

Exchange Club of Sugar Land Newsletter May 1, 2021

### The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

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

### Weekly "Zoom" Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. "on line"

Formerly at: Sweetwater Country Club Palm Royale Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas

#### Officers 2020-2021

President: Paul Barnett

President Elect: Rick Bell

Secretary: Vida Goodell

Treasurer: Brad Porter

Immediate Past President: Vernon Hunt

#### **Board of Directors**

Jeff Dodson Leslie Woods Thad Olive Lori Bisewski Cookie Joe John Heinemann Chanel Bermudez Jennifer Boley

#### Spaghetti Chair 2019 Rick Bell

### Webmaster:

Paul Barnett www.ecsl.org

Newsletter Editor: newsletter@ecsl.org

## **From The President**





## Greetings Exchange Club Members,

The Spaghetti "Dinner" 2021 is done! *Well done*. Thanks Rick Bell and team for a very fun and successful event. Thanks Carlos Perez, Kevin Barker, and Colleen Migl for all the screen time during the livestream. That's a tough job, especially under those hot studio lights! Thanks Jim Kij, Amy Mitchell, Farha Ahmed, Ruthanne Mefford, Doug Boeker, and Gladys Brumfield for being part of the program. Thanks to all the Spaghetti Committee members and your hard work. David Lanagan for all the great publicity and mentions in local publications. Thanks to our Sign Committee Brad Porter for hammering in all the Spaghetti banners all over Sugar Land. Lori Bisewski and Colleen Migl for that great online auction. Greg Oelfke and Thad Olive raffle tickets. Jeff Dodson Mobile Cause operation and integration. Decorations and basket design/wrapping Nora Sim. Corporate Sponsors Farha Ahmed, Betty Baitland, Pete Olson, and Suzanne Whatley.

Thanks to these Exchange Members for making a pledge to give, raise, or inspire to give \$1,500. Farha Ahmed, Kevin Barker, Paul Barnett, Betty Baitland, Rick Bell, Lori Bisewski, Vickie Coates, Doug Earle, Richard Early, Juli Fournier, Vita Goodell, Jim Kij, John Heinemann, Vernon Hunt, Cookie Joe, David Lanagan, Nick Landoski, Ed Lee, Amy Mitchell, Cindy McCauley, Scott McClintic, Colleen Migl, Greg Oelfke, Carlos Perez, Brad Porter, Sharon Rollins, Nora Sim, Bruce Smith, Brooke Thompson, Etta Vincent, and Suzanne Whatley. This group collectively pledged \$63,400 towards our Spaghetti "Dinner" fundraiser. Thanks also to everyone that sold raffle tickets and brought in auction items.

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## Continued...

Don't forget to thank our sponsors!, when you see them. Classic Chevrolet (Jeff and Tiffany Sebastian), UpClose Magazine (Gina Pizzini), Dearborn & Creggs Investments (Stewart Jacobson), First Tire & Auto (Craig Popp), Early McClintic and McMillan Wealth Services (Scott McClintic, Richard Early), Jabez Foundation (Brent and Mazie Leftwich), Rice & Gardner Consultants (Jim Rice), Sprint Fort Bend County Landfill, Transworld Oil U.S.A. (Hans Bisewski), Pyxis Insurance Agency (Lori Bisewski), Corelli's Italian Cafe, and Gemologist-Designer Stephanie Saa.

Top Ticket Sales-#1 Doug Earle with 58 raffle tickets sold! Second place Rick Bell with 35 sold and third place Greg Oelfke with 33 sold! These three super sellers account for 30% of all tickets sold.

Most Improved 2020-2021 - Rick Bell sold 20 in 2020 increased sales by 15 up to 35 in 2021.

Rookie of the Year 2021-vickie Coates with 17 raffle tickets sold.

Most Imaginative Fundraising Idea. Cookie Joe with the Cookie Cartwheels event https://www.cookiecartwheel.org/ Cookie, who will be 68 in November, asked for donations to do 100 cartwheels. She did 103 just to show off, and has so far raised \$5,200.



# A Sight To See!



# Spaghetti Fun!













# **Spaghetti Fundraiser!**









President Paul Barnett planning the evening!





Jim Kij, Gladys Brumfield and Past President Mr. David Lanagan!





Who doesn't like Spaghetti & Meatballs? Well these 3 guys do! And that's what Exchange Club is about. Having fun and raising money to support child advocacy in Fort Bend County, then giving back to our supported charities in our community, making it a better place for all!



President Elect Rick Bell, President Paul Barnett, and Past President Vernon Hunt! (Kids at heart, can make a mess!)

Below is Social CMTE Chair Colleen Migl with District President Carlos Perez!



# **Speaker Series!**

COMPUDOPT ®

Providing Technology Access and Education
To Underserved Youth

Our guest speaker for April 14th Mr. Colin Dempsey!



Mr. Dempsey, introduced by Exchange member, Brooke Thompson!

**Comp-U-Dopt** provides technology access and education free of charge to underserved youth here in Greater Houston. In the past 12 months, Comp-U-Dopt Houston and Galveston distributed over 10,000 devices to families and students who lacked a device at home. This was a critical need during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be one for our most-vulnerable students.

Colin also serves on the Technology Access Sub-Committee for Mayor Turner's Health and Equitable Resources (H.E.R.) Taskforce. He is a Texas certified EC-6 bilingual generalist and a former elementary science and math teacher.

Our guest speaker for April 21st. was Ms.Meridith Watassek

**Meredith Watassek** is the Director of Career and Technical Education at Fort Bend ISD. Fort Bend ISD campuses offer Technical Education in 14 different program areas.

"Meredith talked to us about the Career and Technology programming at the Reese Center. The goal for the students there is to graduate with a certificate enabling them to have meaningful employment. They also have lessons in entrepreneurship by operating specific businesses onsite. For example, their cosmetology salon is open to the public for hair and nails. Their automotive department is open to the public for car inspections. Their culinary arts program iOs opening a restaurant for the public. They also operate a branch of the Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union onsite. They will be opening a public daycare preschool next year. Other programs offer certificates as well, such as medical assistant, EMT training, CPR, and others." (Betty Baitland comments)



Our guest speaker for April 28th, Dr. Denise Rashdi M.D.

Dr. Rashti is a board certified adult psychiatrist in private practice for almost 20 years. She finished her medical training in July of 2000, at Baylor College of Medicine in The Texas Medical Center. She also completed Postgraduate Study in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy at the Houston-Galveston Psychoanalytic Institute in July of 2000. She specializes in psychopharmacology and psychotherapy and has a special interest in mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and women's issues.

Dr. Rashti gave us a very informative presentation about her own personal fight with Multiple Sclerosis and there are 4 levels of MS and how it affects the body and brain.

# What's new in Exchange?

### **NEW MEMBERS! Exchange Club of Sugar Land!**

Thanks to Sharon Ring Rollins for hosting another New Member Orientation into the Exchange Club of Sugar Land! Here's Gladys Brumfield, President elect Rick Bell, Tom McGinnis, Camille Edwards, Doug Earle, Vickie Coates, Doc Lee Ivey, Sharon Ring Rollins, President Paul Barnett, Chelsea Nguyen, Nora Sim, and District President Carlos Perez sneaks into the picture to get credit. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

(picture provided by David Lanagan)



The Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast District grew Exchange last night with leaders of national prominence attending the historic Charter meeting and Installation of the new Texian Club of Fulshear/Katy!

District President Carlos A Perez and Regional VP Mike Reichek led new President Tommy Kuykendall and 17 other Charter members through the historic ceremony, while National President Kathy Mize, CEO Tracey Edwards and several past National presidents watched. Let the celebrations begin! Congratulations!











Regional 5 VP Mike Reicheck, and District President Carlos Perez.





**Young Citizen of the Month-** is Michelle Vanchig from First Colony Middle School and was introduced by **John Robson**. Michelle is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at First Colony Middle School. Michelle loves to volunteer and is on the Honor Roll at school. Home of the Bobcats Her hobbies include fashion, sewing, and she makes jewelry. (Photo unavailable)



Our last Youth of the Month for the school year, Chidera Ezeoke from Kempner, was presented by Rene Cannavo. Chidera's parents migrated from Nigeria over 20 years ago to attend college and start a family making her and her siblings the first generation to live in America. Both parents are lawyers and all of her siblings are in higher education. For all four years of high school, Chidera has participated in the hip-hop dance team named Kcrew. Kcrew is the first hip-hop dance team at Kempner.

Chidera is currently the president of Kcrew. She is also an active club member of the African Student Association. Recently, she joined the Academic Decathlon and is also a member of then National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. Chidera enjoys learning new languages, especially Spanish. She has earned the honors and bronze awards for the National Spanish Exam. (Photo unavailable)

Suzanne Whatley—Was excited to announce The Blue Ribbon Awareness Project with the Exchange Club of Sugar Land. Where they all tied the well known Blue Ribbons on trees around Sugar Land symbolizing Awareness and our dedication working toward the Prevention of Child



L-R, Colleen Migl, Lori Bisewski, Betty Baitland, Paul Barnett, Susanne Whatley, Duyen Le, Rick Bell, Jo Ann Eagleton, Nora Sims, Carlos Perez





### The History of Denim Day

# **Blue Denim Day**



Exchange Club of Sugar Land Member, Farha Ahmed and Commander Nasir Abbasi!



Ms. Linlin, co-owner of Alings restaurant in Sugar Land standing with Executive Director Vita Goodell



What a great Project!





Blue Denim Day grew out of a 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans. An 18-year old girl is picked up by her married 45-year old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans and forcefully rapes her. Threatened with death if she tells anyone, he makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator gets arrested and is prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. (Google - Blue Denim Day for the story)



## **Check Presentation**



**Bill Nash** got a nice surprise from Exchange Club of Sugar Land this morning with a check for \$5,000 to sponsor 10 kids to his annual camp, **Champions Kid Camp!** Bills camp has about 100 kids each summer that have suffered from Cancer, personal loss and other displacements. Bill is also the author of a great book you can order a signed copy of from www.bknash.com.



**Young Citizen of the Month** from Sugar Land Middle School sitting with his family! Students receive a \$50 dollar check and nice recognition plaque from Exchange Club of Sugar Land!





Our Young Citizen of the Month from Sugar Land Middle School is Leonardo Velasquez and he was introduced by Cookie Joe. Leonardo was joined onscreen by his Mom and Grandmother and his counselor Miss Brinson. Leonardo is a sports enthusiast and plays baseball and basketball. He recently received a First Division medal for his trumpet solo in band for the UIL competition. His favorite subject is math and he loves helping his Mom and Grandmother!

I found a space at the bottom of this page to write something! I just want to acknowledge David Lanagan and Paul Barnett for providing pictures, and information that comes from Facebook postings. And Paul's re-cap of our meetings have so much detail! I was kidding Paul that he must have a photographic memory or high IQ. But the info and pictures they both provide makes the newsletter. I recognize that they deserve a big thankyou in how they help in getting this newsletter out. I just wouldn't feel right if I didn't mention this. And any other postings on FB that other members have posted you are included in this message.

Sincerely, Russ!

## **Upcoming Events**

May 8th, The Cookie Joe Dancers will perform at the Child Advocates of Fort Bend 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala Celebration which will be held Saturday, May 8, 2021, at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square. https://www.cafb.org/events/gala/



May 9th, The Darkness Into Goodness Foundation is holding it's 9<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament benefiting Houston Charities May 17, 2021. One of the groups benefiting is Veterans Matter, let by Exchange member Ken Leslie.

**MAY 17, 2021** 

Which supports local Houston area charities

SHOTGUN START (10:00 AM)
FOUR PLAYER SCRAMBLE (Best Ball)
BBQ DINNER
SILENT AUCTION

May 10, 2021 Entry Deadline

Oakhurst Golf Club 20700 Mills Branch Dr Porter, TX 77365

QUESTIONS? Ask Sheri Henderson

PHONE 832-689-8902 EMAIL sheri@kosupply.com **WIN PRIZES!** 

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE CLOSEST TO PIN CONTEST LONGEST DRIVE CONTEST 50/50 RAFFLE

**Entry Fee Includes:** 

BREAKFAST GOLF & CART BBQ DINNER CONTEST PRIZES GOODY BAG Any Golfers out there wanting to support a great cause? There is still time to sign up!

**INFORMATION** from Brooke Thompson. Second Servings has a new pantry in Fort Bend County. This is great news for our area. Second Servings collects prepared and perishable food that would otherwise be wasted and delivers it to shelters and soup kitchens. They help 175,000 people annually and now will work in Fort Bend as well. <a href="https://secondservingshouston.org/">https://secondservingshouston.org/</a>

<u>Brooke Thompson</u> is a participant in the Bike MS Bike Texas MS 150 to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research. He had a \$3,500 goal and thanks to Exchange members he met the threshold during our meeting for an additional corporate match donation. He is up to \$3,659 plus the match to give him a total of over \$7,000! To donate event is posted on FB on his page or contact him directly.

May Social! Colleen Migl says "Mark your calendars for the May Social at Willie's Grill & Icehouse May 21<sup>st</sup>." Now this will be a <u>Blast</u> not to miss! We'll have more details soon. It would be great to see <u>everyone</u> there!

## **Birthdays in April!**

Alex Bermudez 4/1, Mike Pivarnik 4/6, Paul Barnett 4/7, Troy Nehls 4/7, Chanel Bermudez 4/14, Brian Fortman 4/14, Russ Braun 4/19, Jim Kij 4/25, John Robson 4/25, Brad Porter 4/27, Etta Vincent 4/30, Duyen Le 5/1.



Last but not least! This man is and inspiration to everyone in Exchange! Doug this is hard to believe. Selling tickets after the event? You are Superman! We could not live with out you! Exchange is so blessed to have you as a member!