

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

April 28, 2022

Last week we bid a final farewell to our friend and Rotarian, [Harold Arthur "Art" Smith](#), having passed the week before.

Art retired the US Navy as a Commander in 1969 having served for 26 years. There was so much more to the man than his military service as you can hear from Mark Moisan's interview with Art for our Story Corp project last year. [You can hear it here](#). or search for it in the Library of Congress' StoryCorps.org.

Rotary District 5100 has a **\$30,000 scholarship** opportunity\* for graduate level international study. [Click here for details](#).

Our club's outbound **exchange students** are raising funds for [Shelter Box](#). This is an ambitious project that provides, you guessed it, shelter in a box.

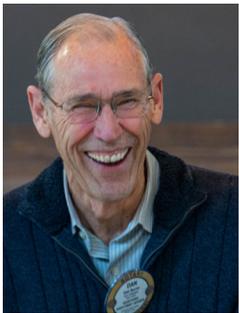
For families whose homes have been decimated by conflict and natural disaster this is more than a tent. It's a jump start at a rebuild.

They are collecting cans/bottles, selling baked goods, and auctioning sculptures.

The winner of last week's **10x100 Paul Harris Fellowship** pool was Dennis Lewis.

Last week's program was our last **Interview With Former Presidents**, Dan Burns, Kari Fahrenkopf, John Bridges, and Rob Molzahn (*represented by his stunt double, Bob Travers*).

Emcee Karen Hall led with the first topic being "family."



Dan: He started with his stint as president 2001-02, a busy year as one of our first presidents, and the year he married Cindy. He had tried to find the pix I had Photoshopped of he in a bridal veil. As a memory hoarder, I never throw anything fun away. :D

Dan has two daughters. Sarah and Jason live in Milwaukie. Christy and Todd and their daughters, Serena and Mariana (sp?) live in Denver. He has a grandson in Salem that works for a HVAC company.

And a granddaughter that adopted Dan and Cindy. The girl's uncle, a Peruvian native, is their neighbor up the hill. Driving by one day

she said to uncle, "stop, stop. I want to meet them!" Her grandparents passed before she was born. "I want you to be my grandma and grandpa." [I suspect these two conversations were likely separated by a bit of time]

Dan and Cindy will be attending her coming graduation from GFU as an engineering student.

Kari: Her dad, 82, lives in Aurora by the Butteville Country Store. Kari is now his caregiver. No one can fully prepare you for what that entails but we're making it work.

She has a sister in Sherwood with a son and daughter. Another sister about to move to Idaho.

Gerald and Kari have three children. Diego (his mother is Argentine) is a nurse in Cheyenne. Max, a chemical engineer and his three kids, Bon, Sol, and Dove, are living in Idaho. Sasha, a software engineer, lives in Portland working for New Relic.



Her Brazilian family (from her year as an exchange student) include her "parents," Ilza and Carlos (88 and 99 years old). They have four children, not including Kari. All their grandchildren speak English.

"Rob:" Beth, his wife of 40 years, retired GFU after 20 years and now spends a lot of time with their granddaughters.

Daughter Karley, married to John, live in Newberg with their daughters, Shea and Jody (sp?). They, too, are moving soon to Idaho.

Tenley, married to Taylor, have a daughter, Rell, and live in Carlsbad.

John: "I think most people know my family." [true!] His wife, Debra, worked

twelve years in the District Attorney's office supervising 40+ people. She usually calls it retirement.

Isabel is 24, married, and graduated OSU. Chloe is a junior at U of O.

John had looked in to that \*\$30,000 grant but learned Chloe was disqualified because dad's a Rotarian. "Well, this is an opportunity to quit [Rotary]," he added with a chuckle.

Ironically, he has over a dozen relatives in New Zealand from a similar program. His uncle went to a graduate program there and met a girl. That story then repeated itself four times, all because of Rotary (and probably love).

Both his father and grandfather were heavily involved in Rotary, both having served as governors in their respective districts.

He has four siblings, one of which has children, and a bunch of nieces and nephews on Deb's side as well.

Karen: When were you president, where were we meeting, and how many members were there?

John: "One of those I know pretty much precisely," looking down at the name badge on his lapel with the years he served on it, "I was president 2002 - 2003. It's super helpful to have this thing!" He recalls meeting at the hospital (as it was originally known) with a member count of about 35.

He remembers that number because of PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) where the focus was getting lots of donations and attracting new members. He thought, "We can all say hello to each other every [Thursday] morning." He likes knowing the people he surrounds himself with which is why he said, with a Cheshire grin, "no new members."

Rob: President 2010-11 meeting in the same place as John, but then known as Villa Academic Complex. "Do all of you know where the old hospital is? All you newbies?"

[Well, yes, Bob. I was born down the hall. Wink ... Jeff]

Rob recalls membership of 45-50.

Kari: President 2018-19, important to Kari because it was exactly 40 years after her Youth Exchange experience. We met at the Chehalem Cultural Center with about 85 members with a demographic of 35/65 women to men and she served as our fourth female president following Susan Utterback,

Jessica Cain, Terry Emery. Coming next are Casey Hostetler and Raquel deBrito.

Dan: 2001-02 making him our fourth president (third elected with Kenny, the first, serving as president when the club chartered). We were about 30 strong and meeting even then at the old hospital.

In the spirit of growing the club Dan resurrected Bob's "Mystery Greeter" where you'd pay a buck if you missed the handshake of the designated mystery greeter.

Karen: Something memorable during your presidency.

Kari: We (pretty much Rick) completed construction of the Shade Structure near the Splash Pad at the Chehalem Cultural Center. And we celebrated our club's 20th Anniversary. And we had fourteen Colombians visit our club.

The most memorable? Ken's birthday. In preparing for the birthday bash Kari was going through images for the slide presentation and it hit her what enormous impact the Austin family has in our community.

He later sent her a note and followed it up with an emotional thank you, that he hadn't realized the effect he'd had with so many people.

*Editor's note: Many years ago Ken had spoken to the club and reflected on the arrogance and alcoholism of his earlier years. His intent was not to preach to us that people can change. He left that to us to discern with the passing of time and connection.*

Rob: His year of presidency was a year of roses. In 2010 his daughter, Tenley, was on ABC's reality show, The Bachelor. She had made it to the last round of two women. Tenley did not get the final rose. Turns out she dodged a bullet on that one. Of The Bachelor's 20 seasons, 15 ended in proposals, 3 ended in marriage.

When he was installed as president, Frank presented the final rose in lieu of the customary gavel.

John: His step-father has a granddaughter who was also on The Bachelor. Rob complains about this because he was fined virtually every week. The only person fined more during their presidency was Kenny for stumbling over the name of our club every time he said it.

John's most memorable meeting was

accepting the invitation offered by Vista Balloon Adventures to hold a meeting above Newberg.

Dan: "You know how we have everyone stand when a speaker takes the lectern? We instituted that during my year as president to make people feel welcome when they come in." Another memory is from a friend that worked for Intel. They had allowed him to name his own title so he chose "Visioning (something)."

While climbing Mt. Hood with him Dan listened to his excitement over being invited to present Intel's newest, greatest thing.

Dan, "That sounds fantastic. Why don't you come to our Rotary club and present that!"

So he did. He came, sat down in the chair, his computer went to sleep and he couldn't get it back on again. So if you have technology trouble, think about Chris Thomas.

Karen: Can you share what you learned about yourself, personally and professionally during your term?

Rob: He had served as manager of a realty company for a few years when he became president. Stepping into a leadership role among successful friends and peers can feel intimidating. What he learned is that everyone appreciates those who gives of themselves to help lead. The president may open the meeting and offer words of wisdom, but we're all part of a team.

John: Show and Tell. Until his term we would present a Rotary coffee mug. During his year we switched it up and began donating books to the S.M.A.R.T. Reading Program. Since then we've donated over 1,000 books on just a weekly basis.



We were in the early days of Kids Helping Kids. This was a program designed to foster a sense of giving and economic social awareness with the club matching the season's donations (\$1000-2000) to

offer dental/optical/medical assistance.

The first year's donation vessel was kind of cool being a tin can with a Kids Helping Kids label on it. At least it was cool until we had to EMPTY the cans. "What a pain in the \*\*\* that was. We had to open hundreds of these things!" The next year was plastic bags.

During his year he was in charge of all the programs, all the technology, all the reminders to program speakers. He was stressed for over an hour before and half hour in to every meeting to be sure the \*\*\*\* computer worked. "Every computer is the \*\*\*\* computer!"



As a final act of leadership, he said to incoming president, Doug Caffall, "I will form a Program Committee. (after a few expletives about reminders and technology) ... You're welcome."

Kari: "I learned that fear is overrated." It really is one thing to be part of the club and other to be standing in front of it looking stupid. "But you know what, guys? The best person I know how to be is me."

Laughter cures a lot of things.

Dan: "When somebody asks if you want to be president, say yes." You will find a whole big Rotary world outside our club here.

Question from the floor to Rob's proxy, "Rob Molzahn, would you be willing to host a couple of exchange students this year?" "Yyyyyyesss!"

