



Exchange Hotline

Exchange Club of
Sugar Land Newsletter
Sept 15th, 2021

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.

Meeting at:
Sugar Creek Country Club
420 Sugar Creek Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Officers 2021-2022

President:
Rick Bell

President Elect:
Lori Bisewski

Secretary:
Vida Goodell

Treasurer:
Ed Gojara

Immediate Past President:
Paul Barnett

Board of Directors

Jeff Dodson
Leslie Woods
Thad Olive
Juli Fournier
Cookie Joe
Colleen Migl
Suzanne Whatley
Bruce Smith

Spaghetti Chair 2021
Lori Bisewski

Webmaster:
Paul Barnett
www.ecsl.org

Newsletter Editor:
newsletter@ecsl.org

NATIONAL EXCHANGE CONVENTION! 2021

Dear Exchange Members,

This is a little of the hardware we are bringing home from Memphis. We don't do what we do for awards, but the National Exchange Club showered us with awards for everyone's hard work last year. Special thanks to our leader, [Paul Barnett](#), who hopefully has enough room in his plane to get all the trophies back to Sugar Land. The beautiful trophy in the middle we received because of [David M. Lanagan's](#) spaghetti video. And finally, most importantly our very own [Carlos A Perez](#) is the newly elected trustee of the National Foundation. Way to go, Carlos!

Rick Bell

Rick Bell, President



EXCHANGE
THE EXCHANGE CLUB SUGAR LAND, TX

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Events



Happy Exchange Birthdays! **Nora Sim 9/3, Red O'Laughlin 9/9**

Exchange Anniversaries! **Carey Snyder 9/1/08 (13 yrs.), Joe Boyd 9/14/20 (1 yr.), Michael Pivarnik 9/14/20 (1 yr.)**

Colleen Migl is scheduling an **Exchange cruise to Cozumel!** Please calendar **January 13, 2022**, at 3:30 p.m. through January 17, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. We will be providing you with more details as we get closer to the date of the trip. If you have any questions, please email Colleen at cmigl@kcq-lawfirm.com.

Doug Earle announced the need for volunteers to help the **Meals on Wheels program**. If you have the ability to serve in that area, please reach out to Doug so he can give you the details on how to volunteer. dougestlx@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Colleen Migl has reserved the **Chuy's restaurant back room** for 5:30 pm on **Friday, September 17th. Location is 320 Highway 6 Sugar Land.**

Hurricane Ida Relief Efforts! We are organizing a drive for needed supplies for the local communities of our Exchange Clubs in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and West St. Tammany in conjunction with the After Hours Exchange Club. We will be coordinating with people to deliver the items to those communities. Items can be dropped off at Laura Thompson's House 6107 Duke Trail Lane Sugar Land, Texas. Her cell is (832) 573-8717. If she is not home, please drop off at the front door or at the garage and text her to let her know you dropped off the items. **They are planning multiple trips so there is no cut-off date for dropping off currently.**

Needed items are: Bottled Water, Fuel Canisters, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Non-Perishable Food, Cleaning Supplies, Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Bug Spray, Toothbrushes, Tooth Paste, Manual Can Openers, Diapers, Formula, Wipes, Common OTC Medications (Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Pepto Bismol, etc...), Batteries, Flashlights.

Service to Seniors starts up again on Friday, **September 17, 2021**, at the **Landmark Community Center** 100 Louisiana St., Missouri City, TX 77489. Volunteers are needed and she is STILL missing the NEW BINGO SET. So if you know where it is or come across it, please let **Cookie Joe** know.

Brad Porter reminded everyone to attend the **Fort Bend Fair Parade** on **September 24, 2021**, at 8 a.m. for Exchangites to hand out over 10,000 American flags. The location is the corner of Fourth Street and Highway 90, at the historic courthouse. The address is 401 Jackson Street, Richmond, Texas 77469. (If you are bored on September 24th, there are THREE Exchange events to attend, you will have a full day of FUN!)



And there is More!!!

More Events Happening!



Paul Barnett surprised us that **Wings Over Houston** is a happening in-person event this **October 9-10, 2021**. The Exchange Club is responsible for the ticket booth as we once did back in the good ole days before the COVID event! More information to come, so reserve that weekend to help out.

Ruthanne Mefford invited everyone to a breakfast, **Transforming Lives**. This will be Child Advocacy's 11th annual breakfast. It is free to all attendees and is on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square and is at 7 AM (two early bird breakfasts in a row!)

Santa's Exchange Flu Shot Toy Drive is scheduled for **Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to noon**. The event will take place at Methodist Hospital in Sugar Land.

“Exchange Members sharing Mementos”

Carla Mondt shared a touching and entertaining story about her grandfather giving her a science book when she was younger. Her grandfather encouraged her to follow her passion and natural talents. He sounded like a great man, and a big influence in her life.



In her own words, her story—The message of my story today was about what this book that my grandfather gave me represented personally to me.

He gave me a vintage Physics book called “**Elementary Physics**.” It was during my adolescent years when I was being pressured by everyone to pursue basketball instead of science, due to my height of 5’11” at that early age. I have never really liked sports. Giving me this book was his way of acknowledging me and showing his support for my love of science.

He was the only person who listened to me and encouraged my pursuit of science, and never tried to push me to play basketball. He was the only person in my life, at that time, who encouraged me to simply be myself, no matter who people tried to tell me to be.

Young Citizen of the Month! For September was **Ashton Cervenka** from First Colony Middle School! She is in the eighth grade. **Juli Fournier** with Exchange explained that the student and counselor make the decision whether to receive the award in person or would rather have it delivered to the student. So we won't be seeing students for a couple of more weeks. Hopefully, soon we will be seeing the students along with family and the counselor on a monthly basis.

Speaker Series



Standing with Lori Bisewski our speaker on Sept 8th was Ian Overton. Ian has worked as a family service counselor with Dignity Memorial funeral homes since January 2020. He encourages families on the benefits of pre-planning funeral arrangements to protect loved ones from having to make difficult and expensive decisions during a time of grief. He was drawn to this line of work after losing family members during Hurricane Harvey. When he is not working, Ian enjoys cooking, singing in a local community chorus, and traveling around the U.S.



Our speaker for Sept 1st Dr. Barbara Sasser (standing next to Rick Bell) was born and raised in Cincinnati, OH. She received her BA from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where she now resides.

She is involved in community service in Galveston, having served as president of Congregation B'nai Israel, board member of the Sasser Family Foundation, and Chairman of the Galveston County Recovery Fund which raised and distributed over \$3 million in private funds after Hurricane Ike hit the area in 2008.

Without previous experience in filmmaking, she established Frieder Films in 2011 to make "Rescue in the Philippines: Refuge from the Holocaust", a documentary film about her maternal grandfather and his family who rescued 1300 Jews from Nazi-occupied territory by resettling them in the Philippines.

Dr. Sasser also donated the money we raised purchasing the documentary back to our club to plug into community projects. If you have not watched the documentary yet, the link for the full sixty-minute documentary is <https://vimeo.com/482668365/7da44d75cd>.



Cookie Joe gave a heartfelt thank you!

For the Exchangites' prayers and for reaching out to her to help her through this journey of getting her body fully healed. It is definitely felt by her and is absolutely working, as we witnessed at our breakfast!

To top things off, **Pete Olson** presented **Cookie Joe** with a coffee mug (for her TEA), stating we are all in this fight together! **AND WE ARE!**

Youth of the Month Award



Amy Mitchell introduced Gregory Zachariah, our first **Youth of the Month** to be recognized from Clements High School in Sugar Land! He was awarded a Recognition Plaque and gift card for his hard work and astonishing achievements!

AWARDS he has received are, the National Cyber Competition Semifinalist, Congressional App Challenge Regional Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Youth Expanding Services Medalist, President's Award for Academic achievement, National History Day State Finalist, DUKE TIP State Scholar, and a Outstanding Section Leader for managing the saxophone section and organizing practices!

Also, on Student Council– Executive Board Chair, Spanish National Honor Society President, Freshman Experience Mentor– Peer Mentor, Computer Science Club Member, Computer Science National Honor Society Member, National Honor Society Member! And there is much more in his resume and too much to mention!

Gregory is a truly a outstanding young man that will go far in his future endeavors! All of us at Exchange Club were excited to have you visit us and be apart of our morning breakfast meeting!

A moment with Farha Ahmed. Her thoughts on the passing of our cherished Exchange member John Hanna Elias. Please keep his family in your prayers.



Farha-



It took me a few days to process the loss of a friend and our Exchange Club family member John Hanna Elias.

It hit me hard as I just had a nice phone conversation with him as was our best way to communicate for the last 6 years. So well known he was and beloved by local law enforcement for his generosity. But honestly he would help anyone and any project we needed help with, from our Santa's Exchange toy drive when we had no place to store toys to Spaghetti dinner fundraiser event, donating expensive wines when we asked for just cheap wine to many a delight. Because for John nothing was too good for a charitable cause. Surprising many with his favorite baklava trays to those lucky enough to receive them. He treated every failure or setback as a success with the same gusto and laugh one would have for a win.

He was a lion of a personality. Absolutely fearless, fearless. We will never see another person with his zest for life. You are truly missed John I can't imagine how your kids are dealing with this but we loved meeting your son Jonathan at one of our breakfasts. Rest In Peace my friend, truly this world I live in is not the same without you.

Thank you Farha, you speak for all of us in Exchange. RIP John! You are in our thoughts and memories and not forgotten.

