



**THE
ROTARY
RAZZ**

Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest, Illinois
Club 3190 District 6450

Meetings: Noon
Currently via
Zoom only

**Club 3190
District 6450**

Eric Van Ness
517-414-8397
evanness@wradvisors.com

RAZZ Editors:
Rick Hibbert
Lesley Gottlinger

<http://www.oprfrotary.org>

Volume 103, Number 27

www.oprfrotary.org

January 19, 2022

Today in OPRF Rotary

January 19, 2022

Gary Cuneen
Seven Generations Ahead



Gary Cuneen, founder and executive director of Seven Generations Ahead, will be speaking about what is new with the organization.

SGA works with local government, community and private-sector leaders to help communities make the changes they need to build a healthy and sustainable future. Through community-wide sustainability

planning, project design and implementation, educational conferences and forums, community network development, consulting, and programs, SGA is a catalyst for local community solutions to global environmental issues.

SGA's work covers a broad range of sustainability topic

areas, including: energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste reduction in schools and other institutions, local and sustainable food systems, food waste reduction and recovery, open space and ecosystem enhancement, and sustainability education.

SGA is indebted to the many Indigenous tribes that stewarded the land where we live and work, and whose philosophies continue to inspire everything we do. We are on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations, among many others.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION



We are delighted to announce that the following person has submitted membership an application to the Rotary Club of OP-RF. Per Club rules his name must be published in three consecutive issues of the RAZZ before the Rotary Board may vote on the membership request. This is the third of three notices. Any concerns, please contact Eric Van Ness or any cur-

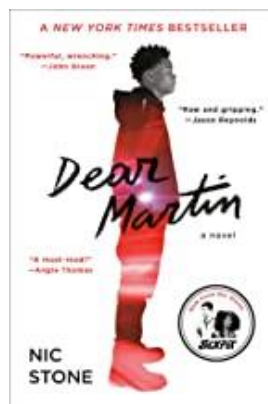
rent OPRF Board Member.

NAME: Dr. Fred Barber

BUSINESS: Retired

SPONSOR: Charles Wells

PROFESSION: Physician



**Interact
Presents . . .**



**Quarterly
Social Justice Book
Club - January 23rd
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

**Dear Martin by Nic
Stone**

is the book the group will be discussing. It is a quick read, so it's not too late if you haven't started reading yet.

Gold
OAK PARKTM
BANK
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK

Silver
BY Byline BankSM

the
WEST COOK YMCA

Bronze
BROOKDALE
OAK PARK
SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS



Announcements

- **Patty Eggerding** led the meeting in place of **Eric Van Ness**. She led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Patty asked everyone "to pause for a moment to send out positive energy to all Rotarians and all of our co-workers and neighbors and people in our community to stay as healthy as possible in this really interesting time that we're living through. I just want you to know I often over Winter Break that I thought of you and sent you good wishes and I hope you are all experiencing good health and that your families continue to be healthy."
- **Lesley Gottlinger** said she attended the District Rotary Foundation Committee monthly meeting and that "we hit as a district the 200 mark for members in the new Polio Plus Society. Our club has 16 who have sent in the \$100 or committed to sending in \$100." She wanted to remind those who committed to send in the money as soon as possible. They are matching the donations with points. "If you haven't committed, think about it. This is different from the Every Rotarian, Every Year. That goes to the Annual Fund. As a Rotarian you get Foundation Points for either or both of those contributions."
- Lesley is asking all the Rotarians who were on the Zoom call to once a week or every two weeks look in the directory and find a face you missed at the meeting and contact them to see how they're doing. "Maybe we ought to get into the habit of reaching out to those we don't see every week and let them know we love them and we care and find out if they need anything."
- **Cathy Hall:** **Jimmy DeMay** put out a matching grant out there. Thanks to his generosity and the generosity of our members, we were able to donate \$1,500 to Beyond Hunger and \$1,500 to Housing Forward. Thank you Jimmy and thank you to everyone who participated.
- **John Kearns:** The CIP Board meeting has been postponed to the last week of January. If anyone is interested in attending, please communicate with John. Linda Kemp will be giving a presentation. She is very interested in CIP. Linda is from the Aurora Club and she is the Rotary Means Business Fellowship Chair. She's doing a lot of business networking. The meeting will be Zoomed.
- **Scott McAdam:** Hopefully you all got an email from the district. You know I am on the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation and we have a matching grant that came through. Someone has given us a dollar-for-dollar matching grant up to \$20,000. We're still way far away from getting everything completed. If anyone wants to see the house, contact Scott. Reach out to Scott or the district if you would like to contribute. See page 3 for more information.

CALENDAR

January

19 — Zoom meeting. **Program:** Gary Cuneen of Seven Generations Ahead.

25 — President's Roundtable meeting, 6:30-7:30, Zoom.

26 — Zoom meeting. **Program:** Michele Zurakowski of Beyond Hunger. Michele will give an update on the efforts and changes brought on by the pandemic to Beyond Hunger

February

2 — Zoom meeting. **Program:** Phil Jimenez from the West Cook YMCA. Phil and someone from his staff will update us on the activities and charitable works of our YMCA.

7 — Assistant Governor's meeting, 6:30-7:30, Zoom.

9 — Zoom meeting. **Program:** Pro Bono network, Heena Musabji. Heena will give a presentation on the work of Pro Bono network

16 — Zoom meeting. **Program:** Charles Laliberte will update us on his work in Uganda.



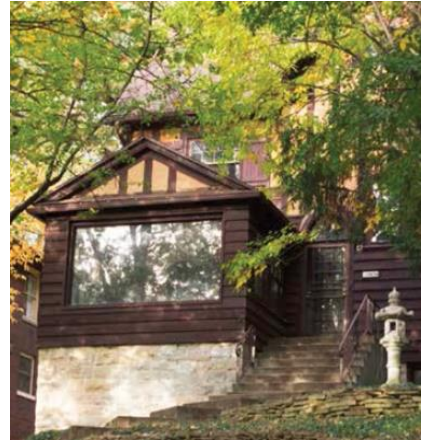
Support the Restoration

The Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation established in 2004 to own and manage the Home of Paul and Jean Harris, Comely Bank. It is a 501(c)(3) charity.

Renovations are underway to restore the Home to the condition it was in 1947 when Paul Harris passed away while living there.

Rotarians are working together to raise the money necessary to retire the debt created in buying and renovating the Home, and to create an endowment to pay for the operations of the Home as a museum.

While much work has been done, the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation needs your help in its quest to restore this Rotary monument to its former glory. Major donors will be recognized on the Home's Donor Wall and through multiple naming opportunities.



BE A PART OF ROTARY HISTORY! Commemorative Bricks and Recognition

\$250: Engraved Driveway Brick - approximately 4" x 8"

\$1000: Engraved Patio Brick - approximately 8" x 14"

\$2500: Engraved Patio Brick under the Pergola - approximately 8" x 14"

Other naming opportunities are listed on the website.

Gary and Gloria Baumgartner Matching Grant to Paul & Jean Harris' Home Foundation

Rotarian Gary Baumgartner and his wife, Gloria, have generously offered to match all donations to the Paul & Jean Harris' Home Foundation, dollar for dollar, up to a total of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) in matching funds, from now until January 31, 2022.

This grant will finish the interior restoration of the Paul & Jean Harris Home and help install the paver brick walkway that will include bricks identifying the more than 400 donors to the Home to date.

All donations that are matched will be eligible for upgraded recognition, i.e., a \$500 donation with the match will be recognized as a \$1,000 donation to the Home. Please consider a donation of any size!

Please contact Cheryl McIntyre, Chair of the Paul & Jean Harris' Home Foundation, with any questions. Email: cherylmcintyre@gmail.com

To Donate by Credit Card go to:

www.paulharrishome.org and click on "Donate" button.

To Donate by Check mail to:

PJHH Foundation
c/o Dennis Gorman and Associates, CPA
9517 Ogden Avenue,
Brookfield, IL 60513-1841.



Rotary/One's President Marga Hewko has invitation all D6450 Rotarians to celebrate ROTARY/One's 117th Birthday!

Save the date - February 17th



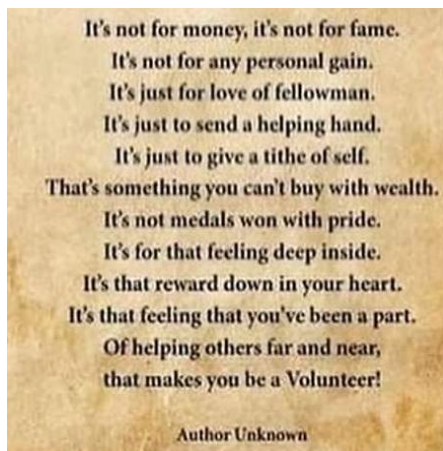
Look for more details on District 6450's website.

#

The International Services Committee meeting originally scheduled for this Friday, January 21 at noon has been postponed until the following Friday, January 28 also at NOON. If you have anything to add to the agenda, reach out to Committee Chair Iris Saavedra. We will meet via ZOOM at the regular OPRF Rotary Zoom site. . .

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89128802013?pwd=Zk1IZjRwZzV4Vms5b2xTNGFDVG9QQT09>

#



Why Be a Volunteer?

If you've ever wondered just why it is you should volunteer, thank Cathy Hall for finding an answer.



UPDATE! UPDATE!

A new date has been set for RYLA - March 18-20, 2022. The entire program will be virtual to ensure the safety of all participants. New application forms will be available soon on the D6450 website.

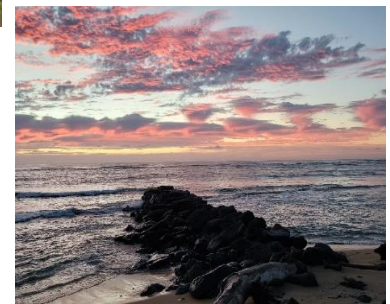
Please remember: When filling out the application, remember . . . [1] The sponsoring club is

The Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest. [2] Parents are not required to pay the fee. Our Rotary Club will cover the cost for them. Also, please return the completed applications to Lesley Gottlinger as quickly as possible. That way we can hopefully accommodate all those wishing to attend. Applications can be obtained from Lesley Gottlinger - bookgramma@gmail.com - and **MUST** be returned to her as well. Please reach out via email or phone - **708-751-2821** with any questions.

#



Eric Van Ness, wife Dana & daughter Daphne felt absolutely no remorse about spending last week in Kauai, Hawaii, while the rest of us "suffered" in Chicago's cold & ice.

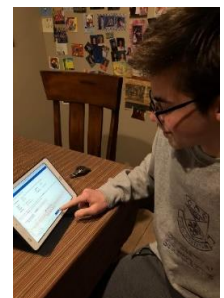


#

Jack Kornowske, former recent Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound student to Germany, has made his college decision! Say hello to the newest member of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Jack will be pursuing an honors Master of Arts degree



in English and German [with an integrated year abroad]. It is a five-year program, and his parents believe his "year abroad" will be in Germany. The UK university system is a bit different than here in the U.S., so Jack's parents think they will all have a lot to learn! Jack is shown sporting his new university sweatshirt [L] & posting his university acceptance [R]. **Congratulations, Jack!!!**



Jan. 12 Program: Lynda Schueler of Housing Forward

Lynda Schueler, executive director of Housing Forward, gave an update about her organization.

So much changed to how our agency had to pivot due to COVID.

We offer a full continuum of services. We help to prevent homelessness at the outset. We respond to the crisis of homelessness, making sure that that crisis response is as immediate as possible, but as short as possible, finally getting people stabilized, re-housed.

It's hard to believe we are going into year three of this. As an organization, having been around here for 29 years, August/September will be our 30th anniversary. We have operated as a community agency that our flagship program, PADS Emergency Shelter, was really not going to be able to continue to operate in the traditional sense of working in conjunction with our faith communities with our volunteer partners with the congregate model we enjoyed for all those decades.

So when we converted from a congregate setting to a noncongregate setting, We really – in the midst of the crisis making decisions very, very quickly, we wanted to set ourselves some guiding principles as an agency how we were going to respond to this. We wanted to make sure that no one stayed unsheltered. Homelessness in general makes you vulnerable. We didn't want anybody to be unsheltered or return to the streets. At the time, not knowing how long COVID was going to last for us, we wanted to quickly rehouse those who were the most vulnerable.

We had to find alternative arrangements beyond what was becoming staying in a hotel.

We also wanted to make sure we were stemming the flow into homelessness. For well over



Lynda Schueler on Zoom.

a year, there was an eviction moratorium in place. We knew that the economic hardship that people who were losing their jobs because of layoffs and having to take care of family members was really putting that population through financial prevention services.

We wanted to prepare our system in general to better serve newly homeless.

How do we serve specialized populations? It is not a one size fits all. We serve families who need short-term assistance. We serve what we call some transition-aged youth who are 18- to 24-year-olds who maybe find themselves aging out of the foster care system. Maybe they don't have the stability of living on their own.

When they hit 18 and then, of course, you know those who we really are focusing a considerable amount of attention and resources are those that are more chronically homeless; those who are at high risk because of their old medical vulnerabilities, so recognizing that they all said that it's not a one size fits all response or effort to get them re stabilized because they all have different needs.

Of course we're going to continue to leverage all of our wonderful partnerships that we have and our volunteers, our

landlord partnerships, our faith communities, of course you know, community groups like you all.

As I mentioned, one of the first things that we did was with some federal resources we were able to beef up our eviction prevention services.

They provided well over \$350,000 to be able to directly impact households from landing in a situation where they're becoming homeless.

These are, of course, grants; they are not loans. They're given directly to the landlord and what's happened under COVID is it's not necessarily just a one month of assistance. Some of this assistance can be upwards of 12 months because we're not out of the woods yet with the pandemic.

Obviously as part of the rehousing strategy as we began to move people into the three hotels at one point back in the summer of 2020 we really needed to think about, OK what is this rehousing strategy look like? So there was some federal resources that were again coming through short-term rental assistance to get people rehoused.

We were actually in a position to be able to secure some on what's called housing choice vouchers and so we were able

to secure 33 of those vouchers to quickly rehouse the most vulnerable that were in the hotels that we were serving, so we launched our a landlord partnership program.

We have well over 100 landlords that we work with. Our service footprint is about 25 communities and the support of housing that we provide is distributed throughout our 25 service area communities, it's not just here in in Oak Park.

Then we launched a hotel-to-home campaign and that was the collection of 110 house-to-home kids.

Over 4,000 donated items from toasters to pots and pans to vacuums that were donated by the community. It was this amazing effort we had to relocate everything over to Oak Park temple where they were giving us some storage to be able to collect and then put all these home kits together so people weren't getting rehoused without all the amenities that they need to make that home a house for themselves.

After shutting down the PADS shelter they converted to a congregate setting over at Oak Park Temple for about six days.

We worked really well with the village. I cannot say enough on how they were holding our hand and the health department really giving us guidance. At the outset we didn't really know the impact all the masking, the social distancing and not knowing the future of how quickly COVID was going to continue with us. They said you know what, you've got to move to hotels, so we did that and that first day it was 65 people that we moved directly placing people in cabs. We moved them to three different hotels and honestly not knowing how we were going to pay for all that, it was the community, it was pri-

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

vate donations for the first three months that got us through paying for those hotels. FEMA had not come through yet and we're talking \$70 to \$90 a night per room and we had 65 of those so you know use your calculator in your head, it adds up very quickly and it was the community that came through to help us to pay for all of that.

Then in the summer of 2020 it was getting very wearing on our staff being deployed to three different hotels. I didn't know the Write Inn had shut down completely and we were notified that the hotel had been vacant since March of 2020 and we went over there. We had a conversation with the owners about renting a floor because we were looking to expand on our medical respite program.

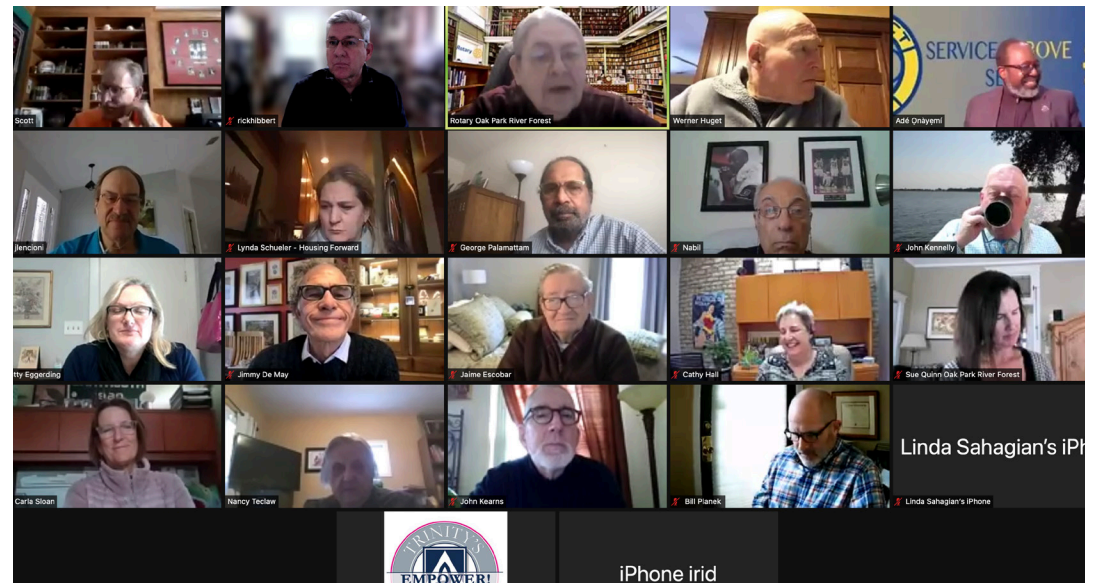
The owners of the hotel said it didn't make sense to brink back staff for just one floor. So they ended up renting the entire hotel.

So now they have been operating a 24/7 facility since September of 2020. People can come and go as they please. It's obviously a noncongregate setting. There are 65 rooms and 65 bathrooms.

So what is interim housing? It's different from emergency shelter. It's a 24/7 model that provides individual accommodations and meals for those that are obviously coming into the program and really with a focus of transitioning somebody to housing.

So when we established ourselves over at the Write Inn, we put a program agreement in place ... to set a goal giving people re-housed within 90 days. It's a closed-door facility. You can't just walk in like you could at PADS urgency shelter and expect to get a room when you walk in so we do have and intake line.

This is really the program of last resort for folks. The phys-



Attendees of Wednesday's Zoom meeting.

ical building has allowed us to not have to worry about people not being safe, having to leave during the day because the program is shutting down and overall our clients are safe. Their mental health is much better, they're eating better they're obviously in much better spirits, they have their own privacy, they can sleep in on Saturday, so you know this is a better model.

It's unfortunate that it took a pandemic for us to learn that not just as an agency, but really across the nation.

Another need is medical respite. To address that, the agency launched Sojourner House. She said that Scott McAdam helped them out with landscaping. The facility is on Austin Avenue. It was launched in 2019 and is a partnership that we have with MacNeal Hospital. One of the areas that we had identified as an agency where individuals are coming from is hospital settings. When individuals who are homeless that are going into hospitals for maybe an acute issue a chronic issue they're being discharged back to the streets, back into homelessness and we wanted to find a way where we can provide an intervention. We have a partnership with a hospital and MacNeal had actually come to us. They

had identified this need as well. There are five units in the that are all dedicated to individuals who have been discharged from MacNeal Hospital or the Loyola system that are not well enough to be discharged.

When we had the opportunity to lease the hotel, one of the things that we wanted to do was dedicate one of the floors at the hotel to expand in our partnership with Cook County Health. We've been doing some housing for medical respite as well and so we have formed an alliance with them and they are operating within the larger building on the first floor of the hotel a medical respite center. It is staffed 24/7 by medical personnel, a nurse and a medical director who's a doctor. And then we have medical assistants that are there as well. The nice thing about the medical respite center isn't integrated into the interim housing program so floors 2, 3 and 4 are all in our housing. When somebody is fully done with their recuperative care in the medical respite center they can actually go up to one of the floors in the interim housing program we do have isolation rooms on the medical rest of floor as well we have six rooms. Right now I think there are eight individuals within those six rooms. Nobody is doing this

type of work in suburban Cook County. We can take referrals from any suburban Cook County hospital as well as Cook County Hospital.

Lynda talked about a gentleman named Sherman. Sherman was living in an abandoned building. He didn't have proper heat. Last year he felt numbness in his legs and went to Cook County Health. He had severe frostbite, so severe that he lost both of his legs. He came to the medical respite center for all of his recuperative care. We helped to save his life through that medical respite program.

In 2020, we provided over 136,000 nights of housing, \$384,000 in financial assistance that we provided again most of that was the federal response and over 96,000 meals.

The last thing that I wanted to make you all aware of is we have financing in place to build our own building. This is a first for us. We will now be a landowner and a building owner and operating a 24/7 fixed site permanent supportive housing development. We're looking at February with probably shovels in the ground sometime in March, but this will house 16 households up to 25 individuals a combination of veterans families and two units will be dedicated to those transition.