



# THE ACORN

WEEKLY PUBLICATION BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF THOUSAND OAKS

<http://thousandoaksrotary.org>



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2019-2020

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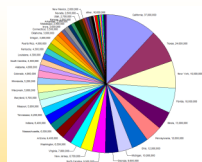
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## FEBRUARY ROTARY THEME

**Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month**



**Program: February 6th**

**The 2020 Census**

**Vanessa Bechtel, CEO of VCCF**

**Program: January 30th**

**Craft Talks**

**Patricia Jones, Vocational Service Director**



**Patricia Jones** interviewed three members, **Greg Kusnierek**, **Andrea McClellan**, and **Danny Lambert**.

**Greg Kusnierek** was born in Chicago and was raised in Ventura County. He attended Newbury Park High School. When his wife was pregnant, Greg was looking for a second job and his dad dared him to apply for a job at a mortuary. He got the job, and has been in the funeral business ever since. Greg has over 27 years of experience in the funeral profession and is a licensed funeral director and certified crematory operator.

When asked about the most memorable funerals, Greg said one of the deceased had planned in advance to make a recording, so while his casket was being lowered into the ground, his voice was heard yelling, "Let me out!". Another was during the funeral of a pioneer Simi Valley coach, where they could hear kids playing football in the distance. There was a funeral years ago where all attendees set their pagers to go off at the same time. **Patricia** went on to explain what pagers were to the younger members!

The funeral business can be feast or famine. The director may handle as many as 2-3 funerals per day, or there may be several days where there is no business. Some cemeteries offer green options such as biodegradable urns and caskets.

When asked by **Patricia**, **Greg** replied that he has not thought about his own funeral.

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## Thousand Oaks Rotary Meeting

January 30, 2020



President **Herb Gooch** opened the meeting and thanked **Chris Steele** for organizing the table seating arrangements in honor of Vocational Month. This gave us the opportunity to ask questions of each other and learn more about interests and hobbies. The value of such seating was then stressed:

Ben Franklin organized a group of friends to provide a structured form of mutual improvement. The group, initially composed of twelve members, called itself the Junto Club. The members of the Junto were drawn from diverse occupations and backgrounds, but they all shared a spirit of inquiry and a desire to improve themselves, their community, and to help others. Paul Harris uses this model when he founded Rotary in 1905.



**Lois Curran-Klein** led in the Moment of Inspiration and pledge. In light of the tragedy that occurred last Sunday that took the lives of 9, including Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna, **Lois** was struck once again by how unpredictable and precious life is. She decided to recite the 12 Rules of Happiness, as we never know what tomorrow may bring. These included such rules as "Live a simple life, Spend less than you earn, Think constructively, Cultivate a yielding disposition, and Be grateful."

After **Nelson Buss** led in singing America the Beautiful, **Sevak Khodabakhshian** introduced PP Brian Back, **Patricia Jones'** guest, **Paul Dryman's** guest Terrie Ann Smith, and **Sevak's** guest Nina Nori.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Steve Stanley** is looking for recommendations for nominees for the John Conlan Award. This award is to recognize an individual for their outstanding charitable work in our community. **Maria Prescott** will be assisting **Steve** on this committee.

**Paul Dryman** encouraged everyone to come and enjoy Superbowl Sunday at the Selvin's.

**Pat McCoy** announced that TO Mayor, Al Adam will present the City Outlook, and **Vicki Arndt** has agreed to be the MC at the upcoming Economic Forecast.

**Ken Warner** reminded members about the Blood Drive on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. There's no greater gift than saving a life.



## Birthdays

Feb 01 Richardson, Niki  
Feb 04 Badger, Ryan  
Feb 04 Cornwall, Russ  
Feb 05 Curran-Klein, LCK  
Feb 12 Wang, Felix  
Feb 20 Messner, Douglas  
Feb 24 Gonzales, Mike  
Feb 26 Arndt, Vicki  
Feb 26 Wieler, Dick

## Anniversaries

Feb 04 Parks, Keith & Denice  
Feb 10 Antoniskis, Adam & Lindsay  
Feb 16 Feigen, Marc & Darlene  
Feb 22 Selvin, Harry & Maureen  
Feb 24 Gooch, Herb & Chris



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## SUPER BOWL PARTY



Program: February 13th

## 805 Help—Update



Emily Barany ,  
Founder & CEO

(Continued from page 1)

## Program: CRAFT TALKS

**Andrea McClellan** was born in San Bernardino. Most of her brothers and sisters live in Arizona. She's been married for 30 years, and has 5 children, with her 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild on its way.

Andrea is Director of Development and Marketing, Boy Scouts of America, Ventura County Council. Her career with Boy Scouts began when she was involved with her sons and when visiting one of the camps, observed 12 boys in a 45-minute obstacle course. She said the camp was one of the worst run programs she had ever seen. She filed a complaint with the Boy Scout Council, and was offered to the job run the camp. She said no for 2 years until she accepted the challenge, and with that ran four camps until 2015. Andrea's 3 boys are 4<sup>th</sup> generation Eagle Scouts. She was a Girl Scout for 2 years, and was not a Boy Scout. A little-known fact is that girls have been in Boy Scouts since the 1960s. Andrea loves to see youth do well. Scouting helps kids learn skills, ethical values, build friendships, and succeed in life. She loves to know every day makes a difference in someone.

Andrea's duties include keeping up with trends, attending conferences, and talking to others about Boy Scouts, just to name a few. Of the 140 merit badges, her favorite is Business to expand knowledge. Boy Scouts, she said, need more money and more volunteers.

**Danny Lambert** was born and raised in Thousand Oaks. He's married to **Marissa Buss** and they have 2 daughters. Before proceeding with the questions, **Danny** said he understood **David Masci** was a divorce attorney, and asked that he represent him in case he got into trouble with **Marissa** with his responses! He spent 19 years as an Air Force Fire Fighter, 5 years as a Federal Firefighter, and the last 10 years as Captain in Oxnard. Types of emergencies were medical calls, traffic accidents, hazardous materials, wildland fires, and cats in trees!

When asked about the Thomas and Woolsey Fires, **Danny** said their first call was at 6 am. They went from fire to fire and were totally beat down. Their exposure to smoke was immense over extended periods of time. They were put on strike teams in Ventura, then Santa Paula, then onto Santa Barbara. They would work 24 hours straight. His advice when living in fire prone areas when a fire strikes: run. Don't wait to be forced to evacuate. When **Sevak** asked what fire preparation kits were recommended, **Marissa** was quick to respond that they have zero preparation at home!



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**Happy \$\$\$\$**

**Mike Teasdale** carried the cup.



**Patricia Jones** heard a story of a woman who was reluctant to give blood. She had a very rare blood type and questioned why she should give blood. Little did she know that when she was injured in an auto accident, her own blood she had donated saved her life!

**Marissa and Kara Buss** are organizing a co-ed Bunco tournament on February 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit Senior Concerns. \$50.00 donation per person – This includes guaranteed seat at a Bunco table, heavy appetizers, two drink tickets and one raffle ticket.

**Carol Freeman** announced **Richard Williams'** birthday.

**Lois Curran-Klein** thanked everyone who attended the special event to the Nethercutt Museum to benefit K-9s for Warriors, as well as those who made donations. They exceeded their goals.

**Nancy Wohl** thanked **Lois** and **Nate** for organizing such a wonderful day to the Nethercutt. It was a great day.

**Paul Dryman** also thanked **Lois** and **Nate** for a great day at the Nethercutt Museum. He encouraged everyone to experience it for themselves.

**Chris Steele's** baby boy turned 39 on Thursday and so did **Richard Williams!**

**Cary Runnells'** son turned 13 on Thursday. He also excitedly announced the opening of Thousand Oaks Insurance Company, his new company.

## FINE SESSION

Fine Master was **Michelle Nash**. The theme was the 3 major committees and jobs available. Questions ranged from how many hours the Chairs of Chili Cook-off, Street Fair, and Wine Event work per week on their event. (10 hours per week for 9 months prior to the event.) Chairs of smaller committees average 1-3 hours per week.

This was a great fine session and revealed a number of Chair positions that need filling including Photo Booth, Thank You Chair, Food Vendor Chair for the Chili Cook-off (Michelle will train), and Silent Auction Chair and Restaurant Chair for the Wine Festival, just to name a few. Don't be afraid to get your feet wet and learn new skills!



Those fined included **Crystal Evans, Haider Alawami, John Bradley, David Masci, Heather Cousin, and Richard Williams.**





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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**This February has an extra day,  
which should be the occasion for deep reflecting on things:**



A bus station is where a bus stops.

A train station is where a Train stops

On my desk, I have a work station...

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with, "Quit while you're ahead"?

Do Lipton employees take coffee breaks?

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans.

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with little tiny spoons and forks, so I wonder what Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks?

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do . . . write to these men?

Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they delivered the mail?

How much deeper would oceans be if sponges didn't live there?

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the OTHERS here for?

Clones are people two.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag?

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

If a person with multiple personalities threatens suicide, is that considered a hostage situation?

So what's the speed of dark?

If you're sending someone some Styrofoam, what do you pack it in?

Why do they sterilize needles for lethal injections?



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## Have you the Courage to Really Think About Rotary's Future?

*Here is part of a speech by John Hewko, Rotary International General Secretary, just two weeks ago.*

### **You know, this is an exciting moment in Rotary's history....**

We are closing in on our signature goal of eradicating polio. Our members are carrying out more global grants than ever before. Our Rotary Foundation raised almost \$400 million last year, the second highest amount raised in the Foundation's history. And, this year, working with Harvard University, we set out to answer this question: How much money do Rotary clubs contribute to their local communities?

I am proud to announce that, in addition to the funds contributed to The Rotary Foundation, our **36,000 clubs contributed an estimated US\$1.15 billion in cash to their local communities in 2018.**

So when you add this \$1.15 billion to the \$400 million contributed to The Rotary Foundation and the \$850 million estimate of the value of Rotary's volunteer service hours as determined by Johns Hopkins University, this means that we are a more than \$2 billion organization!

That is a truly impressive figure and reaffirms what we all know — that **Rotary is one of the greatest organizations for good in the world today.**

**But even more important than how much our members give is how they feel about Rotary.** And our surveys clearly show that large numbers of our fellow Rotarians feel that we need to change. And why?

Because they understand that at a global level we face major challenges — for our clubs, our cause, and our continuity. Now, these challenges certainly keep me up at night. And I suspect that they are probably on your minds as well.

So, to address these challenges, ... **the primary impetus for enacting change occurs at the club and district level.**

This means that real change — the type of lasting change to which our strategic plan aspires — requires two types of innovation.

- ◆ **First**, the innovation to change the status quo.
- ◆ **Second**, the innovation to overcome the inevitable resistance to that change.



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## PAST PRESIDENTS — Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks

58-59 DONN ODELL	89-90 JEFF BORENSTEIN
59-60 JOHN HEYWOOD	90-91 DENNIS GILLETTE
60-61 MARV BURROW	91-92 MERV KOPP
61-62 ROSS DUSKIN	92-93 TOM GLANCY
62-63 ROY McCOMBER	93-94 HUGO ROCHE
63-64 PAUL PACE	94-95 BRIAN BACK
64-65 JOHN CONLAN	95-96 TONY KOUROUNIS
65-66 CARLOS SCURIA	96-97 JACK CAINE
66-67 MERRILL DARLING	97-98 DICK WIELER
67-68 PHIL OZAB	98-99 JUDY ST. JOHN
68-69 WILLIAM VANDERZWANN	99-20 MIKE GONZALES
69-70 ALVIN J. HOTZ, JR.	20-01 NEIL SCRIBNER
70-71 BEN CRANMER, JR.	01-02 BOB BIERY
71-72 GLENN GOODWIN	02-03 HARRY SELVIN
72-73 GEORGE VASLIEFF	03-04 RICK LEMMO
73-74 HENRY STILL	04-05 DOUG TAPKING
74-75 JOHN TUEL	05-06 KATHY HILL
75-76 KENNETH HANSON	06-07 PETE TURPEL
76-77 DAVID HUANG	07-08 VICKI ARNDT
77-78 WILLIAM HAAS	08-09 MARTIN ANDERSON
78-79 FELIX MASCI	09-10 KEITH PARKS
79-80 HARLAND JONES	10-11 FRANK CORRIGAN
80-81 DAVE WENDER	11-12 RICHARD WILLIAMS
81-82 GEORGE GIBB	12-13 SUSAN MURATA
82-83 NORMAN NAGEL	13-14 CAROL FREEMAN
83-84 BILL PETERSON	14-15 NATE HARIMOTO
84-85 MIKE O'BEIRNE	15-16 MIKE MURPHY
85-86 MARV SOSNA	16-17 ROBERT BIANCHI
86-87 FRED FERRARINI	17-18 TIM WEAVER
87-88 DOC NEEDHAM	18-19 KAREN FURNARI
88-89 KENNETH (SKIP) ROBERTS	

*Editor K.T. Connor, notes by Nancy Wohl, photos by Rich Folsom*