

Service Above Self

THE SILVER SAGE

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SILVER CITY

Helen Shoup, Editor

Rotary
Club of Silver City



April 24, 2018

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www.silvercityrotary.org

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President-Elect:	Peter Herzberg
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Club Service:	Anita Larson
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Vocational Service:	Wendy Spurgeon
Sgt-at-Arms:	Jim Tindall
Senior Advisor:	Peter Fallev



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Schedule: Future Meetings, Service Projects, and Special Events

Date: 2018	What's Happening
April 26-29	District Conference in Santa Fe
Tuesday, May 1	12:00 pm: Bill Harrison – My Life and Work
Tuesday, May 15	12:00 pm: Karen Beckenbach – The GCCCA 2018-19 Season
June 23-26	Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada
Thursday, June 28	5:30 pm: Joe Heidrick Demotion Party (Peter Herzberg's Home)



Meeting Notes

President Joe Heidrick rang the bell at 12:08 pm after we had socialized for a few minutes. **Jack Herndon** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **Bill Harrison** gave the Invocation, and **Helen Shoup** led the Four-Way Test.

Visiting Rotarians

- **Bill Harrison**, Honorary member of Rotary (on left with **Tom Bates**)



- **Merritt Helfferich**, member from Fairbanks, Alaska (see photo with wife below)

Guests

- **Kathy Eaton's** daughter-in-law: Tanya Creasser



- **Jack Herndon's** daughter Ashley (right)



- April Crosby, today's speaker, wife of **Merritt Helferich**, from Fairbanks, Alaska (below)



WNMU Rotaract Representative

Vladimir Gnilozubov, President of WNMU Rotaract

Rotary Announcements

Joe Heidrick announced:

- The slate of new officers by **Peter Herzberg**. We will have a written ballot next week.
- The volunteer hours/donation form is going around.
- We still need a speaker coordinator for June!
- **Peter Herzberg** just back from Guatemala and will give a full presentation later. He got a new man bag from the mayor and a plaque. A total of 8 people went. He's glad to be back.
- There will be a Board huddle after the meeting.
- The Bylaws committee meeting was moved to Thursday, May 3, at 6:00 pm at **Joe Heidrick's** house.
- The bike rodeo is now moved, and Kiwanis is getting a new date closer to summer.

Vladimir Gnilozubov invited a speaker from Edward Jones to speak about investments tonight at Light Hall at 6:00 pm. There will be free pizza available.

Kathy Eaton offered her home for the rummage sale and so much work. She received a standing round of applause. She thanked everyone, as it is a team effort and fun.

Sunny Kellerman announced:

- If you signed up for trees, please get them from the Volunteer Center. There are 3 or 4 left now.
- On the club's budget for Kinder Kids, we have \$189 left and not enough to buy another set. We bought 5 per child and more for a school library. (The last one is here – *My Dog's a Chicken*.) She discussed using the funds left for supplement to the library at Santa Clara, as it's new. All agreed.
- Between 6:30 and 8:00 pm tonight, we will have the last class on grants. If interested, come to Sunny Kellerman's home to get certified.

- **Peter Herzberg, Sunny Kellerman, Suzanne Kavanagh**, and others want to update the strategic plan.

Paul Moore failed to put his badge away last time and his badge is now lost and so is **Cynthia Bettison's!** **Jim Tindall** wasn't here to help with that. **Joe Heindrick** said he would check with the staff.

Non-Rotary Announcements

Jim Callender told us the Special Olympics will be this Saturday from 8 am until 2 pm at Cobre. They need volunteers to cheer kids on and help.

Cynthia Bettison needs volunteers to help at the museum; the hours can count toward volunteer hours for Rotary. The dates are May 14-18. Contact her via email at WNMU or call her on her cell phone: 575 574 2779.

Braggs and/or Happy Dollars

Jim Tindall's wife's birthday is tomorrow. She was born in a bomb shelter in England.

Leslie Bush's daughter won 1st place at trail 1/2 Marathon and won \$1000.

Kate Watson was gone 2 weeks for a family wedding. She was lucky because a woman in Arkansas just missed her (talking on her telephone), so she still has a new car not in a wreck.

Kathy Eaton's daughter-in-law Tanya Creasser is having her birthday Friday and they have celebrated this whole week.

Sunny Kellerman and Harry have a new border collie puppy.

Jim Reynolds' son is a newly minted combat medic in New York.

Paul Moore is grateful the bike race went well.

Program



Merritt Helferich, from Fairbanks, Alaska, introduced April Crosby, his lovely wife, as today's speaker. Her program was on her Bhutan journey, a 3-week trek with 10 women friends (picture below). The youngest was 42, and the oldest (our speaker) was 70!

Bhutan is the size of Maryland and Rhode Island combined with a population of 800,000 people. The country measures people's

happiness, not GDP.

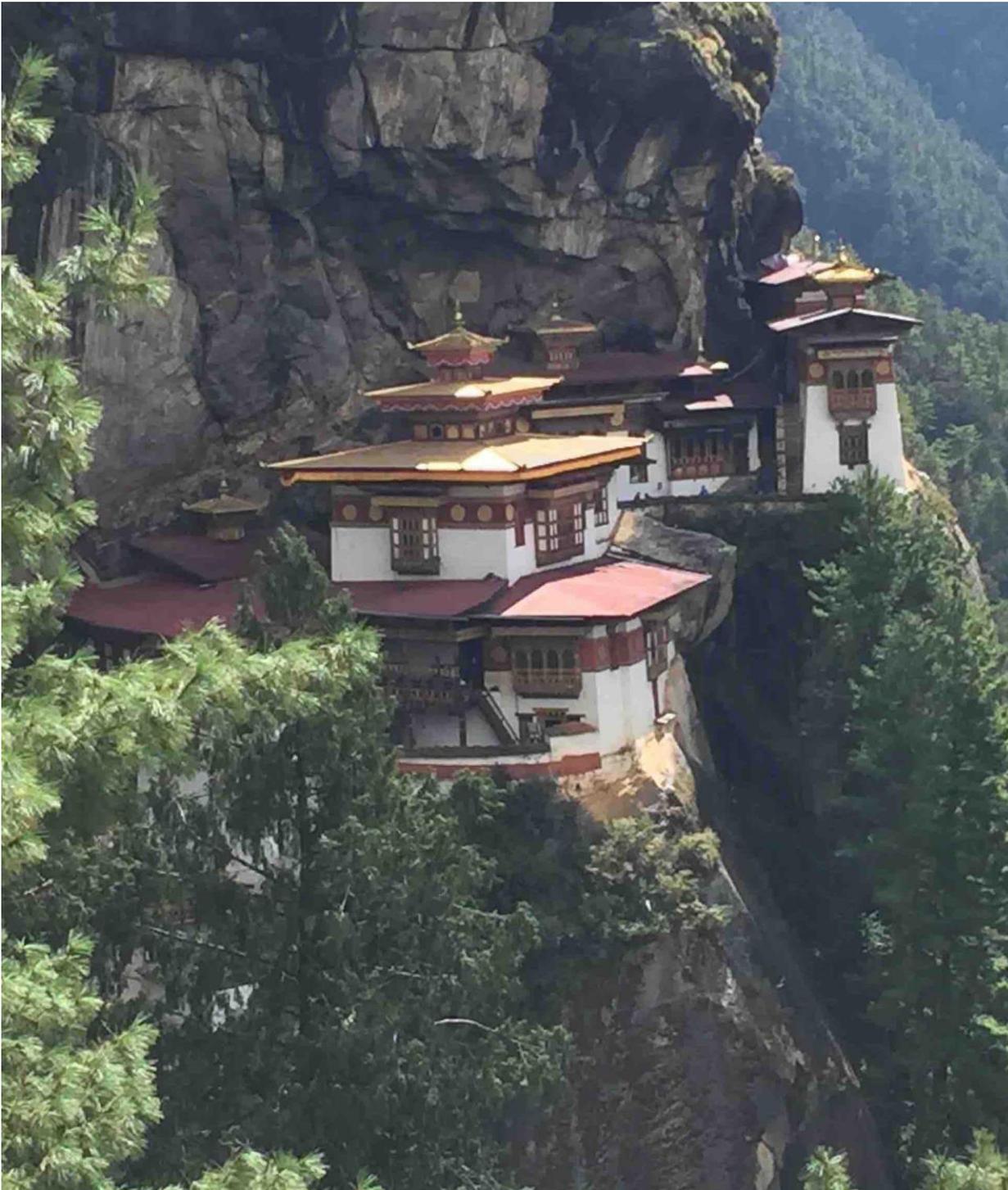
The group landed at the only airport. Only 2 airlines fly into Bhutan, and only 10 pilots are certified to land there. Their guides were strong hikers and friendly. They stayed the first night in the oldest (and only) hotel, built in 1974.



The leadership is made up of Kings, and they are gaining in progression and becoming modern.

The group had to get used to the altitude, over 10,000 feet in many places. They first visited a working monastery (Tigers Nest) at over 10,000 feet (see picture below).

The front is the working monastery, and the back is where the monks live.



The government ideal is happiness and a bright future for all. Otherwise, there is no reason for government to exist. The latest kings were all educated in the west, and they noticed that the focus was on GDP, which did not equate to the people's happiness.

Their 4 pillars of happiness include:

- Economic health
- Environmental health
- A thriving cultural tradition
- Good governance

Their first day was spent in 9 hours of steady climbing in the drizzle. Their second day was sunny and warm as they hiked into Jomolhari Mountain, which was 24,000 feet. In 1986, it was outlawed for people to climb the mountain due to the number of deaths.

They have several festivals each year with some being older, established ones and some impromptu ones. The national dress must be worn to festivals, to school, and to other government meetings.

They had horses that carried the tents and food and other things needed from one camp site to the next. It was often in the 20s and 30s at night.

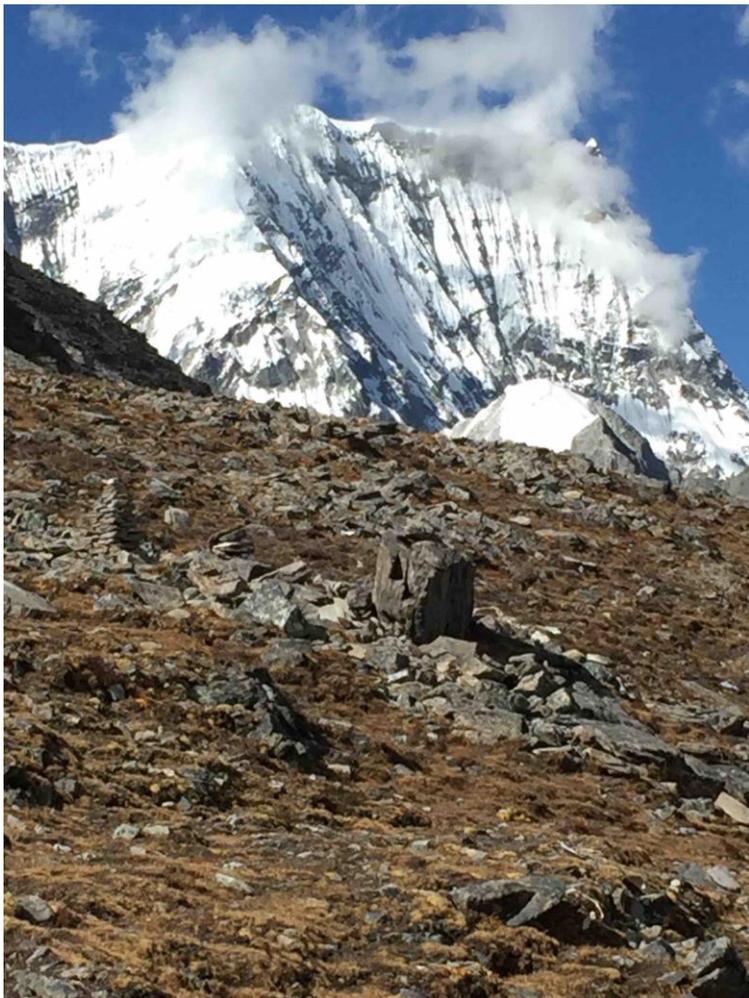


They climbed many mountain peaks, many with snow (see photo below), then over the pass, and they stopped for lunch and a rest. Then they got to a village, and it was great! They visited a school after morning prayers and morning rituals.



Looking back from the highest peak

They saw no beggars or homeless the whole time they were there. The life expectancy is 70, up from the 30s. School is free and so is medical. The television arrived in 1999. It is still very primitive in areas; some just recently got electric power. They look at life totally differently; their lifestyles differ compared to monetary wealth as in US.



On day 9, on the highest pass, over 16,000 feet, the path is always muddy, slippery, and not easy to climb (see photo left). They made it to 16,241 feet, which was topped with prayer flags, and the group added to them as well!



All the mountains were massive.

The Village of Laya had a festival – the highlander festival. It was cold and raining off and on, and many of the attendees were largely nomadic yak herders. The next morning it snowed, so they were pleased they missed it. Then they went on to

the festival that was behind the town at 9300 to 12,500 feet. They saw competitive games, lots of singing, and animal judging – mostly dogs, horses, and yaks dressed up.

After the festival, they went on to their last stop. They spent 5 hours on the trail and 4 more to get to a guest house, where they slept on the floor.

They saw many grand buildings at the end of the trip. In the town, they used traffic officers rather than traffic lights – the people did not like them. They saw several shrines and a prayer area to the past kings; you walk around them clockwise. If you have time, you go 108 times for each prayer.

All is about GNH (gross national happiness). It was first noted in 1987 by a British paper. In 2010, the current king developed GNH and found ways to measure so as not to lose sight as they go on to modernization. It is a collective public good, not an individual thing to be sought out. All kids bring lunches so that there is no separation between the rich and the poor.

There is no sugar in the Bhutan diet. They have lots of fruits and veggies and incense.

You cannot take a tour of Bhutan by yourself; you have to use a tourist group, and they get you situated.

The latest king is the 5th inherited one, in his early 30s. He is the only existing Buddhist king in Asia at this time.

Raffle

Peter Herzberg won the raffle.

Attendance

We had 18 of 29 active members in attendance, or 62%.