



Exchange Hotline

Exchange Club of
Sugar Land Newsletter
June 1st, 2020

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

4800 Sugar Grove Blvd. Suite 100
Stafford, TX 77477
www.ecsl.org

Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m.

Sweetwater Country Club
Palm Royale Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas

Officers 2019-2020

President:
Vernon Hunt

President Elect:
Paul Barnett

Secretary:
Vida Goodell

Treasurer:
Brad Porter

Immediate Past President:
David Lanagan

Board of Directors

Rick Bell
Kalina Fashaw
Brad Porter
Juli Fournier
Chanel Bermudez
John Heinemann
Jennifer Boley

Spaghetti Chair 2020
Lori Bisewski

Webmaster:
Charlie Braun
www.ecsl.org

Newsletter Editor:
newsletter@ecsl.org

"Zoom" Speaker of the Week

05/13/2020



Our Speaker Mr. Curt Jaeger, Community Executive Director of the YMCA, has worked for the YMCA for over 10 years; the last two as the Executive Director at the Fort Bend Family YMCA. In his time with the Fort Bend Y, Curt has focused on leveraging partnerships within the community to further impact families, and continuing to develop their long-standing volunteer board. His Y career started in college as a camp counselor for the YMCA of greater San Antonio and has evolved through various positions that have allowed him to serve his community in multiple ways.

"Respond and Reinvent" campaign". What can the YMCA do during Covid-19? #1 childcare for essential workers - #2 feeding our community! Distribution of food is at the Four Corners Community Center in Richmond, TX. During these times of social distancing the YMCA will be using Four Corners parking lot to facilitate Houston Food Bank's distribution of meals to families starting March 18th.

The YMCA continues to provide critical services in the community with weekly food distributions, childcare for essential personnel and social services for senior citizens. As of May 14, the YMCA distributed almost 3 million lbs. of food, serving 285,000 individuals, and cared for more than 600 children at 19 sites designed for childcare for essential personnel. The Y has served over 12,000 seniors through wellness checks, comfort card deliveries and meals on wheels services. As the Y continues to update its virtual platform with new content, more than 167,100 individuals have accessed the resource.



**Check Presentation of \$3000 dollars
donated to the YMCA from the
Exchange Club of Sugar Land!**



Cookie Joe's Blood Drive!

Exchange of Sugar Land and Exchange Club of Fort Bend and Rotary mounted a 2 day lifesaving blood drive thanks to **Cookie Joe** and **Tran Pham Rich** giving us space.

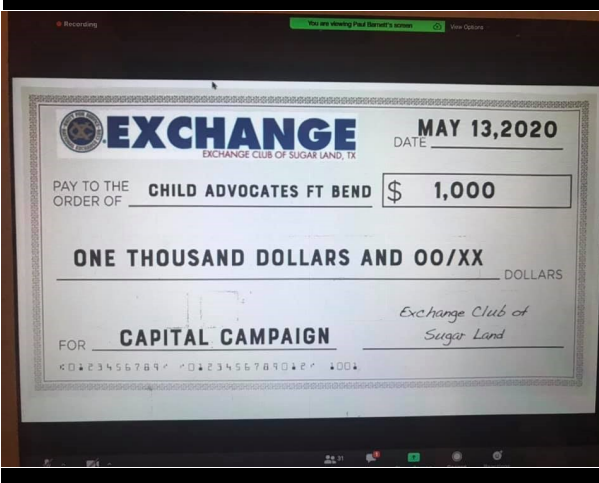
"We are better because of all of you!"

From... Dr. David Lanagan

Our past president of ECSL, Dr. David Lanagan!



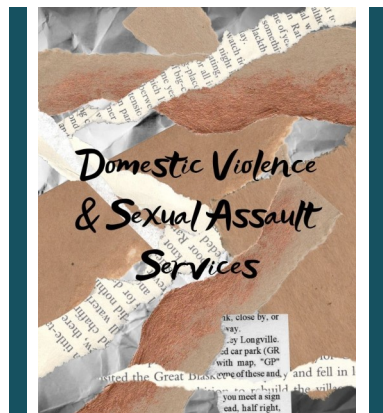
Cookie Joe went first!



Child Advocates receives a donation from Exchange Club of Sugar Land to help support children during trying times dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic!



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 1987



Exchange makes a difference! 150 antibacterial neoprene masks by designer **Chloe Dao** were delivered to the Women's Center by Exchange President Vernon Hunt, president elect Paul Barnett, and Lori Bisewski.



Youth of the Year Award..



Our Youth of the Year award goes to Mario Depavia, a senior at Clements Highschool! With the award Mario was given a plaque and a check for \$500 dollars. He was 19th in his class with a 4.0 GPA and his SAT score was 1570!



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 1987

Amazing student - his experience in Japan made him realize the uniqueness of two cultures – one celebrates individuality and the other that at times says “a nail sticking out, gets the hammer”. He asks us to not waste our resources ,and as a superpower we need to embrace diplomacy always - he also appreciates the experience of Diversity at **Clements Highschool**.

(Exchange member Farha Ahmed comments about Mario)

Mario— “I studied abroad in Japan for 10 months, an experience that has really changed my life. Some of my favorite activities include Model United Nations (after participating for 3 years, I was elected as president last May), Yosakoi (a form of Japanese folk dance), and volunteering for the Japanese Supplementary School of Houston. I was awarded 3rd, then 2nd place (2018 and 2019, respectively) in the Open Division of the Texas State Japanese Speech Contest, awards that I am very proud of because I have been studying the language for less than 5 years and was competing against native speakers and graduate students. I was also proud to be recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction as well as a College Board National Hispanic Scholar after performing exceptionally well on AP exams and the PSAT during my junior year. "When I was in Japan, I suffered from culture shock for months.

After spending my whole life in America, where we are taught to stand out and to be unique, it was extremely challenging to adapt to a society that is best explained through the Japanese proverb, “A nail that sticks out gets hammered down”. So, while I may not have been having a party, it is safe to say that I was still getting hammered every day. And after months of disagreements with my host family, plenty of frustrating moments, and even a few tears, I learned how to change my way of thinking and adapt to a new culture.

Mottainai--this simple Japanese phrase, meaning “don’t waste”, has changed my life. It is a lesson we learned at the kitchen table with family before we could even read. And yet, every day at school, I see waste being thrown away in the school cafeteria. But the meaning is much more than just that. Mottainai is a term of Japanese origin that has been used by environmentalists. The term in Japanese conveys a sense of regret over waste; the exclamation "Mottainai!" can translate as "What a waste!".)

From Mario,

Mottainai is about not letting skill or opportunity go to waste.

As we just celebrated Memorial Day on May 25th, here is some history and facts of Memorial Day and how it

1. MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS MIGHT HAVE STARTED IN ANCIENT TIMES.

Way back in 431 B.C., soldiers killed in the Peloponnesian War were honored with a public funeral and speech given by Greek statesman Pericles, [according to History.com](#). This is thought to be the first communal ceremony of recognizing those who had given their life in war. Year after year, ancient Greeks and Romans hosted similar commemorations.

2. ONE OF THE FIRST MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES WAS BY NEWLY FREED SLAVES ON MAY 1, 1865, IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Not long after the Civil War ended, freed slaves, members of the U.S. Colored Troops, and some locals organized a ceremony to bury Union troops who died due to horrendous conditions of a prison created at what was once a racetrack, History.com reports. They honored the dead by singing hymns and placing flowers on their graves. An archway over the cemetery was engraved with the words "Martyrs of the Race Course," according to [The New York Times](#).

3. THE OBSERVANCE WAS ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS DECORATION DAY.

By the late 1860s, many Americans had begun hosting tributes to the war's fallen soldiers by decorating their graves and with flowers and flags. Why did the name change from Decoration Day to Memorial Day? It seems that it gradually came to be known as Memorial Day over the years.

4. IT WAS UNION GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN WHO CALLED FOR AN OFFICIAL NATIONWIDE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ON MAY 30, 1868, A DATE CHOSEN BECAUSE IT WASN'T THE ANNIVERSARY OF A PARTICULAR BATTLE.

Meant to honor those lost in the Civil War, the Southern states originally observed a different day to honor the Confederate soldiers who died. In the aftermath of World War I, the holiday evolved to commemorate fallen military personnel in all wars. Currently, nine states still set aside an official day to honor those who lost their lives fighting for the Confederacy.

5. IN 1950, CONGRESS PASSED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT ISSUE A PROCLAMATION CALLING ON AMERICANS TO OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY AS A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERMANENT PEACE.

In 1968, [Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act](#), which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. But Memorial Day didn't actually become an official federal holiday until 1971.

Continued

6. IN 1966, WATERLOO, NEW YORK, WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED THE ORIGINATOR OF MEMORIAL DAY.

Many places in the U.S. claim to be the first to celebrate Memorial Day, but there's only one small town officially identified as the birthplace. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation stating that Waterloo, New York, is the originator of Memorial Day in the U.S. The town first observed a day to remember fallen soldiers on May 5, 1866.

7. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON SIGNED THE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE ACT IN 2000, WHICH ASKS AMERICANS TO PAUSE AND OBSERVE A NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE AT 3:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME.

A number of organizations throughout the country observe this moment, including Amtrak (whose trains blast their whistles), Major League Baseball, and NASCAR.

8. CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HOST MEMORIAL DAY PARADES, BUT SOME OF THE LARGEST PARADES TAKE PLACE IN CHICAGO, NEW YORK, AND, OF COURSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

In D.C., the [National Memorial Day Parade](#) hosts an audience of hundreds of thousands, who watches as marching bands, active duty and retired military units, youth groups, veterans, and floats head down Constitution Avenue.

9. THE PRESIDENT REQUESTS THAT ALL GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO DIRECT THE FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF UNTIL NOON ON MEMORIAL DAY ON ALL BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND NAVAL VESSELS.

U.S. citizens are asked to display the flag at half-staff from their homes before noon, as well.



Our own Exchangite member and past president who happens to be an excellent trumpet player! On May 25th in the evening at 9 pm in Sugar Land, at Town Center in the middle of the street in front of City Hall. Very silent moment in time, and by himself with his moving rendition of **"Taps"** this was part of a nationwide challenge to trumpet players to play taps across America. CBS News originally issued the challenge and trumpet players everywhere responded.

As of now, the video has been viewed over 2000 times and shared as far away as Vietnam and Abu Dhabi. It is quite amazing. End of Watch - The equivalent of end of day.

Words by David Lanagan

"Taps" is a bugle call played at dusk, during flag ceremonies, and at **military** funerals by the United States Armed Forces. ... The tune is also sometimes known as "Butterfield's Lullaby", or by the first line of the lyric, "Day Is Done". The duration may vary to some extent; the typical recording is 59 seconds long.

“Zoom” Speaker of the Week

05/27/2020



Eddie Sajjad is a Houston-based creative professional with over 15 years of marketing and communications experience. Currently Eddie is a Senior Partner at Point of IT and Innovative Solutions IT (creative strategy agency that he helped establish in 2004). Eddie's passion for voter education has also led him to create a Voting App called Votcen and a platform to help candidates called Voterbiz.com.

Votcen... Quickly identify a Voting Center location near you and also learn some quick info about who is on the ballot. *Votcen* is a new Non-Partisan tool designed to help you as a voter!

Voterbiz... Everything you need to win your campaign! We help you do that as a candidate!

Editors note... I am finally getting familiar and comfortable with Zoom meetings, and I hope other members have enjoyed this new avenue to stick together with friend in Exchange. If you are one of the members that is **not** yet comfortable getting on line and showing your face in that manor, **Believe me when I say, I understand!** But, technology is not slowing and you have to embrace it. So, I ask you, Please get on a zoom meeting if it is the first time for you! And hopefully soon we will get back to breakfast meetings.

We are a social group. We need to be social with zoom too! We miss seeing some faces and it would be great to see 60 or so people on the next 1 or 2 meetings. So, try to support Exchange while we go through this difficult time with the corona virus.

Remember to smile on camera, lol!