



the CLARIFIER

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 23 | December 04, 2020

Program: Political Risk and the Future of Business: Prof. Ian Oxnevad

Submitted by Mike DeWees



S.J. Antonucci introduced Dr. Ian Oxnevad, a visiting Professor of Political Science at UC Irvine. Dr. Oxnevad holds a PhD in political science from the University of California-Riverside, a BA in Arabic and a

MA in National Security Studies. He was a 2014 recipient of the US Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship for Turkish. Dr. Oxnevad regularly publishes peer-reviewed work on issues of security, political economy, and the Middle East.

As a political scientist and political economist, Dr. Oxnevad's research focuses in areas where security and the economy overlap. His work examines issues of threat finance, terrorist financing, and geoeconomics, as well as broader geopolitical dynamics impacting the modern world. He got to these studies from "threat financing."

His expertise regarding unstable countries and the accompanying economic and political risk can be applied to businesses in the US today. In other words, they probably should have seen it coming.

Dr. Oxnevad gave us some background on the differences between political science and history and the subfield of political economy and how politics and economics are not sep-

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OPPORTUNITY TO DIMINISH HUNGER!

The holidays are upon us, and the Rotary Club of Claremont has something special to be thankful for. Rotarian **Tim Harrison** and his colleagues at Cornerstone Home Lending have experienced a very good year as they help home buyers and home owners finance their homes, and so Tim wants to give back to this community we all call home. Tim is offering our club a \$5000 matching grant to help stock the Hope Partner's food bank during the holiday season, one which will be difficult for many.

If you are able to participate, your contributions can be made by check to the Rotary Club of Claremont Foundation, with Hope Partners in the memo (send to PO Box 357, Claremont CA 91711). If you prefer to donate by credit card, [click here](#) to donate online, being sure to provide an "optional" note that it is for Hope Partners Match after you select "general donation." *Thanks to Tim and to all who match!*

Although we can't have our usual holiday party, we will have a **holiday meeting**. Joel Wilson and the Claremont High School Virtual Choir will be our program on **December 18**. Festive apparel is appropriate; plan to provide your own grog and cookies.

Watch It!

Here is the [link to the recording](#) from the December 4 meeting featuring UC Irvine Visiting Prof. Ian Oxnevad. (available til 12/24)

Next Zoom Meeting

The next meeting, on 12/11, features CHS teachers discussing their experience with online learning.

[Here's the zoom link!](#)

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ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING: *submitted by Jim Lehman*

President Buff sent us off to breakout rooms with a prompt. “I answer a USC survey every week about how people are faring during the Pandemic. The survey asks questions such as whether I had enough to eat in the past 7 days. Did I ever have to eat less to make the food stretch? I am struck by how lucky I am, warmly ensconced in my daughter’s home with grandson Leo, with people who like to cook. So, was yours a happy Thanksgiving? What were you thankful for? Did you travel? Are you well?” This being 2020, we found there were travails as well as things to be thankful for. **Sarah Jo Antonucci** probably had the worst Thanksgiving of our club, with **Bridget** a close second. SJ had a swollen and painful jaw that required a root canal on—you guessed it—Thanksgiving Day. She texted Club member **Dr. Ned Paniagua** to ask if he pain was normal, and he came to the rescue that very day, much to SJ’s relief. **Bridget Healy** had a not just a bad day, but an entire bad week: her credit card was stolen; things she hadn’t ordered were shipped to her house and she now has to figure out how to return them; her daughter spent extravagantly (over \$180) for the side dishes for a Thanksgiving dinner for three—a fittingly 2020 week. But as SJ observed, any day you get to hang out with a fellow Rotarian is hardly a bad day.



WELCOME GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

President Buff introduced frequent guest, **Bill Gershon**. **Anita Boling** introduced her guest, **Stacy Mittlestaedt**, from Aging Next. And President Buff introduced Past District Governor and frequent visitor **Randy Pote**, from the Las Vegas WON Club.



Next, **Karen Sapio** treated us to a song—[We Are the Rotarians](#)—performed by a Rotary Club in Malaysia, with the singers performing first in black concert attire, then in yellow Rotary shirts and hats. It revealed a level of showmanship we may well aspire to, but surely will not attain, though we do have matching zeal.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election of Officers! Immediate Past President Cameron Troxell reminded us that we have an election under way for 2 new members of the Board of Directors and for our President-elect-elect-elect. The official election date is December 11, next Friday. You can vote online using this link to the [survey monkey ballot](#). If you haven’t voted yet, please do so. Your first vote will be for a Board member, your second vote will also be for a Board member, and your third vote will be for the PEEE. (Mailed ballots postmarked on or before election day will be counted if received within two days, weeks, months or years of election day, depending on which state or foreign country you mailed it from. For a full set of regulations pertaining to these received-by dates, please refer to By-Laws, Section ZZTop, Subsection MadHatter.) Seriously, make your wishes known. We need your choices by midnight, Friday, December 11, 2020. You can even just email or call Cameron and relay your votes to him directly, as some have already done.

INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

Jim Lehman offered an edited quote from Ralph Marston of The Daily Motivator:



Live today as if you will never have it again. Because you won’t.

Live today as if it is filled with unique opportunities. Because it is.

Live today with a generous spirit.

Live today far removed from the doubts and anger that would bring you down. Fill your thoughts instead with curiosity, forgiveness, kindness, and joy.

Live today with gratitude for its possibilities.

Live today with patience for yourself and others as you move forward through its challenges.

This is a moment like no other, and you’ve arrived at it with more wisdom and experience than you’ve ever had. Live today, and live it well

Adopt A Family. We were treated to a picture of **John Howland** with the presents club members gave for our Adopt-a-Family drive. Many thanks to John, who collected them and delivered them to Hope Partners.

Sylvia Whitlock informed us of the alignment, in the night sky, of Jupiter and Saturn, starting about December 18, lasting about a week. Look to the southwest sky about 45 minutes after sunset. It’s called the Start of Bethlehem alignment, last seen in the year 1200. Catch it if you can; it won’t recur in your lifetime.

Bikes for Kids. **Tom Shelly** reported that the group we’ve worked with in Rancho Cucamonga, who usually give 50 bikes to local police and fire departments to distribute to kids, was able to locate only 10 bikes this year. (Supply chain issues...) The warehouse usually used to source our bike purchases has none. Perhaps by spring things will have improved and we can time-shift our Bill’s Bikes for Kids to celebration of summer!



SERGEANT SUSIE ILSLEY

December Birthdays: **Lucinda McDade, Adnan Aswad, SarahJo Antonucci, Perry Hilberg, Nick Quackenbos, Lee Goldstein, Paul Steffen, and Ron Coleman.** It's a fine, fine day for you.

SarahJo's story of the root canal left someone out. Explain. Well, none of **Dr. Ned Paniagua's** staff were on tap to help during the procedure, so **Vadim** held the suction device, and generally assisted. It was great to have him there.



Lucinda McDade, I want to fine you for the really great program you had on the 20th. Which one? The one on the Garden. Oh, that. I thought maybe you were referring to Taste Wild. Oh, I see. Maybe we should add \$5 to the fine for that. But my birthday was yesterday and I didn't get anything but a cookie from Some Crust, so I've got nothing for you. I didn't get any presents. Susie pressed Lucinda to cover it by telling us about Wreath Wild. Lucinda complied. Next up at the California Botanic Garden is Wreath Wild, in which you come and pick up everything you need to make a beautiful native plant arrangement and then create it in conjunction with a subsequent webinar led by an expert. You'll have a lovely native plant arrangement for your holiday enjoyment. Thank you Lucinda, and for that your fine is waived.

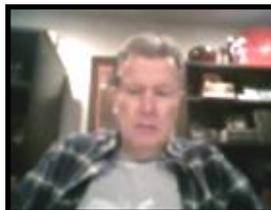


John Allen has a \$25 fine awaiting him for a video Ana took of him, from behind, dancing unawares. Too bad he's not here. Double the fine!

Blanca Aguiar, whose Christmas tree was much on display during the meeting was asked when she put up the tree? November 2! So early! It was a mood adjuster. She said, "I have lights all over—it makes me happy." That deserves a fine.



Randy Prout was challenged with a clue from Jeopardy this week. The clue: this organization has the following saying as its motto: Service Above Self. What was the organization? The answer was obviously "What is Rotary International?" And no one on the TV panel got it. All too young. What's the moral, Randy? We've got to reach out to our young people.



We have to fine **Jim Elsasser** now; he'll be gone soon. He The Claremont Educational Foundation awarded CUSD \$165,000. That's a big deal. I was going to fine him \$25, but he went away for a bit. **Brett O'Connor:** How about this? I'll pay the fine and I'll bill him. Done.



Mike DeWees was asked to tell us about his new purchase this week as he got an all-electric car, inspired by **John Howland's** Chevy Volt. No more gasoline for me; I'm really happy. HOV lane access and applying for rebates. All good. I drive about 60 miles a day and am only charging about every 4 days. Not bad. Maybe I'll convert some of my CO2 credits to pay the fine.



Finally, Visiting Rotarian **Randy Pote** who tradition say shouldn't be fined, but we're using pandemic rules! Randy and Susie had coffee Thursday, distanced, masked, Covid careful. But then Randy had to leave the meeting because he had a meeting with another Claremont Rotarian. Randy explained! Well, a couple of weeks ago, **Arman Arian** private chatted me because he saw the animation art behind me during the Zoom meeting and said, Randy, I have a Goofy! So now behind him is the Goofy he purchased from Arman yesterday (Rotary price, of course). Randy said he and Susie had a wonderful chat, and I will accept whatever fine you give me. However, he posed that he has had a root canal, really miserable, so he offered to pick up SJ's fine. How generous! Susie wasn't going to fine him because when he met with Arman and saw he wasn't wearing his Rotary pin, Randy gave him the Rotary SuperStar pin that was given out in the 2015-16 year. Randy insisted that he take it—the moral of the story: don't come to business without wearing your Rotary pin! Thank you Randy.



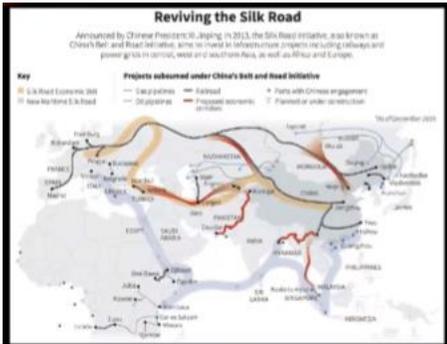
NEED A QUICK WAY TO PAY YOUR FINES?

[JUST CLICK HERE!](#)



Ian Oxnevad, continued from page 1

arate; market and non-market influence each other.



He related the past to our current situation by pointing out that the Black Death in 1347 came along the economic trade routes between China and Italy. For American businesses this is an old-new world.

Today we are seeing China re-establishing the Belt and Road Initiative to refit the global economy around Eurasia tied primarily to China. We know from a prior presentation on global supply chain that we are tied to the world and a war in the Middle East can drive up gas prices and affect even a small business like a food truck here in Los Angeles.

But many businesses still don't perceive themselves as living in a political environment despite political polarization that are at all-time highs, regulatory changes, taxation and even talk of nationalizing entire industries.

So how do businesses survive this chaos? All businesses should see themselves as political actors and develop a political mindset that incorporates political and economic intelligence into their operations.

Dr. Oxnevad talked about a 108 year old mineral water company called Uludağ that he studied (after buying some) while he was living in Turkey. This company has survived the Ottoman coup, WW1, foreign occupation, war of independence, modernization, authoritarianism, five military coups since 1960, ongoing terrorism, massive inflation and high levels of corruption.

their economy has actually improved even though the central government has collapsed. Though it is a failed state, Somalians actually export more meat to the Middle East and North Africa than Australia does.

What political awareness takes is intelligence, collective evaluation analysis and synthesis of different information. We often think of spies and stealing trade secrets, but businesses can do this with relevant information that is publicly available. Looking at indicators like the fact that China owns most of the minerals we need to have a green economy, drives a conclusion that as we head in that direction, we are going to butt heads with China.

Business intelligence is really no different in the sense that you're still looking at actors and environments and non-economic data. He gave several examples of non-market pressures on businesses. Small businesses can often find help uncovering this data through business associations and Chambers of Commerce whereas larger businesses do this on their own.

Do watch the recording if you didn't hear Dr. Oxnevad live, as he had some very interesting slides (It's hard to read them here) and he really put things in perspective. We'll invite him to speak again!

There is no reason other businesses cannot survive upheavals. Those that do stay aware of political events going on around them. He mentioned that he's studied Somalia and

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

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 will be supporting the California Botanic Garden with plantings planned for two locations, both in the near future and in the year ahead. Interact students will be assisting, along with Rotarians and friends. Got questions? Ask Lucinda McDade!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!

Volunteers needed for Aging Next Food Delivery

Stacy Middlestaedt of Aging Next offered up opportunities for Rotarians to volunteer. Aging Next is the local coordinator for AmeriCorps, a national volunteer service organization. Aging Next is also coordinator for the retired senior volunteer program and the senior companion program. They partner with Meals on Wheels in Claremont and surrounding communities, and with Claremont Manor, Pilgrim Place, the City of Claremont, City of La Verne, City of Diamond Bar. So people interested in volunteering can come to Aging Next and find a range of opportunities.

Meal delivery. Right now, we're delivering all of the meals for the City of Claremont. Senior centers are closed all over and most people have to drive to get to the meal delivery site, but of course some seniors can't drive. They will likely need help in the weeks ahead as college students are unavailable. They would like to get a handful of Rotarians to sign up to be a substitute meal delivery driver. It takes about an hour on Monday and/or Wednesday, and is contactless—the meals are in bags and put in the back of your car, and you put them on the client's porch, ring the bell, step back and wait for them to open. You deliver to 4 or 5 addresses.

Please don't hesitate to contact Stacy and say you're a volunteer from Rotary! stacy@agingnext.org.

The **Senior Companion Program** is a national program of volunteers doing in-home visits, running errands for them, have lunch or play games together, in the process building friendships. Volunteers who are low income seniors. Are paid a stipend and mileage through an AmeriCorps grant. It could provide anywhere from \$60 to a couple hundred dollars a month, and for the volunteers it can mean groceries, a utility bill, part of the rent. They would like Rotarians to be ambassadors and get the word out for the future. There is no in-home volunteering now due to COVID.

Ride and Go, which matches a volunteer with a senior who needs a ride. It's inactive right now, but consider it for the future. This is in addition to Dial a Ride and Get About, and provides door-to-door assistance.



The NY Rotary Club meeting guest on December 16 at 4 pm-5:00 pm Pacific time is **Wolfram von Heynitz**, Deputy Consul General of Germany in New York He'll be speaking about "The Future of Transatlantic Cooperation." Tune in!

Link to the Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89042659881>

togetherTalks is a fortnightly series of online conversation events sponsored by Rotary of Great Britain and Ireland, presenting thought leaders across the globe from the worlds of business, humanitarian interest and more. **Sylvia Whitlock** was a speaker in the spring.

Each togetherTalk is being hosted on Zoom and then is live streamed on the [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland's YouTube channel](#). You can [register for all events via the official Eventbrite page](#). Doing this will give you email reminders and immediate access to the stream, so you don't miss a moment! There are two types of ticket available:

- 1. Zoom Room Access** - Get front row access to the togetherTalk and be part of a limited audience with an opportunity to put live questions to the guest.
- 2. YouTube live stream access** - Sit back, relax and watch the togetherTalk live from your preferred device. You can still engage in chat with fellow viewers.

Next event: December 15 "The Untapped Power of Teaching Peace."

Virtual Safari Concert, a joint project of the Rotary Club of Polokwane, D9400 South Africa and Rotary Club of Monterey Pacific, D5230 USA. A **Virtual South African Safari** filled with **wildlife, scenery and wonderful regional music**. Funds raised will benefit the many important service projects of the Rotary Club of Polokwane in South Africa. Any size donation gets you a [ticket to the event](#), **December 19, 9:00 am PST**.



Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Dec 11 Annual Meeting	How Students Experience Virtual Learning at Claremont High School Jenn Gomez (History), Sara Hills (Video Production), Linda Saeta (Math)
Dec 18	Virtual Holiday Party. Dr. Joel Wilson, Conductor of the CHS (virtual) choir. BYO Grog and cookies!
Jan 8, 2021	Next meeting of the Club. Happier New Year!



Cooper's Hawk 12-2020

Photo of the Week by Steve Schenck

Even with my exalted role, I find it difficult to share this page with a hawk. Please give to the Pig to alleviate my fears...and those of children still unvaccinated against Polio.



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

December Birthdays

- Lucinda McDade 12/3
- Adnan Aswad 12/6
- SarahJo Antonucci 12/6
- Perry Hillberg 12/7
- Nick Quackenbos 12/12
- Lee Goldstein 12/12
- Paul Steffen 12/13
- Ron Coleman 12/14



Notes by Mike DeWees and Jim Lehman. Pictures by Steve Schenck

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