



ROTARY REMINDER

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



CLUB NO. 63. DISTRICT 5870. AUSTIN, TX.

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 37

APRIL 16, 2019

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SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jaime Phillips

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Jon Yates

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Olsen

FUTURE PROGRAMS

4/23—Randy Clarke, CEO, Capital Metro Transportation Authority

4/30—Jeff Moseley, CEO, Texas Association of Business

5/7—Annual RCA Scholarship Awards Program

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

4/16—***NEW DATE***—EAFK Knighting Ceremonies at Pecan Springs & Dawson, 8:15 & 1:30

4/16—RCA Executive Committee Meeting, Vestry Room, 1:30 p.m.

4/18—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting, Mimi's (Arbor Walk), 7:00 a.m.

See the Social Circle Update (on page 3) for additional dates

This Week's Program



HEIDI ANDERSON

TTF—The Trail Foundation

Heidi Anderson is the executive director of The Trail Foundation, the non-profit organization that works to protect, enhance, and connect the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail for the benefit of all.

The Butler Trail is the 10-mile lush, urban pathway in the heart of Austin that serves as the hub of the city's 130-mile trail system, circling Lady Bird Lake and passing skyscrapers, neighborhoods, sports fields and cultural attractions. With more than 2.6 million visits annually, the Trail is one of Austin's most popular recreational attractions, and has an economic impact of \$8.8 million annually.

As executive director of TTF, Heidi leads the Foundation's strategic vision and continued growth, including projects currently underway such as the Trail-wide ecological restoration, Holly Shores revitalization and enhancements to the East side of the Trail.

Her key duties include overseeing the administration, projects, programs and strategic plan of The Trail Foundation. Other responsibilities include fundraising, communications, marketing and community outreach.

During Heidi's tenure with The Trail Foundation, she has lead the efforts to establish criteria by which future projects are selected, announced the organization's ambitious 15 new projects in honor of its 15th anniversary in 2018, and created a Canopy Fund dedicated to financing the initial phases of each future project.

Story continues on page 5.

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

**Dr. David Altounian—Interim Dean for the Bill Munday School
of Business at St. Edwards's University**

April 9, 2019

Reported by Andy Swanson

President Julia called the meeting to order and led us reciting our *Club Vision Statement*. **Ellen Hunt** led the pledges and **Past President Ronney Reynolds** gave our invocation of the day. **Mary Reynolds** led us in saying the *Four Way Test*. **Carl Noble** greeted each member and guest as they arrived and **Maxie DeBlanc** introduced our guests and visitors.

President Julia introduced our newest member, **Jay Boisseau** (sponsored by **Harold Ingersoll**). Welcome, Jay!

Past President Harold Ingersoll was called back up to the podium to provide today's *Membership Minute*. He joined our Club 15 years ago, primarily for business networking, and was ready to quit after two years. However, he was asked by one of our members, "When are you going to get involved?" This led him to becoming very involved with the Club and eventually serving as Club President. He has had many amazing experiences with Rotary and loves the people. The Rotary Club of Austin has done a lot to serve the community, making him proud to be a Rotarian!

President Julia's Announcements:

- Please continue to check in using Meetup.com and Facebook!
- The RCA Board agreed to make **Rita Abdeladim** an honorary member of the Club.
- **Bill Baker** had a minor heart attack and is in the hospital. A card was passed around for everyone to sign. Please go see Bill if you can!
- **Past President Barry Curlee** will be leading a meeting after lunch to discuss ideas for projects/fundraising. Everyone is invited to attend!
- Tomorrow morning at 7:00 is the Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting at Magnolia Café.
- Next Tuesday (April 16) is the monthly Executive Committee meeting at 1:30pm. Red Badgers please attend if you need to check this off your list.
- We will vote next week at our April 16 meeting to change our annual Club dues. Please attend and vote!

Peter Pfeiffer invited everyone to this month's wine party at his home on River Road in Tarrytown on April 26. Please put this on your calendar!

Thank Goodness Basket – We had a number of thankful Rotarians including: **Jon Yates** started us off by stating that he and he son ran a 10K on their own in lieu of the Cap 10K being cancelled. He also thanked all the Rotarians who participated in the Pecan Springs Books for Me project! **Barry Curlee** was thankful for the great season that the Texas Tech Red Raiders basketball team had and their incredible run at the NCAA tournament! **Sara Pantin** gave a shout-out to **Ellen Hunt** for all the work she has done with Global Grants! **Bruce Golden** thanked everyone for the "happy birthday video" that was sent to him while he was unable to attend RCA meetings due to back surgery. **Adrian Moore** invited everyone to CARY's (Council on At-Risk Youth) 20th anniversary gala on May 2 at Thinkery. **Rick Ravel** announced that Karavel Shoes is having their 82nd anniversary! **Don Grillo** really misses his good friend, **Nadir Abdeladim** and stated that Nadir was a good friend, father, and husband. He also misses Nadir due to the fact that Nadir always laughed at his stupid jokes! **Pauline Gubbels** helped organize a new sewing ministry at her church. They are making weighted, therapeutic blankets and donated 48 of them to Helping Hand Home for Children! **Lois Ann Stanton** is thankful for MD Anderson and that her husband's clinical trial is going well! **Jay Boisseau** announced that the Austin Forum on Technology and Society is having a free event at Central Austin Library later tonight. Discussion topics will focus on "Starting Tech Companies", and **Harold Ingersoll** will be one of the presenters. Everyone is welcome to attend! *Story continues on page 6.*

SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

*****DATE CHANGE*** Tuesday, April 16 ***DATE CHANGE*****

**EarlyAct FirstKnight (EAFK) Knighting Ceremonies
at Pecan Springs Elementary (3100 Rogge Lane) at 8:15 a.m.
and
at Dawson Elementary (3001 S. 1st) at 1:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 18—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting
at Mimi's Café (Arbor Walk) at 7:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, April 25—RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Waterloo Ice House (on Burnet Road) at 7:00 a.m.**

**Friday, April 26 — Wine Party Hosted by Peter Pfeiffer
at his home (3501 River Road in Tarrytown) at 7:00 p.m.
RSVP with Peter if you plan on attending
See flyer on page 7 for more details!**

**Wednesday, May 8—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Boulevard) at 7:00 a.m.**

*****SAVE THE DATE*** Saturday, May 18 ***SAVE THE DATE*****

**Spring Fling for New Members
hosted by Julie and Harold Benkoski (at their home)
from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
RSVP with Tillery Castillo**

PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR ANNUAL CLUB DUES TO BE VOTED ON THIS TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019!

After receiving valuable input from members via last month's online survey and majority approval to increasing dues from all members present during last week's (April 2nd) lunch meeting, the Rotary Club of Austin's Board of Directors, as required by our Club By-Laws, is asking you to attend THIS TUESDAY'S, April 16th lunch meeting and vote to approve increasing our annual membership dues to \$760.

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

The following people are celebrating their birthdays this week:

Tom Locke (April 17th)

Lee Yeakel (April 18th)

Teresa Finney (April 20th)

Please join us in wishing them a VERY happy birthday!

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER—OPEN REVIEW PERIOD

Per the request of the Board of Directors, all prospective/transferring members will now be posted in the *Rotary Reminder* (newsletter) for an open review period by all members. We've received the following Proposed Member Application for consideration:

Brandi McDaniel (sponsor is Sylvia Holmes)

Please notify **Jack Wolfe**, Membership Review Committee Chair, if you have anything you'd like to share about **Brandi**.

PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 4/9

*“When you reach out to others in need,
when you reach out to the world,
you really do have a satisfying life by helping others.”
~~ Laura Bush*



WITH DEEP REGRET...IN MEMORIAM

We're sorry to report the recent loss of **Helen Mathias**, widow of **Past President Vic Mathias**. A Memorial Service will be held this Sunday, April 14th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Red River.

Please join me in keeping Matt, Mark and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of grief.

IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR CLUB

We'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the hard working members of our **Hospitality Committee** who helped us before our last meeting (on April 9, 2019).

Maxie DeBlanc, Vera Keric, Carl Noble and Lois Ann Stanton

Thank you all for your service! If you'd like to assist the Hospitality Committee at any of our weekly luncheons, please contact **Myron Burse** (or Jennifer Olsen).

HEIDI ANDERSON (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Heidi has also spearheaded the strategic modification of TTF's mission to include connectivity for the Butler Trail (in addition to protection and enhancement), unveiled TTF's completed \$2.5 million Trail Bridge at Congress Avenue project, was appointed by the City as a member and key stakeholder of the Zilker Working Group, has helped lead the Seaholm Intake Facility joint revitalization project with the Austin Parks Foundation and City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, and been a featured guest speaker at various esteemed summits including the Texas Trails and Active Transportation Conference and the American Institute of Architects Austin Summer Conference.

She and her family regularly enjoy the Trail for its urban access to nature and connectivity to community. Heidi's commitment to the Trail lies in the belief that this treasured asset, within Austin's core, is at the heart of what makes our city great and our people healthy.

Heidi came to TTF with 24 years of experience in nonprofits, most recently focused on protecting green space and building additional trails for Central Texans. Prior to taking the reins of TTF, she served as director of development for Austin-based Hill Country Conservancy. She is the third leader in The Trail Foundation's nearly 16-year history.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER—UPDATE



As you may recall, we helped pack 32,616 meals at our Rise Against Hunger service event back on February 23rd!

We received a letter of thanks from Rod Brooks, President and CEO for Rise Against Hunger, and he reported the following: "...There is a strong correlation between school attendance and food availability. If kids can get a warm meal at school, their parents are more likely to send them, recognizing the importance of that nutrition — sometimes their only meal of the day."

Story continues on page 6.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM RECAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

After a few minutes of Fellowship time, **Tarby Bryant**, introduced our speaker, **Dr. David Altounian**, Interim Dean for the Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University.

David is a native of Alexandria, LA and was involved with a number of businesses prior to getting involved in academia. He is currently the interim dean at the business school at St. Edward's but will become associate dean later this year. He has lived in Austin since 1994 and was an executive at Dell Computer for a number of years. Prior to that, he worked at Compaq Computers in Houston.

During his time with Dell, they asked him to be on the advisory board at St. Edward's and he has been involved at the university ever since. St. Edward's strives to be a great private university and is in the midst of a large capital campaign. They recently added new dorms and are continuously working to upgrade the physical footprint of the university as well as developing meaningful educational partnerships. They currently have partnerships on five continents.

St. Edward's truly believes in educating the heart and mind of students; faculty take this very seriously. They also believe that they don't have students for four years but have them for life! Current enrollment is about 4,500 students; 42% of students are Hispanic; 54% are minority; the student/teacher ratio is 13:1 which makes for a very effective teaching environment and helps retain students.

Faculty and students are from all over the world, and students come from all economic backgrounds. As a Holy Cross school, social justice is very important. St. Edward's is a Catholic university but has over 40 faiths represented on campus. Dr. Altounian was pleased to report that St. Edward's is the #1 producer of Fulbright Scholarships! He said he hoped they'd be the "Rice University of central Texas" but they need to build their endowment significantly first!

David teaches entrepreneurship and has made a concerted effort to integrate more into the Austin community in order to meet the needs of the region. St. Edward's is invested in the Capital Factory and has gone out into the community to partner with organizations in lieu of spending money on campus facilities. They are focused on building a curriculum to deliver value to their students and the community, and they want to be the easiest business school in central Texas to work with.

Isabel Medford, a student in the business school, spoke for a few minutes. She is in her third year and is a finance major. She noted that the course work has been extremely helpful, and she's had opportunities to meet with venture capitalists and start-up companies. She also has a seat at the Capital Factory and is very thankful for all of the opportunities provided at St. Edward's.

Next week's speaker is **Heidi Anderson** from The (Austin) Trail Foundation. **Rick Ravel** (Karavel Shoes) and **Dr. Michael Abelson** (The Abelson Group) -- Thank you for sponsoring our newsletter! **President Julie** closed with her Thought for the Day: "When you reach out to others in need, when you reach out to world, you really do have a satisfying life by helping others." - Laura Bush

RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

"There used to be major attendance issues at the Hilario Sanchez School in Nicaragua. Students weren't attending school to work in their families' businesses in order to eat. Rise Against Hunger partnered with the North Country Mission of Hope to ensure our meals were administered at school to encourage attendance.

Things are changing for those kids in Nicaragua. Attendance rates are nearly 100% and academic performance has increased. These students are learning reading and writing, along with essential skills that will secure their place within society. From surviving to thriving, each student has a chance to be their best selves — thanks to your support. One warm meal a day is leading to literacy."

**WINE PARTY HOSTED BY PETER PFEIFFER —
COMING UP ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH!**



Imagine an Evening with Wine and Friends

April 26th 7:00 – 10:00

Hosted by **Peter Pfeiffer & Patti Martinez**

Location: **3501 River Road, Austin**

Bring a bottle of your favorite wine

White, Red, Rose

**Join Peter, Patti and a whole host of your
wine-loving Rotary friends in Tarrytown!**

PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM ON APRIL 9TH



ST. DAVID'S PARKING GARAGE MESSAGE/INSTRUCTIONS

A message from President Julie about parking: Premier Parking/St. David's garage manager, Angel, will provide 50 parking spaces in the garage every Tuesday for our use. Once those spaces are taken and there are no other parking spaces members should either try to find parking on the surface lot on the church property, which may or may not have spaces available, **OR**..

Drive over to Premier's Trinity surface lot which is on Trinity and 8th, catty-corner to St. David's parking garage. (It's the corner lot that is very steep.) You may also start there, if you'd like. If you park there, go to the kiosk on that lot and punch in the numbers, **1905**. You will not be charged for parking in either the small, surface lot on the church campus nor the Trinity surface parking lot.

Please continue to use your laminated barcode to enter the parking garage and don't punch the button for a paper ticket. Our code is read by the parking system and an accurate count of members will be reported. If you have a guest coming, they *will* take a paper ticket and then they will need to ask the Hospitality Team, when they check in, for a one-time use QR code to exit the garage. If any of your guests park in Premier's Trinity surface lot then they will need to punch in the numbers **1905** at the kiosk, too.

I am deeply sorry for the frustration that many of you have felt, and we all continue to feel, due to the lack of sufficient parking. I'm open to any suggestions for alternative parking arrangements and hope we can focus on our weekly fellowship and continue to positively change our community and the world.

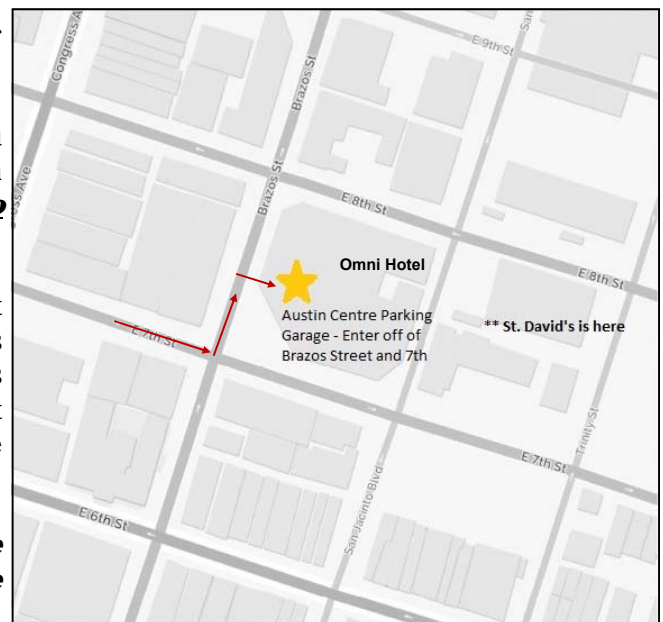
AUSTIN CENTRE—OVERFLOW PARKING REMINDER

As a reminder — we still have an agreement with Austin Centre (the building right across San Jacinto from the Church...think the Omni, but not — *see map image*) where they will try to provide overflow parking in their garage on (most) Tuesdays during our weekly lunches!

This garage is MUCH more expensive for us than when you park in St. David's garage, however, since they charge us in 20 minute increments (not a flat rate). **So please try to park at St. David's first.**

If you park in the Austin Centre garage, you **MUST** request a validation ticket from one of the Hospitality members when you check in at the meeting! Please note that this is **ONLY AVAILABLE** for a few hours each Tuesday (you can't park your car there all day for free nor can you park there for free on any other day of the week).

To enter the Austin Centre parking garage, come down 7th Street and turn left onto Brazos. The parking garage entrance is on the right.



*****If you park there, don't forget to ask the Hospitality Team for a complimentary validation voucher/ticket! YOUR LAMINATED BARCODES WON'T WORK IN THIS GARAGE!*****

SUPPORTERS OF THE ROTARY REMINDER (PAGE 1)



Rick Ravel
President, Certified Pedorthist

512-406-5117
rickr@karavelshoes.com

Central Austin: 5501 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756 512.459.7603
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mokrent@lifestoriesalive.com
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