



Exchange Hotline

Exchange Club of
Sugar Land Newsletter
Feb 1st, 2022

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:
Jeff Dodson

Immediate Past President:
Paul Barnett

Board of Directors

Camille Edwards
Leslie Woods
Thad Olive
Juli Fournier
Cookie Joe
Colleen Migl
Suzanne Whatley
Bruce Smith

Spaghetti Chair 2022
Lori Bisewski

Webmaster:
Paul Barnett
www.ecsl.org

Newsletter Editor:
newsletter@ecsl.org



Dear Exchange Members,

With 2021 in our rear-view mirror, the Exchange Club of Sugar Land put the pedal to the metal to start off 2022! Yes sir we did!

We started off the year by donating **\$3,000.00 to the Literacy Council of Fort Bend** to help combat the adult illiteracy rate in our county. This past week **we donated \$20,000.00 to Child Advocates of Fort Bend** for the prevention of child abuse. Next week, **we will be donating \$2,500.00 to Boots and Badges Gala** to support our first responders and their families.

Additionally, this month our Board of Directors approved a family membership, which allows a family member to join our club with a **\$40.00 per quarter fee**. I know many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to get your spouse or adult child more involved in our club.

And I am excited about what our club has in store for 2022. Just wait and see!

Remember,

Serve with Honor.

Rick Bell

President of ECCL



New date soon!



April 23rd.



They say Covid cases are going down gradually as of late January! And we had a full house at the breakfast on January 26th! So glad to see all of you!



And the Spaghetti Dinner committee this year is getting ready to have their 1st. planning meeting!

And the District Conference should have a re-scheduled date for the zoom meeting set soon!

Rick is "right" we have a bunch in store to have fun, fun, fun, raising money for abused kids in our community!



Our Young Citizen of the Month at First Colony Middle School is **Stephanie Johnson!**



First Colony Middle School - Stephanie is a special needs student with autism and in the 8th grade at First Colony Middle School! Her mother, four teachers and two counselors from First Colony Middle School all joined in the celebration and presentation of the award to her which includes a plaque and check from Exchange Club to recognize her achievements in school. Unfortunately due to covid she was not able to come to our breakfast meeting. Juli Fournier our Exchange member went to the school to meet with her and the teachers and counselors to present the award!



Our Young Citizen of the Month at Sugar Land Middle School is **Holly Finley!**



Holly has various academic awards, starting with setting records in swimming in various Swim Leagues, first chair level in chamber orchestra as well as ALL-Regional award and member as a violinist in the philharmonic orchestra for 2021. She has also helped out with the Second-Mile ministry program at her church, and her time spent at the animal shelter in the kitten center. She believes strongly that people should consider adopting pets. She is a honor student and member of the National Honor Society.

Exchange Club presents a **WHOPPING \$20,000** dollar check to **Child Advocates of Fort Bend**. Now that was a big surprise to all in the room!

Accepting the check at our breakfast meeting was **Ruthanne Mefford** Executive Director for Child Advocates of Fort Bend. Standing, Child Advocates Board Member **Farha Ahmed**, ECSL Board Member **Cookie Joe**, (Ruthanne in the middle), then Child Advocates Board Members **David Lanagan** and **Betty Baitland**!



Speaker Series



Our featured speaker for January 26th Exchange breakfast meeting was Executive Director **Ruthanne Mefford with Child Advocates of Fort Bend** standing with **Rick Bell**. She has been actively involved as an Exchange member for many years! She is very dedicated to her position as Executive Director with Child Advocates and Exchange Club by helping abused kids and families.

Ruthanne updated us on many of the ways Child Advocates assist children suffering from abuse. She also informed us that there has been a significant movement to incorporate trauma-based therapy. The hope of transitioning to trauma-based therapy is to not only reduce the instances of child abuse but to make an effort to eradicate the abuse in its entirety.

"Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a nonprofit agency serving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect through two nationally-affiliated Advocacy Center (CAC). Started in 1991, it celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2021 having served nearly 19,000 children ages birth-18+ years old over these years. Its mission is to: Provide a Voice, Heal The Hurt and Break the Cycle of Abuse and Neglect for Children in Fort Bend County." (taken from their website cafb.org).



Speaker Series



Our guest speaker on January 19th was **Daniella Perez** who is the Prevention Program Manager at Love146.ORG which is a charitable 501(c) organization.

Founded in 2002, Love146's mission is to journey alongside children impacted by trafficking today and prevent the trafficking of children tomorrow. This goal is partly achieved through education. Love146 teaches both children and caretakers how to recognize signs and risk factors associated with trafficking.

The story of how they got their name, as told by CEO & Co-founder Rob Morris.

One night in the fall of 2002, I witnessed the horrific crime of people selling children in a brothel.

Some friends and I wanted to learn more about the issue of child trafficking and see how we could be helpful. We connected with an organization that was actively working to combat human trafficking. We visited one of their operating centers in Southeast Asia where investigators were going undercover into a brothel where they believed children were being exploited. They invited us to join them – which in retrospect, we've learned isn't a good idea and could potentially harm victims.

We found ourselves in a room looking through a glass wall where there were young girls wearing red dresses. Each girl had a number pinned to her dress — even the dignity of a name was stripped away. On my side of the glass wall, menus were handed out with prices for different sex acts that listed each girl by number. I struggled to comprehend the traumatic situation I was witnessing. The children sat motionless, watching cartoons on crackling TVs.

ONLY ONE GIRL WASN'T WATCHING THE CARTOONS. SHE WAS STARING AT US THROUGH THE GLASS WITH A PIERCING GAZE.



I'll never forget the look on her face: Was it fight? Or was it panic, the hypervigilance that so often follows trauma? Maybe it was disgust. In my heart, I hoped it was defiance.

We thought we were going to see *the issue* of human trafficking that night. Instead, we saw a *person*. That moment changed something in me. Ever since, it's challenged me to not look away.

“TO SEE THE ONE IN THE MIDST OF THE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS. THE PERSON INSTEAD OF THE CAUSE. THE HUMAN IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING.”

Their Vision - The end of child trafficking and exploitation. Nothing less.

Their Mission - Love146 journeys alongside children impacted by trafficking today and prevents the trafficking of children tomorrow.

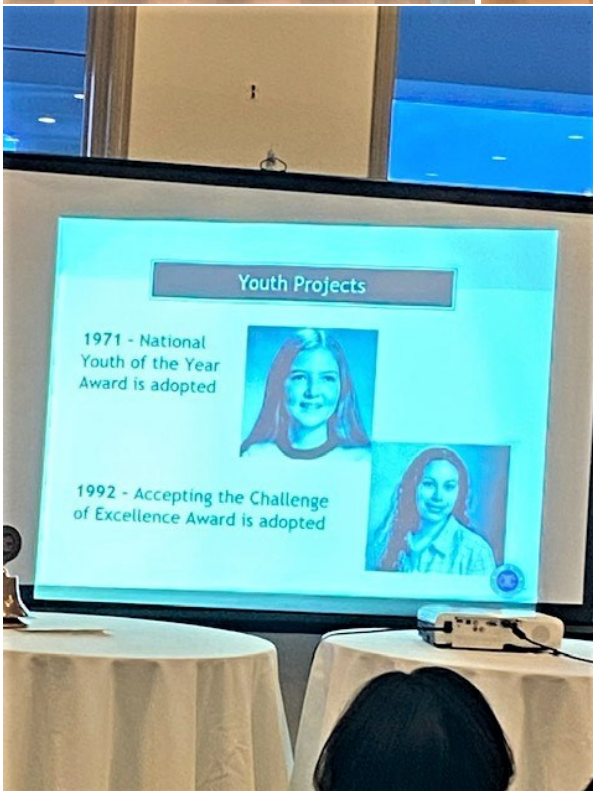
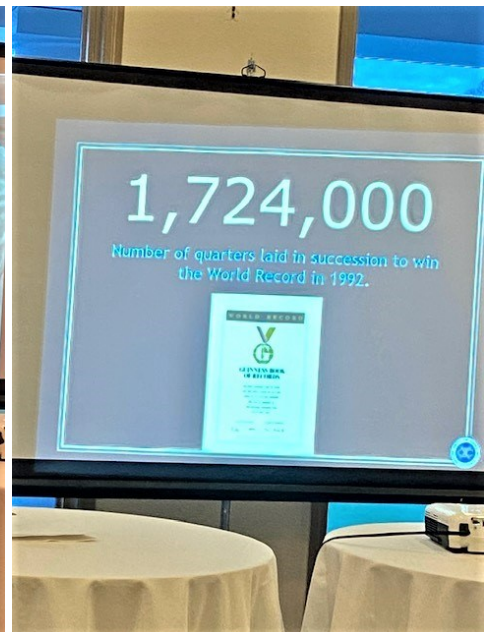
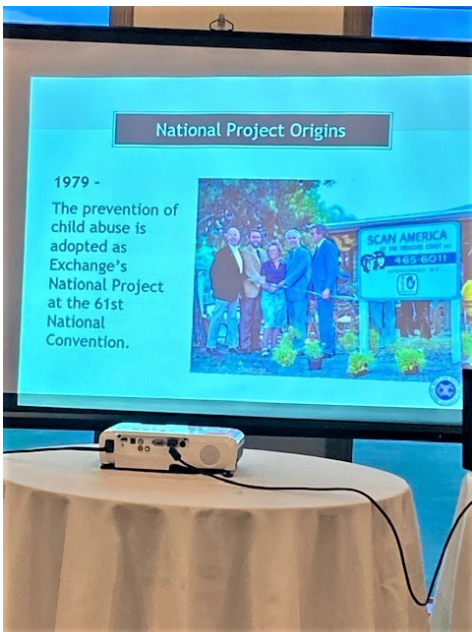
To Volunteer or donate— Off. 203-772-4420 or info@love146.org.



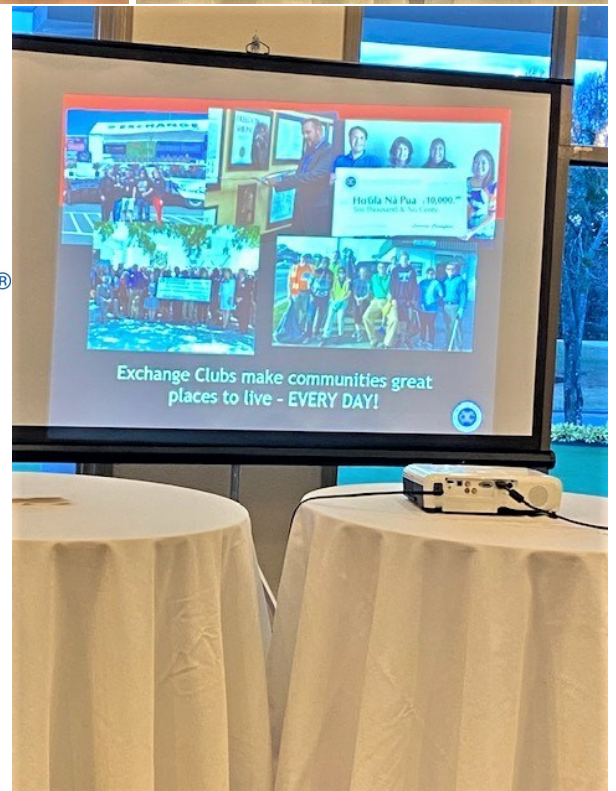
HISTORY OF OUR CLUB!

Long time member and past President of Exchange Club of Sugar Land **Jim Kij** standing with **Rick Bell** our current President.

Jim is our “Texas History Buff” and historian on Exchange Club! Here, giving us a few past details on Exchange!



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 1987



ONE LAST “THOUGHT” FOR THIS NEWSLETTER!

We do have our own “**MOVIE STARS**” in Exchange! We have our own Actors, Supporting Actors and Extras that fill the screen to support child abuse victims in a **real way** in our community!



John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara! Movie Stars!



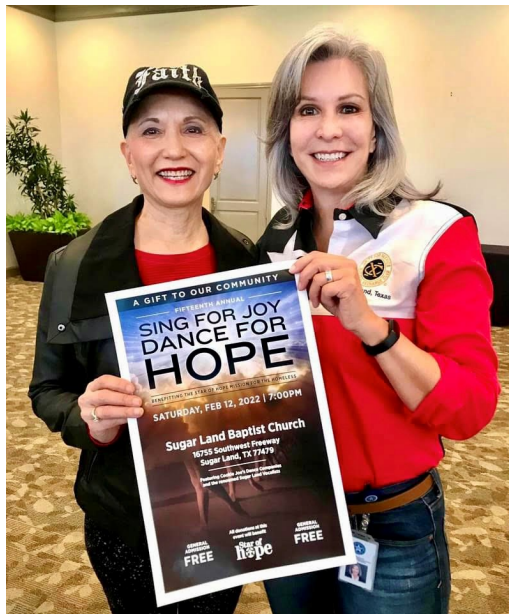
Doug Earl & Cookie Joe! Exchange Movie Stars!



Jim Kij & Rick Bell! Exchange Movie Stars!



Doug Boeker & Cookie Joe! Exchange Movie Stars!



Cookie Joe & Suzanne Whatley! Exchange Movie Stars!



Farha Ahmed & Cookie Joe! Exchange Movie Stars!

AND ALL OUR MEMBERS OUT THERE, You ROCK!

As “movie stars”, all of us come together to make this organization be a positive impact in our community! We all have parts to play, all are important, to support this cause of wanting to better our community by helping kids and families that have been abused or displaced. This is our “SHOW” for all to see how Exchange makes a difference! **SERVE WITH HONOR!**



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Events

Happy Exchange Birthdays!



Brooke Thompson (1/1), Leo Weinberg (1/1) and Lori Bisewski (1/2), Naren Patel (1/5), Brenda Robinson(1/10), Carlos Perez (1/12), Scott McClintic (1/26), Rashmi Sheel (1/30), May Williams (1/31)

Exchange Anniversaries!

Clinton Chapman 1/11/11 (11 yrs.), Amy Mitchell 1/25/00 (22 yrs.), Nancy Olson 1/29/20 (2 yrs.), Thad Olive 1/29/20 (2 yrs.), Vita Goodell 1/27/03 (19 yrs.), Paul Barnett 1/31/02 (20 yrs.), Arlene Rolsen 1/30/89 (33 yrs.)

Join fellow TLGC District Exchange Club member for a fun and informative Mid-Winter Morning Meeting via zoom. [Re-scheduled date soon!](#) Complete with trivia, door prizes, and engaging topics! Contact Paul Barnett to register at psb1@ix.netcom.com.



Lori Bisewski announced it is time to start planning for our Spaghetti Dinner. She will be emailing the committee chairs to schedule a planning meeting later this month.

Greg Oelfke invited anyone that is interested in serving as an officer or board member of the club to reach out to any past president. Also, if you know of someone you would like to nominate for a position, please let Greg or any prior president know.

Cookie Joe advised everyone to mark their calendars for [February 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.](#) Her dance company will be performing at Sugar Land Baptist Church, 16755 SW Freeway. The event is entitled Sing for Joy Dance for Hope. It will be a beautiful evening of worship and entertainment.

Cookie Joe also announced that she will be hosting a fundraiser for retired officer Amy Cummings. Amy discovered a lump on her breast the same week as her retirement party. She will be undergoing the difficult journey of fighting cancer and will need financial assistance to help her through that process. **Cookie** will give us more details in the near future.

Doug Earle let us know that our National President **Kathy Mize** will be visiting us in late February. She will be presenting at our meeting on February 23. Additionally, we will be handing out flags with her and members from our district on [Saturday, February 26](#). Mark your calendars for those two dates, so we can show our National President just how awesome our club is.

We will be having a [Service to Seniors program on February 4](#). Bingo will start at 10:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Landmark Convention Center, 100 Louisiana Street, Stafford, Texas. If you have time to put a smile on a senior's face, please volunteer to help.