

THE
Construction
 by Ed Jasnow **CREW**
 for President David Smith



**Greetings from the Other Side of
 the Political Spectrum**

This Week
Mission Nigeria
John Frykenberg,
Past President,
Altadena Rotary
Program Host:
Paul Sirois

John Frykenberg will tell us about his two-week trip to Nigeria. Frykenberg, along with 16 other individuals, including three Rotarians and medical personnel, delivered 49 trunks of donated medications to Southeast Nigeria. The medical team served over 4,000 patients during their visit.

Also, his team, along with local assistance, conducted a three-day seminar — for approximately 1,000 university students — that emphasized the building of entrepreneurial skills and developing business plans.

So mark your calendars and we'll see you on Thursday! 

Comedian Lewis Black has a great line in his monologue. "America has a two-party system: The Democrats — the party of no ideas; and the Republicans — the party of bad ideas." While this gets a great laugh from his audience, I find it too close to the truth to be funny. America is now going through one of the most politically confrontational periods in its history.

The Republicans in Congress have openly vowed to fight every aspect of the Obama agenda, and conservative Rush Limbaugh has said that he hopes the President fails. What kind of statesmanship is that? What happened to compromise and consensus? What happened to considering the good of the country as a whole over partisan politics? How did we come to this state of petty politics that has essentially excluded the interests of the American people?

One of the issues that seems to divide everyone is the proper size of our Government. How big is too big? How small is too small? We're like Goldilocks in the house of the Three Bears, looking for just the right size. Well, let's look at the recent past. Apparently, over the past eight years

of the Bush administration, the Government was too small, because it didn't do anything to prevent the financial geniuses of Wall Street from trashing our banking system and our economy. So, who's going to get us out of this mess? Enron? General Motors? the Crazies from the Tea Party? Sarah Palin? Those financial companies that we had to bail out so they could continue to give out million-dollar bonuses to the idiots who originally got us into this mess?

No, my friends, only the Government is strong enough to get us back to anything resembling a healthy economy. And, I hate to say it, but the Government is going to have to spend its way out of this mess. It's going to have to

- Create jobs by rebuilding America's
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Greeters

March 04

Tony Hill

March 11

Boyd Hudson

March 18

Ed Jasnow



Program Review

Music, Sweet Music

That line from the Martha and the Vandellas song, *Dancing in the Streets*, was certainly true last week at the Rotary Club of Altadena. That's because our club was conducting its Dan Stover competition for a musician who will represent our club in the Regional competition and, if successful there, go on to perform at the District 5300 Conference, where that musician can win a \$5,000 scholarship to the college of his/her choice, to major in musical studies.

Many of our members are aware that Dan Stover was a member of the Rotary

Club of Alhambra, where he played the piano at their meetings. His connection to our club is that he often played at our Christmas parties. When he passed away, the Alhambra club set up a music competition in his name with a scholarship prize. The competition proved so popular that it was moved from the club level to the District level, where it remains one of the most popular events at the conference.



The first to perform was Quran Shaheed. She performed *Excursion #1* by Samuel Barber. The second contestant was Priscella Chan, who



performed a work by Claude Debussy. Both were outstanding, and their performances

were warmly received by the club members.

The three judges for the competition were musicians who have judged our previous competitions. They were Marya Basaraba, Kathleen Noel Dyer, and Clyde Mitchell. Basaraba, a soprano from Canada, has lived in Pasadena for nearly 15 years. Among her many other credentials, she is the resident chorus maestra of the California Philharmonic, which performs at the Los Angeles Arboretum and Disney Hall. Dyer is a 1998 National Flute Piccolo Master Class Performer, and a 1993 Third-Prize winner of the National Piccolo Artist Competition. Mitchell is a French Horn player, as well as a guest conductor for orchestras in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and many more in the United States, Asia, South America, and Europe. He just returned from Vancouver, where he participated in the music for the Opening Ceremonies for the Winter Olympics.

While the judges retired to do their scor-

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Sparks is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

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March Programs

Program Chair, Paul Sirois

Mar 04 - John Frykenberg -- his trip to Nigeria as part of a medical mission
Mar 11 - Al Barry
Mar 18 - Regina Bette - RYLA
Mar 25 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



03/13 - Regina Bette
03/14 - Emily Aiken (Wilkes)
3/15 - David Smith
3/15 Trish Robinson
3/24 - Ed Soza
3/26 - Ed Guth
3/31 - Anne Eskijian



Anniversaries



03/01 - Etta & Tom McCurry
Noriko Suzuki & Dennis Mehringer

Chairmen's Corner Theme

by Hal Yorke, International Chair



Staying at a hotel in Nagoya, Japan, I found a set of guest rules that may be considered a variation of the Rotary 4-Way

Test of the things we think, say, and do. At least those rules, which are not hotel-specific, should govern the way we treat others. (These are all direct quotes — not misprints — honestly) ...

- You may not give hatred or make any

Program

Continued from p.2

ing, we were treated to another performer. The rules of the Dan Stover Competition stipulate that one can only participate with instruments, meaning no vocalists can compete. That didn't mean that we couldn't listen to one outside the competition. Enter J.T. Parker, who knew he couldn't compete, but wanted to perform anyway. He sang "This is the Moment," from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*, and he did it beautifully.



Also, while the judges were out, we learned a little more about our competitors. Shaheed is 17 years old and a senior at John F. Kennedy High School. She is involved in so many activities, it's amazing that she can still study piano. She hopes to enter Claflin University in South Carolina as a music major in piano.

Chan is 18 years old and a senior at

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trouble for others by talking in a loud voice, singing loudly or making a fuss, etc.

- You may not bring any item into this hotel which may cause a nuisance to others. Dogs, cats, birds and other animals are not allowed on the premises. Inflammable devices and any illegal possessions are also expressly forbidden.
- Any gambling is forbidden. Any speech or behavior likely to cause a breach of the peace or cause a nuisance to others is also forbidden.
- You may not left a visitor enter into your room or use any facilities or fittings in your room.

Crew

Continued from p. 1

infrastructure

- Take care of those people who can't afford healthcare
- Provide funding for people who want to start their own small business

It took years to get into this mess. It will take years, and hard decisions, to get out of it.

The really aggravating fact is that the Republicans — who philosophically disagree with this — are only devoting their efforts to putting it down as *Big Government*. Their methodology is pure negativity. They offer no viable positive proposals. Their only goal seems to be to throw enough mud on everything in the hope that they'll win the next election.

Whatever happened to the two-party system where the party out of power was known as *the loyal opposition*? The "oyal" in that phrase meant that, while it disagreed with the party in power, it still held the interests of the country as paramount over party politics. That does not seem to be the case today. Somehow our divisions

- You may not take any fittings in your room out of the hotel or move to other place in the hotel.
- You may not smoke in bed or in any other place where there is danger of fire.
- You may not remove any facilities or fittings in any room except for the purpose for which they are intended.
- You may not hang any clothes out of a window which might harm the appearance of the building.
- You may not fit an alien thing to a building or facilities or change the present condition in the hotel.
- You may not throw the things out of the window.

— liberal/conservative, Democrat/Republican, blue state/red state — have managed to supersede our concern for our country as a whole. We need to get back to honest discussions about our differences and find ways to resolve them to help ALL Americans. Otherwise, our country will not be able to move forward, and those countries that are emerging — China and India — and those countries that are already at least equal to us technologically — Germany, France, England — will pass us by while we wrangle about who's right and who's wrong. It's time to remember that we all wear the same team jersey — it's red, white, and blue, and has "USA" written across the front.

This is the first of four articles that I have committed to write for President Dave this month. It will, however, be the last one I write on politics. I'll come up with much more pleasant subjects for the next three. I just wanted to express the opinions of one from the other side.

The Nose Wine Bar (Pasadena, CA)

As we scurried out of a disappointing experience at Red, White & Bluezz (in Old Town, Pasadena), we needed to find a place to satisfy our food and wine craving. So we headed down Green Street a few blocks to the wine bar known as *The Nose*. It's hidden from the street. No kidding — if you drive up and down Green Street, you will not once see this place. And that's sad, because it's a neat wine bar. It's tucked away in what's called *Arcade Lane* with an official address that is Colorado Boulevard (which is the next street North of Green Street), as opposed to Green Street. At any rate, we parked on Green Street and walked into the *alley* to find the bar. It was a chilly night, and we were hungry and wanted some decent grub and a glass or two of wine.

We entered the place, and while it was a bit empty when we arrived, it didn't take long for the place to start hopping. To be sure, we'd been here in the past, so we knew what to expect. Stef (the owner, an Asian version of the Energizer Bunny) was playing host, barkeep and chef tonight. He recognized us from past visits and, as usual, greeted us warmly.

We ordered their *famous* grilled Gruyere on sourdough. OK, so it's not famous, but it might as well be, because it's served with this amazing beet *ketchup*.

Even beet haters will like this one.



We also ordered the Iberico ham sandwich. It usually comes with blue cheese, but we asked Stef if he had any Manchego. (After all, what is the perfect pair to Iberico ham? Manchego, of course.) Stef assured us he had it behind the counter. And of course, he delivered.

For wines, Stef selected the 2006 *Thumbprint Cellars* (Anderson Valley / Mendocino) *Pinot Noir* for me, and the 2007 *Don Pascual Petite Verdot* (from Uruguay) for Nick. He gave us a taste of the 2007 *Chateau Penin*, a Bordeaux.

We dismissed the *Chateau Penin* almost immediately. It was abrasive and full of pepper — a nasty match to the sandwiches that we ordered. (To be clear — Stef didn't want this to pair with the food, as much as he wanted us to try a Bordeaux that retails for under one hundred bucks.)

The *Thumbprint* was a decent pair to the Gruyere, but it seemed to lack the depth that Nick and I generally insist upon with a Pinot. It was fruity, for sure. And there was spice and pepper, but the palate was weak, like it petered out in two seconds. The finish? It wasn't there.

The *Don Pascual* was rich and in your face. It certainly benefitted from ten minutes in the glass. "This needs to open up," assured Stef. Indeed. This is not necessarily a big wine, as much as it's a wine that doesn't want to come out and play. It took perhaps fifteen,

maybe twenty minutes for the wine to play. Gobs of oak, pepper, licorice and barnyard mixed with pepper and cherry. It was wonderful with the ham, though it overpowered the Gruyere sandwich.

We like *The Nose*. It's a cute place, tucked (*really, tucked!*) into this alley be-



tween Colorado and Green, open only for afternoons, dinners, and late snacks, offering only light fare. However, it has a great wine list, and it offers a really infectious, excited, exuberant owner ("Stef") who is there every minute and wants to share wine with his guests. Nick and I like that. He's like us — passionate about wine. Nothing wrong with that, yes?

Our one and only criticism of *The Nose* is that the prices are a tad high. The Gruyere sandwich is ten dollars, and the Iberico Sandwich is fourteen dollars. Couple those with our glasses of wine, and you've got a tab over fifty dollars.

Still, we'd go back just to chat with Stef and eat that Gruyere sandwich and beet ketchup. Damn, that "ketchup" is addictive.

The Nose Wine Bar is located at 696 East Colorado Blvd., *Arcade Lane*, Number 6, Pasadena, CA. 626-216-4833.

Until next time ...

We invite you to go to p. 6 for some words about the spelling of *Ketchup* in this article.



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

— *Economic Update* — *Last Week in the News*

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing market index rose two points in February to 17. It was the first gain in five months. Economists had anticipated a dip to 14. An index reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market.

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in January rose 2.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 591,000 units. However, applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, fell 4.9 percent to 621,000 units.

Industrial production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities increased 0.9 percent in January, following an upwardly revised 0.7 percent gain in December. It was the seventh consecutive monthly increase. The overall factory-operating rate rose to 72.6 percent of capacity in January from 71.9 percent in December.

The producer price index — which tracks wholesale price inflation — rose 1.4 percent in January, following an upwardly revised 0.4 percent increase in December. Economists had expected a gain of 0.8 percent. The gains were largely due to higher energy costs.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits rose by 31,000 to 473,000 in the week ending February 13. Continuing claims for the week ending February 6 held steady at 4.538 million. Experts believe snowstorms in early February may have cost the economy as many as 100,000 jobs.

The index of leading economic indicators — designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months — rose a smaller-than-expected 0.3 percent in January after a revised 1.2 percent gain in December. It was the 10th straight

monthly increase and the longest series of gains since 2004.

Consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in January. Excluding energy and food, the so-called core index unexpectedly slipped 0.1 percent, the first monthly decline since December 1982.

The Federal Reserve Board raised the discount rate charged to banks by a quarter-point to 0.75 percent.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing price index on February 23, new home sales on February 24, and existing home sales on February 26.

— *Knowledge Builder* — *Interpreting Housing Economic Indicators*

Analysts, policy makers and investors closely follow economic indicators that track the condition of the housing market. Here's some background information on these important indicators.

Housing Starts - Housing starts is considered the most important report on the housing sector due to its large ripple effect in the economy when buyers purchase appliances and household furnishings. Construction of single-family homes accounts for about 85 percent of the industry. Work on multi-family units makes up the rest of the market and is considered highly volatile.

Home Sales - New homes sales account for less than 10 percent of the market. They are tabulated when the contract is signed. This is different from the way that existing home sales are tallied. They're counted when the transaction closes and thus reflect contracts signed a month or two earlier. Existing home sales account for more than 80 percent of the market.

Another important home sales figure is the pending home sales index. This is a

leading indicator of existing home sales, not new home sales. A pending sale is one in which a contract was signed, but not yet closed. Because it usually takes four to six weeks to close a contracted sale, it's considered a leading indicator.

Housing Price Indices - There are two housing price indices: the S&P/Case-Shiller home-price index and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) index. The FHFA index is a national measure that tracks houses bought with mortgages purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and excludes many of the foreclosure sales and properties bought with non-conventional mortgages. Homes with these loans did not experience the sharp rise and subsequent decline in prices throughout the last decade and represent a more stable pricing index.

In contrast, the S&P/Case-Shiller report is focused on large metropolitan areas and includes distressed properties and those bought with non-conventional loans such as jumbo mortgages. These home prices tend to be much more volatile.

Program

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Poly High School in Pasadena. She is also very active in her school, and plays the flute as well as the piano. She has been accepted at Stanford, and has also applied to Harvard, Princeton, and Rice Universities.

Our guest performer, J.T. Parker, is a senior at Rio Hondo Prep in Arcadia, and hopes to attend USC.

Then, the judges returned. Basaraba, speaking for the judges, noted that both contestants were extremely talented. She mentioned how difficult the piano is as an

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Program

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instrument, and how additionally difficult it is to play on a strange instrument, especially one as old as that at the Town & Country Club. That being said, she announced that the judges has selected Priscella Chan as the winner, and Quran Shaheed as the runner up. Priscella will go on to the Regional competition next month, and, if she wins there, as we all hope she will, she will go on to perform at the District Conference.

It is definitely gratifying to see so much talent in our young people, and their performances were a tribute to a great Rotarian, Dan Stover. *Ed Jasnow* 🍷



Judges: (l to r) Kathleen Noel Dyer, Marya Basaraba and Clyde Mitchell

From World Wide Words

Where Michael Quinion writes on international English from a British Viewpoint

[Q] From Suzanne: Why is ketchup also called catsup?

[A] Ketchup was one of the earliest names given to this condiment, so spelled in Charles Lockyer's book of 1711, *An Account of the Trade in India*: "Soy comes in Tubbs from Jappan, and the best Ketchup from Tonquin; yet good of both sorts are made and sold very cheap in China". Nobody seems quite sure where it comes from, and I won't bore you with a long disquisition concerning the scholarly debate on the matter, which is reflected in the varied origins given in major dictionaries. It's likely to be from a Chinese dialect, imported into English through Malay. The original was a kind of fish sauce, though the modern Malay and Indonesian version, with the closely related name kecap, is a soy sauce.

Like their Eastern forerunners, Western ketchups were dipping sauces. I'm told the first ketchup recipe appeared in Elizabeth Smith's book *The Compleat Housewife* of 1727 and that it included anchovies, shallots, vinegar, white wine, sweet spices (cloves, ginger, mace, nutmeg), pepper and lemon peel. Not a tomato in sight, you will note — tomato ketchup was not introduced until about a century later, in the US, and caught on only slowly. It was more usual to base the condiment on mushrooms, or sometimes walnuts.

The confusion about names started even before Charles Lockyer wrote about it, since there is an entry dated 1690 in the *Dictionary of the Canting Crew* which gives it as catchup, which is another Anglicisation of the original Eastern term. Catchup was used much more in North America than in Britain: it was still common in the middle years of the nineteenth century, as in a story in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1859: "I do not object to take a few slices of cold boiled ham ... with a little mushroom catchup, some Worcester sauce, and a pickle or so". Indeed, catchup continued to appear in American works for some decades and is still to be found on occasion.

There were lots of other spellings, too, of which catsup is the best known, a modification of catchup. You can blame Jonathan Swift for it if you like, since he used it first in 1730: "And, for our home-bred British cheer, Botargo, catsup, and caveer". [Caveer is caviar; botargo is a fish-based relish made of the roe of the mullet or tunny.] That form was also once common in the US but is much less so these days, at least on bottle labels: all the big US manufacturers now call their product ketchup.

Simple question: complicated answer!

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Your comments and corrections are welcome.

The URL was sent to Sparks by John Guerrini when he was asked why he had chosen to spell ketchup instead of catsup.

Make the Pig *fly*

