

Service Above Self

THE SILVER SAGE

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SILVER CITY

Helen Shoup, Editor

Rotary
Club of Silver City



December 18, 2018

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www.silvercityrotary.org

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President:	Peter Herzberg
President-Elect:	Francisca Reyes
Secretary/Treasurer:	Linda Telaak
Immediate Past President:	Suzanne Kavanagh
Club Service:	Suzanne Kavanagh
Community Service:	James Reynolds
International Service:	Thomas Bates
New Generations:	Wendy Spurgeon
Vocational Service:	Kathy Eaton
Sgt-at-Arms:	Jim Tindall
Senior Advisor:	Leslie Bush



BE THE INSPIRATION

Schedule: Future Meetings, Service Projects, and Special Events

Date: 2018-2019	What's Happening
Tuesday, December 25, Tuesday, January 1	12:00 pm: No Meeting
Tuesday, January 8	12:00 pm: Tanya Ortiz - CASA

Meeting Notes

President Peter Herzberg rang the bell at 12:13 pm after we had socialized for a few minutes. **Ashley Herndon** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **Paul Moore** gave the Invocation, and **Suzanne Kavanagh** led the Four-Way Test.

Guests

Maggie Veeder introduced her daughter Azaylie (left).



Mitchell Barsh (left) & Barbara Mora (right)
from
SPIN as
Speakers



Sunny Kellerman introduced Claire Shawhan and Juno, her service dog,
from Las Cruces, NM.



Wendy Spurgeon introduced her guest
Rick Stille (right).

Rotary Announcements

President Peter Herzberg made the following announcements:

- **Bill Harrison** was in the paper!
- February 1st is the meeting in El Paso with RI President **Barry Rassin**. We have a table of 9 and can start another one if needed (at the Marriott Courtyard downtown).
- **Suzanne Kavanagh** has speakers set up until mid-January and is open for the rest of the year. get with her on that
- **Sunny Kellerman** needs help this afternoon to deliver 5 cartons of books to the 6th street school. **Peter Falley** volunteered to help.
- There will be a board meeting today after this meeting.
- We need a general consensus that **Leslie Bush** and **Carlos Lucero** will be secretary and treasurer to get to the next board meeting. **Sunny Kellerman** made the motion, and **Suzanne Kavanagh** seconded the motion; all agreed.
- **Paul Moore** told the club this is his last meeting. He is going to Mt. Vernon outside of Seattle for a new venture with a church that is predominantly Hispanic and will be a consultant to the diocese on multi-cultural issues.
- The pies for dessert were in **Paul Moore's** honor, his departure, because he prefers pie to cake.

Special Presentation

Jan, Rotary Exchange student from Germany, started track practice this week. School was slow because it was exam week. **Joe Kellerman** was in town, and they watched "The Grinch." He is looking forward to the holidays.

Non-Rotary Announcements

Paul Moore left a flyer on the table for Las Posadas.

Jim Reynolds' Christmas Open House will be from 6-9 pm on Saturday, December 22. He wants us to come.

Braggs and/or Happy Dollars

Leslie Bush's birthday is today and **Jack Herndon's** birthday was yesterday. Everyone sang.

Today is **Peter Falley's** 8th club anniversary! What a difference he has made to our club. We appreciate him greatly.

Program

Rick Stille, **Wendy Spurgeon's** guest and treasurer of SPIN (Supporting People In Need), introduced Barbara Mora. SPIN has been a non-profit for the past 2 years and have 9 people on the board and one part-time paid employee.

SPIN has been addressing the needs of the homeless in Grant County, primarily their housing needs, especially with those who have the most difficulty transferring out of homelessness. There are lots of reasons for this difficulty, such as mental illness, chronic anxiety, bipolar, and depression. Grant County does not currently have programs to address these needs. SPIN also has veterans and others with PTSD or some cognitive impairment with no family support.

Each are individuals with a name and story. SPIN wants to help, not change them. Housing is the first requirement, as all else requires an address, such as jobs.

Homelessness is more prevalent all the time. SPIN has 2 main projects: one is operational now, which is transitional housing. They rent a space and are looking to purchase the building. They take in a small number of men to share the house, 4 at a time with constant supervision mostly. The men are vetted, so it is not just an open-door home. It is a sober environment with supportive care on site. It has been operational for a year, and SPIN has had success getting them jobs and getting their identity back. Once a man has an address, he can apply for resources like food stamps. There is a long waiting list for the house. SPIN looks at men that have been in jail for non-violent crime. Most homeless are paralyzed by their circumstances and that they are not a part of the community.

SPIN does try to find family members, but some men have burned bridges or have been in foster care their whole lives.

The other big project that SPIN has is permanent housing for those that have chronic needs that will always need help. It is for single men, women, families, and such. There are roughly 100 homeless children in Grant County; they are often couch surfing with other families. The unrest leads to great

stress and contributes to the fear and instability. The permanent housing will be a facility that is built. SPIN has put in an application with the city to donate the land and are waiting; they plan to build 24 units and have onsite help. It will not be a shelter or soup kitchen but a permanent housing situation.

SPIN operates under the umbrella of NM Coalition to eradicate homelessness and operates by those guidelines. How will it be paid for: SPIN is 1 of 8 groups in NM working on this type of project. The men don't have to clean up first; they take care of housing, then work to help them with addictions.

A success story is Community of Hope in Mesilla. That house serves 50 people and started in 1993.

SPIN has tax credits and grants to help with cost, but they could use other gifts and peer support. Come by and bring food! Nothing is wasted.

These services are cost-effective for the county; otherwise these homeless people stay in jails, hospitals, and such. In Grant county the number of homeless is fluid and usually in a PIT count (point-in-time count). The speaker doesn't have a number, but it involves more men than women and from aged early adulthood to the elderly. There are also near-homeless people who have lost jobs and can't pay their bills and barely hanging on.

Spread the word! SPIN is a volunteer organization with only 1 part-time paid person.

Raffle

The raffle was postponed.

Attendance

We had 20 of 31 active members in attendance, or 65%.

Gallery



Jack Herndon

Ashley Herndon
(daughter)