



THE NASHVILLE KIWANIAN

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

APRIL 1, 2020

► FRIDAY'S VIRTUAL SPEAKER!



Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD

As many of you remember, Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD was our club's 2015's Outstanding Nashvillian of the Year for his contributions to the Nashville community. Dr. Wang is the director of Wang Vision 3D Cataract and LASIK Center, a world-renowned laser eye surgeon, and a philanthropist. He is currently working with colleagues from the U.S. and around the world in China, Japan, South Korea, and Italy to discuss Covid-19.

Together, they are building a message to provide guidance on the current situation around the world, the nature of the virus, its treatments, and insights on how to avoid it to stay healthy. Dr. Wang has been a leader in the Nashville business community, patriotic citizen, and bridge builder to bring people together. There are few like him that have this unique capability to speak to our club on this subject.

In addition, Dr. Wang is an active contributor to our Nashville community. He is the founding president of the Tennessee Chinese Chamber of Commerce and an honorary president of the Tennessee American-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. The mission of these two chambers is to help educate Tennessee businesses about China, thus helping Tennessee to increase its export to China. Dr. Wang said, "Tennessee sells \$2 billion-worth of products to China each year, but we purchase ten times as much--\$20 billion--from China. We must change that statistic, and the way to do it is to learn about China, and the opportunities Nashville and Tennessee have to sell what we have to offer to China."

Dr. Wang is the international president of Shanghai Aier Eye Hospital, the largest private eye hospital group in China today, holding 10% of China's entire eye care market. Dr. Wang has helped the Nashville healthcare industry export its products to China, and he co-founded the Tennessee Immigrant and Minority Business Group. Dr. Wang shared, "As an immigrant myself, I am indebted to America for the wonderful opportunities with which I have been blessed; and I want to do what I can to give back to America, my adopted country. To paraphrase President Kennedy, I want to encourage all immigrants to 'ask not what America can do for us, ask what we together can do for America.'"

Dr. Wang's life story inspired a movie role in the blockbuster film "God's not dead" which grossed over \$100 million worldwide. He has donated all of the proceeds from his autobiography "From Darkness to Sight" to the foundation.

► PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Kenny Markanich
Forever a Boy Scout always prepared!

► MEMBER DIRECTORY

[This is a link to the club directory.](#)

Please use it to get to know and stay connected with your fellow members. Also, please check your own profile and let Gwen know of any changes or edits.

This information is for the use of members only.

► CONGRATULATIONS BENJAMIN



Benjamin Levine, a 2016 Bootstraps Foundation scholarship recipient, is excited to inform us that he graduated from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Arts in Statistics.

He has a job offer pending and expressed his sincere appreciation to Bootstraps and Kiwanis for helping make it all happen!

The Bootstraps Foundation was established in 1986 to champion the higher educational needs of Middle Tennessee students who have demonstrated the effort and will to succeed in the face of adversity. Kiwanis members: Joe White (president) Matt Shorter, Ed VanVoorhees and Jim Thien serve on the foundation's Board of Directors.

► SPORTS TALK WITH GEORGE PLASTER

Dear Kiwanians.....I hope this message finds you safe and well. Like most of you, I miss the weekly fellowship that our Friday meetings bring. Hopefully in the future, I won't take that great hour for granted. As you can imagine, I'm missing my sports fix a ton. In particular, I'm missing the Nashville Predators and the incredible banter that goes on up in Section 304. A lot of us have been season ticket holders for more than a decade and would love to see the season somehow continue. I'm not very optimistic about that possibility and that's a shame for a lot of reasons. The Preds were playing their best hockey of the year as the virus hit, and at that point, they had secured the #8 spot in the playoffs by an eyelash.



The NBA seems to have a better chance of having a play-off tournament, because their owners seem willing to push the time-frame all the way out to late summer or early fall. It sounds strange, but the NBA may find this to become a permanent move. Basketball has always been played on playgrounds in the summer. As for major league baseball, my best guess is a start-time around July 4th, which could be a very cool Opening Day. MLB will try to get 100 games crammed into their schedule, which would be enough to crown a champion. Go Braves.

Look forward to seeing all of you again very soon. The virus is not forever. When we do come back, hopefully we all start to appreciate things that over the years we have taken for granted. I know I will.

Stay safe and God bless.

► ANNIVERSARY



April 1st marks one year since Mike Forster's term as president officially commenced. The theme of his inauguration?

"In Mike We Trust!"

► MEETING REPORT



Friday, March 27th was the first Virtual Kiwanis Meeting held in the club's 103-year history!

Ella & Emma Forster delighted the crowd of nearly 50 members with 'You're a Grand Old Flag'

George Armistead led the Pledge of Allegiance and Melanie Scott gave the invocation.

Mike Forster commenced the meeting by highlighting ways Kiwanians have stepped up to help those affected by the March 3rd tornados and have remained vigilant in carrying out the Kiwanis objectives in the face of Covid 19.

Angel Cellucci presented expert advice on how to avoid medical fraud during times of vulnerability and Stephen Frohsin hosted brags from Shannon McGee, Zak Keiper, Daniel Williams, Lillian Beretta and Melanie Scott.

Mike Forster introduced the guest speaker Debra Sunderland who presented ways to overcome adversity and fear in times of uncertainty. She recommended always coming back to your breath, fear not, love yourself, love others and be present in your thoughts whether you are in your own lane, someone else's lane or in the lane of God and the universe.

The meeting concluded with Mike sharing inspired plans for keeping members engaged by continuing to hold weekly virtual meetings, by launching a new Community Relief Committee headed by Lillian Beretta and Taylor Fisher plus other exciting initiatives.

► PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC BY CHAPLAIN, MELANIE SCOTT

Remember

May we who are merely inconvenienced.
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors.
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home.
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close. Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips.
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market. Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home.
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

► BIRTHDAYS



Thom Druffel - April 1st

Chip Crossman - April 4th

Beth Diveley - April 5th

Aaron Schneider - April 5th

► PRAY FOR BLAISE



Gef Cherwak and his wife Jade gave birth to their son, Blaise last week. Blaise has been in and out of surgery at Vanderbilt since then. Please keep their entire family in your thoughts during this time.

► WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Gordon Conaway
Property Manager
Metropolitan Properties

Gordon holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Rhodes College and a J.D. in Advocacy & Dispute Resolution from U.T. College of Law

615.200.0498 mail@agro.co

Gordon says 'Quarantine is going alright for me, my wife Renee and dog Oskar! We are taking it day by day like everyone else. I'm in HOA management and things have not slowed down at all strangely enough in these strange times. This is a recent pic of Oskar and me working from home. He is my executive assistant these days! I'm looking forward to joining Kiwanis, have enjoyed meeting fellow members and am excited about getting involved.'



► IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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