

APRIL  
2017

# ROTARY E-CLUB

*of The Greater San Fernando Valley*



## SHARE THE SKY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE COMMUNITY, ONE SKY

## ASTRONOMERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Mike Sullivan, President and founder of Astronomers Without Borders, visited the Rotary E-Club of The Greater San Fernando Valley as guest speaker on March 26, 2017. Astronomers Without Borders was founded in 2006 on the idea that we all live under the same sky.

With a background in amateur astronomy, several years on staff at Griffith Observatory, and a love of sharing his enthusiasm for observing the Universe, Mike was drawn to international outreach when he visited Iran to observe a total solar eclipse.

Adult or child, enjoying the wonderment of looking through a telescope for the first time is a motivating factor in Mike's efforts to give people all over the world the opportunity to experience the night sky close-up. After Mike's first trip to Iran, he set about connecting amateur astronomers in the United States with amateur astronomers in Iran, understanding that Americans have better access to resources and are in a position to help.

Mike or his amateur astronomer colleagues have also visited Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Romania, parts of the Sahara Desert, Pakistan, southeast Asia, Oman, Easter Island, and most of the world.

Often the visits are built around events like eclipses, but often it could be just a "sidewalk astronomer" who sets up shop and shares the telescope with passers-by.

Astronomers Without Borders also enjoys connecting with amateur astronomy clubs around the world and assisting in their local efforts to share with schools, and connects people through ASTROArt as people share their own creations. Astro-poetry is also popular.

A big event approaches us now: in August, a total eclipse of the Sun will cross the United States. While totality won't cover the San Fernando Valley, this rare-in-a-lifetime experience isn't far away.

Mike even has a minor planet officially named for him: Minor Planet Simmons (object 2294 in the catalog) has an orbit that doesn't cross that of Earth, so the odds are against his being responsible for our destruction.

To enjoy Mike's entire presentation, visit our website at this page: <http://wp.me/PtEHRD-rnX>.



### DISTRICT 5280

#### E-CLUB MEETINGS:

4th Sundays, 11:00 a.m.  
(Board Meetings)

AND

4th Sundays, 12:30 p.m.  
(Main Meetings)

#### LOCATION:

Denny's Restaurant  
THE FIREPLACE ROOM  
5525 N. Sepulveda Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91411

#### UPCOMING CLUB MEETING DATES

**SUNDAYS, 11:00 a.m.**

APRIL 23  
JUNE 4

**SUNDAYS, 12:30 p.m.**

APRIL 23  
JUNE 4

#### ONLINE PROGRAM DATES:

APRIL 10 & 24  
MAY 15 & 29

#### VISIT OUR E-CLUB 24/7 at:

<http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org>

Email: [rotaryclub818@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclub818@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/  
rotaryclubgreatersfv](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubgreatersfv)

Twitter: @RotaryESFValley

Voicemail: 818-465-TEAM

## E-CLUB NEWS

### MAGGIE GROSS, GUEST SPEAKER

Maggie Gross, a Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Student during the 2008-2009 school year, was the Rotary E-Club of The Greater San Fernando Valley's guest speaker at its Fourth Sunday Meeting on February 26, 2017. She was sponsored for RYE by the Rotary Club of Calistoga, California.

Maggie grew up in rural Northern California. As a sophomore in high school, wanting to know about more of the world, she met a visiting Rotary exchange student from Brazil. She reached out to the local Rotary Club and was chosen for RYE. In their region, the students don't find out where they are going until after they are picked for the program. At an event with current exchange students, the new participants learn their destination—and upon learning her experience would be in Argentina, she was mobbed by the visiting Argentine students, serenaded, and wrapped in the Argentine flag.

Her host sister Luciana in Tres Arroyos, Argentina, was the first to contact Maggie; she was to be an exchange student in Colorado while Maggie was in her home in Argentina. This would be the first student the Argentine family hosted. Host Dad José owns a cookie factory, host Mom Nancy is a civil engineer and daughter of Danish immigrants who also has Spanish as her second language.

Tres Arroyos is a small town, surrounded by farmland, in the south of the Buenos Aires province. In September of 2008, the host parents—speaking no English—picked her up for the six-hour drive from airport to home. On the first evening, the family invited six of the host sister's friends to visit, all around her age 16, and the immersion began.

Despite the language barrier, Maggie got to know the area by riding a bike all over town and then trying to find her way back. Luciana's circle of friends adopted her and took her everywhere. Summer break in December and January brought beach trips with the family, and holidays were different and special.

What she learned was that she wanted to live in a more diverse area than her hometown, and that she was fascinated by, and wanted to study, people and cultures, currently obtaining a Master's Degree in social work. She has carried her experiences forward. Her studies brought her to Honduras and Uganda as well, as her desire to travel has stayed with her—and spilled to her younger brother, who was an exchange student to Thailand. Maggie's story is available on our website at <http://wp.me/PtEHRD-1nA>.

### BIRTHDAYS

Linda Catran - April 13  
Roy Glickman - April 17  
Nancy Schmidt - May 11  
Sharon Gorrell - May 23

### FOOD DRIVE

On March 19, 2017, the Rotary E-Club of The Greater San Fernando Valley conducted its eighteenth One More Item public food drive in partnership with Gelson's Market in Sherman Oaks and Valley Food Bank. Club members asked shoppers to add just one extra item to their carts to leave with us on their way out.

During the six-hour event, the Club collected more than 700 pounds of non-perishable food from generous shoppers, bringing the all-time total to just shy of 18,000 pounds of food. Food Bank Director Will Hernandez estimates that the replacement cost of the food—what it would cost Valley Food Bank to purchase that food instead of receiving it by donation—is over \$71,000.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Though it's sometimes hard to tell when winter fades into spring in perpetually sunny Southern California, this year is quite an exception. Our winter rains not only ended our drought but have created a spectacular superbloom around the area. This amazing phenomenon is a reminder of the restorative powers of springtime.

For many, spring is a time of rebirth and inspiration. Even the spring holidays of Easter and Passover are celebrations of new beginnings. As days grow longer and temperatures rise it's a perfect time to get out and enjoy life.

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive."  
- Howard Thurman



**Brenda Bradford**

President, Rotary E-Club of The Greater San Fernando Valley

ROTARY E-CLUB OF THE  
GREATER SFV

## Club Information

### 2016-2017 Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Brenda Bradford  
[bwbradford@aol.com](mailto:bwbradford@aol.com)

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Roy Glickman  
[rglickman@wgn.net](mailto:rglickman@wgn.net)

#### SECRETARY

Nancy Schmidt  
[nlschmidt@earthlink.net](mailto:nlschmidt@earthlink.net)

#### TREASURER

Yoko Matsui  
[goyoko@gmail.com](mailto:goyoko@gmail.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Bradford	Richard Cortes	Daniele Della Gala	Roy Glickman
Sharon Gorrell	Yoko Matsui	Mel Powell	Nancy Schmidt

### Club Committees

#### ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Nancy Schmidt  
[nlschmidt@earthlink.net](mailto:nlschmidt@earthlink.net)

#### MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Mel Powell  
[rotarymelpowell@aol.com](mailto:rotarymelpowell@aol.com)

#### SERVICE PROJECTS

Chair: Daniele Della Gala  
[ellipsis27@yahoo.com](mailto:ellipsis27@yahoo.com)

### Club Brochure

<http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/BROCHURE20130529.pdf>

Come out and visit the  
Rotary E- Club of the  
Greater San Fernando Valley