

the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 3 | July 17, 2020

Program: Claremont Chamber of Commerce, Exec. Dir. Randy Lopez



Randy Lopez is the Executive Director of the Claremont Chamber of Commerce and a founder and CEO for Ophelia's Jump Theater, directed by his wife, Beatrice Casagran. He referenced Ruby's and Bucca de Beppo where

he was a marketer for many years. Randy has been featured in numerous publications including BRANDweek, Adweek, nation's Restaurant News, and Restaurants & Institutions. A 20+ year Stage 4 Cancer survivor, he is also a board member of the [Colon Cancer Coalition](#) based in Minneapolis and is a spokesperson for cancer awareness.

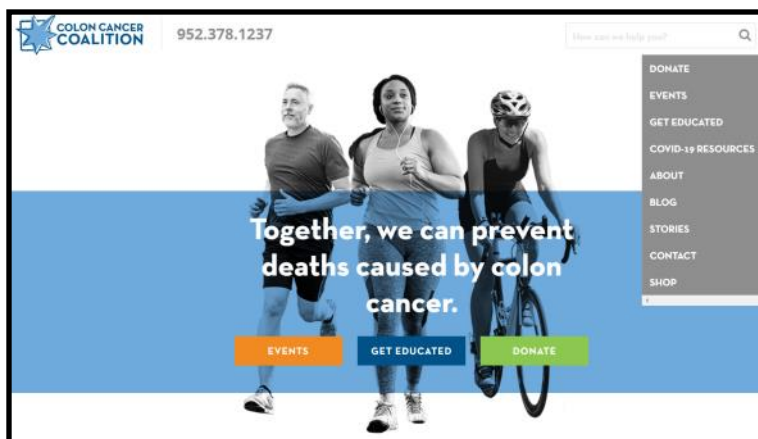
Randy greeted everyone, giving virtual hugs to all. Ever personable, Randy called out **John Tulac** for being "strafed by a Stuka" (his background photo?) and **Bill Burrows** for his Wolfman Jack imitation.



In 2022, the Chamber will be 100 years old. Randy said that he is focused on trying to continue to make the Claremont Chamber relevant - using new technologies and trying to provide services and resources among all community philanthropy groups and clubs, and reaching out to the younger generation. He is constantly trying to make the Chamber a conversation-starter in the community, and to provide community members access to business leaders. Our Club is a member.

The Chamber's 2020-21 [board](#) includes: Chair Steve Gerali or Sanctuary Coffee, Emily Moultrie, Claremont Craft Ales; Bruno Windegger, Saca's Mediterranean Cuisine (Treasurer); Michael Reis, Southland Data Processing (Member at Large); Colin Tudor, The Claremont Colleges AVP of Community Relations and Sec. to Board; Cindy Rainey, Realtor, Claremont Sunrise Rotary (Chair of the Ambassador Committee); Ehmandah Ramsey, She Stories; Floy Biggs, Aging Next; Dr. James Elsasser, Claremont Unified School District; John Neiuber, Trinity

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NEXT PROGRAM: Friday, July 24, we'll hear from Leah Zimmerman on the timely topic, [Having Difficult Conversations](#). Please join us on Zoom for the meeting, which begins with fellowship at noon. <https://kgi.zoom.us/j/5977425915>

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Rotary, the Meeting

Claremont Rotary Meeting via Zoom technology was called to order from Portland, Oregon by president **Buff Wright**, where she was visiting her grandson. After greeting participants, she suggested that we are currently a “moment of silence” club instead of a singing club, as zoom wasn’t made for our type of singalong. Then she then sent us to random break-out chat rooms to socialize with one another on a more personal level, a good idea carried over from past president **Cameron Troxell**.

Welcome Guests and Visiting Rotarian

Welcome **Ron Vera**, our friend and new president of the Pomona Rotary club. He practices law in Claremont and is also a resident of Claremont. So....Pomona Club?



Randy Lopez, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce and our speaker this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are saddened to learn that an 8th grade student who attended El Roble Intermediate School, Maxx Cheng, has died. His parents confirmed to ABC News their son’s death was possibly due to COVID-19 after he experienced symptoms of the virus. The Cheng family says Maxx became ill back on July 4, but a COVID-19 test came back negative. They said they thought he was getting better after his fever broke, his coughs slowed and he was breathing easier. The coroner is performing more tests to determine if their son’s death was caused by COVID-19. Results have not been released. Nona’s Tirre’s son was a team-mate and friend to Maxx Cheng. The death of a child is difficult news for parents and difficult news to share with their children. A [Go-Fund-Me](#) page was created by friends to help the family.

The program next week is Leah Zimmerman, a Communications Coach. She will talk about difficult interpersonal conflict and conversations that transform relationships.

Future Rotarians (?)...all grand boys

Congratulations to **Steven Schenck** and his family on the birth of grandson, Harrison Valentine Farol-Schenck, was born on July 13, 2020, the same day as



the actor Harrison Ford, although the name Harrison “Harry” had already been selected as the baby’s name.

Inspiration for the Day by Lark Gerry

Kahlil Gibran (1883 – 1931), a poet, philosopher and artist, was born in Lebanon, a land that has produced many prophets. The millions of Arabic-speaking peoples familiar with his writings in that language consider him the genius of his age. But he was a man whose fame and influence spread far beyond the Near East. His poetry has been translated into more than twenty languages. A sample of his wise thoughts.



“It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding;

And to the open-handed the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving.” From **The Prophet**

And another inspirational thought from Teddy Roosevelt

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”



In the next corner, at 2 months old and weighing in at 16lbs., Leo is grandson to president **Buff Wright**. He has already attended his first meeting, if only briefly!



Mark and Kelly Carson are holding out on us. No new pictures of grandson Hawke, born June 24 since this cute one, at 6 days

Meeting continued on page 4

Program: Randy Lopez*Continued from page 1*

Youth Services; Jonathan Brunasso, Powur (Solar) Consultant; Rob Oliva, Stay Gold Barbershop; Stacey Caponigro, Smart Property Services Inc.; Vincent Arenas, US Bank (Emerging Leaders Committee Chair); Larry Schroeder, Mayor, City of Claremont. Andrew Benki is now back in Claremont Chamber (back from Upland) He is the manager at DoubleTree where we have historically met (It seems like history!) The Chamber is pushing all Chamber Board members out into community.

The Chamber is working on trying to make sure that local businesses stay open – promoting all fresco programs for restaurants, for example, and opening up Yale as an outside space for businesses. The Chamber is helping all types of businesses to pivot and adjust operations and delivery of services safely in the time of COVID.

The Chamber administers [Discover Claremont](#), a web resource that serves to generate business for hotels and drive travel into Claremont as a Southern California getaway destination. Its worth taking a look! The mobile app includes an interactive mapping feature for trip/visit design for tourists/visitors. The Chamber also has renovated its website and logo, which links to Discover Claremont. The Chamber's effort is hyper-local focused, reaching out to local cities instead of out-of-staters or up-state cities (Upland, versus San Francisco, for example). But of course, anyone can wander into Discover Claremont!

What is happening with Claremont's usual attractions? **Village Venture** is currently taking reservations to present and display, and they have 200+ sign-ups so far, but Randy is not sure it will happen. The Sunday **Farmer's Market** is open, but it's only food vendors, no art or crafts. **Outdoor Art** events are being offered at Shelton Park. Sadly, there's no summer music yet because so many of us like to gather!

As a non-profit, the Chamber is working hard to stay open – the Chamber receives no funding from the city, and now with no funding coming from Village Venture, the primary fundraiser for the year, the budget and services are in jeopardy. Sound familiar?

The Chamber Community Relations committee is discussing a variety of topics (COVID response, parking issues, business service adjustments, etc.) to continue to provide service.

The Chamber is working with the Laemmle Theater, which was for sale even before COVID, and is trying to get a brewery to come to Claremont. This requires planning creatively with community partners.

The Chamber provides good information about the state of Claremont businesses on its webpage. [Use it!](#)



Two Rotary businesspeople at Chamber breakfast

Q&A:

Buff noted that Claremont was recently identified as a "top 10 most charming community" by the Travel Channel, which is helped along by the Chamber. Have any businesses closed in our charming community?

Answer: Le Pain Quotidien closed, but may reopen as a franchise. The Broken Coconut on Yale is closed. The French Quarter may not reopen. All places that are up for sale are not progressing currently. Most activity is among restaurants.

Bridget Healy asked whether the chamber is working on phased opening plan or strategy and what reopening will look like, since the return to normalcy won't probably be as fast as we hope?

Answer: Businesses are coming up with the answers, but it's going to be a slow approach, with hybrid formats, reduced menu offerings, real phased approaches as the businesses ease back. Also the customers will have to adjust --no more buffets, for example. Bridget observed that 911 changed the way we travel, COVID will change the way we live.

Cameron Troxell asked if small business owners are able to get overhead relief aid (rent grants)?

Answer: Yes, some rent grants were provided by the city, but it's mostly up to relationship with individual

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It's a Fine Day...says John Tulac with a smile

Lark Gerry - we hear you had a long bike ride along the coast from Newport Beach to Crystal Cove for a shake at Ruby's Shake Shack... Pay the Virtual Pig!



Bobby Hyde - You can run, but you cannot **Hyde!** Get it (?)

Bonita Ramos - Hmm, not here, but we're fining her for testing negative for COVID-19 and quarantining while she waited for the test results. (Tough duty, we're glad it was negative!!)

Bill Burrows - For doing a great imitation of Wolfman Jack, since you are now looking like him, sporting your new(?) beard. Pay the Pig!

Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo - For enjoying great food and drink on your staycation which largely entailed walking from the living room to the kitchen and back. Pay the Pig!



"Chef" Harry Sparrow - Fined for making Pasta Parmesan using sweet potato ribbon from Trader Joe's.

Jerry Goldman - Fined for dinner time being so well orchestrated: you show up right on time, you are all together, and you are henceforth known as "Dinner Bell Goldman"



Karen Sapio - Fined for daring to risk having a ceiling fan apparently so close above her head

Anita Bowling - Fined, for not being able to sit still during our zooming.



Frances Limbe - Are you in your car...in your garage? Wait, now in your office? Pay the Pig for being on the move!

Arman Ariane - for working through our Zoom meeting, or zooming while working, that is, working in absentia. Pay the Pig!

Break-out Room Tid Bits *a sign of our times...*

Tom Shelly noticed that the City took out the dog poop bag stations at our parks, including the Wilderness Park. There wasn't much said in the news. The cost may not have been the issue at just \$82.00 for 2400. Here's [an article](#) that discusses poop bag concerns.

Jerry Goldman's church is in the process of writing new rules and guidelines for worship and fellowship during this time.

Program Q&A continued from p. 3

owners. Randy is encouraging 1-on-1 conversations between owners and tenants to create workable arrangements to take this beyond the 4 month timeframe. Not all building owners can afford to abate rent, and appreciate having a viable tenant.

Arman Ariane noted that his landlord provided him with two-months of rent relief, unrequested, and sincerely welcomed. Owner-operated shops seem to be surviving better than the larger corporate entities. Randy recognizes the strength of this dynamic, and the proof of the uniqueness of the Claremont community.

Mark Carson spoke on the Taste of Claremont cancellation and the impact on both Rotary and the local restaurants, and summarized our efforts to reimagine and reinvent the event.

Response: Randy recognized the current move to be up-front and just tell the hardship story honestly - the community understands and will try to support.

Bernadette Kendall drew our attention to the work that has accelerated in town for the several business owners (like florists) and those who had been contemplating retirement before COVID, but are now finding help too and are staying open for now.

There was also a comment that with the Claremont Colleges going virtual, the absence of those students and parents will also hurt local businesses.

Randy said the Library is doing pretty well, providing in-person services, but also going online significantly. They are offering a lot of programming still going.

Churches are also being creative with virtual meeting, daily prayers, etc. There is an intimacy that has grown in the time of COVID.

There will be sunnier days in Claremont! Thanks for the information about our community, Randy!

Karen Sapio says that at her church, Claremont Presbyterian, they have been conducting worship outdoors with social distancing. The lawn has been marked with 12' checkerboard squares to insure distancing, and wearing masks is mandatory. On average 20 people show up for evening prayers, mainly seniors who live alone and need to get out of the house for a while. The day care center has about 20 kids with 10 kids in each fully self-contained room. Stringent healthcare guidelines are observed, each child's temperature is taken before entering the room, and parents cannot enter.

Rotary International Resources



Leo getting vaccinations in Portland at 2 months.



2,876 likes

rotaryinternational The #polio eradication infrastructure used for detecting the poliovirus and delivering vaccinations is enabling a strong response to #COVID19, especially in polio-endemic countries. Polio staff in those countries who track the spread of the poliovirus are supporting surveillance for COVID-19 through contact tracing, improving lab testing, providing technical support, and training additional surveillance officers.

#rotary #rotaryinternational #rotaryclub #endpolio #peopleofaction

View all 24 comments

In truth, the US polio vaccine has been an injection since 2000, though oral vaccine is still in use in other countries and by Rotary. Leo, well protected by good science, also had a spiderman band aid covering the polio vaccine injection site.

Escape from Covid (a poem)

Wish I could be lifted on wings,
Far above COVID and the problems it brings
And see the earth as it should be.
Without the death and dying beneath me.
Over these things I would be flying:

The politics and the lies our leaders make
The science that takes so long to bake
The nurses and doctors who daily give
their hearts and souls for others to live,
at deep cost to them and theirs, are saints.

As the numbers rise pandemically,
perplexed carriers with no symptoms or signs,
are accused of infecting every one they meet any
time.

The recalcitrant objector yells "I'm not going to
wear that," as if a mask were a useless funny hat

But love, faithful love, stops my flight.
Distancing has brought us closer. I want to share-
I would miss you if you were not here when
COVID ends. A grim reaper in its final gasp,
and as it exits, whispers, "you killed me with a
mask."

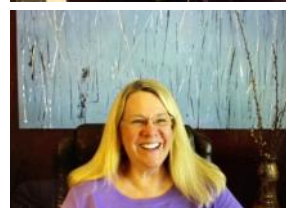
Ian Phillips
Professor Emeritus
Keck Graduate Institute
(and Rotary spouse)



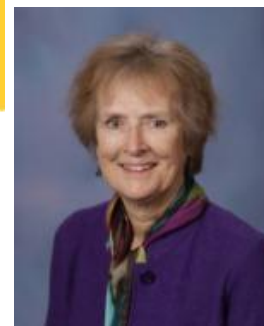
WHAT WOULD ROTARY DO? (if we were kids)

Thinking that it's hard to do projects in this environment? Need some inspiration? [Check out this link](#) to inventions by kids. They include run from kid (and doctor) friendly face masks, to planting a billion trees, to feeding the hungry, all invented by children. What can we do?

We'll be talking about these things in committees and perhaps in Zoom Rotary Happy Hours. Want to arrange one? Talk to President Buff about a date and time.



Outside the Box...What are we thinking???



Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

July 24	Having Difficult Conversations, Leah Zimmerman
July 31	Chaos & Ash, Kendall Johnson
August 21	Curious Magazine, Rebecca Ustrell
Others, Date TBD	Grant Gershon, LA Master Chorale; Ofoe Apekey, Ghanaian researcher on drug development for the developing world; Joe Altman, MiddleTree

Photo of the week



Leo and Buff

Submitted by Steve Schenck

It's about time we
got some younger
people in the
club!



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!

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

Taste of Claremont

tasteofclaremont.org/

July Birthdays

Marc Winter 7/4
Cameron Troxell 7/9
Karen Sapio 7/12
James Elsasser 7/14
Carole Dorsey 7/18
John Bifone 7/19
Jack Schuster 7/23
Abe Esquibel, Felix Villanueva 7/24



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

Sergeants' committee
gathers before each
meeting at 11:30 AM in
the Orchard Lounge at
the DoubleTree Hotel
and anyone
with information to
share is welcome!!

Clarifier Committee

Mike DeWees
Lark Gerry
Bobby Hyde
Jim Lehman
Steve Schenck
Chris Shaner
Harry Sparrow
Peter Weinberger
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