



Soroptimist International Sacramento Newsletter May 2021

SIS Mission: *To provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.*

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President's Corner Jennifer Willis

Last weekend I attended the Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) Conference and was blown away by the impactful programs and the difference Soroptimists locally and around the world are making in the lives of women and girls. When women are safe and educated, we share and impact our immediate and extended families. SI President Sharon Fisher was passionate about her Presidents Appeal, *Road to Equality*, which addresses vulnerable women and girls at risk of being left behind due to gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices. The Ruby Awardee, Carol Burr, had us captivated by the nonprofit she organized for Chico fire victims and now Covid-19 Relief. All the Regional Live Your Dream and Scholarship awardees were wonderful and had us in tears as they described their life journeys.

Congratulations to Phyllis Hayashi and Idelle Claypool! For Dream It Be It (DIBI), Phyllis submitted and received a \$500 SNR grant for feminine hygiene products for girls in need



attending SAVA and tied for second place in the Programs category best practices Celebrating Success awards. Idelle submitted and received the Evelyn Holland Recognition award for Education in Soroptimism with her outstanding series for SOLT (Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training).

Now that I have been Covid-19 vaccinated, I feel a sense of relief, hope and freedom. I am increasingly comfortable getting out, visiting friends and family, and look forward to traveling. Like many of you, I sheltered in place for about eight months, and had no physical contact with my children or grandchildren. It was an emotionally painful period and likely influenced my decision to finally agree to move in with my daughter and her family to their new home in El Dorado Hills. It is wonderful to be able to see them daily, hold and touch them almost at will. My grandson described our new home as like living in a forest. Linnea's home sits in the middle of a cul-de-sac and backs up to a beautiful greenbelt where we see many birds and animals.

I look forward to SIS in-person meetings hopefully in late August or early September.

Happy Mother's Day!

Gratefully,
Jennifer
President Jennifer L. Willis

Pay SIS Membership Dues by June 1st

On May 4th, President Jennifer sent an email with the Membership Dues Statement form <https://rb.gy/dbfves>, background and instructions. Members are encouraged to pay online at: [Store | Soroptimist of Sacramento \(soroptimistsacramento.com\)](https://www.soroptimistsacramento.com). Online payment sets up your SIS Membership Subscription. Optional annual SOS (Soroptimist Offers Scholarships) and the Social and Hospitality fees may also be paid, either online or by check. You may cut out and use the form at the bottom of this

newsletter. We appreciate your continued membership and timely payment.

SIS, SNR, SIA, and SI Links

Please stay informed and read the twice-monthly *SNR News for You* E-Blast from the Sierra Nevada Region's Governor. Soroptimist Headquarters read the monthly *Best for Women* E-Newsletter. There is a variety of Soroptimist information on all the Soroptimist websites. Check out the links to our SIS website and all Soroptimist organizations below:

SIS – Soroptimist International of Sacramento:

<https://soroptimistsacramento.org>

SNR – Soroptimist Sierra Nevada Region:

<https://soroptimistsnr.org>

SIA – Soroptimist International of the Americas: <https://www.soroptimist.org>

SI – Soroptimist International:

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org>

SIS Dream It, Be It Update – April 2021

Phyllis Hayashi

Co-Chair, SIS Dream It, Be It Committee

I would like to begin this article update by first thanking and recognizing the incredible support and contributions Soroptimist International Sacramento members have provided to this club's Dream It, Be It Program and the special financial appeal made for the project described below.

Our club was informed of an immediate need for the female students at four of the high schools within the Gateway Community Charter School District. The impact the COVID pandemic presented for many students and families led to a shortfall of everyday necessities for students. An example of this was regular laundering of clothing or lack of personal feminine hygiene supplies. After further communication with staff at Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy (SAVA), the suggestion of creating feminine hygiene care packages for the female students was discussed and

implemented. The DIBI program has participated each year in a service project and due to COVID, we were unable to coordinate a community service project. Students enrolled in the DIBI program would include a personal handwritten note of encouragement to each student who received a care package. What better way to show fellow classmates these students support!

Soroptimist International of Sacramento (SIS) under the direction of the Random Acts of Kindness Committee established a fundraising appeal to support this project. A total of \$2085 was presented by SIS for this SAVA project. In addition to these funds, I applied for a \$500 grant through Soroptimist International Sierra Nevada Region and learned we were awarded this grant! A great big "Thank You" to Soroptimist International Sierra Nevada Region for this opportunity and your support! These funds will help significantly with the purchase of supplies for this project and the ordering of supplies is now underway!

It is projected 150 female students will receive a care package. Once supplies are received, these care packages will either be delivered to students or students will pick up their care packages at their school. A notification to each student will be made of the availability of these care packages.

Currently, the students have limited presence on campus and continue to participate in virtual class sessions. It is the hope that instruction on campus will begin in the Fall as we gradually work our way to some type of normalcy next school year.

Once again, words cannot express fully the gratitude and appreciate for the success of this appeal due to the generosity of SIS members! Whether you know it or not, you

make a difference in each of these students lives. This is clearly demonstrated by meeting the needs of these students not only through our financial contributions but through our volunteer time in the DIBI program.

I am happy to report our club has successfully presented Money Matters curriculum overseen by Nancy Wolford Landers and the Money Matters Committee and a curriculum on Career Exploration which included successful career women who offered presentations on their professional careers. I

want to thank these individuals for their presentations this year and for the members of the Dream It, Be It Committee for their countless hours of support and participation. It is through these examples of giving that help us as members of Soroptimist make a difference in each of these students lives! Congratulations in fulfilling the Soroptimist vision of providing women and girls to have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and

live their dreams. Our mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Dream It, Be It; Career Exploration and the Money Matters curriculums certainly are tools provided and ensuring this mission is fulfilled!



Nominating Committee Report:

The Nominating Committee met by phone and email and approved the slate of Officers and Directors below for the 2021-2022 club year.

Submitted at the Board meeting on May 4, 2021 as follows:

Officers:

Co-Presidents: Cathy Diepenbrock and Phyllis Moist;

1st Vice President: Karen Smith;G

2nd Vice President: Carol Adams;

Secretary: Mary Anne Selvage;

Treasurer: Kathy Platz;

Assistant Treasurer: Maria Trejo.

Board of Directors: Minisha Trivedi.
(Mary Locke will be serving the second year of her term on the Board)

Parliamentarian – To be selected by the newly elected President (per bylaws)

Board Motion: A motion was made to approve the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. Approved.

Guest Speaker – May 21

April Javist

Submitted by Pat Canterbury

Our speaker for May 21 will be April Javist, the Executive Director of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation (formerly the Sacramento Library Foundation). The following is her bio:

April Javist has been working toward increasing children's literacy since she came back home to Sacramento in 2007 and was hired to lead the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. April believes that reading is the top equity and democracy tool we can teach our children and is delighted that is a body of research, the Science of Reading, that could enable 95% of children to read. She will share her work with members of our club and loves to answer from interested learners.



Aunt Bonnie By Bonnie Coleman

As I Lay (Not Dying But Certainly) Dead Still

Yes, we know that the pandemic has been nobody's friend, except possibly those whose life goal was mastering sour-dough bread. The rest of us have coped as well as we could with what nature dealt us. Some took up philanthropic activities, some made small but important gifts of kindness for our friends and neighbors, and some of us just did our best to keep our loutish ill-humor from poisoning anybody else's well. After all, every little bit helps.

I still had the tail ends of my Mom's last will and frustration to keep me occupied although I was increasingly impatient and eager to get on to my own growing pile of projects that were set aside until her problems were unraveled and sorted out.

For example, I normally went through my closets Spring and Fall to see what should be winnowed out. That hadn't been addressed in five years. Coupled with the chronic lack of "away" in the little shoebox I call home, it was again reaching critical mass so on I toiled, single-minded and stoic, thinking this must be how Sisyphus felt. (FYI-- In Greek mythology Sisyphus or Sisyphos was the founder and king of Ephyra. He was punished for cheating death twice by being forced to roll an immense boulder up a hill only for it to roll down every time it neared the top, repeating this action for eternity. Through the classical influence on modern culture, tasks that are both laborious and futile are therefore described as Sisyphian.)

It barely registered with me that the gyms were closed or that I hadn't exercised or done much of anything else in ages...until the day I couldn't get out of my chair. My first thought was "Someone is going to find me mummified in this chair except for little nibbles that my kitty will make in my hide to sustain herself. I was horrified, yet, still determined to wrap this last little project up and free my soul.

And that, possums, is how I came to be bed-ridden for most of the past week. I put on my

Big Girl Panties and went out to slay the dragon. It turned out to be a tough old coot of a dragon. I loaded boxes in the house and took them to the garage. I picked up boxes in the garage and hauled them into the house for sorting. I loaded boxes to take to donation centers when they began to open. When I couldn't lift and haul anymore, I stood and panted until a little oomph returned. It was exhausting and it was ugly.

The next day I couldn't get out of bed. Instead of sending a thought to my muscles and having them respond, I had to send envoys to areas of my body and wait to see if anything responded. Mostly nothing did. The second day I could distinguish between areas and limbs and muscles, although none of them rushed to acknowledge my instructions. The third day I malingered. I sent tentative requests to my body and waited to see what would happen. May I never live to repeat that folly. Hope you did better with your plans. (ps: I still haven't quite "finished").



Easter in Germany

By Wendy Haydon-Schneider

Since we just celebrated it, I wanted to share with you what Easter is like in Germany. We say "Frohe Ostern", which translates to 'Happy Easter' in English!



Easter celebrations in Germany are quite similar to other countries. Post offices, banks, stores and other businesses are usually closed. Easter in Germany is known for colorful eggs and chocolate bunnies. In fact, here you can buy already cooked and colored eggs! I will say that I did not see jelly beans, candied almonds, or the vast assortment of chocolate eggs that I used to see (and love to eat) in Sacramento. No peanut butter or coconut filled eggs. Available here are marzipan and chocolate filled.

Easter is celebrated with a lot of customs and traditions over several days, starting with Palmsonntag (Palm Sunday) – on March 28th this year. Some places in Germany hold processions on this day. Many people, especially the elderly, take a palm leaf or a pussy willow branch into the church to have it blessed and then take it home with them.

Gründonnerstag on April 1st (Green Thursday, in English – it's the day before Karfreitag (Good Friday). On this day, many people go to church. Why is it called Green Thursday? One theory is that the name goes back to the custom of mainly eating green food on this day, such as lettuce and asparagus, and

thereby consuming the forces of spring. Stores were closed on this day.

Karfreitag on April 2nd (Good Friday). As a sign of mourning, the church organs do not play and no bells ring. Celebrations are not allowed in Germany on this day, which is why many clubs and shops are closed and no weddings are permitted on this day. We eat fish on this day. Stores were closed on this day as well.

Saturday is not celebrated as part of Easter, so stores were open on this day.

Easter Sunday, April 4th. Many churches hold special services on this day. Families gather, children hunt for Easter eggs – we had three of our grandsons (and their parents!) over for the day and evening, and they loved the easter egg hunt, they loved playing outdoors, the 5-year-old declared, "es war das beste Ostern aller Zeiten!" (it was the best Easter of all time!), which of course thrilled us! It's very popular to eat lamb for the Easter feast here – we ate a HUGE turkey leg/thigh and chicken legs with lots of extra eats!

Easter Monday, the day after Easter Sunday, is also a religious holiday in Germany, with all stores closed.

The Easter egg tree, known as der Ostereierbaum, has been a part of Easter celebrations in Germany for a long time now. Eggs are hung with colorful ribbons on these trees throughout the week of Easter. Many people decorate their trees in their yards. Here is a photo of our little tree on our patio – we hung eggs that my husband has had for many years.

A famous example is the Easter egg tree in Saalfeld, Thuringia. The Kraft family decorated an apple tree in their garden for 50 years, from 1965 until 2015. They started with 18 plastic eggs, but soon changed to mouth-blown and hand-painted eggs.



As the tree grew, more eggs were needed every year. In 2012, they crossed the 10,000 eggs mark.

From 2016 on, the new egg tree has been in the Schlosspark in Saalfeld, using almost all eggs of the Kraft family. Look how pretty and festive it is!!

My sources of information for this article were:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/germany/easter>
<https://www.germany-insider-facts.com/german-easter-customs.html>



<http://easter.fundootimes.com/easter-across-the-world/easter-celebrations-in-germany.html>
https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/discover-germany/tradition-and-culture/easter_70748.php

Meet our New Member! Claire Smiley

Claire Smiley was inducted as SIS's newest member on April 16th, and we welcome her with open arms. Claire is a Physical Therapist and is self-employed. The thing she likes best about her job is that she enjoys working with patients to improve their health. *So, if you have aches and pains, you will know who to call!!!!*

Claire is married to David Smiley and she has 2 grown daughters: Madeleine who is a physical therapist at UC Davis, and Michelle, who is a speech pathologist at Methodist Hospital. *I wonder if they were influenced by their Mother on their career choices?* Claire's first Grandchild is due in October, and she is pretty excited about that!!!

Claire has a variety of things she likes to do. She likes going camping (*great pastime with this darn covid*) and she likes to read books (*she didn't specify any particular kind of books, so I believe she has an inquisitive mind*). She also likes gardening, just flowers, not vegetables. *And wait for it, here it comes! She likes to tap dance. I envy her that ability!!!!!!*

The talents and skills that Claire hopes to bring to our Soroptimist club is that she is a **Hard Worker** and she is **Organized**. *Those are both talents that we can certainly utilize!!!* The thing that Claire hopes most to get from our club is "an opportunity to do good for my community and to help women and girls". *It sounds like Claire will be a very active and productive member of our club and we are certainly happy to have her as our newest member.*

Welcome Claire Smiley!!!!

Search for A New Meeting Place By Search Committee

Now that the pandemic is loosening its grip on us, SIA and the CDC have loosened the guidelines as to meeting inside for group gatherings, so **SIS has begun a search for a new meeting place for our luncheon meetings in the Fall.**

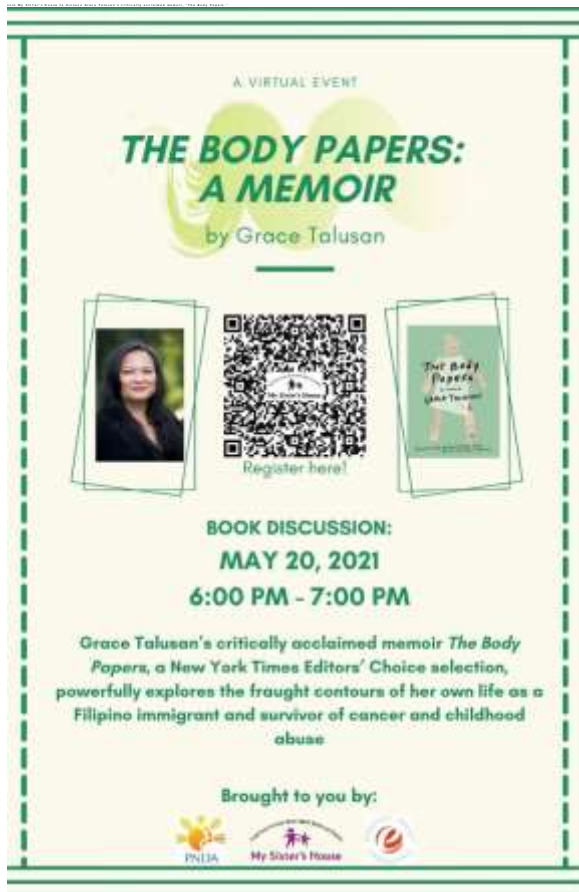
A committee was formed to check out possible locations, with the idea that we keep the cost of the lunches to \$20 or under. Therefore, it was decided to include meeting halls in the search with the idea of utilizing a catering service to provide the food, and the operating fund helping to pick up the cost of the meeting room.

The committee has researched library community rooms (there is a restriction on how many times the same group can use a room within a six-month period), Church social halls, The Sierra 2 center, and some park Districts. Our requirements are pretty straight forward: large enough to accommodate 25 to 35 people (sometimes more), preferably with round tables, close to central city, good parking with adequate handicapped parking and level access into the building, kitchen facilities, A.V. capabilities with access to projection screen etc.; reasonable price; and, accessible rest rooms.

So far, the best thing we have found is the Community room at Swanston Park at 2350 Northrop Ave. (Just off Howe Ave. close to Bell street). It seems to fit all our requirements, except at this point we don't know the exact price (but the range seems doable). The management is waiting for further state guidelines before we can enter into any agreement, so things are still undecided. (We have been penciled in, however, so no other outside group could get our dates and times). After we have zeroed in on a meeting place, we will research available caterers.

Therefore, we are still interested in suggestions that any of you members have if you know of places we should check out. The members of the committee are; Jennifer Willis, Phyllis Moist, Cathy Diepenbrock, Karen Smith, Alice Jarboe, and Nancy Wolford-Landers. Please contact any member of the committee if you have a suggestion.

We are really looking forward to being able to meet again **in person** but will be happy to provide **Zoom** capabilities for any member preferring that option.



About this event

About My Sister's House: Sacramento-based nonprofit that is dedicated to eliminating domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in our community. We do this by serving Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, by providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven, job training, and community services.

About *The Body Papers* and Grace Talusan: Grace Talusan's critically acclaimed memoir *The Body Papers*, a New York Times Editors' Choice selection, powerfully explores the fraught contours of her own life as a Filipino immigrant and survivor of cancer and childhood abuse. "Grace Talusan writes eloquently about the most unsayable things: the deep gravitational pull of family, the

complexity of navigating identity as an immigrant, and the ways we move forward even as we carry our traumas with us. Equal parts compassion and confession, *The Body Papers* is a stunning work by a powerful new writer who—like the best memoirists—transcends the personal to speak on a universal level." —Celeste Ng, author of *Everything I Never Told You* and *Little Fires Everywhere* "[A] precise, delicately constructed memoir-in-essays.... *The Body Papers* doesn't track a one-way march to triumph from adversity; Talusan's essays loop in on themselves, as she retrieves old memories and finds unexpected points of connection.... Talusan describes such experiences with unadorned prose that conveys a startling specificity.... Such commentary, while righteous and earned, is not the point of this indelible book. Talusan has the instincts of a storyteller, teasing out her narrative through images and allusion." —Jennifer Szalai, *The New York Times*

Born in the Philippines, young Grace Talusan moves with her family to a New England suburb in the 1970s. At school, she confronts racism as one of the few kids with a brown face. At home, the confusion is worse: her grandfather's nightly visits to her room leave her hurt and terrified, and she learns to build a protective wall of silence that maps onto the larger silence practiced by her Catholic Filipino family. Talusan learns as a teenager that her family's legal status in the country has always hung by a thread—for a time, they were "illegal." Family, she's told, must be put first. The abuse and trauma Talusan suffers as a child affects all her relationships, her mental health, and her relationship with her own body. Later, she learns that her family history is threaded with violence and abuse. And she discovers another devastating family thread: cancer. In her thirties, Talusan must decide whether to undergo preventive surgeries to remove her breasts and ovaries. Despite all this, she finds love, and success as a teacher. On a fellowship, Talusan and her husband return to the Philippines, where she

revisits her family's ancestral home and tries to reclaim a lost piece of herself. Not every family legacy is destructive. From her parents, Talusan has learned to tell stories in order to continue. The generosity of spirit and literary acuity of this debut memoir are a testament to her determination and resilience. In excavating such abuse and trauma, and supplementing her story with government documents, medical records, and family photos, Talusan gives voice to unspeakable experience, and shines a light of hope into the darkness.



Monet Cook – Howard University (Pre-Med)

Scholarship Winners Submitted by Karen Smith

Soroptimist International of Sacramento annually awards scholarships to women currently attending college or university in order to further their education. On April 16, 2021, six deserving women were presented scholarship awards totaling \$28,000. These awards are generously funded by the Thora and Eugene Chin Scholarship, Claire O'Brien Scholarship and Millie Stone Scholarship. Education is the pathway to economically empowering women and girls, and these scholarships will make that path a bit easier.



Phuong Ly – Sacramento State University (Accounting)



Lillian Jundi - California Northstate University (Medical School)



Cheyenne Martin - McGeorge School of Law





Brynn Willis - Samuel Merritt University (Nursing)



Sophia Pienta - UC Davis (Managerial Economics)

RWANDA SCHOOL PROJECT
PRESENTS


**FIFTEEN
YEARS OF
LEADERSHIP
IN EAST AFRICA**


Thursday, May 20th
5:30-6:30 PDT • Online

Please join us on Zoom for a special celebration of our milestones, our community, and our future.


PANELISTS:





Moses Ssenyonjo
RWANDA DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF SCHOOL





Karl Smith
NORTH AMERICAN BOARD PRESIDENT




Robin Strickler
FOUNDER

REGISTER NOW
AT WWW.RWANDASCHOOLPROJECT.COM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Please feel free to share this invitation with your community. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom.
MURAKOZE CYANE!



Supporting other Clubs Karen Smith

We received a letter and flyer for a fundraiser for SI Grass Valley. If you want to order bulbs, annuals and other items, check out this link:

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/sigv>

You can make your garden pretty while helping out another SI club.

We supported them a number of years back, and I'm thinking Robin Strickler was a speaker at one time. Time flies. 15 years and still going strong! Janet

Officers 2020-2021

President – Jennifer Willis
1st VP (co-VP) – Phyllis McMaster Moist and
Cathy Diepenbrock
2nd VP – Karen Smith
Treasurer – Kathy Platz
Asst Treasurer – Alice Jarboe
Secretary – Mary Anne Selvage

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Mary Locke
Paula Wright

Parliamentarian - Regena Boyland

Board Action Items

Consent Agenda Vote

- **Approve Minutes**
 - o April 1, 2021 Business Meeting <https://rb.gy/7en1uy>
 - o April 16, 2020 <https://rb.gy/bihddy>
- **Approve Treasurer's Reports**
 - o Service vs. Actual <https://rb.gy/xxzpwb>
 - o Operating <https://rb.gy/2glzhp>
 - o Comparison <https://rb.gy/lpscyl>

New Business

- **Nominations Committee – Present Slate of Officers**
- **Membership Dues**
Statements: **Pay by JUNE 1, 2021**
- **Upcoming SIS Schedule Review** <https://rb.gy/9rrgwt>
- **Future In-Person Meeting Options**
- **Budget Process Development**

SOROPTIMIST OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS (SOS) and Donations

SOS Listing:

- Carol Adams
- Regena Boyland
- Patricia Canterbury
- Idelle Claypool
- Barbara Coulam
- Cindy Cox
- Sally Day
- Cathy Diepenbrock
- Eva Garcia
- Phyllis Hayashi
- Wendy Haydon
- Alice Jarboe
- Karen Kouretas
- Mary Locke
- Glorian Martinelli
- Phyllis Moist
- Barbara Smith Nash
- Elaine Pesce
- Mary Anne Selvage
- Karen Smith
- Minisha Trivedi
- Jennifer Willis
- Nancy Wolford Landers
- **Sarah Lee**

In Memory of Listing

- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Karen Kouretas' mother
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Corinne Joe's husband
- Barbara Coulam, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Pat Canterbury, In Memory of Regina Boyland's husband
- Phyllis McMaster, In Memory of Regina Boyland's husband
- Phyllis McMaster, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Nancy Wolford Lander, In Memory of Russ Albright
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Regena Boyland's husband

\$1518.245 from Sees's - proceeds from the on-line candy sale

United Way - \$20.76

SAVA – Women’s Leadership

Feminine Hygiene Outreach Project - \$2,056

May Soroptimists



Rose Coleman

May 5

Maria Trejo

May 12

Dawn Cornelius

May 19

Calendar

Link to Calendar <https://rb.gy/9rrgwt>

Dues Statement

Link to Dues Statement

<https://rb.gy/dbfves>

Agenda

Link to Agenda May 7, 2021

<https://rb.gy/kvsjan>