



# ROTARY REMINDER

## ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



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

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 44

JUNE 4, 2019

### PRESIDENT

Julia Benkoski

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Bill Davies

### PAST PRESIDENT

Sara Pantin

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Club Service—Pauline Gubbels

Community Service—Mary Reynolds

Global Service—Girish Altekari

Membership Service—Tillery Castillo

Vocational Service—Richard Payton

### THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Ann Graham

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jaime Phillips

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Jon Yates

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Olsen

### FUTURE PROGRAMS

6/11—James L. Haley, Service Above Self in Texas History

6/18—T.B.D.

6/25—End-of-Year/Annual Changing of the Guard Program

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6/12—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting, Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Blvd.), 7:00 a.m.

6/18—RCA Executive Committee Meeting, Vestry Conference Room (St. David's), 1:30 p.m.

6/20—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting, Mimi's Café (Arbor Walk), 7:00 a.m.

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

## This Week's Program



### Paul Bielamowicz

#### *Texas Facilities Commission*

#### *Capitol Complex/Texas Mall (Downtown Austin)*

Paul has been with Page for about a decade, and arrived with four years of prior industry experience from his work in the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM).

At SOM, Paul collaborated on world-class projects including the Trump International Hotel and Tower in Chicago, and expansions to both the Dallas Convention Center and the Adelaide Convention Center in South Australia.

His experience and dual background in Architecture and Architectural Engineering provide a comprehensive understanding of building systems and construction technologies, enhancing his ability to facilitate collaboration among the diverse groups of specialty consultants needed for today's complex buildings. It also makes him very much in demand for high-profile, complex projects.

*Page is a 500-plus person multidisciplinary architecture and engineering firm with offices in the U.S. and abroad. Their work consists largely of complex projects that benefit from their integrated disciplines and that make a significant impact on the communities they serve. They are guided by three core values: creativity, collaboration, and commitment.*

## RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

**Jonathan Coon—1 800 Contacts**

**May 28, 2019**

**Reported by Phil Thoden**

**President Julia** called the of the Rotary Club of Austin (RCA) to order precisely at noon. After we recited our *Vision Statement* **Mary Reynolds** led the pledges, **Girish Altekhar** gave our invocation of the day, and **Mary Reynolds** came back up to lead us in saying the *Four Way Test*. **Caroline Valentine and her special guest (all the way from Russia) Ksenia Usanova** greeted each member and guest as they arrived, and **Myron Burse** introduced our guests and visitors.

**President Julie** called up **Past District Governor Ed Mullen** who presented **Past President Ronney Reynolds** and **Mary Reynolds** with membership in the esteemed Rotary White Hat Society. This distinction requires a donation to The Rotary Foundation of at least \$5,000 in a single Rotary year, although Ronney and Mary have been much more generous than that. Congratulations Ronney and Mary!

**Andy Swanson** then provided an update on a new Habitat for Humanity Service Project. For those who would like to work on the project on a weekday, June 19 (Wednesday) is the date; and for those who would prefer a weekend, June 22 (Saturday) is the date. Space for volunteers is limited so please RSVP immediately to Andy.

**Myron Burse** came up to remind everyone about our next Wine Party scheduled for Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of **Karen Collins**.

**Mary Reynolds** returned to the podium one more time to share volunteer opportunities on June 18, 25 and July 2 at Hart Elementary School for roughly 90 minutes each day to help bag fresh fruits and vegetables for students to take home over the summer. She passed around sign up sheets as well.

**President Julie** made a few announcements:

- Don't forget to sign in for the weekly meeting via Facebook and MeetUp.com
- Our next RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting is at Waterloo Ice House on Burnet Road on Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 a.m.
- There is a get-well card for **Don Cook** circulating for everyone to sign
- Thanks to **Gaines** and **Leslie Bagby** for their help setting up the recent Spring Garden Party at Julie and Harold's home, and to Jennifer for help with cleaning up!

After a good amount of fellowship time, **Past President Gaines Bagby** introduced our speaker, **Jonathan Coon**, who shared with us his very interesting life in business and the movies.

Jonathan is best known for starting 1-800 CONTACTS in 1992 in his dorm room with only \$50. The company was sold in June 2012 for \$900 million. He served as CEO from 1998 to 2007 and led a campaign to get a federal law passed to give Americans a right to their contact lens prescriptions.

As he described it, this was a monumental undertaking, and they lost battles in 19 of the 22 state capitols where they attempted to change the law before shifting to Washington D.C. to take the battle to Congress. He personally invested over 300 days in D.C. over 5 years; and the end result was the passage of the *Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act*, a stand-alone act, through both the House and Senate. The President finally signed it into law in 2004. *Story continues on page 5.*

## SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

***Wednesday, June 12—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting  
at Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Blvd.) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Thursday, June 20—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting  
at Mimi's Café (Arbor Walk) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Friday, June 21—Wine Party hosted by Karen Collins  
533 Caddo Lake Drive (in Georgetown) from 6:30-9:30 p.m.***

***Theme is: Summer Soul-stice — Bring your favorite summer wine, cider  
or craft beer that will taste good on the longest day (or the shortest night)***

***Appetizers and dessert will be provided — get ready for some SOUL food!***

***RSVP with Karen (ka\_cey@hotmail.com)***

***See flyer on page 7 for more information***

***\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* Wednesday, June 26 \*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\****

***End-of-Year Changing of the Guard Party  
at Matt's El Rancho (on S. Lamar) from 6:30-9:00 p.m.***

***More details soon—but for now, SAVE THE DATE!!!***

***Thursday, June 27—RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting  
at Waterloo Ice House (on Burnet Road) at 7:00 a.m.***

***\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* Saturday, July 27 \*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\****

***ANNUAL Back-to-School Splash Bash  
at the Helping Hand Home for Children from 8:30-1:30 p.m.***

***Volunteers are needed!!***

***If you'd like to help out, or if you have questions,  
please contact Dean Murray , Mark Johnson or Mary Reynolds***

***\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE!!! \*\*\****

## PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 5/28

*“Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.”  
~~ Nelson Mandela*



## 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 May 28, 2019).

***Myron Burse, Russell Gana,  
Nick Hesselsweet,  
Caroline Valentine, and  
Caroline's special guest—  
Ksenia Usanova***

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).

## ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

*The following people are celebrating their birthdays this week:*

***Amy Jackson (June 6th)***

*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:

***Sharon Francia (sponsor is Sara Pantin)***

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

## FINAL MATCHING PROGRAM OF 2018-2019 FOR DONATIONS TO *THE ROTARY FOUNDATION* — OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 14TH!



**District 5870  
Central Texas**

**Between now and Friday, June 14**, an anonymous donor in District 5870 will match any one-time single donation made to Rotary International's Annual Fund-SHARE account, as long as it meets the following

three criteria:

1. Rotarian making the contribution must be an active member in District 5870.
2. Rotarian making the contribution must NOT already be a Major Donor and matched amount must NOT cause donor to exceed PHF+8.
3. One-time single donation must be a minimum of \$250 (there is no maximum amount specified) and **MUST** be designated to **ONLY** The Rotary Foundation's (TRF) Annual Fund-SHARE account. While contributions to PolioPlus, the Endowment Fund, Rotary Peace Centers, Global Grants, etc. are important, they fall outside the parameters of this offer.

*Remember, these matches are limited to **ONE PER DONOR** and **MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH!** If you're interested in taking advantage of this generous offer, please contact Jennifer, in the Rotary office, for assistance.*

## LAST WEEK'S RECAP — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Jonathan also spoke about helping his younger brother make a movie called *Napoleon Dynamite*. He shared highlights from that experience including that he saw his \$400,000 investment reap millions in return from box office and DVD sales.

His favorite quote is "The difficult we do now. The impossible takes a little bit longer." which comes from the US Army Corps of Engineers. He expressed in many ways that we should all be skeptical when someone tells you that something is impossible, especially if that person is an "expert"!

Next week's speaker will be **Paul Bielanowicz** with the Capitol Complex/Texas Mall project in downtown Austin.

**President Julie** then recognized today's newsletter sponsors **Corey Wilson** with Kidd Roofing and **David Doran** with Texas Systems Group. Thank you both! She provided a *Thought for the Day* from Nelson Mandela and adjourned the meeting.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SERVICE PROJECT — DEADLINE TO VOLUNTEER IS THIS MONDAY (JUNE 3RD)!



Great news! We will be working with ***Austin Habitat for Humanity*** on a construction project in June! Habitat for Humanity (H4H) was able to provide two dates for our Club members -- For those who would like to work on the project on a weekday, **June 19 (Wednesday)** is the date; and for those who would prefer a weekend, **June 22 (Saturday)** is the date.

Space for volunteers is **limited** so please RSVP **BY THIS MONDAY, JUNE 3RD** with the date that you are able to serve. Here are some additional notes:

- Workday is 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Need to be at the site by 7:45 a.m. H4H requires that all construction groups commit to a full day.
- Remember, you don't need to know how to build – H4H will teach you everything you need to know!

This will be a great service project for our Club and I'm really looking forward to it! Please let me know if you need any additional information. ~~ *Andy Swanson*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO VICKY LINDSEY, REGGIE NISBETT AND MARY REYNOLDS — AND HALF PRICED BOOKS!



**Vicky Lindsey, Reggie Nisbett and Mary Reynolds**, from the Rotary Club of Austin, and Mariela Rodriquez, from BookSpring, gathered all the boxes. Love that van with the Rotary Club sponsors on it!!! ~~ *Mary Reynolds*

Half Price Books @ Parmer in Austin gave away boxes of books to any non-profits that showed up and stood in line last week (on Wednesday, May 22).

Our crew collected 14 boxes of children's books (estimated at 1,400 books) for BookSpring that will be sorted, labeled and sent out to the clinics. Way to go Rotary!



# Summer Soul-stice

Rotary Wine Party

Bring a Wine (or cider or beer) that will taste good on the longest day (or the shortest night).

It's that time of year, June 21st

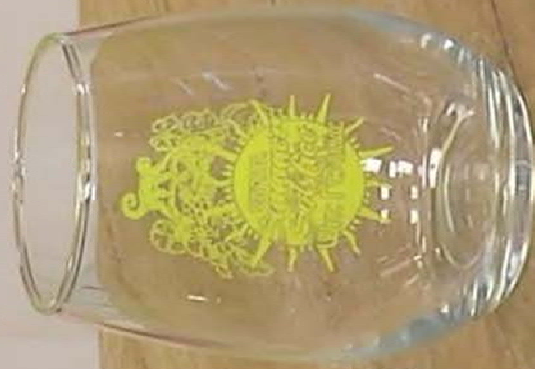
**Appetizers and dessert**

**will be served**

**Be ready to try some soul-food!**

**RSVP: [ka\\_vey@hotmail.com](mailto:ka_vey@hotmail.com)**

**If you get lost: 512.773.7130**

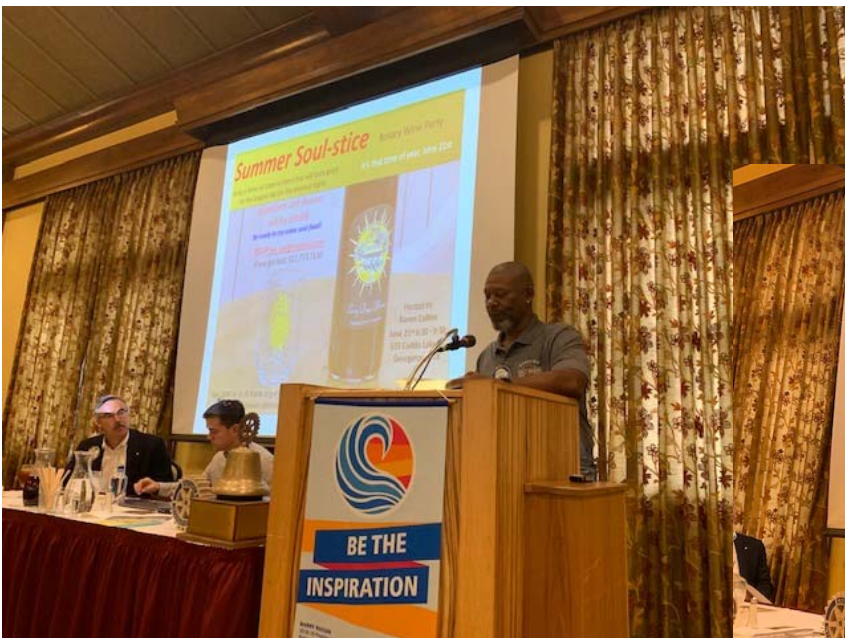


Hosted by:  
**Karen Collins**  
**June 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 –9:30**  
**533 Caddo Lake Dr.**  
**Georgetown, TX**

Take 183A or IH-35 North to get there. 1431 to Sam Bass (CR 175) to Parkside at Mayfield subdivision Georgetown address but more like Cedar Park/Leander/Round Rock.



## PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM ON MAY 28TH





## ST. DAVID'S PARKING GARAGE MESSAGE/INSTRUCTIONS



Premier Parking/St. David's garage manager, Angel, will provide 50 parking spaces in St. David's garage every Tuesday for our use, although they may or may not be roped off for us. 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, if there are any 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 steeply slanted — *see map image to the left*.) You may also start there, if you'd like. If you park in this surface lot, go to the kiosk (on the 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 this

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.

***Club leaders continue to try to identify alternative parking solutions for us and welcome any suggestions from members.***

## AUSTIN CENTRE—OVERFLOW PARKING REMINDER

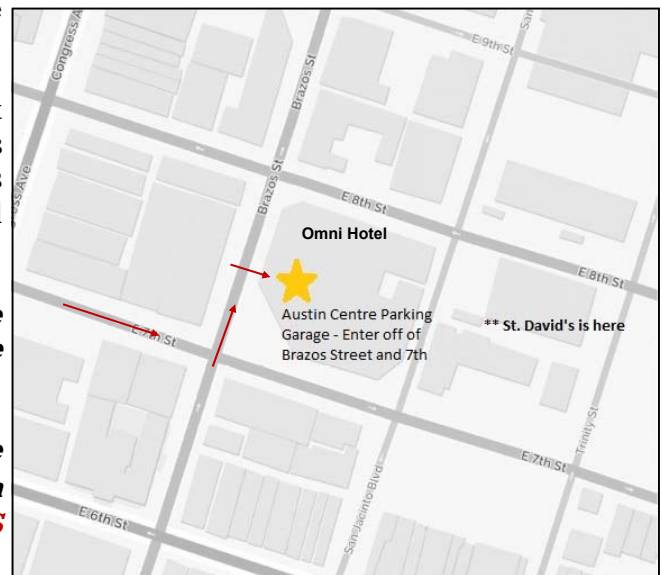
Don't forget that we still have an agreement with Austin Centre (the building right across San Jacinto from the Church...think the Omni, but not — *see map image to the bottom right*) where they will try to provide overflow parking in their garage on (most) Tuesdays during our weekly lunches!

This garage is MUCH more expensive for us than when you park in St. David's garage (or in the Trinity Surface Lot), however, since they charge us in 20 minute increments (not a flat rate).

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** from 11:00-2:00 each Tuesday and is unavailable on any other day of the week.

***To enter the Austin Centre parking garage, come down 7<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**Round Rock:** 201 University Oaks Blvd. #790, Round Rock, TX 78665 **512.610.3990**



**THE ABELSON GROUP**  
Hiring & Performance Solutions for Staff, Teams & Leaders

Give yourself and your organization an edge with our specialized HR services.

Assessments, Training & Consulting for:

- ▲ Hiring, Team Building & Leadership Solutions & Performance
- ▲ Team Development & Consulting
- ▲ Keynotes & Other Speeches On Managing & Leadership

**Michael Abelson,**  
MA, MBA, PhD

To enroll in our free eletter or for services contact Dr. A directly or email us at [succeed@abelson.net](mailto:succeed@abelson.net)

**979.696.2222**  
**www.abelson.net**

**KIDD ROOFING**  
Since 1982

Commercial & Residential Roofing Professionals

All Roofing Types - Metal, Shingles, Tile, Modified, TPO, PVC,  
Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication, Gutters, Downspouts

**Corey Wilson**  
President

1212 East Anderson Lane, #200 Austin, Dallas, San Antonio  
Austin, Texas 78752 Main (512) 671-7791  
[www.kiddroof.com](http://www.kiddroof.com) [cwilson@kiddroof.com](mailto:cwilson@kiddroof.com)

**IT Support For Your Business!**

LET US BE YOUR IT DEPARTMENT

- Managed IT Services
- Private Cloud Hosted Services
- IT Project Services
- Backup & Disaster Recovery
- Virtualization Solutions
- Telecom & Voice over IP



**Texas Systems Group**  
512.249.2000 | [txsg.com](http://txsg.com)

**David Doran**  
Direct: 512.600.6211  
[David.Doran@txsg.com](mailto:David.Doran@txsg.com)



[www.RiderCG.com](http://www.RiderCG.com)

**Scott Rider**  
Chairman & CEO  
[Scott@RiderCG.com](mailto:Scott@RiderCG.com)  
(c) 214.801.5823

**Rider Construction Group, LLC.**  
912 S. Hwy 183, #210  
Austin, Texas 78741  
(a) 512.330.4602

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN: 301 E. 8TH STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78701

PHONE: (512) 462-1333 • [WWW.ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG) • E-MAIL: [OFFICE@ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG)

## SUPPORTERS OF THE *ROTARY REMINDER* (PAGE 2)

**GREATER TEXAS  
WATER COMPANY**



**WE PURIFY ANY KIND OF WATER**

Try an alternative to the high cost of bottled water with steam distillation. Steam Distillation Fountains:

- Save you money on water
- Replace bulky bottled water coolers
- Fit perfectly in your home or office

Call for a free trial!

**472.9393 | [www.greatertexaswater.com](http://www.greatertexaswater.com)**



**Mike O'Krent**

Founder, LifeStories Alive, LLC

[mokrent@lifestoriesalive.com](mailto:mokrent@lifestoriesalive.com)

PO Box 9322, Austin, TX 78766

[www.lifestoriesalive.com](http://www.lifestoriesalive.com)



**International  
Bank of  
Commerce**

**Mark D. Johnson**  
Senior Vice President  
Commercial Lending

500 W. 5th Street, Suite 100  
Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 397-4505 Cell: (512) 698-3527  
Fax: (512) 473-2485 Email: [markjohnson@ibc.com](mailto:markjohnson@ibc.com)

**JOE KOEN & SON JEWELERS**

Since 1883

AUSTIN'S OLDEST AND FINEST JEWELER  
TREATING YOU LIKE FAMILY SINCE 1883

**BILL KOEN, III**  
Graduate Gemologist

611 Congress Ave.  
Austin, Texas 78701

[www.JoeKoenJewelers.com](http://www.JoeKoenJewelers.com)

Phone: 512-478-2595

Fax: 512-472-6903

[Bill@JoeKoenJewelers.com](mailto:Bill@JoeKoenJewelers.com)



**CENTRIC**  
COMMERCIAL

**Commercial Real Estate Leasing and Sales**

Andrew Swanson  
[swanson@centric-re.com](mailto:swanson@centric-re.com)  
512-777-9916

**CORFAC**  
International

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN: 301 E. 8TH STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78701

PHONE: (512) 462-1333 • [WWW.ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG) • E-MAIL: [OFFICE@ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@ROTARY-AUSTIN.ORG)