there were a prediction of rain this weekend so that we wouldn’t feel so badly about missing the Taste of Claremont. Instead, we got extreme heat. Fine either way! Buff brought a Taste wine glass and toasted the TOC committee for the work yet to do.



**Ron Coleman** paid the pig for asking Steve Schenck about his video background. He said, “I tried to take some high resolution photos of my friends in a wheat field, but all the photos turned out really grainy. (Ugh)

## Announcements

**Brett O’Connor** shared that the four way speech contest was to take place at noon on Monday, April 27. Our Claremont High School student was well prepared to compete with Claremont Sunrise and Rancho Cucamonga students.



Brett O’Connor, up close and personal.

**RI COVID-19 Telethon.** Cameron sent pictures of Brett delivering dinner to our Police Department to be included in a **Rotary International COVID-19 telethon** video to raise \$1M to meet community needs during the corona virus pandemic. The telethon will be [aired live](#) on RI’s Facebook Page, Saturday, **May 2 at 8am.**

Three members of Claremont’s police department, an office worker and two officers, thanked our Club very, very much for the dinner the other night. It really lifts their spirits to feel support from the community.

**Susie Ilsley** reported that we’ve worked up a phone tree to be used to get urgent messages out to all members within a short period of time. The message will start with the President and then officers, through to all members. It’s important to be connected!

### Three Truths and a Lie Bill Burrows



1. Since July, 2009, I have donated over 186 gallons of blood plasma, helping to treat patients who suffer from a variety of life-threatening illnesses. *(He’s a universal donor and much in demand.)*
2. Growing up, I spent many hours in hospital emergency rooms where I received treatment for... a broken leg, split chin, broken nose, split forehead, pumped stomach (from accidental Oleander poisoning), tonsillectomy, crushed foot, umbilical hernia repair, broken thumb, broken collarbone, split chin (again), and broken ankle. *(Holy accident prone kid!)*
3. Upon entering college, my dream was to become a doctor, but Bio-Sci 1 and Chem 1A collectively cured me of that ambition.
4. As an avid childhood and teenage skateboarder and surfer, I confidently took up snowboarding at the ripe old age of 47...and I’ve only gotten better since! *(He has no choice if he wants a healthy retirement one day.)*

It’s all true except for #3, wanting to be a doctor. He just wanted to SEE a lot of doctors.

## Treasury of Claremont Music, continued

### CHRIS DARROW

Chris Darrow was a multi-talented musician proficient with many instruments including guitar, bass fiddle, violin, banjo, dobro (resonator guitar), lap steel guitar and mandolin. He never sought employment as a musician, but others always sought him out.

David launched the video on the Treasury website at this point and offered commentary during the course of the video.

Darrow's early career was spent playing bluegrass with David Lindley as well as Tri-City Scat Band and The Flogs. He then formed a group called Kaleidoscope, which Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin said was his favorite band of all time.



Darrow also had a stint with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and that led to the formation of the Corvettes, who backed up Linda Ronstadt. David said that Darrow was instrumental (pun intended) in Ronstadt's early success and Darrow had a long-term relationship with Ronstadt. This, in turn led to a connection with John Steward (notable for being a member of the Kingston Trio and for writing the hit Monkees song, Daydream Believer) who sometimes collaborated with Ronstadt.

Darrow also contributed to pivotal session gigs with Leonard Cohen, playing on Leonard Cohen's first album. The list of his music business acquaintances was extensive. In addition to those already mentioned it included: James Taylor, Hoyt Axton, Sly Stone, Sonny and Cher, Gram Parsons, Gene Vincent, Jim Morrison and Frank Zappa. In addition, he knew Walt Disney and Hugh Hefner.

David show a video a clip of Linda Ronstadt, backed up by the Corvettes (you could see Chris Darrow playing guitar), at a Hugh Hefner "house party." The clip then went on to show a bunch of early photos of Darrow and some of his colleagues; Buff remarked, "they look like the guys I went to high school with."

In addition to his prolific music career, Darrow was also a photographer and writer. David said that he has done several exhibitions of Darrow's photography work.

David went on to give some insight into Darrow's personal life. Darrow's father Paul Darrow had been the cartoonist for *The Courier*. Darrow grew up in Claremont. He first lived in the Intercultural housing in Arbol Verde, a planned communi-

ty of mixed ethnicities. It represented the first opportunity for minorities to own property in Claremont. The video continued with quite an array of photographs of Darrow in various settings.

David mentioned that on March 7 there was a wonderful memorial tribute to Darrow at Garner House. A setting was created in the gallery that was intended to look like Darrow's bedroom where he wrote many of his songs. A number of musicians played Darrow's music during the tribute. It was a wonderful concert!

Darrow finished writing his memoir just before his death. It is planned that these will eventually be published.

### CLAUDIA LENNEAR

David next told us the fascinating story of Claudia Lennear, the woman who inspired both Mick Jagger and David Bowie to write a song about her. The songs are *Brown Sugar* by the Rolling Stones (Note: we'd give you a "taste" of the lyrics, but...) and *Lady Grinning Soul* by David Bowie (She'll come, she'll go, she'll lay belief on you. Skin sweet with musky oil, the lady from another grinning soul).

Her story is interesting for much more than being a muse. She was one of the people featured in the 2013 documentary *Twenty Feet from Stardom*, which was about singers who back up the stars. Claudia performed in this role for a variety of performers, including Joe Cocker, Ike and Tina Turner (Yes, she was an Ikettes), Eric Clapton, and George Harrison for his concert in Bangladesh. The video continued with multiple clips of Lennear appearing with all the stars mentioned above and more. It was a full-on reliving of the late 60s and early 70s for this writer.

She released her first album, *Phew*, in 1973 to critical acclaim, but later in the decade she disappeared from public view. For the next 40 years she worked as a high school language instructor. She is still teaching high school in the area.



### Treasury of Claremont Music, continued

In part due to the documentary, she is again stepping back onto or at least near the stage. David talked to her just the day before our meeting. BC (Before Coronavirus) David and Claudia had been planning a live performance. The call last week was to discuss how to do the event in a streaming format; this is what is happening with the rescheduling of a number of TCM events. As the details become known, they will be posted on the [Treasury website](#).

Lenear was working with David Bowie just prior to his death. He was working on a new album. He was writing the music and she was working on the lyrics. Sadly, this had not come to fruition before his death. Shearer hopes it will eventually become possible to hear some of this work.

The last part of the video about Lenear included an interesting comment. She was being interviewed by someone who noted that even though she started out as a backup singer, she eventually found her way to the front of the stage. She said, "I probably was notorious in my time, but I did start as a background singer; as time went on the journey took us around other twists and turns and eventually I made my way to Warner Brothers records to do a solo album."



Lenear is now working on her memoir.

### NORMA TANEGA

Tanega was born in 1939 in Long Beach. She passed away late last year. Her mother was Panamanian and her father Filipino. She got started in music while she was attending Scripps College. She ultimately got a Master of Fine Arts from Claremont Graduate School (now CG University).



She had a very successful hit song (22 on Billboard Chart and number 1 in England), with the fun title *Walking my Cat Named Dog*. *I'm walkin' all around the town Singin' all the people down Talkin' around, talkin' around Me and my cat named Dog Are walkin' high against the fog Singin' the sun, singin' the sun.*



After college, Tanega lived in England where she worked with Dusty Springfield for several years. She then returned to the US in 1971. During her career, she wrote, produced and recorded 15 albums of original music. At the same time she was working on her music she worked as an adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona and additionally taught English as a Second

Language (ESL) at Claremont adult school. She did this for 20 years. Tanega was not just a musical artist. She was also a painter and Claremont Heritage recently showed a retrospective of her paintings in the gallery.

Tanega lived in a unique stone and cement house, a Foster Roads Jackson designed home and studio on Baldy Road at the bottom of Padua Hills where she painted and did her music. This was the former home of Lindley Mixon, a Claremont based ceramicist.



At this point, David returned to the general topic of the TCM. He said that the project has brought a renewed awareness of the depth and breadth of cultural heritage in Claremont. He pointed out that while this project is new, there is quite a history of Claremont's involvement with the arts. For example, the Folk Music Center has been here for years. He noted that Chris Darrow bought his first guitar at the Folk Music Center when he was 13. In fact, Darrow took guitar lessons from the owner of the center, Dorothy Chase. She gave guitar lessons in the front yard of the Garner House.

David said that Claremont's history with music is rich. He believes that the TCM project is critical to maintaining both awareness and access to that history. Making this possible, however, is time consuming and costly. He encouraged us to consider getting involved. At this point, David asked if there were any questions.

*Who are some current musicians in the Treasury?* David noted that 30 artists are currently part of the Treasury. He went to the drop down "Musicians" menu on the website and read off some of the names including Claremont Voodoo Society, Squeekin' Wheels and John York. He said that additional musicians will be inducted each year. The plan is that there will be a form on the website where people can make recommendations. Buff immediately interjected that they should consider Cameron Troxell because "he plays a mean piano." Susie Ilsley seconded the nomination. Bernadette Kendall volunteered that there are quite a few musicians in our Rotary Club and that we ARE a singing club. The Amazing Tonebenders should be there! David said he would let us know when the form is up so we can make nominations.

*Cameron asked, What about The Night Blooming Jasmine?* David said that indeed Chet Jaeger is in the TCM. He is the clarinetist for that group.

## Treasury of Claremont Music, continued

Buff inquired about whether the TCM is highlighting individuals more than bands. For example, Michael Ryan and Hai Murradian are included, but not Ken Soderland, a marvelous guitarist who completes the "Friends of Michael Ryan" trio. David said that it is both. For example they have both Sugar Mountain Mamas and Jen Rosen individually.

Ron Coleman asked whether there is an association between KSPC and the Treasury. Have you thought about putting together a broadcast like what we are doing today or a series of these or even a blog? David said that there is a section on the website dedicated to KSPC. There have been discussions of doing live and/or recorded music. David reminded that Tom Skelly, who still has a show on KSPC, is the person who started the TCM initiative. David believes that Tom is exploring doing exactly what Ron asked about.

Ron also asked whether David was familiar with the Malcolm Gladwell podcast. He puts together a lot of obscure parts of music and cultural history. David said he can see something like this eventually happening. He pointed out that they already are doing something with oral histories of Mexican players and artists that will evolve into a documentary film.

Cameron inquired whether Chris Darrow was ever a ceramicist. No, that was his brother Eric. However, Chris did do some art work with the United Church of Christ. David noted that UCC is filled with the works of local artists. Millard Sheets basically curated the church with local artists and Chris was involved in that. Chris's main outlet for fine art was photography. He did a number of series that Claremont Heritage has shown and the CH gift store has some of his pieces for sale.

Bernadette interjected that she wanted to highlight the tireless, excellent hard work David puts into Claremont Heritage. Buff followed up asking him to say a few words about the upcoming annual gala. David said that their largest fundraising event was scheduled for May 9 and, of course, cannot be held. What will be done is a virtual event geared towards entertainment rather than the usual fund-raising activities. It will be free to people to attend. It is tentatively scheduled for May 23. There is much to do to prepare for this. Emails will be sent soon with information about how to log in and attend. The event will include bestowing the annual awards for the Bess Garner Historic Preservation Award and Cultural Heritage Award.

There will not be a live auction, but a silent auction will be accessible online for the week in advance of the event (roughly beginning May 16).

This led David to make a pitch for any of us who aren't already on their mailing list to go to the Claremont Heritage website <https://claremontheritage.org/> where, under

"contact" you can sign up for their eNews. This will keep you informed of upcoming events, interesting Claremont trivia and, new since the pandemic, "stay at home" stories people can write and upload. He also noted that if you have an interesting Claremont-centric family history there is an electronic form you can fill out; with your permission these too will be published.

Cameron asked whether the CH would consider doing "virtual" annual home tours. The CH annual home tour is scheduled for the second Sunday in October. We are still hoping it can be live, in-person, but the board has talked about the possibility that the pandemic may cause us to consider doing it virtually. David also said that the pandemic has led them to think in new directions about how to communicate, which is a positive side effect. This year's tour will feature small houses.

Buff injected that while David is pointing out positives regarding the impact of the pandemic, the negatives for Claremont Heritage are grave. The Gala and the Home Tour are the two largest fund-raising events of the year. While it is impactful to the Claremont Rotary Club if the Taste is cancelled, the impact on CH is different. Claremont Heritage counts on its fundraisers to generate income to sustain the organization itself. Buff said that therefore, thinking of a way to "monetize" the organization's virtual events is crucial. David concurred.

This somber, important note brought the discussion to a close. If this is important to members, there is a place on the Claremont Heritage website where we can make donations.

Thank you, David!



**We welcome all members and their guests to our Zoom meetings.** A special welcome to those coming into a virtual meeting for the first time. Check out the cool kids' backgrounds!



Proving Cameron's point about multitasking?

