



ROTARY REMINDER

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



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

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 43

MAY 28, 2019

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Sara Pantin

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Community Service—Mary Reynolds

Global Service—Girish Altekar

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SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jaime Phillips

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Jon Yates

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Olsen

FUTURE PROGRAMS

6/4—Paul Bielamowicz, Texas Facilities Commission (Capitol Complex/Texas Mall)

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

6/18—T.B.D.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

5/30—RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting, Waterloo Ice House (on Burnet Road), 7:00 a.m.

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

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

See pg. 3 for more details/dates

This Week's Program



Jonathan Coon

Founder and CEO Impossible Ventures

Jonathan Coon started 1-800 CONTACTS in 1992 in his dorm room with \$50. The company was sold in June 2012 for \$900 million. A few highlights from that time:

- Public CEO from 1998 to 2007.
- Had to get federal law passed to give Americans a right to their contact lens prescriptions.
 - ⇒ Lost in 19 of the 22 state capitols where they attempted to change the law.
 - ⇒ Personally invested over 300 days in DC over 5 years.
 - ⇒ The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act passed as a stand-alone act through the House and Senate and became law in 2004.
- Had to sue Johnson and Johnson to compel them to sell to 1-800 CONTACTS (big anti-trust case).
- Made a movie with his younger brother called *Napoleon Dynamite*.
- Married 27 years.

Jonathan's favorite quote — "*The difficult we do now. The impossible takes a little bit longer.*" -- US Army Corps of Engineers

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Bill Hays and Derek Tinker — Switch Energy Alliance

May 21, 2019

Reported by Ray Kang

President Julie called the meeting to order. **Arnold Garcia** led the pledges and **Frank Carmichael** gave our invocation of the day. **Alison Michels** led us in the *Four Way Test*. **Nick Hesselsweet** greeted each member and guest as they arrived, and **Carl Noble** announced our guests and visitors at the podium.

The wonderful students from **Dawson Elementary School's EarlyAct FirstKnight Service Club** visited with us, chaperoned by **Karen Waryas**, to introduce themselves and talk about several **EAFK** projects they worked on. 1) Coats and Cans – a program through the school in which they received and organized donations to help others. 2) Community – Participation in a nature hike where they cleaned up litter on the trails and in the creek. 3) International – They organized a fundraiser where they made and sold items from recycled goods, raising \$225. The students donated the proceeds to a 'save the rain forest' fund.

Todd Coleman gave us a SAVE THE DATE announcement. Mark July 27th on your calendars for the annual "Back to School Splash Bash" at Helping Hand Home.

Ellen Hunt introduced our first Global Grant Scholar, **Loren Hamilton**, to give us an update about her recent return to the States. Loren had just finished her MBA in Nairobi and Kenya. She shared her experiences and gave us a heartfelt 'thank you'. Her focus is for a Global Social Sustainable Enterprise, and her first project is in assisting a manufacturing facility for clothing, in order to transform the fashion industry and their labor standards.

Tarby Bryant shared about his Rotary membership in just under 40 seconds (the fastest I have seen to date, might I add). Through a brisk *Membership Minute* at the podium we learned that Tarby has been a member in multiple clubs, throughout many, many years.

Girish Altekar invited us to the INAUGURAL Global Perspectives Dinner, to be held on Thursday evening at Napa Flats Wood-Fired Kitchen. There is limited seating, so be quick to RSVP.

President Julie encouraged us to check-in on Meetup and Facebook, and she also thanked all who participated in the recent Blood Drive. Our club donated more than 20 pints of blood! A special thank you went to **Mary Reynolds** for organizing the event.

A drawing for a Paul Harris Fellowship was led by **Ann Graham** during today's *Thank Goodness Basket*. One of our esteemed student guests, 'Willow', from Dawson Elementary drew the winner -- Congratulations to **Past President Sherry Workman**! We then heard thankful news shared by **Scott Rider, Ronney Reynolds** and **Mark Kapner**.

With no time for Fellowship this week, **Past President Don Ray George** went ahead and introduced our speakers from **Switch Energy Alliance**, Director of Operations, **Bill Hays** and Director of Technology, **Derek Tinker**.

Bill (Hays) spoke first and gave us a brief understanding of Switch Energy Alliance, or SEA. SEA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to inspiring an energy-educated future that is objective, non-partisan and sensible. The organization is Austin-based and is 2 years old.

SEA's global video- and web-based approach engages with students and general viewers in a positive conversation to work collaboratively on energy challenges. SEA reaches millions of people of all ages online, in classrooms, in professional training and in museums. *Story continues on page 6.*

SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

***Thursday, May 30—RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Waterloo Ice House (on Burnet Road) at 7:00 a.m.***

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

******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!!!***

******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 will be needed!!
If you'd like to help out, please contact Mark Johnson
More details soon—but for now, SAVE THE DATE!!!***

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 21, 2019).

***Myron Burse,
Gary Gerstenhaber, Pauline
Gubbels, Nick Hesselsweet
and Carl Noble***

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).

PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 5/21

*“Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around.”
~~ Henry David Thoreau*



ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

The following people are celebrating their birthdays this week:

Adrienne Wempe (May 27th)

Louis Williams (May 27th)

Bob LeBlanc (May 27th)

Hannah Walker (May 28th)

Flo Ann Randle (May 28th)

Jessica Diaz (May 29th)

Scott Spears (May 30th)

Please join us in wishing them a VERY happy birthday!

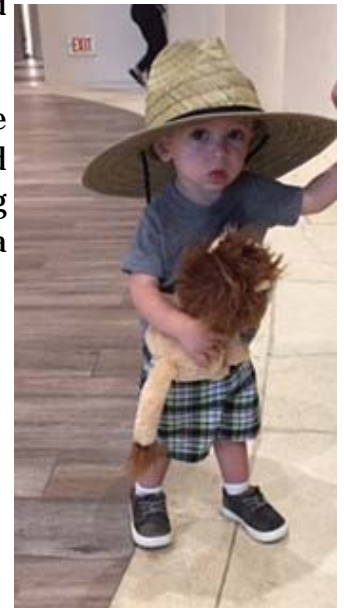
OPERATION VACATION



SPC Cody Lara and his wife Jesse and son Cameron were hosted for a complimentary weekend in May at the Archer Hotel Austin through a program called Operation Vacation, which thanks military families for their service.

The Rotary Clubs of Austin and Killeen make arrangements with Ft. Hood to sponsor a military family each month, and we work in partnership with our other sponsors, including: Austin Hotel Lodging Association, County Line Restaurants and Visit Austin.

Each month we provide the entire family with a fun filled weekend in Austin! This is a rewarding experience for all involved and is a great way to thank a soldier!



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)

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

MEMORIAL DONATION RECEIVED

The **Austin Rotary Club Foundation (ARCF)** sincerely appreciates the receipt of a memorial donation from **Pauline Gubbels** in honor of **Dick Gwinn (Leslie Bagby's father)**.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SERVICE PROJECT — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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 **as soon as possible** 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*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Bill then introduced **Derek (Tinker)**. Derek is the son of SEA's chairman, Dr. Scott Tinker. Derek gave us a presentation with many interesting statistics, charts, graphs and other important information in regard to "pursuing a smart energy future." Taking us through thought-provoking questions with our energy challenges, not just as a country, but globally.

Our energy demands are a huge dilemma, Derek stated, with energy being tied to economic poverty. The issue being that "Energy does not end poverty, but you can't end poverty without energy."

Some interesting facts he shared: 1) 85% of the energy we use is still from fossil fuels. 2) Half of the world's energy comes from coal. 3) Energy demand has increased and continues increasing. 4) By the year 2100, we are expected to reach 11 billion people. 5) Currently, 80% of the world demands only 45% of all energy consumed (the U.S. and China being the most energy hungry nations). 6) The 3rd largest consumer of energy is the IT industry.

Derek ended with a description of the three E's: Environment, Energy & Economy. From there he took questions from our members and offered to stay after the meeting to answer more.

President Julie previewed our next speakers/programs: On May 28th we will hear from **Jonathan Coon** with 1-800 Contacts, and on June 4th we'll be joined by **Paul Bielamowicz** to share about the Capitol Complex/Texas Mall (Downtown Austin).

President Julie thanked our featured newsletter sponsors for the day, **Scott Rider** (Rider Construction Group) and **Reggie Nisbett** (Greater Texas Water Company). She closed with a Thought of the Day: "Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around." – Henry David Thoreau.

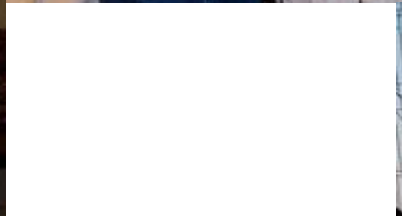
PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM ON MAY 21ST
(INCLUDING SEVERAL OF THE VISITING STUDENTS FROM OUR
DAWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S EAFK SERVICE CLUB)



PHOTOS FROM THE MAY 18TH GARDEN/MEMBERSHIP PARTY HOSTED BY JULIE AND HAROLD BENKOSKI



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE MAY 18TH GARDEN/MEMBERSHIP PARTY HOSTED BY JULIE AND HAROLD BENKOSKI



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

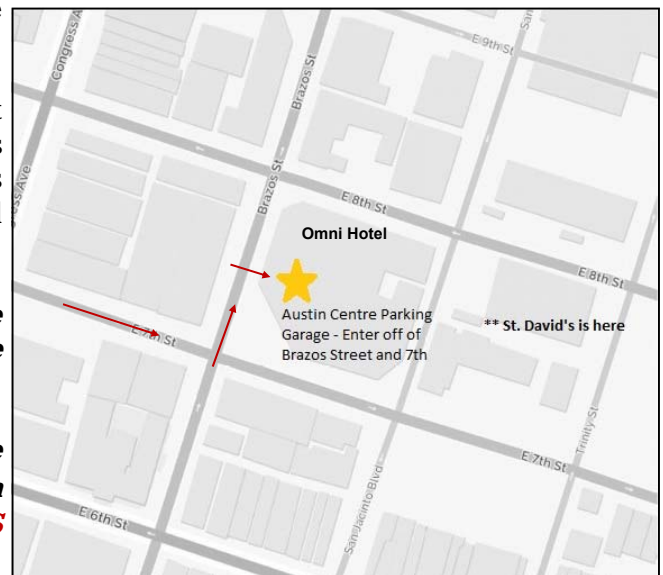
Don't forget that we still have an agreement with Austin Centre (the building right across San Jacinto from the Church...think the Omni, but not — *see map image to the bottom right*) where they will try to provide overflow parking in their garage on (most) Tuesdays during our weekly lunches!

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 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)



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