



IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 93 | Week 27 | January 7, 2022

## PROGRAM: GIRLS SUSTAINABLE SANITARY HYGIENE-ZIMBABWE

### THE ROAD TO A GG PROPOSAL

*Submitted by Buff Wright*

Buff Wright introduced the program. Once upon a time (in 2017), the late Doug McGoon went to Africa Burn and met Biffy Danckwerts, a rotary friend of Chuck Cable and Sylvia Whitlock. In spring 2021, in order to get money from Doug's estate for one of Biffy's Rotary projects, an arts and music room for Isiphiwo Primary School in Khayelitsha, South Africa, Buff met Lowell and Linda Rice, local founders of the non-profit Pathways Africa, who could get the funds to Biffy along with their own. Meeting them, we learned of their project providing washable sanitary napkin kits to girls in Victoria Falls so that they wouldn't miss school during their periods, as many girls do.



In June at the Rotary International (virtual) Convention, we all learned that RI President Shankar Mehta's initiative to empower girls had stimulated discussion of such projects. Men (and women) were discussing periods!

Our new club President Mark Carson, was very interested and invited the Rices to speak to the Club in late September. Enter Kebokile.

Mark dispatched Kebokile, who is from Zimbabwe and has

*Continued, p. 4*

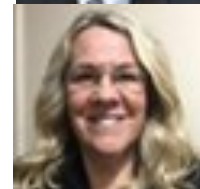
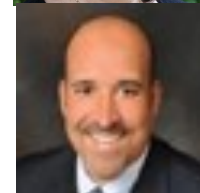
### New Officers Elected

Immediate Past President Buff Wright announced that the Club has elected two directors for three year terms starting July 1, **Karen Sapio** and **Frank Bedoya**. Thank you for taking on this responsibility for helping to guide the policies and operations of the Club.

And the new President elect for 2024-25 is **Susie Ilsley**! Susie comes from a long line of Rotarians. She will be the President 50 years after her Father, John Ilsley, and is ready to step up after guiding our new membership process for several years.

The PEEE job is a big one, and we are very thankful to Susie for accepting these responsibilities. Susie will be Treasurer for a year, then Secretary, then Vice President for 6 months in charge of planning her Presidency, then President for a year, then IPP for a year, then PP forever

There was a rousing ovation for all three leaders!



### Watch it!!

*You can hear this program at about 53 minutes into the meeting*

[by clicking here](#)

Passcode: Zimbabwe!Jan7

It will be available until 2/15

### Next Meeting

January 14

Club Assembly

[ZOOM LINK](#)

### Inside This Issue

P.2 Welcome, Announcements, Inspiration for the Day

P.3 Sergeant, Youth, Did you know?

P. 4-8 Program, continued

P. 9 Bacon Bits, events, club info

## ROTARY (the Zoom) Meeting *submitted by Chris Hayes-Shaner*

**President Mark** welcomed all of us for the New Year, lamentably, back on zoom. As we organized and stragglers straggled in, **Nona Tirre** talked about her first-time making tamales from scratch! **PDG Randy Pote** joined and talked about being on the Rotary International float for the Rose Parade. His knee and back are worse for the wear after five miles of dancing on the float. **Ron Coleman** asked: What do you call a parade where all are wearing masks, and answer was: a Masqueparade!! (**Bill Gershon** got it!)



The breakout rooms did not work this time as the entire group was sent to the same room. Better luck next week, Mark!! **Cameron Troxell** sang the Smile song, as if to punctuate the situation.

## WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

We welcomed to the new year, **Bill Gershon**, a regular guest since August 2020, **Trymore Ndolo** from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, **Ken Johnson** (**Susie Ilsley's** husband) and **Michelle Muturi**, a Pitzer student from Nairobi, Kenya who is studying abroad, zooming in from Turkey.

**PDG Randy Pote** decided to start his year with Claremont Rotary. **Evan Freund**, previously with the Chicago 1 Rotary Club, will be inducted on January 21.

And Rotarian **Biffy Danckwerts** zoomed in from South Africa.

**Cameron** performed the Rotary Welcome Song!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Mark** reminded us that January is Vocational Service Month!! Think about how you can contribute the skills of your vocation or avocation in Service of Rotary goals.

**PDG Randy Pote** announced that **Sylvia Whitlock** is the keynote speaker at the District Conference in Alaska this year.

**PDG Sylvia Whitlock** provided a year end Polio Eradication report. Pakistan had just 1 case this year (84 cases in 2020). Afghanistan has reported 4 (56 in 2020). Even the polio vaccine derived cases have diminished. Since the beginning of our effort in 1988, 20,000,000 children have been saved from the paralysis of polio by vaccination. We're so close to eradicating polio from the earth!

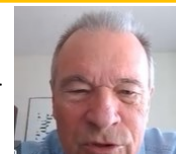
Mark drew our attention to the fact that Rotary International recently posted a position on COVID vaccination



## INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

Jim Lehman shared things that mentally strong people do.

People move on and don't waste time feeling sorry for themselves.



online. Mark read excerpts from the statement. Misinformation has become a serious problem. [See the statement online](#) or on page 3!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

**District Governor Betsy Barry** will be here January 21<sup>st</sup> to talk about the District and the **February 14 Food Drive**. Our Club will be donating food and funds to the Inland Valley Hope Partners. **John Howland** will lead the charge. Randy Prout noted that when we give, we need to make sure that the food is not expired. They will not pass along out-of-date food and shouldn't have to sort through checking expiration dates! We will do our part and will have more information as the date draws near. Money and checks are accepted, and cash often enable Hope Partners to buy more food from the regional food banks.

Club members have been participating in supporting local Afghan refugees at the Newcomers Access Center at 1401. **Steve Julian** asked about the request to give bikes.

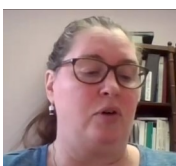
**John Tulac** announced that we want to collect your working pens (and pencils) that may be lying around your house or office. So, we will figure out a place to be collected. Several said that we can drop at John's front porch. Bonita noted that kids in India would ask for pens as the Rotary contingent passed by. They're wanted and needed!





## SERGEANT BONITA RAMOS

Bonita welcomed **Karen Sapio** and **Frank Bedoya** to the Board (terms starting July 1) and suggested that they pay the pig.



And, naturally, **Susie Ilsley** was called on to pay the pig to celebrate being a future head honcho.

When **Don Ralls** vacationed in December, he had trouble getting picked up from the airport (even his buddy Rich Laughton wouldn't come) and had to get an UBER XL. A little pricier than he wanted. Pay the pig what you have left, Don.

**Tom Shelley** was asked whether he knew someone who could fix some 3-wheel bikes at Ability First, and he has now fixed a half a dozen bikes himself. And Bonita is paying the fine for him. He was a great help!!

**Sylvia Whitlock** made and delivered pineapple upside down cakes for the Police and Fire Department (with her Rotary card). They loved it!! And they really deserve it! In the spirit of giving, pay the pig!

**Sergeant Bonita** recommended that we all consider adding to your list of New Year's Resolutions, doing random acts of kindness and asked for ideas. In addition to the acts above, for example, Bonita will pay for the person behind her in a drive through. (She only recently told her husband, Richard. Pay the pig for that, sergeant!)

**Randy Pote** recommends complimenting a woman on her nails, and to say how pretty they are! Pig pay!

**Bernadette Kendall** keeps bottles of water in her car and will stop and give them to the homeless. She also buys Kiwanis See's candy.

**Sylvia Whitlock** pays for water at Starbucks to be held and given to people who need a coffee.

**Chris Hayes** gives out wrapped snacks instead of money when asked for change. Cash cards also work.

**Lyn Childress** makes greeting cards for children's hospitals.

## Rotary International and Rotary Foundation Statement on COVID Vaccination

As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through mass immunization of children, Rotary believes the decision to vaccinate is a humanitarian imperative. The Rotary International Board of Directors and Rotary Foundation Trustees believe that:

1. Global vaccination is the path to ending the pandemic, and we strongly encourage vaccination for all individuals, including our members.
2. Misinformation hinders the fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to providing our members with science-based information.
3. Rotary is engaged in assuring equity in vaccine access to all people. Through joint efforts with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance we are leveraging our frontline experience with polio to facilitate vaccine delivery.
4. Rotary salutes health care workers everywhere as they continue to provide lifesaving services. We encourage clubs to offer recognition and encouragement to these heroes.
5. Rotary and Rotaract clubs are encouraged to redouble their efforts to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccination efforts.
6. As one of the greatest advances of modern medicine, vaccines are safe, effective and save millions of lives each year. They have eliminated or controlled numerous diseases such as polio, smallpox, measles, and Ebola, and now, there is the opportunity to end the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccination.
7. The eradication of polio remains the goal of the highest order for Rotary. We can continue to apply the lessons we have learned in fighting polio to COVID-19 response efforts.

## Report on Youth Programs

**Sylvia Whitlock** related the reports she has received about our youth programs.

Webb Schools Interactors are very active, sending 6 members to the Bike Build and participating in a program providing shoes to kids in Pomona.

Claremont High School Interactors had a winter retreat on Zoom. President Mark attended, and talked about sustaina-

bility and environmental issues. They are planning a South Africa "Swim for Rivers" fundraiser, and involvement with a Pilgrim Place project, the Children's fund, CLASP, and the Taste of Claremont. Tree planting is planned.

EL Roble Interact raised \$1000 for shelterbox, 200 Kindness bookmarks made, and \$250 for canned food drive. Scare away hunger, food drive, and projects with the Club Scouts.

## Zimbabwe, continued from page 1

experience in planning a similar project, to talk with the Rices about how Rotary might help. They had dinner on a week night (dinner cements relationships), and invited Kebokile to accompany them on their next trip in a few weeks. In short order, Buff jumped on board for an early November trip to develop a global grant proposal around the issue of period poverty — a lack of knowledge about menstruation and hygiene, and resources to provide protection.

And our potential Rotary project took off from there. In four short weeks, we learned more about the Pathways project and from Biffy, we learned more about Rotary funding options for a Global Grant (more on that later). We talked with Buff's daughter Sarah, who actually uses washable sanitary napkins and had ideas to improve the Days for Girls product. As we talked, a plan emerged to extend the Pathways project to have girls make their own in classes or clubs at school...more sustainable, and the substance of our emerging global grant proposal! We contacted women leaders in the Victoria Falls Rotary Club and had the rudiments of a plan to discuss once we arrived.

## Off to Victoria Falls! Nov. 2-4

After COVID tests 48 hours before takeoff, on November 2, Kebokile, Buff and the Rices set off for the long journey. Everything went very smoothly til we got to the Johannesburg airport for a quick transfer to the last flight. Health clearance went smoothly enough. Then we headed off to find the next flight and found that the moving sidewalks didn't and escalators didn't either, and signage and gates were unclear. The signs were ominously saying "final boarding" as we raced up to the gate. The young woman there looked at our COVID test and noticed that more than 48 hours had expired. Nooooo! We would have had to get the test en route for that not to have happened. We got through, but were told we'd have to get retested in Zim (we didn't). We were the last people on the plane! (For more details about the trip, see Buff's [travelogue](#).)

Entry at the small Victoria Falls airport wasn't difficult. It seems everyone we ran into in the airport was "family" to Kebokile, beginning with the health screening lady. Or we found they were very familiar with the Pathways Africa project...even the customs guy was a neighbor—like a brother, to local Pathways CEO Trymore (his first name), but nevertheless charged \$69 in duties. Once we were through passport clearance, some of our luggage (from the close Joburg connection) was missing so we did some paperwork, and the Rices paid the duty for the other five checked parcels. Our van was there, though, and we headed off for the lodge. But first....

## We Went Right to Work Upon Landing

After 40 hours of transit (from home to touchdown), on the way to the lodge with the Rices, Trymore and Earnest, we talked a bit about Pathways plans and our aspirations, and we were told that Trymore arranged, on short notice, a great dinner meeting with Pathways Africa Women's Empowerment leadership (including Trymore and Earnest), members of the

## Did you know?

In the US, paper sanitary products didn't hit the market til 1920, and even then the marketing reinforced that menstruation was something to conceal and a problem for women, rather than a natural bodily function. To sell it, they gave it a brand name to make it modern....so that women wouldn't have to be embarrassed when they asked male sales clerks for a sanitary product.



Continued, page 5



## Zimbabwe, continued from page 4

local Rotary Club and some surprise guests. We stopped at the Pathways Africa workshop -- which is truly small, to drop off our checked bags. A larger facility is under construction that will allow the organization and its service to grow.

After a brief rest, we welcomed our guests for dinner. Kebokile related that the dinner was a pivotal moment. Her concerns about whether we could accomplish the project were allayed. Kebokile expressed that a meeting with food makes all the difference in establishing the basis for a firm relationship that would ensure that the production of sanitary napkins. The rapport that was achieved and the willingness to compromise in the interest of the common good were encouraging.

We were very impressed with the Rotary Club leadership and with Trymore and Earnest. The Vic Falls Rotary Club has just 17 members, but they are quite experienced in getting global grants. One was just funded for digging wells. They are aware of a need to focus, and this project is a natural. At dinner was Club President Mercy Masara, Rotary project director, Sipho Moyo, who is also party to the [Jafuta Foundation](#) which has a project similar to Pathways', and PDG Hudson, a formidable businessman who knows a great deal and is likely an influential citizen. They are every bit as committed to the project as we could hope. Now for the hard work... It was a good and productive dinner!

Bayete Lodge, our home for the week, was very comfortable. Staff were friendly. Wifi worked. Food was beautifully prepared. Kebokile ordered off the menu one night to get something local. Not quite as good as mama used to make, but OK. Mosquito repellent was accessible. And the pool was a guilty pleasure.

### Friday

In the morning, we travelled back to the airport for the lost luggage. (Kebokile sweet talked the customs guy to let us through without duty), visited the workshop again and then the large lot that the new brick workshop will be built on. It's in a residential neighborhood, a significant improvement. Giving into jet lag a bit, we spent the rest of the day talking about the project with the Rices. Though we didn't DO much, we felt we made progress in understanding the path ahead.

### The Weekend

This day was defined by an inspirational visit to two water projects constructed with supervision and funding of Pathways Africa. As Buff described, one can see why it helps to have Rotarians on the ground. In meeting with the villag-



ers who are benefiting from their new water sources, it is clear that we could help enhance these efforts in an impactful way even without the expense and complex process of the bore hole and such. They need, for example, at least two more reservoirs (big tanks) which are about \$1000 each, and maybe a backup battery for the solar powered pump for when it rains..... For the two projects we saw, funded largely by a donor to a local Pathways Africa last summer, putting in one bore hole and tank and solar panel cost around \$11,000 and was done expeditiously. The speeches were many and some were translated by Comfort, a friend of the Pathways group. Kebokile spoke in Ndebele. I listened!



## Zimbabwe, continued from page 5

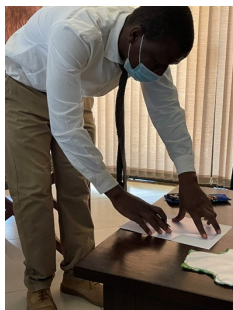
The villagers are SO grateful. We enjoyed a dramatic presentation by the women in the village of the joy and transformation, and shared a meal prepared by village women for us - chicken and sadza (a thick maize-meal porridge which is the local staple diet). One woman sat down between Linda and Buff and began eating off her plate and Linda's (with fingers). "At some point she fed me and so I reciprocated, much to the delight of the other women. It was truly a Rotary Moment....even though it wasn't a Rotary project."

The rest of Saturday and Sunday were spent at ease, beating back jet lag and talking about the project. We knew that the project would require participation of local schools and the community, and the rest of the time would be figuring out how to make that happen!

### Monday and Tuesday — SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL!

During the next two days, we kept appointments made for us by Kebokile's cousin who lives in town, with the head masters (principals) of six schools, capped by a meeting arranged by Trymore with a woman who we were told was active nationally with her school association.

The school officers took to the idea immediately. One school head master took the pattern and traced it, saying we can do this! One headmaster gave Buff a totem — the Hare — so she would be a part of the group (since she was so clearly a minority!)



At Chamobondo primary school, we met with the head of the health department who knew about Rotary, which had built a computer lab and other structures on campus.



The lady in the middle of the photo at left is Mrs. Khumalo. She is the President of National Association of Primary School Heads. She wrote us a letter of support and promised to bring the project to a national meeting that was coming up in a couple of weeks.



The night before the meeting, in a dinner with Trymore and Sipho, we went through details of the proposal. Both men are activists who wanted to take the project nationally. When we then met Mrs. Khumalo, it seemed possible! The problem is clear. Girls are missing school. There is period poverty. Gaining the attention of educators is easy.

On Thursday, Kebokile went with the Pathways Group to distribute the kits to girls at two schools. Their program is a charitable model, which has done much good. We plan to extend that by teaching girls how to make their own sanitary supplies forever.

In the afternoon, we went to a menyano organized by Earnest. A menyano is an interdenominational gathering of church women. There were 140 women present to hear about our project, and Kebokile, speaking in Ndebele, also asked questions and received confirmation that this project would empower girls and women.



And the formal work in Zimbabwe was done! Time flew by.

*Continued, page 7*

## Zimbabwe, continued from page 6

### Budget: The Devil is in the Details



Buff stressed that the beauty of the Global Grant is that it magnifies the effect we can have as just one Club. Ideally, the donations of Clubs are matched by their Districts up to their limits (ours is \$15,000). And then Rotary International matches the

Districts' contributions with 80%. Thus, if we raise/donate \$15,000, the District will contribute \$15,000 and RI will match 80% of the District's match, or \$12,000. As more clubs in other districts (including Zim clubs) participate, the RI contribution grows. Right now, we are building the initial budget based on the match that our own club will draw — for a total of \$42,000, though we know that there will be other contributions.. We already have some donations from Club members and others that have jump started the fundraising process.

Big numbers are great, but the devil is in the details. Rotary requires clubs to document every element of the budget, and to indicate whether you are sourcing goods and services locally, how the project will be sustained after Rotary funding is over, and such. We all need to understand this better. While it may seem bureaucratic, the system is designed to make sure the most good is derived from the dollars, and that we are accountable — good goals!



Kebokile concluded, saying that we're all in this together. We have support of President Mark and the Board. We need the skills and interest of members who would like to be involved. In the context of the RI Vocational Services

Month, it is important for each of us to focus on our skill sets and what we can bring to the project. We can use expertise in start up organizations, process management, media, fundraising, curriculum development, evaluation, and other aspects of the project. It is useful for us to see what is needed.

About 20 people stayed on after the meeting was over to discuss the project and what sorts of skills will be useful to help members get involved. Some members may just want to help a girl — \$10 will buy a kit for one girl from Pathways Africa. So we can help girls whether we obtain this grant or

not. We believe that this project will be an even bigger help in the long run.

Biffy Danckwerts reminded us that she will be happy to help, and has ways of managing the budget to maximize the benefit.

Trymore Ndolo, still on line from Victoria Falls way after his bedtime, said believes we can source the fabric locally to ensure that all girls can make pads on their own. Even if not in Zimbabwe, it may be in Zambia or South Africa. He thanked us for our efforts and for seeing the need to diminish the stigma associated with periods.

We will, of course, have to work with people in Zimbabwe to source fabrics locally — or at least regionally.

Melissa Muturi, a Pitzer student studying abroad in the UK, joined us from Turkey! Melissa, who is from Nairobi, Kenya, has been enlisted to visit Zimbabwe as part of the project to assist us with evaluation and research that will measure our success.

An informal committee will be formed to support the project. If you wish to participate, send an email to Buff and or Kebokile. The first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 13 at 5:30 on zoom. The next will be Thursday, January 27 at 5:30.

### Grand Finale: The Tourist Bit

On Saturday night, we walked to a local tourist restaurant, [BOMA](#), for a traditional dinner (with South African Cabernet). We only got a little lost on the way. A woman got us back on track, and then we ran into two young men who were employees of the restaurant, Talent (an artist) and Sly (Sylvester, a drummer), and made a grand entrance.

Kebokile had some mopani worms (taste like crunchy shrimp) and I had smoked crocodile tail (tastes like chicken) along with other national cuisine and a bottle of fine South African wine. During dinner there was a drumming performance, with opportunities for crowd participation. Though it was a tourist attraction, was wonderful! It appeared that most of the diners were locals, celebrating happy occasions.





## Zimbabwe, continued from page 7

We had come to Victoria Falls, Africa. How could we not see the falls? Kebokile had done the tourist thing with college students before, finding it a challenge to avert the temptation of the edge for adventurous students. But she was happy to go again. We arrived at the Falls with Earnest Moyo, a certified tour guide.

The first sight was a group of primary schoolers. They were all enjoying an energetic dancing performance at the entrance. The idea of keeping them away from the cliffs was terrifying. A small sign on a chain saying "Do not go beyond this Barrier," not 3 feet from the cliff, was almost an invitation!



We saw the falls! In contrast to Niagara, the falls is long and although it wasn't full at this time of year, it was still very impressive.

Passing up souvenirs and monkeys in and around the shops, we joined the Rices for lunch at the Lookout Café, with a view of the Zambesi River back toward the falls. There was a family of wart hogs on the grounds.



After lunch, we took a brief work break to visit the Jafuta Foundation offices – quite nice, and saw their sanitary napkin kit, which is simpler (not as contoured), but likely does the trick.



And then....a brief helicopter ride over the falls. Neither of us usually would splurge on such things, but this provided a great view of the river that results in the falls, and we saw a group of nine elephants along the river (very tiny from our vantage point). Kebokile later saw a group of elephants with family members after Buff left.



This was a very satisfying trip. We felt confident that with the right planning, this project can truly empower the girls who are making their way in this beautiful land. It's far away from Claremont, and yet, it isn't! **Travel shrinks the globe.**





# the CLARifier

The Clarifier, P.O. Box 357, Claremont, CA 91711



**Mark Carson**

Claremont Rotary  
President  
2021-2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Jan 14	Club Assembly
Jan 21	Governor Betsy Visits
Jan 28	Craft Talks: Joe Atman
Feb 4	Mel Boynton



California Fall Colors

*Photo of the Week by Steve Schenck*

We are so close to  
eradicating Polio!  
Feed the pig at the  
meeting or 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

### January Birthdays

Frank Hungerford 1/16  
Anita Boling 1/17  
Butch Henderson 1/21  
Chuck Cable 1/22



*Notes by . Photos by*

*The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom and the DoubleTree at 12:10 on Friday*

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