



the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

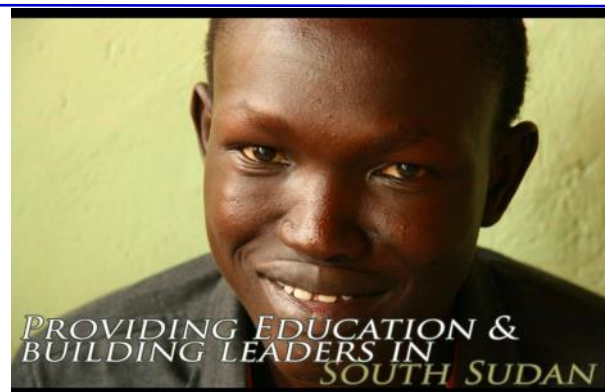
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 90 | Week 49 | December 7-8, 2018



Rotarian Maria Gross introduced speaker Joc Nihal, whom she has known since she was a member of Seattle rotary. Joc Nihal is the Executive Director of the Liliir Education Project. Maria serves on the project Board of Directors. Joc told us a story of his exodus from South Sudan as a child in 1991 and his return to help develop schools for the community.

Joc began with a brief film, titled "God grew tired of us." It told of 20,000 Sudanese boys' flight on foot to Ethiopia to escape death or induction into the northern army in 1991. As they walked, the rich Sudanese savannah gave way to harsh terrain--a desert without food or shelter. They walked many many miles with no end in sight, little to eat and no water to drink. Children would cry without tears, they were so dehydrated. Those who reached border of Ethiopia had also survived attacks by lions and hyenas among other hazards and ill health. The boys walked more than a thousand miles, half of them dying before reaching the final stop at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. The survivors of this tragic exodus became known as the Lost Boys of Sudan.



Eventually, international aid agencies found out about the boys, who walked 1000 miles – a 5 year exodus! There followed a refugee relocation program, bringing many of the boys to the US.

Joc was able to immigrate to the US and graduated from high school in Tacoma, Washington and then graduated from Gonzaga University. He believes he survived for good reason. He has friends who never graduated from high school, so given his success, he felt he had a bigger responsibility to do something. He met with friends at Gonzaga and they worked to devise an appropriate way to address the problems at home in Sudan. The non-profit Liliir Project addressing educational opportunity was the result.

Continued, page 3



PLEASE JOIN THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLAREMONT, THE CLAREMONT HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB, THE EL ROBLE INTERACT CLUB, CLAREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CLAREMONT SENIOR BIKE GROUP ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 15TH AT 8:00 AM TO SHARE IN THE JOY OF GIVING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

THE 19TH ANNUAL BILL'S BIKES FOR KIDS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH @ 8:00 AM AT THE CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FELLOWSHIP HALL, 1111 N MOUNTAIN AVE, CLAREMONT, CA 91711 *MORE ON PP 4-6*

Rotary, The Meeting *Submitted by Jim Lehman*

Songleader Rev. **Karen Sapiro** extracted a "Smile," **Doug McGoon** led the pledge, and after a rousing rendition of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," **Roger House** demonstrated that he can do a better web search for jokes (sorry, inspirational thought for the day) than our jokemeister in residence, **President Ron Coleman**.

Inspiration of the Day

"If at first you don't succeed, find out if the loser gets anything." "One of the funny things about the stock market is that every time one person buys, another sells, and both think they are astute." And finally, "People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

Welcome Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Chuck Carpenter introduced guests and visiting Rotarians. We had one of each—Maria Gross, formerly a member of this club and now a member of Claremont Sunrise, brought our guest speaker, Jok Nihal.

Election of Officers

Past President Bonita Ramos distributed ballots for election of new members of the Board of Directors and the President-elect-elect-elect. Results will be reported in the new year.

Announcements

John Howland reported that the time had come to turn in the wrapped presents for **Adopt-a-Family**. You can bring them to Howland's office as late as Monday 12/10, or take them directly to Hope Partners on Park Avenue near the Inland Valley Medical Center.

Bill's Bikes for Kids is upon us! The bike build is tomorrow (12/8), at 8 am at **Tom Shelley's** house. Saturday, 12/15 is the bike giveaway at Claremont Presbyterian Church on Mountain and Santa Clara in the Fellowship Hall. We just received a generous donation of \$500 for the bikes as a matching gift from the Weingart Foundation on behalf of Debbie Hench.

President Ron cued up a video on leadership and Rotary peace programs, and then reminded us that we are dark for two weeks after the bike giveaway. We reconvene on Jan. 4 for two craft talks—**Anne Scott-Putney** and **Sean Gallagher**.

Anita Hughes was welcomed back following surgery and a long recovery—she's feeling somewhat better.

And finally, we welcomed back **Pat Hauducoeur**, who sent the club a thank you card for the notes and flowers, thoughts and prayers.



Season of Giving

Make Rotary a part of your year end giving plans! You can pay ahead on your Club obligations for 2019, or simply make a donation to RI. Let Buff know before December 30 if you would like to pay your first quarter recurring donations in 2018.

Ron's Holiday Joke Quarantine

What do reindeer say before they tell a joke? *-This will sleigh you....*

What do elves learn in home school? *-The elf-a-bet....*

How do Santa and Mrs. Claus get around? *On an icicle built for two*

What do you get when you cross a sheep with a cicada? *Baaa humbug*

What's the best place to place your Christmas tree. *After Christmas one and two.*

Oink



Sergeant Nick Quackenbos

Sergeant **Nick** took a page from **John Tulac** and made it a fine day for John (fined for nothing in particular), and then followed it up with a swipe at **Ron Coleman's** terrible jokes at the Winter Party (and how is that different from any other occasion he tells jokes?).

Bobby Hyde had a garage sale—how'd he do? Did he take in enough to pay for the 29sf room addition to the house? (not quite)

Jim Elsasser was congratulated for the wonderful CHS choral group that performed at the party—and was fined for being absent.

Bridget Healy was given thanks for bringing in the singers, though she protested it wasn't her doing. (Thanks, Frank)

Lucinda McDade (who arrived early) and **Paul Steffen** (who arrived late) were dinged for tardiness and general delinquency of some sort or other.

Harry Sparrow, fined for aspiring to be a Sergeant, was invited to take a practice round and have his fining skills evaluated, so he asked **Arman Ariane** why the only haberdasher in the house was without a holiday tie? (Redness isn't enough) He passed the test.

Buff Wright was chided and fined for an apparently faulty keyboard that failed to supply a "t" for Paul Seffen (sic) in the Clarifier edition covering the party. (Hey, looks like one person read it, at least, though Buff wasn't able to locate the supposed error. Should we fine Nick's printer?)

Perry Hillburg got a verse of "Happy Birthday" on the occasion of his 85th. Lookin good, Perry!

Don Gould was asked about the wisdom of taking the clients of his financial advisory and financial management firm to a casino for a holiday party—well, for a change, they got to gamble for themselves.

Bernadette Kendall was asked about her 1/3 page ad in the Courier, and will report back in January on whether it helped move those two properties.



Liliir Project, continued

He wanted to build a high school with a computer lab, library, playground and such. There wasn't enough money at first, so he scaled back the ideal plan. Local residents were employed to build the school. Construction is now complete, and it will be opened in February 2019. The teachers are largely only high school graduates. So they started a scholarship program to send potential teachers to college in Uganda.

Part of the project's mission is to increase the number of female students attending primary school and secondary school and an improvement in village attitude toward education. There are still many girls who have never gone to school. Families often marry young girls off for a good bride price – 200 cows!



Joc says that they aim to promote quality leadership, as well as promoting peace through the secondary school curriculum. The students will have a real opportunity to make an impact in society.

The Project takes students to workshops and conferences on subjects like financial literacy. They are having some successes. He shared graduation pictures to put a face on the project.

Joc entertained questions such as whether there have been any efforts to keep educated girls in the villages. He noted that they have high expectations for overall solutions to make staying in villages a good choice. The government has given rise to expectations that they would contribute to infrastructure, but they haven't produced results. US AID and other country organizations have put a lot of money into development. Local governments simply don't have the money. Joc and the organization has connections with the Ministry of Health. Maria and others are working to support the school. Maria invited people to stop in at her house on Sunday to learn more about the project.

Ron concluded the meeting asking us to think about Joc's journey, noting that Joc doesn't have to do all this advocacy for his homeland. He thanked Joc for his compassion and commitment and for the strong feet that enabled him to survive the long walk to safety and freedom..

[Click here](#) for more information about the project and how you can help..



An Historical Moment from Ron Coleman

Bill's Bikes for Kids started in the garage of Bill Gruber who served as president of The Rotary Club of Claremont during 1999-2000. Bill and his fellow Rotarians refurbished used bikes for distribution to deserving children in the community. Bikes for Kid's grew to become a cherished club and community holiday tradition and eventually received enough support from Rotarians and community members to purchase brand new bikes, helmets and locks for elementary school children from Vista del Valle, Mountain View, Sumner and Oakmont. The bike recipients are selected after submitting an essay to their school principal describing why they should be considered to receive a bike as a holiday gift from The Rotary Club of Claremont.

Following Bill's passing in 2016, the Rotary Club of Claremont officially changed the name of the event to Bill's Bikes for Kids to honor his spirit of service to our community.

Claremont Police Department Chief Shelly Vander Veen and police officer Erik Orozco will be on hand to provide bike safety tips to the kids before they get to take their new ride for a spin.

There will be hot drinks, snacks, caroling and a few bad holiday jokes for all! Please join us for this special Rotary



Members of the Senior Bike Club (including Lark Gerry) yuk it up when the work is done.



Many thanks to all who helped, and especially to our Interactors and Senior Bicyclists.





the CLARifier

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Saturday Dec 8	<i>Bike Build</i> at Tom Shelley's house 8:00 am (prep for <i>Bikes for Kids</i> on Dec 15.)
Saturday Dec 15	<i>Bikes for Kids</i> , Claremont Presbyterian Church 8am 1111. N. Mountain (set up at 7 am)
Jan 4 '19	Sean Gallagher & Anne Scott Putney Craft Talks
Jan 11	Club Assembly



Ron Coleman

Claremont Rotary
President

2018-2019



BE THE INSPIRATION

Photo of the week



USS Missouri, Pearl Harbor



What do you
call a chicken at
the north pole?

Lost!



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!



Oink!

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

December Birthdays

Andrew Bentson 12/1
Lucinda McDade 12/3
Adnan Aswad 12/6
Perry Hillberg 12/7
Nick Quackenbos 12/12
Ron Coleman 12/14
Daniel Forrester 12/8
Paul Steffen 12/13



Notes: Jim Lehman (meeting) & Buff Wright (program); photos: Steve Schenck, Mike DeWees-
The Claremont Rotary Club meets at the Claremont DoubleTree on Foothill at 12:10pm

Sergeants committee
meets every Friday at
11:30 AM in the
Orchard Lounge at the
DoubleTree Hotel
and anyone
with information to
share is welcome!!

Clarifier Committee

Mike DeWees
Bobby Hyde
Dan Kentner
Jim Lehman
Steve Schenck
Ann Scott-Putney
Chris Shaner
Peter Weinberger
Buff Wright, editor