



Club Meeting

Livermore
Meets at We are meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.
Zoom
Livermore, CA 94551
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM
No story selected for story_1

Club Leaders



Carolyn Siegfried
President



Ken Perine
President-Elect



Glenn D. Kubiak
Treasurer



David Michael Rounds
Secretary



Kathy S. Coyle
Training Officer
Past President



Barbara Hickman
Attendance Secretary



Dennis William O'Brien
Club Director



Sblend A. Sblendorio
Parliamentarian



James P. Schmidt
Club Director



Sonya Sheffield
Membership Coordinator
Club Director



Joel C. Swanson
Club Director



Lance Cavalleri
Sergeant-at-Arms



Patrick McMenamin
Rotary Foundation Chair



Carol Gerich
Club Service Chair



Keith Beck
International Service Chair



Mary Anne Rozsa
Youth Services Chair



Jay Davis
Past President

Events

No Events found



Spur Report Mar 17, 2021

By Don Wentz on Thursday, March 18, 2021

The Spur Report for March 17, 2021

Spur Reporter- Paddy O' Coyle



Today's Program ♦ The Livermore Valley Opera and The Livermore-Amador Symphony during the Pandemic.

After a lively St. Patrick's day discussion, President Carolyn Siegfried rang the Zoom meeting to order at 12:30. She welcomed all to another meeting of the Rotary Club of Livermore. Lee Younker led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rotary player Stu Frazier played a short Bach piece on classical guitar. Michael Ferrucci was away celebrating 44th anniversary with Pam somewhere in Half Moon Bay.



Thought for the day: Marty Plone shared a thought based on Jack Benny's appearance on Johnny Carson. When Carson congratulated him on his upcoming television special, Benny said with a disgusted look, it's not a special ♦ it's just a television show. When Safeway sells a loaf of bread for 88 cents that normally sells for \$1.25, that ♦s a special.

Carolyn introduced and thanked the Meeting Front Line, including Zoom Host: Jeff Youngsma, Zoom Chat Monitor: David Rounds, Audio Visual: Alan Frank, Spur Reporter: Pat Coyle, and Spur Publisher: Don Wentz.

Guests: Carolyn introduced Dale Chorney, who is in process of becoming a member. Student Lauren Allen introduced her parents, Karen and Mark Allen. Students and Helen Gladden were introduced later.

President Carolyn showed a photo from Livermore Walkabout collection ♦ bicyclists crossing the street, a frequent scene during the pandemic when families would be out walking or riding their bikes together. During this year-long pandemic, many other weekend activities like sports were shut down. If visited local or regional parks saw families out together. Hopefully this is something that will remain post-pandemic. It warmed her heart to see families out together.

Announcements and Activities:

March Birthday and Anniversary Recognition: We were treated to recognition of our members with Alan and Stu's photo slideshow videos set to *Happy Birthday* and *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, with birthdays for Tammy Barstow, Markus Buettner, Kathy Coyle, Evonne Hopkins, Ron Koopman, Ken Mikulasek, Lynn Monica Mike Morgan, Marc Roberts, Sblend Sblendorio, Jim Schmidt, Bruce Wiggs, and Jacquie Williams-Courtright. Anniversaries included: 44 years for Michael and Pam Ferrucci and 31 years for Sblend and Beth Sblendorio.

Club Service Update - Carolyn reminded members about continuing opportunity to volunteer to distribute home blood pressure monitoring equipment to Axis Community Health Clients. Other Area 4 clubs are also signing up to provide Rotarian volunteer support for our \$97k Global Grant for COVID-19 Response for our Area 4 community healthcare providers.

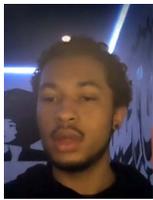


Outstanding Student Recognition: Hank Shay introduced Helen Gladden, Principal Livermore High School, and the students: Arthur Mola, Lauren Allen, Tyler Olcese.

Helen Gladden spoke about the Students. Lauren Allen is an artist at heart. She ♦s a principal flautist, pianist and a drum major. She's also performed in many ballet productions including the Nutcracker at the Bankhead. She's the first student representative of our music board. In this role, she designed a virtual band camp at the beginning of the school year in place of the usual weeklong in-person camp. This provided freshman an opportunity to get to know the people they will be performing with in person once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. She also created a mentee program, so people who applied for section leader or captain positions could participate in the leadership meeting. She supports the community by dancing and playing piano for people living in care homes and every year she returns to Christensen Middle School to train middle school students in drum major spinning fundamentals. She has many, many honors. Lauren is also an academic. She loves history and math and has been on the principal's honor roll consistently. She plans to go to Las Positas college and then on to CSU East Bay for statistics and data science. She intends to continue to volunteer by returning to Livermore as a drum major and marching coach and starting a nonprofit promoting the importance of music in schools. Lauren thanked all and spoke of enjoying being a part of Livermore High School, where her mom went and played music too ♦ it ♦s like following in her footsteps. Band has become like her job she loves doing, that she doesn't get paid for, except in the happiness of other students. It's wonderful to think that she has an influence on their future. Hopefully we can help them navigate and feel a connection to this program and to the people in their class even though they can't see them in person.



Arthur Molahas has taken many AP courses including world history, U.S. history, government and politics, chemistry, calculus, and



more. He consistently been on the principal's honor roll and earned membership in the National Merit Society for his GPA, leadership, and community service. He's very involved in extracurricular activities. He started the LHS People of Color (POC) club and is on the Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission. He's also dedicated to community service. He's helped clean streets with other youth and tutored students in math grades K through 12. He loves math inside or outside of school and has worked for the Mathnasium of Livermore. Arthur added his thanks, said he got into NYU, his dream school, to pursue liberal studies and transfer to architecture.

Tyler Olcese has consistently been on the principal's honor roll, has taken many AP classes, including world history, U.S. history, government and politics, and English literature. He loves his English classes and enjoys analyzing and annotating novels.



Tyler is president of the LHS Sexuality and Gender Awareness club (SAGA) club, an active member of the drama club, historian of the poetry club, a member of our book club, member of Future Farmers of America (FFA) club, and staff writer for the arts and entertainment section of the school newspaper. He's very involved in theater and choir and has performed in many productions. He also engages in community service activities, reading volunteering at the FFA agriculture day for third graders, face painting at Livermore PRIDE festival, and volunteered at the 2020 Science Odyssey. He's a swimmer, excels in all physical education courses, enjoys biking scuba diving and meditating. He plans on majoring in English Literature, communication or journalism with career goal of becoming a developmental or copy editor and young adult fiction writer. Tyler is very passionate about the struggle for civil rights. Arthur added his thanks, said SAGA has been a huge part of his time at LHS and is so pleased to have been able to see it grow.

Helen Gladden thanked the club. Carolyn thanked the students and wished them well as they navigate going back to in-person school next week. Go Cowboys!

Club Virtual Wine Tasting Social Thanks: Carolyn gave huge thank you to Joel Swanson, Jeff Youngsma, Christina and John Evan Marion, and Jessica Carroll for the wonderful virtual social. We enjoyed delicious wines from Big White House and John Evan Cellars, got a virtual tour, and heard a lot more stories about the wines and the winery and had an enjoyable evening for all who participated. Another thank you for the generosity of the winery. They donated 15% of purchases by club members last weekend back to the club for the club lunch money fund. Big White House and John Evan Cellars is open for tastings by reservation. The tastings included Jay and Mary Davis's Talking Bull, a special treat. All the wines had connection to our Rotary club. Zinfandel grapes were from Sblend's vineyard. Mike Thompson used to own the vineyard where the Savignon Blanc grapes came from. Jay's son's Blind Pig was part of the tasting.

Rotary District 5170 Virtual Book Club Wednesday, March 31 from 6:00-7:00pm. Carolyn reminded us of this upcoming virtual event: Rotarian Rita Marie Johnson speaking on her award-winning book, Completely Connected: Uniting Our Empathy and Insight for Extraordinary Results. Register at <http://bit.ly/D5170BookClubRitaMarieJohnson>

Carolyn also reminded us of the opportunity to support local businesses through the City of Livermore and Alameda County supported Gift Livermore Program: Buy \$40, Get \$15 Bonus Card: Buy \$75, Get \$25 Bonus Card https://app.yiftee.com/gift?start_with=gift&aff=103#/merchant

Kathy Coyle reminded people to save the date for the D5170 Virtual District Training Assembly - Serve To Change Lives, coming April 24 through May 6th, featuring keynote speaker Jeffry Cadorette followed by District Speech Contest on the first day. Kathy indicated this will cover a lot of topics with 15 sessions over six days. More information will be coming. Presenters from our club include Irv Stowers and Glen Kubiak, Jeff Youngsma is providing technical support, and Kathy is chairing the entire event. <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050083/en-ca/files/homepage/dta-2021/2021-dta-save-the-date-flyer.pdf>

Next week's program: will be Estate Planning and Bequests, by Jennifer Thaete.

Today's Program: The Livermore Valley Opera and The Livermore-Amador Symphony during the Pandemic - by Alan Frank and Jim Schmidt



Alan introduced the program. These are both organizations that are very close to his heart and he's had a lot to do with both of them over the years. He turned it over to Jim to cover the Livermore Valley Opera and how they're doing with COVID.

Jim gave us a tour of the Financial and Artistic Status of LVO and a sampling of 30 years of opera .all in 12 minutes.



Livermore Valley Opera



Financials:

In Jim's words, our Opera Company is doing OK!. Our mostly volunteer company has manageable expenses - rent, insurance, small stipends, etc. Modest donations cover our modest expenses. We have not done a live event since March 8, 2020. The Group losing out are professional singers, orchestra, Bankhead Theater, set and lighting designers, costume and makeup artists, and similar.

Artistic Status:

Currently doing online interviews and singer performances on YouTube every other month. Mostly free - get some donations. Coming up: Opera in the Vineyard in July and September. No planned Bankhead operas until March 2022 at this time. Big 30th Anniversary Gala at Ruby Hill on February 12.

Google: YouTube Livermore Valley Opera or see: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsjvd_krxBmFQXgSFKTpQ

Online, they have ten interview and/or singer videos-Free. 15 past LVO full operas online-Free, but with opportunity to donate. Have had 42,000 views since September 2020. Comments from Europe! All free-but-shucks-we do accept donations.

Sample Scenes to Get You Started

What makes a good opera?

1. Interesting Story
2. Great singing
3. Staging that brings the opera to life
4. Convincing acting

Jim played snippets from 4 of the 25 operas available; Gianni Schicchi = Johnny Skeeke, Flying Dutchman-Richard Wagner, Tosca by Puccini and Cinderella by Rossini

Jim wrapped up and offered to answer questions at the end of the meeting.

Alan talked us through the Livermore-Amador Symphony and how they are doing during COVID.



The Livermore-Amador Symphony is a community (amateur) orchestra. Regular musicians are not paid. The Music Director / Conductor is the only paid regular employee. They hire gig (paid) musicians which include concert master, soloists, and ringers as needed to fill out instruments that they don't normally have.

Their normal season includes four regular concerts, pops concert, free Children's Holiday concert with an instrument petting zoo, school concerts, and the LVPAC Gala. Other activities include a Summer Youth Orchestra, student awards, and young musician's competition where winner(s) get to play a solo, usually a concerto, with the orchestra.

COVID has precluded regular activities. It's been over a year since have been able to have a concert. Goal during COVID is to keep amateur musicians and audience engaged so most will be able return when it is possible.

They have no archival video. Have good audio recordings. A few still photos. But do have skilled members.

Musicians need to practice and play just to keep up their chops as we say, or to keep their abilities together. Social distancing difficult for musicians. They need to hear each other. There are special considerations for winds players. They've been exploring venues and situations for rehearsal, limited performances, and in preparation for full return.

Have very limited resources for virtual productions. They have no archival video. Have good audio recordings. A few still photos. But do have skilled members. So are producing video from audio recordings by adding imagery and art works, interviews with soloists, and hybrid addition of new video with old recordings. Have done one professional video for limited ensembles in partnership with Bankhead (LVPAC) and are hoping to do more. They're also doing individual video vignettes and recitals.

Their web video productions (see: <https://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org/>) include:

The first and, as Alan said, one of the best they've done is Our Town (Copland): involved collaboration with City, LLNL and Rotary Members contributing images. It's a celebration of Livermore.

For Beethoven 250th Year Celebration: Combined Symphony #6, Piano concerto #4. Since were planning a celebration concert with Frederic Chiu as soloist, he let them use a prerecorded piano reduction of Fifth symphony and gave them a live interview. Heidi Moss, a wonderful soprano soloist also produced a recital from her home.

Sleigh Ride from Home! Is a holiday special with musician clips done by people at home

Their most recent production is Peter and the Wolf, the video is a collaboration with Smith School 3rd Grade and Mayor Marchand (Alan showed a sample of it-can see the rest online).

They're looking ahead relatively conservatively at how they can bring the symphony back to life. Certainly, they'll bring back our outdoor rehearsals and presentations. They are planning an outdoor 'POPS' concert in October. They will do additional web productions over the course of this year. They're looking to return the theater, perhaps as early as December.

Economically They're hanging in there. Donations for productions and a little bit of their endowment have covered costs so far and hopefully will cover restart costs. They expect restart to be fairly costly because they'll have to do things they don't normally do like rent much more expensive rehearsal space, probably hire a few more ringers and face quite a few more detailed expenses.

Please visit their Website and enjoy their productions at: <https://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org/>

Q&A discussion:

Are you considering open rehearsals that allow a limited number of the public to attend? For a donation? Jim noted they currently invite students and teachers to their dress rehearsals, but could consider it-but want people to buy tickets to come to the performances. Alan noted for the symphony, have always had their dress rehearsals open, but opening other rehearsals will be tricky will be tricky with COVID. They anticipate needing eight to ten

weeks of being in the green before they can have a concert. That will be difficult to achieve.

Carolyn thanked Jim and Alan for the presentations and for their work. It is an example of Rotary's service above self for all the time, effort, dedication and passion that you contribute to making the local opera and Livermore-Amador Symphony a success and for the positive reputation you have been able to develop.

Beth added the Symphony Guild is the fundraising arm and they are doing a raffle of conductor Lara Webber's singing as fundraiser for symphony. Tickets will be available soon, starting at \$10 a copy. Will be happening in mid-April. More information to follow.

Alan responded to Hank Shay's question about whether they were going to advertise their open rehearsals. In normal years they advertised to the schools because they think that is a wonderful way for kids to come in and see a rehearsal free of charge. He said they usually get a fairly good turnout for that.

Carolyn again thanked Alan and Jim for their dedication and thanked all the volunteer musicians and other volunteers that make this happen and really build the strength of our community.

Paddy O'Coyle reminded members of the Irish whiskey tastings for donations to the club.

At 1:30 President Carolyn ended the meeting.

[Read More](#)

Links and Advertisers

Check out our Flickr site for all of today's photos and more!
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/62794352@N07/albums/with/72157709710922731>

Today's video will be available on our web site: <https://livermore-rotary.org/2020-21>

The advertisement collage includes the following items:

- Tri-Valley auto body**: Logo with "since 1980" and "auto body".
- Mary Anne Rozza**: Real Estate Associate, Coldwell Banker, 925.963.0887, 925.963.0888, 925.963.0889, 925.963.0890, 925.963.0891, 925.963.0892, 925.963.0893, 925.963.0894, 925.963.0895, 925.963.0896, 925.963.0897, 925.963.0898, 925.963.0899, 925.963.0900.
- Securities America**: Call to Today (925) 443-2800, www.securitiesamerica.com, Retirement Income Planning, Wealth Accumulation/Preservation, Life & Long-Term Care Insurance.
- Beach Creek**: Real Estate logo.
- Lance & Cavallieri Jewelers**: 100 EAST TRAVEL BUILDING, LIVERMORE, CA 94550, 925.455.4222.
- WY South Primary Unit**: Logo for the unit.
- MIKE MORGAN**: Senior Mortgage Consultant Agency, 2025 6th Street, Livermore, CA 94550, Tel: 925.455.4222, Fax: 925.455.4222, www.mikemorganmortgage.com.
- Colligan**: Chik Inga Restaurant, 800.224.6438, 925.442.3212, www.colligan.com.
- ROBERT B. JACOBS**: Attorney at Law, Real Estate, Business Law, Contract Law, Insurance, Disputes, Trusts, Wills, Estates.
- Jack O Mills**: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 60 Fenton St, Suite 7, Livermore Ca 94550, 925-443-4211.

Help Us With The Spur

Are you an aspiring reporter? If so, then please consider writing up our weekly newsletter from time to time. We are always looking for new writers, even though the regulars have a great time reporting them. Please contact Bob Jacobs @ bob@attorney-mediator.law