



ROTARY REMINDER

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



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

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 36

APRIL 9, 2019

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

4/9—Dr. David Altounian, Interim Dean, Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's Univ.

4/16—Heidi Anderson, The (Austin) Trail Foundation (TTF)

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

4/10—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Mtg., Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Blvd.), 7:00 a.m.

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.

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

This Week's Program



DR. DAVID ALTOUNIAN

*Interim Dean, Bill Munday School of Business
(St. Edward's University)*

Dr. Altounian is the Interim Dean and MBA Program Director in the Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edwards University. He is an Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship and teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

He was the founder and former Co-Chairman and CEO of Motion Computing, a leading provider of mobile computing products for vertical markets. Motion was founded in 2001 and acquired by Xplore Technologies in 2015. He also was a founder of iTaggit Inc., an early web 2.0 company focused on item management.

Dr. Altounian has over 30 years of management and staff experience in the technology sector with leading technology companies including Dell, Motorola, Compaq Computer Corporation and Ashton-Tate. He is a named inventor on 10 patents and a published author.

Dr. Altounian is a partner at the Capital Factory, an entrepreneurial co-working space, incubator, accelerator and education facility. He is also a board member of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Austin Technology Council, Ticketbud.com and GR Cooling Inc.

Dr. Altounian earned his Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University and his MBA at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Chris Almendarez — President, Round Rock Express (Baseball Team)

April 2, 2019

Reported by Andy Swanson

President Julie called the meeting to order and led us in reciting our Club Vision Statement. **Larry Rieber** led the pledges, and **Past President Barry Curlee** gave our invocation. **Lois Ann Stanton** led us in saying the *Four Way Test*. **Vlad Bahrencu (and President Elect Bill Davies)** greeted each member and guest as they arrived, and **Maxie DeBlanc** introduced our guests and visitors.

We started things off as **President Julie** introduced three new members: **Alison Michels** (sponsored by **Jill Johnson**), **Russell Gana** (also sponsored by **Jill Johnson**) and **Gary Gerstenhaber** (sponsored by **Bruce Golden**). Welcome to Alison, Russell and Gary!

District Governor Jerry Chapman was in attendance today and spoke about Polio Plus and the positive impact this program has had to reduce polio in the world; however, he noted there is still work to be done. He also presented an award to **Past President Sara Pantin** for her support of Polio Plus and the \$21,000 that she helped our Club raise last year that will allow 100,000 children to be inoculated.

Tillery Castillo announced our upcoming Spring Membership social event that will be held at **President Julie and Harold Benkoski's** home on May 18 from 4-6 p.m. Please plan to attend, and if you know someone who might be interested in Rotary invite them, too! This will be a casual and family-friendly event.

Don Grillo provided today's *Membership Minute* and quickly noted that he "has never done anything in 60 seconds..." Don was born in New York City and eventually got into the tech industry where he was a very successful IT executive. After he retired from the tech industry, he became involved with the Children's Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. He wanted more opportunities to assist people and Rotary was his choice!

Sharon Golden gave a *Global Awareness Update* and reported the good news that our Club's application was approved earlier this year by Rotary International for a Global Grant to support a large children's literacy project in Bangalore, India. This program will help improve the reading skills for 25,000 children! Sharon also thanked **Ellen Hunt** for inviting her to be on the Global Service Avenue's team! Great work for a great cause!

After some brief, general announcements, **President Julie** discussed results from our recent online survey and also addressed the Club regarding the increasing costs of our weekly meetings at St. David's. She noted that we have extensively searched but have been unable to find another location to hold our meetings that was competitive. She provided two potential solutions to get our input on. The first would be to increase our annual dues by \$100/year to a total of \$760. The second would be to decrease the number of our weekly lunch meetings per month by one to a total of three (for most months). After asking for a show of hands to informally vote for each option, the vast majority of members voted to increase dues. An official vote by Club members to formally approve increasing our annual dues will be held at one of our weekly lunch meetings later this month.

Our own **Mike Capps**, the voice of the Round Rock Express, provided a fantastic intro for our speaker, **Chris Almendarez**, the President of the Round Rock Express. Chris has had a fascinating life. He grew up in Humble, Texas, and has been involved with baseball since he was a young kid. Nolan Ryan was his childhood idol.

Chris played baseball at the University of Houston and shared a story about his first meeting with Nolan Ryan during a weekend baseball series between TCU and Houston. Chris, who played second base, was asked to take over the pitching duties during the second game of the series with his team down 14-2. He got them out of the inning on 17 pitches, and Houston came back to win the game 17-16! The next day during warm-ups, he had the chance to meet his idol. Ryan, who was a volunteer coach for TCU at the time, asked how Chris felt after pitching the day before. When Chris told him that the entire right side of his body was extremely stiff and sore, Ryan told him to "take two Advil and keep doing what you are doing". *Story continues on page 5.*

SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

***Wednesday, April 10—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Boulevard) at 7:00 a.m.***

******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) at 7:00 p.m.***

RSVP with Peter if you plan on attending — See flyer on page 8 for more details!

******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 — See flyer on page 9 for more information!

PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR ANNUAL CLUB DUES TO BE VOTED ON 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 the Tuesday, 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:

Stuart Shaw (April 8th)

Lois Ann Stanton (April 9th)

Sharon Golden (April 10th)

Bill Koen (April 12th)

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:

Dennis Thompson (sponsor is Bill Davies)

This is the last week to notify **Jack Wolfe**, Membership Review Committee Chair, if you have anything you'd like to share about **Dennis**.

PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 4/2

“There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.”
~~ Norman Vincent Peale



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 2, 2019).

Vlad Bahrencu, Myron Burse, Bill Davies, Maxie DeBlanc and Chris Forrest

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).

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

Chris shared numerous stories with us including the first date he had with his future wife, **Jana**, and his father tragically dying later that same night in a motorcycle accident. He also told us about his two sons, **Chase and Luke**, who are also involved with baseball (both excellent baseball players) – Chase works for the Round Rock Express and Luke plays baseball at the University of Houston!

Chris then shared another tragic story of Jana being diagnosed with glioblastoma and how they dealt with it as a family. He said they fought the disease together through faith and family. They received a tremendous amount of support from the Ryan family and the Express organization. Jana passed away in 2016, regrettably only 11 months after being diagnosed with the disease, but her legacy lives on as they showed others how to deal with adversity. On the day that Jana passed away, Reid Ryan called Chris to tell him that they were going to build an orphanage in Zambia in her honor, and it's called "Jana's House".

Chris believes in three things: Everything is possible with God; Everything happens for a reason; and Dreams come true. He says the Round Rock Express is bigger than baseball -- It is family and community; the Ryan family is an amazing group of people; Ticket sales are going well; and they are very happy to be reunited with the Houston Astros organization! Chris simply tells his employees to "make 'em smile" and hopes to see you smiling at the ballpark this season!

Next Tuesday we'll hear from **Dr. David Altounian** from the Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University. **President Julie** closed with thanks to **Andy Swanson** (Centric Commercial) and **Bill Koen** (Joe Koen & Son Jewelers) for their support of our newsletter, and right before she adjourned she shared the *Thought of the Day* from Norman Vincent Peale.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

JAY BOISSEAU

Sponsor is Harold Ingersoll



Jay Boisseau is an experienced, recognized leader and strategist in advanced computing technologies, with over 20 years in the field. Jay has built and led many computing-focused programs, departments, and organizations. His current position is CEO and co-founder (June 2014) of Vizias.

Vizias is a small team of talented, passionate technology professionals who are determined to change the world by leveraging their advanced computing expertise and experience, especially in high performance computing (HPC), artificial intelligence (AI) and smart cities. Jay's recent Vizias projects include working with Dell EMC (since September 2014) to further develop its high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (AI) strategies and new solutions for a broader use of HPC and AI by more companies, government organizations and universities.

Through Vizias, Jay founded the Austin CityUP Consortium (July 2015) and currently serves as the executive director, with a vision of creating an integrated smart city fabric throughout Austin—leveraging mobile devices and IoT data collectors, as well as supercomputers and AI for predictive analytics and scenario simulation—in the years ahead to address city issues, empower city planning and improve city life in general. Jay is also the director of The Austin Forum on Technology & Society, which he started in 2006 and is now the leading monthly technology outreach and engagement event in Austin.

Prior to creating Vizias, Jay created the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin and led it (2001-14) to world prominence. Under Jay's leadership, TACC deployed numerous world-class computing systems for U.S. open scientific research and developed new programs to enable thousands of researchers to accomplish more with these powerful technologies. His previous positions were at the San Diego Supercomputer Center and the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center. He received his PhD in astronomy from The University of Texas at Austin, and his bachelors in astronomy and physics from the University of Virginia.

Jay has one perfect daughter, Nicole, who is in her junior year at Westwood High School. He has a love of great food and whiskey, of movies and film festivals and of planning social events for friends and colleagues. He doesn't work out nearly as much as he wishes or used to, but he's getting better.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

The **Austin Rotary Club Foundation (ARCF)** sincerely appreciates the receipt of memorial donations from **Flo Ann Randle** in honor of **Nadir Abdeladim, Bill Gaston, Jack Mayo, David Sain and Dr. Rod Simonsen.**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

It’s your generous hearts for service that have enabled the RCA to positively change our community and world, every day. And the Board of Directors and I want to celebrate YOU! You’re invited to bring your family and like-minded FRIENDS to our “Spring Fling For New Members” that Harold and I are hosting at our home!

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, May 18th from 4:00-6:00’ish! Bring your family (including children), favorite beverage and FRIEND(S); and we’ll provide yummy goodies to eat.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you from my heart for all you do to take action to eradicate Polio; educate youth; bring medicine and clean water to the impoverished; share the *Four Way Test* in your everyday, busy lives; and selflessly give in hundreds of other ways to make our community and world a better place to live!

Let’s “fling” and share our Rotary devotion with like-minded individuals and enjoy our beautiful spring! *Please note that any new people signing up for membership before July 1st will take advantage of a reduced application fee, dropping from \$250 to only \$100!*

We’ll have more information to share about this event over the next few weeks, but please plan on joining us on **SATURDAY, MAY 18TH from 4:00-6:00’ish!**

YOURS IN ROTARY SERVICE,
Julia G. Benkoski (JULIE)

Rotary
Club of Austin



THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN BREAKFAST CLUSTER MEETING...

*FROM LAST MONTH’S DOWNTOWN AUSTIN BREAKFAST CLUSTER MEETING (AT THE MAGNOLIA CAFÉ ON LAKE AUSTIN BLVD.) – THIS MONTH’S IS COMING UP ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10:***

You may need more practice in getting up an hour earlier, so here’s your chance!

2nd Wednesday is tomorrow, and that means your friends will be at the **Magnolia Café on Lake Austin Boulevard** at **7:00 am** (*oh dark thirty to some*). You can get downtown before the SXSW crowd shuts you out, and talk to your friends about what’s going on in your life...anything, really. We’ll listen! Also, some good Magnolia coffee and all kinds of breakfast delights will be available. The South Austin Roosters will be adjusting their hours for the music part of SXSW, so you may miss them this time.



Get up early and March on down, and since there was no St. David’s meeting this week, it may be your only chance to get together. Last month we talked about Australia, 3 days air 4 days ground, Qantas, Maine, Bay Port, quarter million pounds, church skiing, grand jury, parking, 10 guys to Mexico, Saudi, Portugal, retired (less structured), Hope Bus, pink – blue, Iraq, Pecos, boomtown, summer plans, Centennial Wheel, powder coated, business startup, Ursuline, Reunion, new car, Oh Danny Boy, Breckinridge, gravity, Jack Brown, and sleeps 20.

Of course it’s March now, and the stories will be different. Come to the Magnolia tomorrow and tell *your* story!

**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!**

**ROTARY SPRING MEMBERSHIP GARDEN PARTY
COMING UP ON SATURDAY, MAY 18**



Rotary Garden Party

The Home of Julia and Harold Benkoski
2300 Barton Creek, #3
Austin, TX 78735

Saturday, May 18, 2019
4:00pm to 6:00pm

Please Bring a Prospective Member and your
Favorite Beverage

**Family Friendly*

**Application Fee Reduced: \$250 to \$100*

**RSVP by May 13th, tillery@austincityrealty.net*



PHOTOS FROM WINE PARTY HOSTED BY DIANE & ZACH VENTRESKA (ON MARCH 29TH)



**MORE PHOTOS FROM WINE PARTY HOSTED BY
DIANE & ZACH VENTRESCA (ON MARCH 29TH)**



PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM ON APRIL 2ND



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.

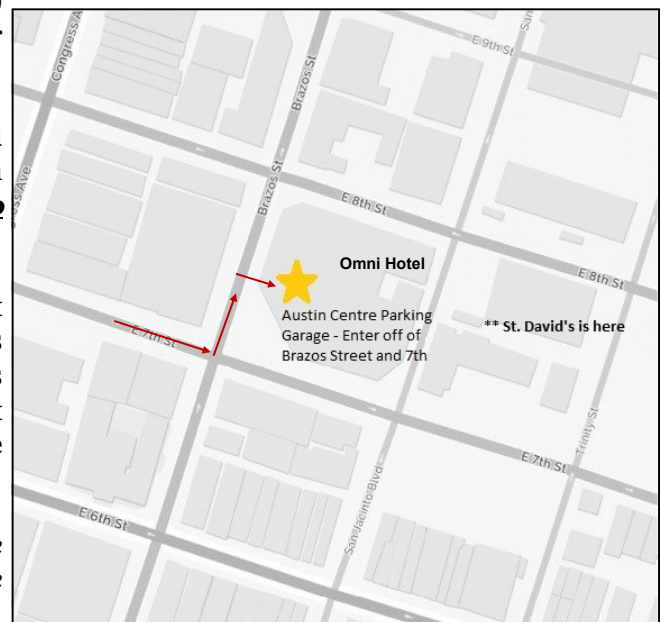
AUSTIN CENTRE—OVERFLOW PARKING REMINDER

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

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rickr@karavelshoes.com

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SUPPORTERS OF THE ROTARY REMINDER (PAGE 2)

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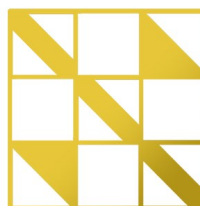
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