



**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BETHESDA**  
 Currently meeting via Zoom  
 Fridays @ 7:30 AM  
 7:15 AM to 7:30 AM Mix and Mingle  
 Contact us at [nbrotary.org](http://nbrotary.org)  
**February 2021**



**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 5	Claes Ryn	3-Minute Speaker
	Kent Mason	<b>Conservation Work Along the Eastern Continental Divide in West Virginia</b>
February 12	Linda Berg-Cross	3-Minute Speaker
	Kent Mason Billie-Jean Bensen, Principal, Rockville High School	<b>Teacher of the Year Award &amp; Managing a MoCo High School During the Pandemic</b>
February 19	Ron Sigelman	3-Minute Speaker
	Bruce Davis	<b>Climate Change &amp; What We Must Do About It</b>
February 26	John Waterston	3-Minute Speaker
	Scott Sklar, President, The Stella Group	<b>America's Drastic Shift: What are the Paths for Energy and Climate</b>

**MILESTONES**

	Event	Date
Tas Tousimis	Birthday	February 13
Kevin Flynn	Birthday	February 18
Rotary International	107 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary!	February 23
Rob Follit	Anniversary	February 27

**SPEAKER – February 5, 2021**

**Conservation Work Along the Eastern Continental Divide in West Virginia  
 Kent Mason**



Kent Mason, one of our club's Charter Members, is a landscape and nature photographer and conservationist who has been creating a photographic environmental study of extraordinary wild places in the highlands of West Virginia for the past sixteen years. This collaborative effort with The Nature Conservancy resulted in a book titled *West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains: A Photographic Journey*, published in 2018. Kent has been involved in photography for over 40 years and has been teaching visual design classes for the past eighteen years. He sells fine art landscape and nature photography in two galleries, has displayed his work in The Nature Conservancy National Headquarters and

the National Wildlife Federation headquarters. His images have been displayed on the websites of The Nature Conservancy, the WV Land Trust and many other conservation organizations and in literature. Kent also leads photo tours in the West Virginia highlands, where he lives six months of the year. A large collection of his images can be seen and prints ordered at [WVphotographs.com](http://WVphotographs.com).

### **My Beliefs on our Natural World, Mankind, and Photography**

- All plant and wildlife species have the right to live and survive. For thousands of species the preservation of their habitat, wild places, is essential for their survival.
- For mankind the value of wilderness preservation is extensive. To name a few: cleaner air and water, opportunities to hike, camp, fish, hunt, kayak, bird watch, or to enjoy the flora, the woods, the quiet open spaces to connect with the natural world. It is our natural heritage.
- The spectacular beauty of our natural world inspires people into action to preserve and conserve wilderness for future generations. Great photography of our natural world is a powerful, compelling preservation and conservation tool.

For me, exploring and photographing our natural world is an inspirational journey of renewal where I create compelling images from the heart that can connect with the emotions of others and hopefully engage them in the preservation/conservation movement.

### **SPEAKER – February 12, 2021**

#### **Teacher of the Year Award Presented by Kent Mason Managing a MoCo High School During the Pandemic Billie-Jean Bensen, Principal, Rockville High School**



Ms. Billie-Jean Bensen is a career educator in Montgomery County Public Schools. She began her career as a social studies teacher in several schools including a department head position before becoming a school-based administrator. For two years, Ms. Bensen was in central office as the Executive Director to the Community Superintendents. She spent 10 years as a middle school principal and she is currently in her eighth year as the principal of Rockville High School. Billie-Jean has had the opportunity to teach and lead in up-county, down-county and mid-county schools. She has held leadership positions in the system's local leadership chapters and she is currently the lead of the high school principals' organization. Originally from Connecticut, Billie-Jean and her husband have lived in Montgomery County for her entire working career. She is the proud mom of two MCPS graduates and grandma to one, with one on the way.

*Bulletin Continues on next page....*

**SPEAKER – February 19, 2021****Climate Change and What We Must Do About It  
Bruce Davis**

Climate change can seem overwhelming!

This presentation will explain:

- how the climate is changing
- the role of human activity in causing the changes
- what we must do to prevent further damage to our environment



The presenter, Bruce Davis, is a graduate of William & Mary with a degree in physics. He was a high school science teacher early in his career. Later, he earned a JD degree at the University of Virginia and practiced law in the DC area for 40 years. Bruce has been trained by the Climate Reality Project, an organization created by Al Gore to increase public awareness that human-caused climate change is degrading our environment and inspire the worldwide action required for humanity's sustainable future.

**SPEAKER – February 26, 2021****America's Drastic Shift: What are the Paths for Energy and Climate  
Scott Sklar, President, The Stella Group**

Scott Sklar is President of The Stella Group, Ltd. a strategic policy and clean technology optimization firm facilitating clean distributed energy utilization, which includes advanced batteries and controls, energy efficiency, fuel cells, geexchange, heat engines, minigeneration (natural gas), microhydropower (and freeflow, tidal, wave), modular biomass, photovoltaics, small wind, and solar thermal (including daylighting, waste-to-energy, water heating, industrial preheat, building air-conditioning, and electric power generation). The Stella Group, Ltd. Is one of the very few companies that blends distributed energy technologies (microgrids, hybrid systems), aggregates financing (including leasing), with a focus on system standardization. Sklar founded the company in 1995 and joined it full time as its President in 2000.

Sklar is an Adjunct Professor at The George Washington University teaching three unique interdisciplinary courses on sustainable energy, and an Affiliated Professor with CATIE, an international graduate university located in Costa Rica focused on sustainability for Latin America. His 2018 GWU summer course, "Renewable Energy for Critical Infrastructure", is the first such course in the United States. He is Energy Director of GWU's Environment & Energy Management Institute (EEMI). He was also an Adjunct coteaching a Renewable Energy in Latin America course at American University's School of International Studies (SIS) in 2014.

Prior, Scott Sklar served for 15 years (1985-2000) simultaneously running two Washington, DC-based trade associations, as Executive Director of both the Solar Energy Industries Association and the National BioEnergy Industries Association. Before his move to SEIA and NBIA, he was Political Director of The Solar Lobby (1983-1984), a renewable energy advocacy organization founded by the nine major national environmental organizations. Before joining "the Lobby", (1980-1983) he was Washington Director and Acting Research Director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), founded by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and technologist EF Shumacher. This federally-funded applied technology organization assisted low income communities in system design, integration, and utilization of energy efficiency and renewable energy.



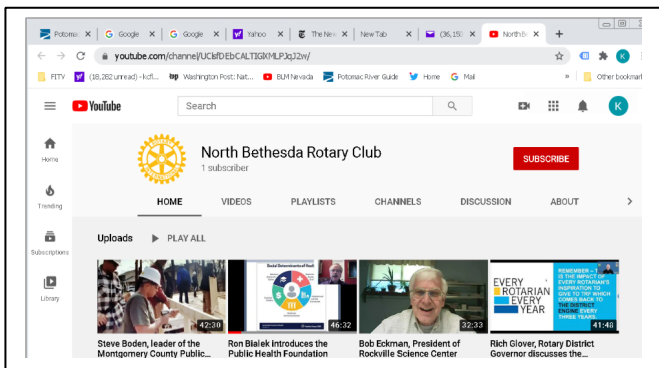
Sklar began his energy career as an aide to Senator Jacob K. Javits (NY) (1970-79) where he focused on energy and military matters for nine years. During his Senate tenure, he cofounded the Congressional Solar Caucus that led many of the innovative legislation promoting renewable energy in the 1970's.

### NBRC JOINS NOURISHING BETHESDA



North Bethesda Rotarians participated in the January 29 “Nourishing Bethesda” family food distribution effort organized by the St. John’s Norwood Episcopal Church in Bethesda. The program feeds about 300 families per week, providing bags and boxes of food designed to feed four people for 5 days. Our team helped move the food bags from St. John’s Church to the distribution site at the B-CC Rescue Squad station on Old Georgetown Road. Pictured are team leader Dan Moore (red hat), Kevin Flynn (stylish fedora), and Rob Follit (Rotary ball cap) on a very cold Friday morning. Plans are to join the effort with a transportation team once a month. Photo by Betsy Wooster, who helped drive and unload. To join the effort, contact Dan Moore at [danielmoore128@gmail.com](mailto:danielmoore128@gmail.com).

### CHECK OUT OUR PRESENTATIONS ON YOUTUBE!



Thanks to the efforts of club member Paul Arveson, our weekly Zoom presentations are now being recorded and posted on YouTube! The videos currently posted include presentations by Bob Eckman, President of the Rockville Science Center, Ron Bialek, Executive Director of the Public Health Foundation, Rick Glover of the Rotary District 7620 on the Rotary Foundation, and Steve Boden of the Montgomery County Public Schools Foundation. Paul set up a YouTube channel for NBRC at [this web link](#). The presentations will also be posted on our club website, [www.nbrotary.org](http://www.nbrotary.org).

### NOTES FROM THE 2020-2021 BOARD

Time to get involved in a Club Committee! Contact the Committee Chair to volunteer.

COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:	CHAIR
Club Member Outreach	Outreach to Club members	Linda Berg-Cross
Club Service	Plan and implement community services activities.	Dan Moore
Membership	Develop and implement the Club’s Membership Plan	Bob Sonawane
Public Relations	Develop and implement the Club’s Public Relations Plan	John Waterston

## ROTARY FOUNDATION NEWS

### THE ROTARY FOUNDATION RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING

By Rotary International

For the 13th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only one percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 13 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

“Your achievement and 4-star rating will enhance your organization’s fundraising and public relations efforts,” says Michael Thatcher, president and chief executive officer of Charity Navigator. “This exceptional designation sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.”

The rating reflects Charity Navigator’s assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness.

## DISTRICT NEWS



### District 7620 Environmental Focus

This coming July, Rotary will be adding a new Environmental Area of Focus. Rotary will be supporting “activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance environmental sustainability, and foster harmony between people and the environment.”

To learn more about this new focus, more than 80 Rotarians from District 7620 participated in a workshop in late January on Rotary International’s new focus area on the environment. NRBC members Kevin Flynn and Barry Thompson were among the participants. Barry was one of the leaders in a breakout session on “Well Being and Resilience.” Other topic areas included:

- Planetary Health—Pollution cleanups, invasive species, and climate change
- Biodiversity—Species loss, overharvesting, food production and hunger
- Clean Energy—Energy production, clean energy, and efficiency
- The “Circular Economy”—Smart design, integration, transit, and recycling

Beyond the lofty goals, there were some interesting local projects that were suggested, including a regional cleanup effort, tree planting projects, and oyster restoration in Chesapeake Bay. Rotary International and the District will be funding global grants in this area in the coming years. Stay tuned for more information!

## PROGRAM SCHEDULING LIST

**Goal:** To have programs scheduled and publicized at least one month prior to meeting date. Once you schedule the speaker go to NBRC Friday Programs Google Form, [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8Dzwousg7IEmZxIEV88c7bSPTN\\_fQ3meVrR0KN854sqcuhA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8Dzwousg7IEmZxIEV88c7bSPTN_fQ3meVrR0KN854sqcuhA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1), and enter in the information regarding the Speaker/Program and complete the NBRC Friday Program form.

Rotary Month	Date	Person Responsible
Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution	Friday, February 5, 2021	Kent Mason
	Friday, February 12, 2021	
	Friday, February 19, 2021	
	Friday, February 26, 2021	
Water and Sanitation	Friday, March 5, 2021	Bob Sonawane
	Friday, March 12, 2021	
	Friday, March 19, 2021	
	Friday, March 26, 2021	
Water and Sanitation	Friday, April 2, 2021	Linda Berg-Cross
	Friday, April 9, 2021	
	Friday, April 16, 2021	
	Friday, April 23, 2021	
	Friday, April 30, 2021	
Maternal and Child Health	Friday, May 7, 2021	TBD
	Friday, May 14, 2021	
	Friday, May 21, 2021	
	Friday, May 28, 2021	
Youth Service	Friday, June 4, 2021	TBD
	Friday, June 11, 2021	
	Friday, June 18, 2021	
	Friday, June 25, 2021	Installation of Officers

### ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BETHESDA 2020-2021 OFFICERS

- **President:** Carmela Carr
- **President Elect:** Bob Sonawane
- **Vice President:** Nick Martinez
- **Secretary:** Linda Berg-Cross
- **Treasurer:** Steve Vaccarezza
- **Club Administration Director:** Carmela Carr (Interim)
- **Club Service Director:** Dan Moore
- **Public Relations Director:** John Waterston
- **Membership Director:** Bob Sonawane