

# the CLARifier

## CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 93 | Week 10 | September 10, 2021

### PROGRAM: *John Tulac, Esq*

Submitted by Bill Burrows



Past President John Tulac introduced himself as an international business lawyer, and gave some context to how he boiled down his talk for our group today from a three hour exposé given several times yearly to other groups.

John opened up his powerpoint presentation, the 2021 Xi Whiz (condensed) edition of his standard presentations, forewarning that it's not a pretty picture and things are grim in China.

China has a long history of isolationist attitude, excluding and literally walling-out the outside world. Even in modern China, they really aren't taking full advantage of the potential business and standard-of-living opportunities available to the broader population.

As hoped for, but not come to fruition, China has not liberalized at all, but has remained tightly controlled.

"We can't remake China", John said. Everyone, however, does think that "something's gotta be done about China" in the coming future. But what?

John has been a big fan of China for a long time, as he was among the first attorneys allowed to do business in China after the "grand opening" in 1980-81 after passage of the

*Continued, page 4*

### WHITHER CHINA? 2021

XI WHIZ EDITION

#### HISTORIC CHINA



#### New Member Induction!

Introducing new member **Emmeline (Em) de Pillis**, who is transferring from the Hilo Bay Rotary Club in Hawaii. She is Dean of Business and Public Management at the University of La Verne. She has been given the new membership package and Pins and is very excited to join us. We look forward to her craft talk!



#### Watch it!!

You can hear this program at about **52 minutes into the meeting**. Here's a link to the [recording](#)  
Passcode: China!Sept10  
It will be available until 10/15

#### Next Zoom Meeting

**September 17**  
**Environmental Justice,**  
**Heather Campbell**  
[ZOOM LINK](#)

#### Inside This Issue

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## ROTARY, THE (ZOOM) MEETING

*submitted by Chris Hayes-Shaner*

In the warm up to the meeting, people asked about meeting in person and talking about the considerations that will make this happen. There are many options, including Magnolia, if a small group meets in person! Stay tuned! **Don Gould** reminded us to vote this Sept. 14! **Peter Weinberger** talked about the Plumbing Company Rooter Hero that is increasing prices and taking advantage of people, with many complaints, which the Courier exposed over three editions. (There was discussion in the chat about good plumbers.) Peter recently saw their truck at a neighbor's house, and urges people not to use them!! **President Mark** talked about removing the pine needles from his roof, and the need to be prepared for fires and other disasters, just as we teach in Together We Prepare. **Lyn Childress** talked about trees losing their branches and coming down due to the heat, so be aware! **President Mark** reminded us that this is RI's Basic Education and Literacy Month.

## WELCOME GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS!

Mark welcomed frequent guest **Bill Gershon** and frequent visiting Rotarian **Biffy Dankwerts**, zooming from Cape Town, South Africa.



**Cameron Troxell** sang both Smile and the Welcome Song.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **October 1**, there will be a Climate Change Forum sponsored by the So Cal UN Chapter. Watch for registration information for this virtual event. The Environment is one of our seven areas of Focus in Rotary. (Below and on the back cover of your Club Roster.)



Revitalizing the traditional Fall Social, **Jim Marchant** announced that we will meet on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 4:00 pm at **Nona Tirre's** home at 943 Scripps Drive. For \$25 per person, you will get a fabulous BBQ dinner by BBQ master Jason Miranda. Sign up details to come. See you all there!!

**Harry Sparrow** talked about the **Rotary Leadership Institute** course Part 1, on Zoom. The first half is Friday, Sept. 17 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The second half will be Saturday morning from 8:30-11:30. This is a Red Badge Requirement new members will enjoy! And all members are encouraged to participate. There is no charge. Ask Harry for details.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program for high school students, typically held on a weekend in March, is still on so far. **Lyn Childress** said if you are interested in helping, please volunteer!! It is a great experience for the supervising adults too.

## INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

*By Frank Hungerford*



Rotary International is working toward world peace. RI was invited by the Secretary of State to a 1945 conference in San Francisco that promoted good will with leadership from all over the world. This was the very beginning of the United Nations. In 2002 RI established the Rotary Peace Fellow program, and has trained over 1400 people at the Masters level for a range of jobs valuable for our relationships around the world.

The Fourth Object of Rotary is "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service." (See the inside cover of the Roster for all 4.) **Think about what the world would look like if we had peace!**

The Teen Leadership Camp (TLC) for middle schoolers has been cancelled again this year. We hope this important training for kids will return next year.

## Governor's Bell Awards

2020-21 District Governor **Greg Jones** announced the **annual Governor's Bell Awards** for 2020-2021. He sorted all of the clubs in the District by the selection criterion: Earning the RI President's Citation, presenting at the virtual District Conference, membership growth and per capita Foundation giving, and our club rose to the top in the large club category. (Azusa and Green Valley won in the small and medium club categories.) Greg said "It was obvious to me that your clubs would be in the running because I could tell throughout the year that you and your clubs were thriving in spite of the situation." He noted that he appreciated the leadership the three presidents showed in such a strange time. (Roger Gutierrez delivered the bell)



Buff congratulated the Club members for making this another great year. We previously won the award in 2015-2016 with **Roger House** as President, but we're consistently a leading Club!



## SERGEANT BONITA RAMOS

Bonita is finally able to join us again as Ability First gets back to normal.

**Buff Wright** reported that the wedding of her son Matthew and Shannon Clark in Bellingham, WA at the end of August (postponed from 7/2020) was great!! Family and the extended wedding party attended and there was a great demonstration of community and love. Lots of happy tears. Her daughter Sarah was the Officiant! And grandson Leo was the hit of the party! (See Leo below and other pics on p. 5)

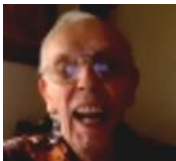
**Mark and Kelly Carson** had their daughter Brianne and Michael Black's second wedding last week. 100 people attended at the Christmas House, owned by Susie Illsley's brother. Great time had by all!! The first wedding in 2020, was attended by only nine people. (Pictures are on page 5)

In the absence of material, Bonita launched her signature trivia questions for members.



**Cameron Troxell**, Labor Day is the end of white pants and cookouts. What was the first year Labor Day was celebrated? He had no idea, but it was in 1882. And today was **Barbara Troxell's** Birthday!! Fines!

**Ned-Paniagua**, What state was the first to make Labor Day a holiday in 1887? Not New York, which had the first parade. It was Oregon!



**Bill Gershon**, what year did the President (Grover Cleveland) declare Labor Day a National Holiday? Not 1913..... 1894!



**Susie Illsley** paid Bill's fine (we don't fine guests). She was also asked, as of 5/2017, what categories made up the highest percentage of jobs? Electrical engineering? Retail sales and Cashiers!



**John Howland**, on what day do other countries celebrate Labor Day? John got the date right—May 1<sup>st</sup> and it is called International Worker's Day.

**Pat Hauducoeur**, Labor Day is the third most popular barbecue day, and what are the first two? Pat guessed July 4<sup>th</sup> and Buff offered up Memorial Day, as the first two. And there's Oct 17—our Fall Social!!



## REFLECTIONS ON 9/11

*submitted by Roger House*



With the anniversary of 9/11 near, it is hard to forget the significance of that tragic event, the loss of life, destruction of property and the sad events to follow. I am sure there will be many replays of the broadcasts showing the towers' destruction as they went up in flames and crumbled to the earth.

While I watched this occurrence 20 years ago, it brought back the many poignant memories I had of watching the actual construction of both towers. The shaking of the ground and loud booms of the dynamite blasting into the bedrock for the foundation, seeing the Hudson River seeping into the foundations, watching the workmen 80 stories high walking on narrow boards to fasten the steel beams, hearing Nelson Rockefeller speak to the construction workers while seeking elected office, and hearing the constant clatter of all the construction machinery. I remember vividly looking up at the top of the tower during the Holiday time to see a tree with lights on, perched upon the very top floor.

This sad event brought out the worst in some people and the best in many others. I like to focus on the good so many exhibited and their self-sacrifice for the benefit of others. One can only hope the world will somehow remember and use this event to make ours and theirs better places for all.

Party  
on,  
Leo!

Here at  
15 mo.  
Imagine  
at 15!



## China, continued from page 1

Foreign Investment Law of 1979. But his relationship with China has soured over the past several years after he was outspoken about Tiananmen Square and other goings on. *(John has a close relationship with the Four Way Test that often failed to work with China's leaders.)* Yet he is hopeful.

We thought that economic globalization would result in the democratization of China, but that hasn't happened. Crony capitalization, corruption and mercantilism have gotten in the way.

John notes that despite China's best promotional efforts, it is actually quite two-faced. With the emergence of Communist China 70+ years ago, brutality and absolute power have been the norm and tradition, and continue to be so this day with the regime of Xi Jinping. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." He is aiming for being premier for life.



China's goal is to gain respect from the world community, maintain strict internal order in its society, and its ability to access and acquire a constant, ever-increasing supply of raw materials and resources to promote economic growth.

This constant growth has been building and will continue to build pressure on the society—it isn't sustainable, but Xi's goal is to maintain continued and increasingly tight control of every aspect of modern China's society and economy, including the military. What is actually happening is illiberalism. The communist party ensures that party members are on boards of private companies. Xi wants to party like it's 1937 with haunting similarities to Hitler's moves and rise in Germany in 1937. This should frighten the rest of the world because whereas Hitler didn't have the resources to pull off his ambitions, Xi and China do.

When a dictator has problems internally, he always exports as many of those problems as possible. This may be controversial, but it needs to be said.

### A TYPICAL DAY IN TODAY'S CITIES



For example, the problem of pollution in China.

China says it's committed to addressing and working with the world on curbing global warming, but it still has, and will continue to have, hundreds of coal-fired power plants. This use of coal will not be going away and the pollution doesn't stay in China. All declared commitments to reducing carbon emissions are only lip service. And water pollution is an even worse problem than air pollution that impacts agriculture. China will remediate water and arable land pollution inside China, because it must in order for its people to survive. But none of these problems will be resolved because if China pulls back on power generation, the economy slows down and the population becomes impoverished. So, Xi is flat out lying about China's commitment to helping with global warming.

To be fair, this is not only a problem for China. There are many emerging nations in the world that have this same conflict between harmful global warming industry and power generation and retarding economic growth. Balance simply cannot be achieved.

Another "fun problem" is China's build-up of nuclear missiles. The stated purpose of the nukes is to protect against other countries. North Korea is being used as a pretext for building more nukes. China already can incinerate North Korea with what it has and have plenty left over for the rest of the world. It has no legitimate need to build more nuclear warheads or missiles.

China also exports its problems and aggression to all of its neighbors, like Taiwan and Vietnam, both involving conflict over access to and use of the South China Sea. The historic deterrence of the US Navy in the region is no longer as effective as in the past against China's nearby land-based air forces, so Taiwan's security as an independent country is not sure at all in the future. Taiwan's security is actually most assured due to its economic value as a sophisticated global semiconductor chip producer.

Xi has taken virtually every move right out of the totalitarian playbook, repressing ethnic groups and people who are willing to speak out. The giant and growing Chinese middle class stays silent and inactive because they don't want to "upset the apple cart" and lose their limited comforts or get arrested.

There is a restart possibility here, but right now foreign investment in China is really high risk because Xi could literally wipe out public market value with his regulatory pen. Be cautious.

So many other topics regarding restrictions and other considerations regarding China's future are in John's



## China, continued from page 4

**President Mark** reminded us to consider these issues as Rotarians, optimistic in the face of evidently intractable problems.

**Don Gould** confessed that he doesn't mess much with Chinese investments. China is considered by the index makers to be an emerging market, but opinions as to the extent of China's role is debatable. Clients still tend to diversify, including a small piece of China's equity market.

**Buff Wright** noted many articles about China's role in taking over markets and being "helpful" in Africa and the middle east. **John** examined the "Belt and Road" initiative to help countries through loans to develop their infrastructure — giving the Chinese the good jobs. This initiative helps China get the natural resources they need. (Belt and Road is a global infrastructure [development](#) strategy adopted by the [Chinese government](#) in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.)

Mark asked what we can do. **John** noted the difficulty in understanding that results from media spin. He starts with finding sources of information. *BBC* coverage is pretty objective. *Epoch Times*, a right of center publication, started

with reporting on China, and they have information others don't.

There are 32 Rotary Clubs in China, but John noted that they can be shut down if they color outside the lines.

**Frances Limbe** noted that China found inroads in Africa because African countries felt they were abandoned by the US. John noted that the US can be criticized by having a short term view. Yet, the US has gotten better at giving foreign assistance, as have American NGOs, but no one here is paying attention.

The supply chain is a big topic being felt by everyone. In recent days, there were 40 ships waiting to unload in Long Beach because our ports are not operating at capacity. One of John's clients needs a container of small parts that are just sitting in a port in Shanghai with no ship date in sight.

We all learned a lot today. Professor Tulac has a lot to say...stay tuned for part two (three, four, and .....)!

With all the gloom and doom, John understands the need to come up with realistic solutions, especially in the environmental realm.

**Many thanks for stepping in at the last moment, John!**



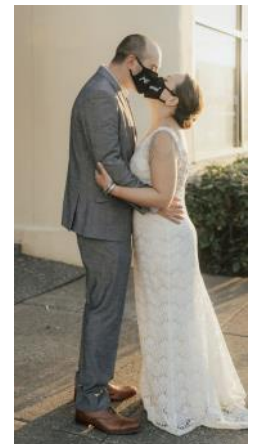
## Pandemic Weddings of ROTARY OFFSPRING



*Buff Wright celebrated the wedding of son Matthew and Shannon Clark.*



*Above, Mark and Kelly Carson celebrate with Brianne & Michael Black*





## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Sept 17	Environmental Justice Heather Campbell
Sept 24	Pathways Africa, Lowell and Linda Rice
Oct 1	Camp Bravo, Matt Lara



**Mark Carson**

Claremont Rotary  
President

2021-2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



**Oh Deer!**

*Photo of the week by Steve Schenck*

Not everything in nature is good. We are close to eradicating Polio! Feed the virtual pig. Send fines and donations [here](#) or mail your check to  
PO Box 357  
Claremont 91711



**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](http://www.claremontRotary.org)

### Join us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont)

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

### September Birthdays

Dennis Smith 9/3  
Barbara Troxell 9/10  
Arman Ariane 9/14  
Bobby Hyde 9/19  
Bridget Healy 9/22  
Steve Schenck 9/22  
Gail Sparks 9/22  
Steve Juliar 9/23



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

**Nona Tirre, chair**

### Clarifier Committee

Mike DeWees  
Bill Burrows  
Beatrice Casagran  
Sean Harrison  
Bobby Hyde  
Jim Lehman  
Steve Schenck  
Chris Hayes Shaner  
Harry Sparrow  
Peter Weinberger  
Buff Wright, editor

*Notes by Bill Burrows and Chris Hayes. Photos by Steve Schenck*

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