



the CLARIFIER

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 8 | August 21, 2020

Program: Rebecca Ustrell, Curious Publications



Our speaker, Rebecca Ustrell was introduced by Sarah Jo Antonucci. Sarah Jo said that Rebecca is not only a well known artist from the inland empire community, but she is also involved in many community service

projects in the area. They met at a Chamber event.

Here is the deep dive background on Rebecca. She is the founder and Editor in Chief of Curious Publishing. Curious Publishing was established to promote and nurture the underrepresented and under-serviced talents of the Inland Empire, Los Angeles and Greater Southern California. Through her experience in coordinating the Claremont Art Walk Pop-Up Gallery from 2016-2018, she decided to highlight the many talented artists in her first indie publication CURIOUS Magazine in September 2018. Since then, CP has published a new edition of CURIOUS every quarter with a new theme and focus per issue. In addition to CURIOUS Magazine, Curious Publishing also publishes a biannual lifestyle and culture journal entitled Mise en Abyme; Curious also acts as a consultant and publisher for independent artist publications for artists throughout Southern California. Becky's involvement in the arts extends through several collaborations in the Inland Empire. She sits on the board of The Artlands, and serves as a volun-

teer Special Events Coordinator for The Arts Area. These projects are all in addition to her solo career as a visual artist and creative writer.

Rebecca goes by Becky. She became Becky a few years ago when she first started her fundraising career at the Children's Foundation, where there was already another Rebecca. "Becky" was perfect, because it is also a family nickname.

Becky said that she is an independent artist. She does custom pet pictures as well as portraits of people. Sarah Jo and Vadim commissioned Becky to paint a custom picture of them and their dog. She said that this is one of a limited number of "handmade" versions of her art. She is now working in digital format. Becky shared a couple of her most recent digital pictures.



Portrait Artist
Specializing in Pets and People



Continued on page 5

Watch It!

Here is the [link to the meeting recording for August 21](#) featuring Rebecca Ustrell, founder of Curious Publishing.
Password: uNgt&5Ki

Next Zoom Meeting

[Zoom link to Meeting on Friday 8/28](#), which features District Governor Greg Jones, who will tell us about what's happening in District 5300

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ROTARY, THE MEETING

President **Buff Wright** called the meeting to order, sort of, and a discussion of experiences with dentists took off. **Sylvia Whitlock** has had one dentist for many decades. **Susie Ilsley's** story involved laughing gas, **Steve Schenck's**, no Novocain, **Buff's** was about three root canals at the same time with no anesthesia. **Rich Laughton**, a recent painless wisdom tooth removal. Naturally, **Ron Coleman** recalled a joke. *What if a dentist got the dentist of the Year award, what would they give him?* No guesses. *A little plaque.* After a few comments about PDG **Randy Pote's** goldilocks, hidden by a hat, Buff dispatched everyone to randomly selected breakout social sessions.



BREAK OUT SESSION TIDBITS

With no assignment given, random fellowship ensued! We're all starved for an audience! Discussion flowed.

Randy Pote was teased about the length of his hair. He came up with a picture that was a blast from his past in his decked out bright metallic green van.



Not to be outdone, **Steve Schenck** came up with a great photo building on the hair theme



Bridget Healy produced a high school picture, speaking of goldilocks!

Tom Shelley's wife Barbara is recovering from a hip replacement performed at Casa Colina. No muscles cut; she was up and walking in a couple of hours. Modern surgery techniques are amazing!

Lark Gerry reported that the only bumper sticker she ever had was a Rotary bumper sticker. She gave that car to her granddaughter, and she left it on, on purpose because she felt that she wouldn't get stopped by the police!

Lyn Childress reported that **Mark and Kelly Carson's** daughter is in labor. (**Mark** chimed in to confirm) Stay tuned.

Harry Sparrow is working on his golf game with 15 decent holes...what about the other three holes?

Frank Bedoya says Pomona College has a lot of students coming back to the area, but not staying in dorms. Pomona College is anticipating about a 30 million dollar shortfall. Service employees may be furloughed as there will be no on-campus dining.

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Randy Pote, PDG for District 5300, has become a regular at our meetings. We love to hear his stories: youth and long hair; car breaking down in Winslow Arizona; and music from The Eagles. On a serious note, Randy reported that due to Covid 19, the 2021 Rose Parade is cancelled. Rotary Rose Parade Float committee will concentrate on

fundraising toward the 2022 parade float build. The committee declined an invitation to give \$100K to be in an alternative video gala. On another note, his sister's Rotary Club in Colorado, has found a unique project where they apply for district matching grant helping restaurants in the local area and delivering food to folks who are nutritionally challenged. And then he muted....

Sarah Jo Antonucci introduced **Bianca Ustrell** and **Rachel**, the sister and friend of our guest speaker, **Rebecca Ustrell**, Founder and Editor Chief of Curious Publishing.



The Welcome song was sung in sequence by brave Rotarians **Chris Hayes**, **Bobby Hyde**, and **Bernadette Kendall**. Just wait! 2 verses on the 28th!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 28, District Governor Greg Jones makes his official visit to our club as our guest speaker. He will talk about what is going on in District 5300, help induct two new club members, and give out Paul Harris Fellow awards.

The next meetings are listed on the back page of the Clarifier. Note that on September 4th there is NO MEETING (Labor Day). Looking further forward, on October 9 we'll have a candidate forum with the three candidates for Claremont School Board.

Rotary 2020-2021 Directory is available. Rotary elves will be helping with distribution.

Good news - Claremont City Council issued a letter stating that the Claremont Club property will not be rezoned, it will remain a RC zone for recreational use only. Hopefully it will sell fast and re-open as The Claremont Club once again.

If you know someone who could host a female student from Creighton University who is doing a 12 week occupational therapy rotation at Casa Colina in the middle of September and staying until the middle of December, email [Jerry Tambe](mailto:Jerry.Tambe).

Sergeant's Corner with Nick Quackenbos

Sarah Jo Antonucci - Congratulations on passing your Real Estate exam! She will be working with husband **Vadim Shtil** as they expand their business in Palm Springs. She also announced that the OOTT auctioneers would welcome donation of a B&B stay for the auction. Fine! \$5 bucks!



Randy Pote (despite the fact that he earlier said he was muting for the last time), said he has had a 95% occupancy in his B&B. Fined for his advertisement! Donate a night?

Tom Shelley was fined for going out in the desert with **Jerry Tambe**. Did you give up fishing, Tom? Tom chose not to be quarantined by his wife after a fishing trip, so he could help his wife, Barbara, after surgery. Best wishes to Barbara for a speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery.

Lee Goldstein - For skipping last week's Rotary meeting only to show up at Nick's air conditioned office with a six pack of beer. Lee and Nick have been friends for over 25 years. It was a really HOT day in Claremont and Lee needed to discuss something important with Nick's son Scott, so, what better place than a COOL air conditioned building with beer? (Best wishes to Scott who just had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.)



Lyn Childress - How are your house sale preparations coming along? It's a long and arduous process. Nick said, when her house sells and closes escrow (soon), she will be fined.

Paul Steffen - Kept your record up of being last into the meeting yet again... pay up!



ANNOUNCEMENT: OUT ON THE TOWN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for our fundraiser "Out On The Town" October 2 -11. This will take the place of Taste of Claremont this year. Out On The Town with Claremont Rotary is an all club - event with the mission of giving back to the community. We will offer free advertising in the Courier thanking vendors who have participated and supported The Taste of Claremont over the years. Thank you to Peter Weinberger for helping out!

Participants will be requested to donate \$10 or more to receive a passport (ticket), wine glass, and more. Passports will be stamped at participating OOTT restaurant / vendor verifying patronage. Passports may then be redeemed for an opportunity to win a gift basket or prize. All

Inspirational Thought

read by Lark Gerry

I Want to Age Like Sea Glass
by Bernadette Noll



I want to age like sea glass. Smoothed by tides, not broken. I want the currents of life to toss me around, shake me up and leave me feeling washed clean. I want my hard edges to soften as the years pass—made not weak but supple. Want to ride the waves, go with the flow, feel the impact of the surging tides rolling in and out.



When I am thrown against the shore and caught between the rocks and a hard place, I want to rest there until I can find the strength to do what is next. Not stuck—just waiting, pondering, feeling what it feels like to pause. And when I am ready, I will catch a wave and let it carry me along to the next place that I am supposed to be.

I want to be picked up on occasion by an unsuspected soul and carried along—just for the connection, just for the sake of appreciation and wonder. And with each encounter, new possibilities of collaboration are presented, and new ideas are born.

I want to age like sea glass so that when people see the old woman (or man) I'll become, they'll embrace all that I am. They'll marvel at my exquisite nature, hold me gently in their hands and be awed by my well-earned patina. Neither flashy no dull, just a perfect luster. And they'll wonder, if just for a second, what it is exactly I am made of and how I got to this very here and now. And we'll both feel lucky to be in that perfectly right place at that profoundly right time.

I want to age like sea glass. I want to enjoy the journey and let my preciousness be, not in spite of the impacts of life, but because of them.

Rotarians will be requested to solicit 10 passport donations in advance of the event. A fabulous on line auction will also be featured. To donate items or experiences, contact Sarah Jo.

Please contact **Mark Carson** (chair) to find out how you can assist with our primary 2020 fundraiser. 909-821-5396 or rotarymarkie@gmail.com



African continent declared Polio Free!

This progress is the result of a decades-long effort across the 47 countries of the African region. It has involved millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus, innovative strategies to vaccinate children amid conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network to test cases of paralysis and check sewage for the virus. This milestone is an incredible public health achievement for Rotary members, the African region, and our GPEI partners, and a huge step forward on the road to global polio eradication. But we still have important work to do in order to eradicate wild polio in the last two endemic countries.

*We have faced many challenges in our journey to eradicate polio. But we've made remarkable progress, and the polio infrastructure that Rotarians helped build will serve as a lasting legacy that will continue to help protect vulnerable children against other diseases for decades to come. **We are calling on you today to recommit yourselves to ending polio. We need each and every one of you to help finish this fight and continue raising \$50 million each year for PolioPlus.** The eradication of wild polio in the African region shows us that polio eradication is achievable, and shows how our hard work, partnerships and financial commitment continue to propel us forward, even during a global pandemic.*

Thank you for your continued efforts, for achieving a wild polio-free African region, and for remaining committed to fulfilling our promise of a polio-free world.

Sincerely

*K.R Ravindran, Chair, The Rotary Foundation
Holger Knaack President, RI .*

Board meeting August 18

The Board of Directors has adopted a basic operating budget for 2020-2021. While we are certain to fund a number of programs without proposals, like RYLA if it is held, the board noted that most other local organizations that we have traditionally funded, must now submit a proposal for consideration for funds. We put approximately \$35,000 in an active contingency fund for everything else. With careful planning we should be able to maintain an acceptable level of service to our community for the next two to three years, prudence made necessary due to the Covid 19 pandemic that is impacting our fundraising. **Ron Coleman** and his committee, **Mike DeWees** and **Nona Tirre** have presented a related policy for spending the related foundation reserves. Finally, our budget is built largely on our current level of donations to our Foundation. We are all saving some money by virtue or curse of our lunch-free

THE PANDEMIC GIFT

submitted by Sylvia Whitlock

Yes, it has brought some gifts! For one, communication has increased without limitation of location. We are talking to people everywhere! And in my small neighborhood, I am learning how to appreciate my neighbors' landscaping skills. I walk through our streets every morning. I pass lawns that look like green velvet, some that look like freshly mown hay, and everything in between. I return home and check to see where on the spectrum mine sits. I see roses and other flowers in every color of the rainbow and I check to see where I could place a new rose plant. I see brightly colored front doors and I wonder how much paint and what color it would take to change mine. I see tile roofs, shingles, awnings, and everything that keeps the sun and rain off. Single story houses, two stories and three stories. What a variety of styles and landscaping! I applaud the signs that tell me someone has been graduated from UCLA or Bonita High School. I thank the people who have walls up front where I can sit and rest my tired legs, I wonder why our streets go uphill and down and are not just flat. I guess the water has to run somewhere. I am getting to know my neighbors – today Melissa introduced herself. I made a mental note to be more mindful of termites since the man up the block has a tent on his house. I smile at the children's chalk drawings on the sidewalk and wish I could still jump hopscotch. I count the avocados on my neighbor's avocado tree and make a mental note to give mine more water.

Yes! I'm learning lots of stuff. They are all gifts like the glorious, clear blue sky, nary a cloud in sight, that lights up the mornings!



meetings. Please consider donating occasionally to our foundation.

Many thanks to our treasurer, **Jim Marchant**, who is looking into establishing a quick pay method with a Zelle or Venmo account. This will allow an easy way to donate to our Foundation and pay fines from the comfort of your smartphone!

Ustrell, continued from p. 1



Her art book company, Curious Publishing, is sponsored fiscally by the [Inland Empire Arts Area](#) which is an art-based non-profit that specializes in boosting startups in the arts. In fact, Curious Publishing was the first project that the Arts Area undertook. She has been publishing for about two years. Becky pointed out some recent publications on a book rack behind her. They included a copy of Curious magazine, an art book and another independent title publication called *Pandemic*, which includes about 90 pages of artwork, including some by her sister, Bianca.

As we could see, Becky is a woman who wears many hats. She used to be very involved with fundraising for foster children throughout the Inland Empire via Children's Foundation of America. This led to her involvement with Claremont Emerging Leaders (nee Young Professionals) where she eventually became the chair. Through activities there she met people associated with Claremont Art Walk which is how she first became involved with the art scene and was introduced to Claremont.

Becky is also very engaged with Ontario Art Walk. She gathers artists for this and is involved in hanging the artwork in the gallery and Casa Pitzer. This event is another one that is associated with The Arts Area.



Since Curious Publishing began, it has been focused on raising funds which are put back into the printing costs and paying artists who appear in the publication. She said that the books and magazine focus on subjects like social justice and other issues that are relevant to the community, especially in the Inland Empire. The one hard and fast rule is that a minimum of 80 percent of what they publish is connected to artists living in the Inland Empire. All of the work is done by volunteers.

As is the case with so many of us, Becky's endeavors have been affected by Covid-19. Pre-Covid, she was involved with

quarterly release parties, live music and art shows which often had over 200 attendees. Now she is involved with online art parties where they do a week-long promotion of artists and their works. She is also doing a lot of Instagram Live work.

In June, Becky suffered a terrible loss of publications, as well as household contents, due to a fire in the house where CP was located. She is working to rebuild her library and it is currently about fifty percent recompiled. This effort requires financial resources. To support that she has established a Fire Relief Auction to which more than 40 local artists volunteered works. Her goal is to raise \$5000. The prices of art and sculpture range from \$15 to several hundred. Information about the fundraiser can be found at the [Curious website](#). She is grateful for the generosity of the community to CP and to her personally.

After Becky finished her presentation, PDG **Randy Pote** was inspired to suggest a special program related to arts for elementary school age kids that our club and Becky could work on together. Pote noted several ways that such a joint effort could work, perhaps as a vocational project where we talk to kids about careers in the arts, offering drive through art shows, or an introduction of young artists' work into the curriculum. Becky said that she has experience related to this idea. She and **Sarah Jo** both talked about these experiences. Becky said that she has been invited to do shows like this and affirmed that she knows of others doing drive through art shows. President Buff explained that our club is focused on how to best serve our community during the pandemic and we would think through how this might translate to a club service project at this time.

The ideas kept coming. Sarah suggested that Becky, using the digital medium, could create a "this is Rotary" coloring book. It could describe the service mission of Rotary and include important components like the 4-Way Test. The book could incorporate both art and reading skills. **Sylvia Whitlock** suggested that it could include a component where the children actually illustrate their interpretation of each of the four tests. Randy volunteered that he has a book about the 4-way test that he could provide to Becky and Sarah Jo as a starting point.

Bridget Healy asked, since both Becky and her sister were artists, whether that talent runs in the family. Becky said that her parents are both creative people. Her mom is a singer and loves to draw and collect art. Her father enjoys calligraphy and drawing.

For more detail about Rebecca, go to her eponymous website, www.RebeccaUstrell.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Garbis Peace Institute
31st Annual Peace Conference
PEACE out of CHAOS – a Pandemic

Saturday, October 24, 2020 / 9:00 am—1:00 pm
VIRTUAL — Free via Zoom

FEATURING KEYNOTE
SPEAKER

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary
International 2019-2020



“How has Covid-19
Impacted Rotary’s
Priorities and
Opportunities of Working
Together”

Dr. Quentin Wodon
Lead Economist, World Bank

“The Long Term Effects of
Covid-19 Pandemic: Education,
Human Capital, and How
Rotarians Can Help”



**Michael Brosowski Founder-
CEO**

Blue Dragon Children’s
Foundation

“The Impact of Covid-19 on
Children and Women”

Dr. Siobhan Nash Marshall
Professor and Chair of Christian
Philosophy and Philosophy
Depart-ments, Manhattanville
College, NY

“The Spiritual Response to
Covid-19”



Sheila Gutierrez
MA, LMFT Marriage and Family
Therapist

“Harmful Effects of Covid-19 on
the Family

Eugene Whitlock, J.D.
Assistant Vice Chancellor for
People and Culture; Chief People
and Culture Officer, UC Berkeley,
CA

“Creating a Culture of
Belonging in a Virtual World”



← Sylvia’s son



Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Aug 28	Official Visit from District Governor, Greg Jones
Sept 4	Dark for Labor Day (Going somewhere?)
Sept 11	Craft Talk: Mary Segawa

Early Morning Clouds



Schenck Images

Polio Plus is an ongoing effort. While no new African cases have been detected for 4 years, we never know what lurks undocumented or what might reemerge. Keep feeding me! (Can't wait for payments by Venmo or Zelle to kick in!)



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, co-editor
- Bill Burrows
- Lark Gerry
- Bobby Hyde
- Jim Lehman
- Steve Schenck
- Chris Hayes Shaner
- Harry Sparrow
- Peter Weinberger
- Buff Wright, editor



August Birthdays (many!)

- Bill Burrows, Bonita & Richard Ramos 8/4
- Brett O'Connor 8/5 Susie Ilsley 8/8
- John Tulac 8/9 Don Ralls 8/11
- Juli Minoves-Triquell 8/15
- Jeff Bonhus 8/22 Ned Paniagua 8/23
- Bob Siliciano & Peter Weinberger 8/25
- Kelly Carson 8/26 Armando Armenta 8/27

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



Notes: Harry Sparrow (program), Lark Gerry (meeting) Photos: Steve Schenck
The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom at 12:00 on Friday until further notice