



# Flint Rotary World

Charter No. 220 – *Rotary Club of Flint, Michigan* – Organized April 7, 1916

*Rotary theme for 2020-2021 “Rotary Opens Opportunities”*

Holger Knaack from the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg--Mölln, Germany, Rotary International President  
David Elliot from the London, Ontario Rotary Club, Ontario, Governor, District 6330

**Coming up: Leon El-Amin & Elizabeth Jordan - M.A.D.E. Institute  
Meet us on Zoom – the link is in the President’s weekly email.**

## Speaker Round-Up – Sept. 11 meeting:

Our speaker Sept. 11 was Samuel Bourgeios, who spoke on his time as the “Traveling Cajun” the Wide Eye Laowai.

Sam is originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana but has spent time in the remote parts of Alaska and spent 3 years in Suzhou, China. Sam indicated that China was never on his list of places to live, but he felt drawn there and went with his wife and new baby. They returned as a result of the COVID-19 virus. He worked as an IT Director. There were people from 52 different Nationalities working for his company.

Sam described the parts of Suzhou, which is a “small” town, of 11 million people. One part is the city part with all of its hustle and bustle and the old part. The old part is home to the oldest university in China, and was founded by Confucius. This part of Suzhou is also home to 69 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Sam is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Suzhou, which is one of the 29 active clubs in China. Chinese Rotary Clubs have been in existence since 1919. However during the Cultural Revolution, all were shut down (1951-2001). In 2001 Fellowship clubs were recognized and these are the groups that Chinese citizens may belong.

The Beijing and Shanghai clubs were reborn in 2006. Regular Rotarian Clubs’ members are all foreigners. Chinese Nationals aren’t permitted to join (Chinese laws, not Rotarian). There are also 2 other clubs that are inactive. There are 2 Rotaracts clubs. Sam currently isn’t able to participate in his club because they don’t have the capacity to use Zoom for their meetings.

He shared some fun statistics:

- Los Angeles population -3.8 million
- Suzhou - 11 million
- New York - 8.3 million
- Xi’an -12 million
- LA Metro - 18.7 million
- Beijing - 21.5 million
- NY-NJ-CT-PA - 22.6 million
- Chongqing – 30.5 million

Interestingly, China not only has Shangri Disney, but also Seaweed Cheetos.

Sam indicated the religion is far from banned in China. Once approved a church is not only allowed to operated, but is also supported and funded through the government. Sam and his family attended the Roman Catholic Church all of the time they were in China.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021

- President – Ray Gist
- President-Elect – Kyle McCree
- Vice President – Fred Hinz
- Vice President – Elizabeth Jordan
- Director – Ann Marie Van Duyne
- Director – Patrick Naswell
- Director – Ellen Brothers
- Director –
- Past President – George Ananich
- Club Administrator – Amy van der Putte
- Treasurer – Stu Kelly

## MEET YOU ON ZOOM!

While we are dealing with the Corona Virus, the Rotary Club of Flint will continue meeting via Zoom. There is another meeting scheduled for this Friday, Oct. 2, 2020.



## More Speaker Round-Up – Sept 25 meeting:

Kerry Downs, Program Director of the Flint Community Initiative. The Initiative is part of the Crim Fitness Foundation which has become the lead for Community Education in Flint. The Community Education Initiative provides services and expanded learning opportunities to meet students' academic, health, family, and emotional needs, integrating into the Flint Schools curriculum.

The program initially launched at Brownell School was developed through a series of "townhall meetings" across the city.

The four goals of the program are to increase student attendance, increase graduation rates, increase neighborhood outreach, and to increase 3rd grade reading levels.

There are currently 12 community school directors, employed by the Crim Foundation, located within the school district. The directors work as partners with the school's principals, supplementing the school's curriculum, providing services to students and their families.

The Community School Initiative boasts of 70 community partners supporting their programs. They provided services for over 3,600 students, provided over 5000,00 hours of community education, and over 5,000 hours of adult community education.

The Initiative also played an important role for the community during the Covid crisis, delivering food and other essentials to those in need.

For more information about the program, see the Crim Fitness Foundation at [www.crim.org](http://www.crim.org).



## ODDS & ENDS

Michael J. Thorpe announced the 2020 **Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert**, October 8th at 7:30 pm. A \$10 donation can be made at [www.flintfed.com](http://www.flintfed.com)

**Past President Mike Chaffee** announced the District 6330 membership webinar coming up November 8, 2020. Look out for the email to register for the event.

## Health & Welfare

**UPDATE on Jerry Preston and his wife Karen**, who were in a head-on car crash near Cleveland. Karen is improving and Jerry was able to join us on Zoom recently.

## A little seasonal humor:

Crabby Road

10-13-11



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# Remembering Ed Mitchell



Ed Mitchell passed away on Saturday, September 19, at the age of 91. A Flint native, Ed graduated from Central H.S. and Flint JC (now Mott College). He and wife Valia were married 71 years and had three daughters, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ed had a 50-yr career with the Flint Journal in the Advertising department. He also served the community through the FGCC, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Mott College Alumni Association, Whaley Children's Center, Goodwill, Rotary, Lions, and Young People's Ballet Theatre.

Ed was a member of the Rotary Club of Flint for 24 years, joining the club in 1996. He will be missed by all those that knew him, especially his fellow Rotarians.



## Coming Up –

10/9/2020: Michael Kelly – topic TBA  
 10/16/2020: 2020 General Election / Candidates – Paul Rozycki, Political Commentator  
 10/23/2020: Jerry Hill – a Discussion on Ethics  
 10/30/2020 5<sup>th</sup> Friday – no noon meeting – meet us for Zoom Happy Hour!

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## Where to make up: AFTER COVID QUARANTINE

### Monday

Saginaw Valley NOON  
*Horizons Conference Center*  
 Grand Blanc (1st & 3rd Monday) NOON  
*Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill*

### Tuesday

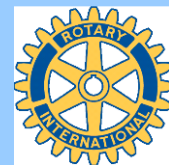
Clio 7:30 AM  
*Roger's Lodge*  
 Durand 11:30 AM  
*Durand Union Station*  
 Fenton 7:15 AM  
*Spring Meadows Country Club*  
 Genesee Valley (Flint) 12:15 PM  
*Redwood Lodge, Hill Rd.*  
 Lapeer 12:10 PM  
*Lapeer County Center Building*

### Wednesday

Greater Flint Sunrise 7:00 AM  
*Foodbank of Eastern Michigan*  
 Owosso 12:15 PM  
*Owosso Memorial Hosp. Annex*  
 Saginaw NOON  
*Saginaw Club*

### Thursday

Davisburg (1st & 3rd Thursday) 7:00 AM  
*4H Fair Grounds Community Room*  
 Burton 12:15 PM  
*IMA Brookwood Golf Club*  
 Corunna NOON  
*Corunna Community Center*  
 Flushing 7:00 AM  
*Sorrento's Restaurant*  
 Frankenmuth 12:10 PM  
*Zehnder's Restaurant*



## The Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"