



the CLARIFIER

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 95 | Week 14 | October 6, 2023

PROGRAM: CLASP Director Cristina Antonioli

Submitted by Harry Sparrow



Cristina Antonioli, CLASP Program Director, made an excellent presentation about Claremont After-School Programs (CLASP). Cristina was introduced by Alan Jack, whose wife, Beverly (AKA Bev), is a CLASP board member. Alan noted that Cristina is a very accomplished person

and that rather than going through the long list of her accomplishments he would leave it to this write-up in the Clarifier to enumerate some of them.

Ms. Antonioli has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Arts degree in teaching plus post Masters course work. She taught mathematics and physics at the high school level for 22 years prior to moving to Claremont. Among her many accolades are: 2008-09 Toyota International Teacher Award Recipient, Galápagos Islands; 2015-16 Michigan Teacher of the Year Semi Finalist; 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award and 2016 Meemic Award Recipient – Excellence in Teaching.

When Cristina came to the podium she told us a little about herself. In 2018 her husband took a new job here. She said it was difficult to leave her large Italian family behind in Michigan where she had lived all her life prior to the move. Cristina has been married for 11 years, has 2 children, a dog and a



“COVID cat.” Her daughter just graduated from Claremont High School and is now attending NYU. Cristina joined CLASP in 2021 after three years of teaching and tutoring in Claremont. Her CLASP responsibilities include managing volunteer tutors, committees, and paid staff to deliver high quality tutoring and enrichment activities for our youth.

CLASP is a non-profit that provides academic support and mentoring after school mostly to low-income students. Cristina started by sharing the CLASP mission statement.

MISSION: *To help elementary-school children enhance their academic, organizational and social skills by providing high-quality, after-school programs in Claremont Unified School District neighborhoods.*

Cristina said that while the mission is about elementary-age children, the experience is multi-generational since you have tutors and other volunteers of all ages

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SAVE THE DATE:
Next Club Social
October 21 at the Troxell residence
(replaces 10/20 meeting)

Next **Hybrid** Meeting Oct 13
Leigh Cornell
VP Operations, PVHMC
12:10 pm @ HUGHES CENTER
[ZOOM LINK](#)

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Rotary (the hybrid) Meeting.

Submitted by Chris Hayes-Shaner



Red Badger **Clay Peters** helped **Don Ralls** with set-up. A bright red-headed **President Nona** opened the meeting. **Ron Coleman** led singing of Smile and My Country Tis of Thee.



WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Alan Jack introduced his wife, and CLASP Board member, **Bev Jack** (right).



Biffy Danckwerts joined on zoom from South Africa.

Ron led the Welcome song!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anita Hughes announced training for Rotary. You can contact her for info. Next week on Oct 14th on Zoom is an essential training on Membership. Go to DacDB to sign up. Several classes will be available in the next few weeks. They will also be recorded and available on DACdb after the live seminar.



FALL SOCIAL Oct. 21: Steven Julian announced Oct 21st OktoberFest Social for \$35.00 in Cameron and Barbara Troxell's back yard at 1015 Moab Drive, Claremont. Please sign up for side dishes that we would like to eat. See the email of 10/9 from Nona. One day, we'll get you to RSVP on your DACdb Mobile App. Until then, tell [Anita Hughes!](#)



John Tulac announced that our District Grant was approved. We will distribute wrenches for turning off your gas supply in an emergency and instructions for other utilities as well..

Lucinda McDade announced an event at the California Botanic Garden for "things that go bump in the night" this Friday and Saturday. Saturday, October 14, the Grow Native Nursery will open from 8-10 for members, and 10-4 Saturday and Sunday for the general public., preceded by a special opening on October 11 for the Acorn donors. The nursery will be open each weekend through April.

INSPIRATION FOR THE DAY

Submitted by Lisa Hahn



I desire only to know the truth and to live as well as I can. And, to the utmost of my power, I exhort all people to do the same. I exhort you also to take part in the great combat, which is the combat of life, and greater than every other earthly conflict. *Socrates*

Many people, especially ignorant people, want to punish you for speaking the truth, for being correct, for being you. Never apologize for being correct, or for being years ahead of your time. If you're right and you know it, speak your mind. Speak your mind. Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is still the truth. *M.Gandhi*

POLIO UPDATE: There were no new cases this week. Don't forget — donations in the month of October to Polio Plus or the pig go toward our Club's donation to World Polio Day. Rotarians can join the new **RI Polio Plus Society** ([donate online](#)) and help strengthen our effort to eradicate polio forever. If you donate a hundred dollars a year, you get a pin for the polio plus society and the funds will go to a good cause. **Nona** sent out a PayPal link or you can give by check, cash, or charge.



DISASTER RELIEF

We are collecting for the support of Morocco following their earthquake, and we'll meet as a board on October 17 re any match. Please give any checks to the club's Foundation that you would wish to give to Karen, our treasurer or send them to PO Box 357. You can also donate directly through Rotary International to the [Morocco Earthquake Response Fund](#).

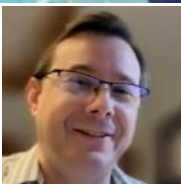
SERGEANT Susie Ilsley

Susie picked on Zoomers for the day.

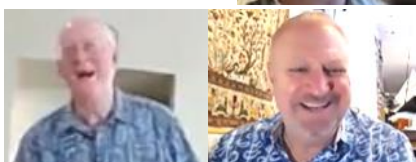
Sylvia Whitlock has moved north to 94 degree weather. She is in San Carlos, about 20 minutes south of SF. \$5 fine.



Steve Ralls working on taxes (with a cold), even Susie's. So no fine. HE's suffering enough.



Don Ralls and Arman Ariane appeared to be wearing very similar shirts. Fine: \$5 a piece.



Susie keeps the tally of who is fined, so she is going after people like **Steve Juliar** (holding the pig); he was fined for announcing Oktoberfest at Evolve Distilling on Oct 13th.

Bernadette Kendall paid the fine for herself and **Steve Juliar** for the 41st Heritage Home Tour on October 8. Steve is making two special drinks for the sold-out Sunset Reception on Friday night, Oct. 6: the shaggy baby and the ringy dingy martini

Alan Jack was not sitting with his wife at the meeting, as she sat with the speaker for CLASP (Bev is on the Board.) He had many other excuses, but nevertheless, was fined.

Lisa Hahn was fined \$5 for the cruise she is about to go on to the Panama Canal with **Lyn Childress, Blanca Aguiar** and Ian Phillips.

Roger House was fined for \$5 for reminding Susie of her father.

Susie said **John Howland** has had few fines, but he said he was fined just last week. Nevertheless, he was fined another \$5 this week.

Francis Limbe was fined for wearing a fancy designer shirt!



And **Nona**, for the designer wig....



Rotary Global Peacebuilders

Submitted by Frances Limbe



I was invited by the Rotary Action Group for Peace to attend the e-Rotary Global Peacebuilder Club Meeting Monday for two hours. Clearly, we need to focus on peace. It was exciting and informative to interact with different nationalities around the world. The Agenda included 30-minute recordings of guest speeches • Peace RYLA • KIVA Micro Finance • Project with children in the British Virgin Islands • Domestic Abuse • Peace Through Art - music video • Help to Ukraine • Ohio chapter launch. These were followed by breakout rooms where we discussed the following topics:

1. What are the best project ideas you have heard for projects with youth?
2. What are some of the problems you see in schools that could be addressed through a youth project?
3. What are some of the biggest problems with youth in your community that could be addressed with a youth project?

I was able to introduce what I was doing in Africa in regard to youth programs. I was encouraged by the audience. Others talked about a peace pole, a monument that typically displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages. These poles are often found in public places as symbols of peace, unity, and global harmony.

CLASP, cont'd from p. 1

to help fulfill the mission. She told a story about how she and Bev went to the Joslyn Senior Center to recruit volunteers. They met a man who was a retired Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) physicist. When they asked him about being a tutor he expressed concerns about whether he could do it. Cristina immediately responded that these are elementary school children, “this isn’t rocket science.” Apparently, he enjoyed the clever reference to his career because he agreed to do it. Before long he was fully engaged in the program and the community.

The history of CLASP begins in 1994 when the city of Claremont, the Claremont Unified School District and many community volunteers created a Youth Master Plan. It identified providing after-school academic support for struggling elementary-school students, especially those from low-income families as being the most critical need since they don’t have the economic means to hire tutors. Volunteers from the Pomona Valley Section of the National Council of Negro Women and from St. Ambrose Episcopal Church formed two tutoring programs, which merged in 2005 to become CLASP. Some of the founding members of CLASP you may know are Carole Harter, Sue Smith, Lissa Petersen, and Teddie Warner.

Sixty-five children are currently served by CLASP. As of a year ago, 86% of those students were socioeconomically disadvantaged and qualified for free or reduced cost lunches. 22% of the students have no permanent residence; this means they could be living in a hotel, a car or someone else’s residence. The ethnicity of the students is varied; 68% Hispanic, 14% Asian, 9% Caucasian, 3% black and 6% mixed or unknown. Over half of the students live in Claremont and nearly 40% live in Pomona and some kids come from as far away as Victorville.

How do students get into the program? Principals and teachers from all 7 of the CUSD elementary schools refer students to CLASP. The objective of making these referrals is to provide kids in need with a clean, safe, nurturing environment to complete their homework and to receive mentoring.

Upon arrival, whether by bus, parents or walking, students are greeted by their site supervisor. To “get the wiggles out” prior to tutoring, the students are given water, a healthy snack and either a chance to play outside or do a craft project. The tutoring is a one-on-one seventy-five minute session that includes a mix of homework assistance, reading, educational games and

skill building.

The site supervisor and tutors’ efforts start before the students arrive. The site supervisor readies the learning space. The tutors get supplies, equipment and educational games ready; the tutors always review prior tutor reports for the student they will work with that day. Once the students arrive, the tutors talk with the students and work with them. After the tutoring session is completed, tutors write notes in the student file about what was accomplished, the student’s attitude and readiness. They also note how much time was spent reading.

COVID had a huge impact on the number of students and tutors involved in the program. Prior to COVID there were 140 CLASP students across 5 sites throughout the city. There were 240 tutors and paid CLASP staff providing tutoring and recreation activities to students who attended sessions 3 times a week.

COVID impacted the CLASP program in many ways. Just as CUSD provided online instruction, so did CLASP. The tutors found that many of the students muted themselves and turned off the cameras on the computers they used. The inference was that this was often due to embarrassment from whatever might be viewed or heard unmuted with the camera on. This, of course, further exacerbated the learning challenges associated with remote schooling during COVID. However, there was one positive that came from the online experience. As opposed to meeting with a tutor 3 times a week, it was reduced to twice a week, but the student always met with the same tutor; both the students and the tutors found this far more productive than the pre-COVID situation where the students might have 3 different tutors over the course of a week.

In 2021 CLASP returned to in-person training, although some students and tutors chose to remain online. They opened four sites for in-person tutoring; each site was capped at 12 students. Much attention was concentrated on keeping students and tutors safe from contracting COVID. Cleaning, masking protocols and social distancing were emphasized. This meant that the recreation program was dramatically reduced.

What they found when the in-person training resumed was that there had been significant academic decline. This was especially true for



CLASP, cont'd from p. 4

students who hadn't attended online training. They found that some students at the sixth-grade level were only reading at the second or third grade level. Cristina noted that it is very difficult to keep up with your work when your comprehension of that work has been limited this much. Responding to the lesson learned from COVID regarding consistent teaming of tutors and students, special emphasis was placed on implementing that with the in-person sessions.

As COVID drifts farther into the rearview mirror things are moving forward at CLASP much more rapidly. They have expanded to six physical locations and two online sessions. They continue to provide all the positives of the program prior to COVID and now are providing enrichment activities that include art, live performances, community service, science, and local field trips. Cristina shared a story about one activity that involved a policeman, Corporal Morales, and his canine partner meeting with students. The dog was the Claremont police department's blood hound. One of the students hid in Wheeler Park and then the blood hound found him; the children loved this. One of the students was so taken with being in the presence of Corporal Morales and the dog that he asked if he could shake the policeman's hand and then if he could touch the dog. It truly was an enriching experience for him.

Ms. Antonioli ended her formal presentation by encouraging us to think about the possibility of becoming a tutor with CLASP. She provided the following contact information: clasp.office@gmail.com, 909-204-0127; clasp4kids.org. She added that volunteering doesn't just mean being a tutor. For example both **Bev Jack** and **Bridget Healy** are on the CLASP board of directors and **Alan Jack** is a tutor.

Before opening for questions, **Bridget** told everyone that Celebrate CLASP, their biggest fundraiser, will be November 12th.

Q&A

Lucinda McDade asked if students were beginning to catch up from the COVID learning issues. The answer is, "Yes, but slowly." Another positive is that there are now students entering the program who weren't yet in school at the time of COVID.

Brett O'Connor asked which grade levels are doing best. Cristina said she thought it was 4th and 5th graders. By the time you get to 6th grade, you are too cool to spend time with the little kids, and yet they are the ones who need it the most since they are about head off to El Roble middle school.

John Tulac started what turned out to be a long conversation on the state of education in general. John has taught college students for 45 years. He said that in the last 10 to 12 years he has noticed a "precipitous" drop off in the writing ability of his students. He also finds that they are not preparing for class the way they used to. What has changed? Cristina said she could only guess, but she would assume it is "screen time" and the fact that young people are not reading as much as they used to. Bridget volunteered that perhaps it is associated with how overworked teachers are; they don't have the time to comment as thoroughly as they once did when reviewing the written work of students. Brett said there are different theories, social media, poverty being "huge" contributors.

Brett then said that when we were in school there were teachers who were dedicated to the profession of teaching and who would spend an entire weekend grading papers. Today, "they are smarter than that." He said that there are poor teachers, but they are the exception. However, an English teacher typically has 33 to 37 students in each of 5 periods. There is a huge amount of grading and commenting required by these numbers. "We are putting our teachers in a very difficult situation." He said that even though California pays better and provides more support to teachers than many states, being a teacher here is still challenging and "it drives me nuts." John chimed back in and said that there are tools today that can assist students (e.g. Grammarly) that can fill some of the void created by the time constraints teachers have today, but it is his observation that his college level students are not using these tools. Brett said that surprised him. He would have hoped that the fact that CUSD provided kids with iPads during COVID would have instilled the use of such tools. On a positive note Brett said there is hope and he thinks that AI (artificial intelligence) can be of true benefit.

Nona ended the session by saying she was proud to say that the club's Board of Directors has recently voted for a \$2500 donation to CLASP because CLASP is an organization that our club truly believes in. Consistent with the Club's practice of donating to another non-profit organization on behalf of our speakers, we are donating on behalf of CLASP, \$900 to Bari Community (BC) Global, which works with youth in Uganda and South Sudan.

Nona then rang the bell to close the meeting.



Nona Tirre Miranda
Claremont Rotary
President
2023-2024

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Oct 13	PVHMC — Leigh Cornell, VP Operations
Oct 21	Fall Social at the Troxell's (Dark on Oct 20)
Oct 27	C & E Lumber — Bryan Callaway




Help Rotary fight disease! Feed the pig at the meeting, send fines and donations for Polio Plus [here](#), or mail your check to:
 Claremont Rotary Foundation
 PO Box 357
 Claremont 91711



Bacon Bits
Let's fill up the pig!

The Rotary Foundation established a Morocco Earthquake Response Fund to support immediate relief efforts for people affected by the devastating earthquake that killed thousands and destroyed more than 50,000 homes. By sending a [donation to the Fund](#), donors can give directly to relief efforts led by Rotarians.

<p>Website Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are available on DACdb and claremontrotary.com Visit: Taste of Claremont 2023 Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont Club Bylaws and Policies are posted for member access on DACdb</p>	<p>October Birthdays</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Betty Sheldon (H) 10-1</td></tr> <tr><td>Tom Shelley 10-7</td></tr> <tr><td>Sean Gallagher 10-13</td></tr> <tr><td>Rich Laughton Oct 13</td></tr> <tr><td>Jim Lehman 10-20</td></tr> <tr><td>Chuck Carpenter (H) 10-25</td></tr> <tr><td>Nona Tirre 10-30</td></tr> </table>	Betty Sheldon (H) 10-1	Tom Shelley 10-7	Sean Gallagher 10-13	Rich Laughton Oct 13	Jim Lehman 10-20	Chuck Carpenter (H) 10-25	Nona Tirre 10-30	
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Submitted by Harry Sparrow and Chris Hayes Shaner; photos by Alan Jack
 Claremont Rotary Club meets on Friday at 12:10 at the Hughes Center and on zoom

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Sergeants committee gathers before each meeting .
Anyone is welcome to share information!!
Steve Juliar, chair

Clarifier Committee

Mike DeWees
 Evan Freund
 Chris Hayes Shaner
 Harry Sparrow
 Alan Jack (ph)
 Beatrice Casagran (ph)
 Buff Wright, *editor*

YOU?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★