



February 25, 2010

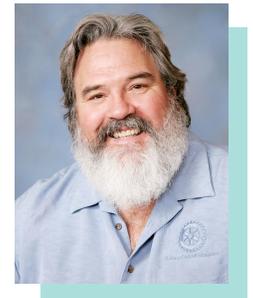
This Week
Club-Level
Competition —
The Dan Stover
Memorial Music
Scholarship
Guest Host:
Theo Clarke

Musically talented high school students each year participate in a Rotary District 5300 program entitled the *Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship*, and winners qualify for educational awards that enable them to further their studies at an accredited college, university, or music conservatory upon high school graduation. This week we will host high school seniors who will be competing at the club level. The winner of each club goes on to compete at the Regional level for a chance to win \$5,000 at the finals at District Conference.

Dan Stover was an accomplished musician, both as vocalist and instrumentalist. He was also an educator. He combined these two talents and, thereby, inspired literally thousands of young students, providing them with a positive role model for structuring their studies and their lives. In 1988 — one year after Dan passed away — the Alhambra Club, of which he had

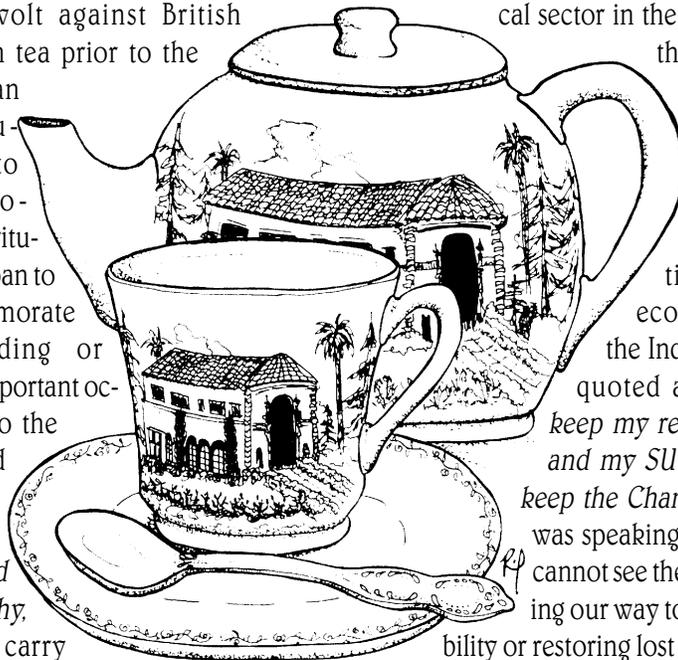
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THE
Construction
 by John Frykenberg **CREW**
 for President David Smith



Tea Party Anyone?

Strange how Tea Parties figure so profoundly in world affairs. From a revolt against British taxes on tea prior to the American Revolution to ceremonial tea rituals in Japan to commemorate a wedding or other important occasion to the storied proverbial *Tea and Sympathy*, they all carry significance beyond anything we might expect.



are being taken more seriously. Embracing the largest growing political sector in the country today, the Independents seem less ideological than just disenchanted with spending solutions to fix the economy. One of the Independents was quoted as saying, "I'll keep my religion, my gun and my SUV and you can keep the Change." I think he was speaking for many who cannot see the logic in spending our way to economic stability or restoring lost jobs. "So how is that hopey / changey thing

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The most recent Tea Party movement in America — with its country signing, middle class placard-carrying senior citizens and *Don't tread on me* flags — was lightly dismissed last summer. However, with the recent election of Scott Brown to the US Senate by Independents and Tea Party sympathizers, the movement is beginning to get people's attention, and they

Creeters

- February 25
Brian Hayes
- March 04
Tony Hill
- March 11
Boyd Hudson



Program Review

Speak Up for What Matters

Each week, Rotarians recite by rote the Four-Way Test. Sometimes it takes a new perspective to remind us of the meaning behind this simple advice. The Four-Way Test speech contest is our annual opportunity to be reminded of the importance of ethical practices as we hear the *Four Tests* interpreted by our community's youth.

The theme of this year's contest is *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*, which is Rotary International's annual theme for this year. Contestants were required to base their presentation on this topic, us-

ing the Four-Way Test as a framework for analysis.

The first speaker was Lauren Rogers, a senior at Blair High School. Rogers reflected on the inspiring history of Rotary. She suggested that it was time for the next generation of leaders to *apprentice* with current Rotarians and community leaders to carry on the programs and traditions. "The tiniest act ripples throughout history," Lauren concluded.



Ceirra Burton, another senior at Blair High School, shared her thoughts on *the precious gift of education*. She objected to the practice of *tracking* in which students are segregated based on what administrators believe to be their educational potential. According to Burton, students placed in remedial classes are predominantly persons of



color. Once in these classes, they begin to doubt their potential for success, and many live down to expectations. This, Burton insisted, is not "air to all concerned." She suggested that programs be put into place that help students from poor and troubled families to maximize their potential.

The third speaker was Amber Garcia, a sophomore at LaSalle High School. Garcia shared her dream of a *perfect world* in



which there was no poverty or war. She explained that small acts of generosity and kindness add up to something greater. As an example, she described how polio was — only a few decades ago — a devastating scourge and now, thanks to the contributions of countless Rotarians,

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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Photography Jacque Foreman

Febuary Programs

Program Chair, John Frykenberg
Feb 25 - Club Level Dan Stover Contest -
Theo Clarke, Guest Host

March Programs

Program Chair, Paul Sirois
Mar 04 - John Frykenberg -- his trip to Ni-
geria as part of a medical mission
Mar 11 - Al Barry
Mar 18 - Regina Bette - RYLA
Mar 25 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays

- 02/02 - Julie Gustafson
- 02/07 - Freddy Figueroa
- 02/07 - Marcia Guth
- 02/08 - Mike Zoeller
- 02/10 - Julius Johnson
- 02/14 - Ruth Reeder
- 02/25 - Brian Hayes
- 02/28 - Wendy Davis (Noll)



Anniversaries

- 02/03 - Sue & Don Applegate
- 02/03 - Mike & Cynthis Amerio
- 02/17 - Ed & Mona Jasnow

Chairmen's A Noble Effort Corner

by Tom McCurry, Chair, Public Awareness



As we near the end of Kapasa Mudenda's journey to graduate from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, it seems appropriate to thank some members who have been very instrumental in this achievement.

This journey began with Ray Carlson's outrageous idea to partner with the US State Department to teach entrepreneurship and moral values to about 200 students in Zambia. A State Department grant of \$140,000 was at stake in this venture. Carlson's relationship with several government and NGO officials paved the way for obtaining the approval of the State Department and the grant. Your board of directors agonized over this proposal for a while, realizing that we are a small club and our people resources would be stretched.

Mike Noll stepped in and provided much-needed financial guidance and gave assurances that our club could accomplish this project. Noll also traveled to Zambia and taught a financial class for

the group. Obviously, there were many other major contributors to a program of this size. When the business plans were evaluated and eight winners came to the United States to visit, Noll was involved in the planning of the site visits. He was with Kapasa (and Rachael) when they visited the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) and were offered scholarships on the spot! The process of moving Kapasa from her family and friends in Zambia was significantly eased when Mike and his wife Wendy volunteered to house Kapasa in their guest house in Sierra Madre.

Thus began a 3-year journey that will culminate on March 12 at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica. At this time, Mudenda, along with her classmates who were also chosen to hone their talents for an extra (third) year at FIDM, will debut their lines of clothing (10 outfits). This is a major event each year, and the graduating students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents before major designers and clothing manufacturers.

Mudenda has shown incredible talent, hard work, and dedication, and we are



very proud of her. But, we are also very proud of Mike and Wendy Noll, whose dedication and perseverance have played a huge role in this major achievement for Mudenda. Mike, we salute you and Wendy!

Program

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has been eliminated as a health concern in all but a few impoverished countries. She explained that the act of *helping* benefits the *helper* as it does the person being *helped*.

While the Club considered all three young women *winners*, one had to be chosen to move forward in the competition. The esteemed judges selected Lauren Rogers to represent the Club at the Group level competition which will be held on March 10 at Pasadena Rotary. The Group winner will go on to the District competition.

While Club members were inspired and informed by the young speakers, we can take counsel from Leonardo di Vinci who was quoted by Garcia: "Knowing is not enough...we must *do*."

This Week

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been a member for many years, established a Music Scholarship Program and Competition in Dan's name. Because of the astounding success of this program in its first year it *graduated* to become an annual District 5300 level program.

Crew

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going anyway?" queried Sarah Palin at the recent Tea Party convention. The retort / response came from the New York Times that did its very best to discredit the Tea Party goers as crazies, dangerous right wingers with tendencies toward violence, bigotry and intolerance. Yet, there was no evidence over the summer or since of any violence expect from union thugs in Chicago and Philadelphia who are decidedly not Tea Party sympa-

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Homemade Garlic & Basil Pesto

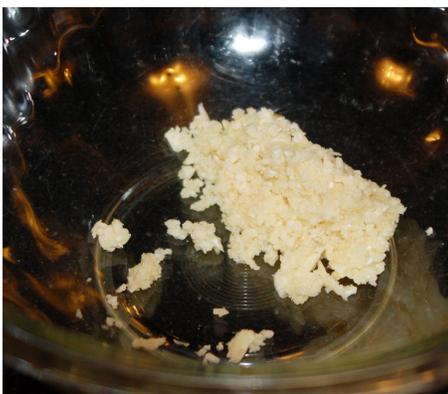


On the way home from work, Nick and I were wondering what to make for dinner. It had been a long time since we had pesto (the real stuff, with garlic and fresh basil), so we both agreed that a stop at the grocery store was in order. If your local grocer doesn't have fresh basil, then it's time to either grow your own or get a new grocer. We have our own basil garden, and the grocer down the street sells tubs of fresh large leaf basil. We grabbed one and then headed to the local wine merchant (which just happens to be across the street from the grocer).

We like Mission Wines & Spirits. There, we picked up a bottle of the 2004 Tenuta Vitanza Quadrimento Toscana, a red Italian blend that we've never tried, but the proprietor promised us it would be a classic match to rustic pesto. Thirty dollars later, we were heading home.

Let's talk fresh garlic and basil pesto.

First, plug in that food processor. Then, mince about 10 cloves of garlic:



Then chop ¼ cup pine nuts, which will yield about one half cup:

Then chop 1 cup packed fresh basil leaves, which will yield about ¼ cup:



Then chop 1 cup packed fresh Italian (flat leaf) parsley, which will yield about ¼ cup:



Add 1 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper and ½ cup of good quality olive oil:



Don't add any salt yet. Instead, add ½ cup grated Parmesan:



Note: It's green in this photo, because Nick and I used the food processor to grate the cheese. After we used the processor to chop the parsley, we tossed a few chunks of Parmesan into it and hit *pulse* a few times.

Stir to blend well:



You might even add a bit of red pepper flakes at this point. Nick and I like to heat up the mixture:



But you could certainly use the mixture without cooking it. We like our garlic cooked just a tad. But don't cook the mixture too much, because it has cheese in it — too much heat, and the cheese clumps up.

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MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update

Last Week in the News

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent in January, following a revised 0.1 percent decrease in December. Economists had anticipated retail sales to rise 0.3 percent in January. On a year-over-year basis, retail sales increased 4.7 percent.

Total business inventories unexpectedly fell 0.2 percent in December due to stronger than anticipated sales. Inventories had risen 0.4 percent in both November and October. The inventory-to-sales ratio fell to 1.26 in December. That's below the pre-recession average of 1.28.

The trade deficit grew 10.4 percent to \$40.18 billion in December from a \$36.4 billion gap in November. Economists had expected the trade deficit to widen to \$36 billion. Exports increased 3.3 percent to \$142.70 billion, the eighth consecutive monthly gain. Imports rose 4.8 percent to \$182.88 billion.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 43,000 to 440,000 in the week ending February 6. Continuing claims for the week ending January 30 fell by 79,000 to 4.538 million.

The Commerce Department said wholesalers cut their inventories by 0.8

percent in December following a 1.6 percent rise in November. Meanwhile, sales at the wholesale level rose 0.8 percent in December, marking the ninth straight monthly gain.

The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for February's preliminary reading fell to 73.7 from January's final reading of 74.4. Economists had forecast a February reading of 75. One year ago, January's final reading was 56.3. During the economic expansion that ended in December 2007, the index averaged 88.9.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing market index on February 16, housing starts and industrial production on February 17, and the index of leading economic indicators on February 18.

Homeline

Home Improvement Tax Benefits for 2010

For our clients, going green pays and saves. According to a study by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, for every dollar decrease in annual home energy expenditures, house values increase between \$11.63 and \$20.73.

Also, going green can lower the tax bill. New federal tax credits are now available for green home improvements on a principal residence. Qualifying modifications must meet a certain energy efficiency level to be eligible for the credit.

The credits are available for improvements purchased and in service from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010. The amount of the credit is deducted from any income taxes the homeowner may owe. The credit is nonrefundable, allowing taxpayers to lower their tax liability to zero, but not below zero.

Tax credits are available at 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1,500, in 2009 through December 31, 2010 (for existing homes only) for:

- Windows and Doors
- Insulation
- Roofs (Metal and Asphalt)
- Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Water Heaters (non-solar)
- Biomass Stoves

Tax credits are available at 30 percent of the cost, with no upper limit through December 31, 2016 (for existing homes and new construction) for:

- Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Solar Panels
- Solar Water Heaters
- Small Wind Energy Systems
- Fuel Cells

Make sure to purchase products that come with a Manufacturer Certification Statement — a statement from the manufacturer that indicates the product qualifies for the tax credit. For record keeping, experts advise that homeowners retain all receipts.

Additional details can be found at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits and www.homedepot.com/taxcredit

Wine

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Now make some pasta. When it's done, toss with the mixture:

Then plate up:

The Tenuta Vitanza was amazing. We had not even heard of this wine. It's clearly one of the Super Tuscans for a reason. It's about 60 percent Sangiovese with 40 percent Merlot. It's not hot at all, only 13 percent alcohol. When we opened up, out

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Wine

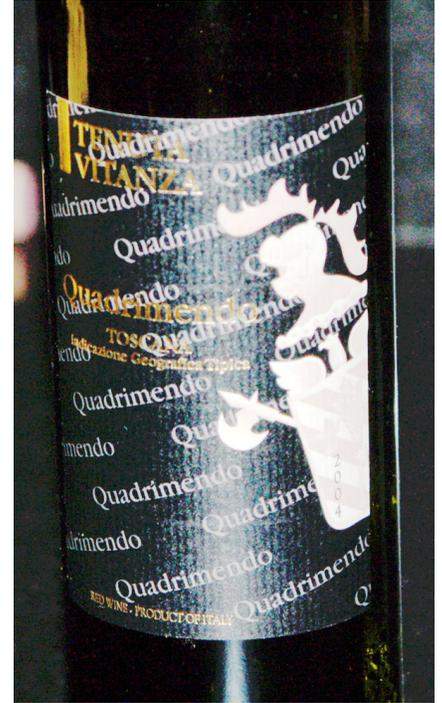
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from the bottle leaped a giant bushel of raspberries and a tub of chocolate. We poured it, swirled. Wow . . . deep, lush, violet showed dark fruit. The palate was the same, but the chocolate was dark and rich, mingled with dark coffee, lingering for what seemed like hours.

The bottle disappeared. So did the pasta.

Our next mission — score a few more bottles of this great Tuscan!



Until next time ...

Who do You know Who ...?

Who do you know who would enjoy seeing and hearing a tremendous program this coming Thursday? Or you could re-invite a guest you have brought before — perhaps someone who is interested in meeting exceptional highschool

students with musical talent.

Maybe you know a person who is interested in providing a music scholarship to a promising, young artist. Bring a friend or acquaintance to meet us. We promise to make your guest feel welcome. ○

Crew

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thizers. Interestingly, the *New York Times*' falling subscription rate somehow begs credibility from the great publisher who once published 'Only the news that's fit to print.' Now clearly partisan, the paper harbors an agenda which is clearly progressive and less sympathetic to substantive reform than to ideology. In contrast to the Times, Glen Beck, now polled as the second most popular TV personality in America after Oprah Winfrey, has an internet newsletter with a larger subscription than the *Times*.

The world is clearly changing, and the status quo is being challenged. The people — the folk — are rediscovering their democratic and republican roots. Thomas Paine, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are back in vogue.

Paine in his treatise on *Common Sense* — which fueled the American Revolution — admonished the people on the dangers of government while recognizing the necessity for defense. I'm confident that he

would have preferred the comfort of community self-government to that of any allegiance to a powerful central government and evidence seems to suggest after 200 years that he got that right.

American core values; self-reliance, simplicity, generosity, hard work, compassion, trust and sense of fair play have been sacrificed in recent years for entitlements, public pensions at great public expense, promises that can't be kept, foolish expenditures fueled by special interests and waste, fraud and abuse by both public officials and captains of industry and finance.

Much of the insolvency, the demise of the dollar, the national debt financed and owned by the Fed and the Chinese, the guarantees of the good life regardless of the price, the selfishness of passing on unbelievable obligations to our children and grand children distance the current generation from the *Great Generation* by light-years. And that is very unfortunate!

Tea Partiers see it. They can see it all going down the drain. Like Rome, like the great civilizations before that have succumbed to their own vices (*greed, corruption, insanity*), America is on the brink. Time to stop, have a cup of tea and reconsider. The costs for all the goodies (Social Security, Medicare, huge public salaries and pensions) are simply more than we can pay. And raising taxes is not going to solve anything. Government and government programs are just too big, too expensive, not effective enough to deal with the problems at hand.

We don't need to fund Acorn, the SEIU, One Payer National Health Care or any other major government programs that have proven too expensive or worthless. We can't afford any of them, and it is time to just stop. The Tea Party goers seem to intuitively see and understand that it is time to stop. I give them credit for their tenacity and willingness to change the ground rules. ○

Make the Pig *fly*

