

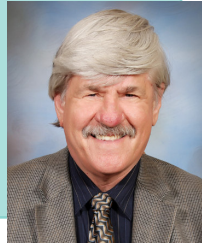
## This Week

### Don Kenney International Brotherhood of Magicians Program Host: Craig Cox

Don Kenny was born and raised in the city of Los Angeles. He has lived here his whole life. When he was thirteen, his father bought him his first magic set. From then on, he spent Saturday afternoons at the movies and the rest of his free time reading and practicing magic tricks. He was also able to see many magicians perform on stage including Dante, Harry Blackstone Sr., John Calvert, Mandrake the Magician and many others.

“Back in the 40s”, Kenny recalls, “the motion picture studios had their own theaters where they would show their own movies and present vaudeville acts before or after the films. I would take a street car into Downtown LA and, if I had to go further, I would take a bus to get to the theaters and see the shows.” He was a teenage magician, but, as he got older, he made the decision to go into the film industry by way of LA City College and UCLA Film School. He became a film editor and a sound ef-

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## View from the Hill

by President  
 Tony Hill

### Service over Self Three Days in this President’s Life

**W**hat follows is a chronicle of my full calendar of Rotary activities over the three days between Thursday, August 18 and Friday, August 20, 2011.

**Thursday, August 18 at 12n:** I attended the weekly meeting at Altadena Town and Country Club. As usual had a great time — enjoyed another wonderful program arranged by our August speaker chair Craig Cox. This week we were entertained by banjo aficionado Pitt Kinsolving talking about banjo history and the annual Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest. I enjoyed good fellowship, good food (delicious meatloaf) and was away from the pressures of work for a couple of hours — what more could one want. And to top it all off, Jacque Foreman out of the goodness of her heart, treated all those who worked as program chairs and writing up the programs for Sparks last Rotary year, with Trader Joe’s gift cards. Thank you so much, Jacque.

**Thursday, August 18 at 7p:** I attended a meeting of the Membership committee at Craig’s house. This was the second monthly meeting of this committee. Un-

der the masterful direction of Craig a lot was accomplished. There were a lot of diverse views and ideas but Craig did a great job of keeping the group focused and on target. It was a very mellow assemblage, enhanced perhaps by the gourmet desserts washed down with beer, wine and sodas. I commend all of those members who took time out of their evening to work on this critical issue. So thank you John Frykenberg., Ray Carlson, Dennis Mehringer (and his lovely wife Noriko), Tom McCurry, Jacque Foreman, Brian Hayes, Theo Clarke, Mike Zoeller, and especially Craig who admirably ran the show, offered his home as a venue and provided outstanding refreshments to the multitude.

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## Creeters

August 25  
**John Frykenburg**

September 04  
**John Guerrini**

September 11  
**Brian Hayes**



# Program Review

## Strummin' on the Ol' Banjo

For an instrument that seems such a quintessential part of American folk music, it came as a surprise to learn that the banjo's history can be traced to Africa.

Not only is Pitt Kinsolving an accomplished folk musician, he is also a noted scholar of folk music history. As Kinsolving explained, the precursor to the banjo using an animal skin stretched over a hollow gourd to reverberate the sound. The neck was a simple stick without the fret boards that have since been incorporated.

Slaves in this country fashioned banjos reminiscent of their traditional instruments. In the 1820s, Joel Walker Sweeney learned to play the banjo, and traveled as a minstrel and performer, teaching others to adopt this simple but expressive instrument. Around this time, a fifth string was added and wooden frames replaced the traditional gourd. In the 1890s, banjos became part of the ragtime music, and a fingerpicking style replaced the down-picking style. Country music performers took up the banjo, and it became associated with the bluegrass sound. The banjo continues its popularity thanks to noted performers like Steve Martin and Craig Cox.

Kinsolving became fascinated with the banjo as a child, and has played the instrument for more than 50 years. He enjoys playing a variety of instruments in a range of styles and genres, from American bluegrass to Irish folk. He demonstrated his picking prowess with a rendition of Stephen Foster's timeless *Oh,*



Susanna.

Among Kinsolving's current passions is his role in presenting the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest. After starting as a contestant in 1979, he became involved in the 50-year old contest's production as a judge and member of the nonprofit contest's board of directors. The first event was held in 1961, and it has grown in popularity. Long since having outgrown its Topanga home, the event is now held at Paramount Studios Ranch in Agoura Hills. This backlot, familiar to viewers of western-themed films and television shows, it a fitting setting for the contest that celebrates American folk music.

The next event will be held on May 20, 2012. Music performances, food and a craft fair make this an enjoyable event for families. More information can be found at [www.topangabanjofiddle.com](http://www.topangabanjofiddle.com).

Brian Hayes

**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.

### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

[www.altadenarotary.com](http://www.altadenarotary.com)

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

Altadena Town & Country Club

2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA

626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres. .... Kalyan Banerjee

Dist 5300 Gov. .... Doug Fowler

### Officers

Tony Hill, Pres. .... Bus. 626-795-5363

Julius Johnson, Pres. Elec. .Bus. 626-797-1186

Brian Hayes, VPres. .... Bus. 626-529-8093

Jim Gorton, Sec. .... Bus. 626-793-6215

Mike Noll, Treas. .... Bus. 626-683-0515

### Directors

Jim Gorton • Craig Cox • Julius Johnson

Sterling Louviere • Brian Hayes

Linda Wilkes • David Smith

### Chairmen

Julius Johnson ..... Administration

Craig Cox ..... Foundation

Jacque Foreman ..... Public Awareness

TBD ..... Publicity

Jacque Foreman ..... Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects

Ed Jasnow ..... Community

John Frykenberg ..... International

TBD ..... Youth Contests/Awards

TBD ..... Vocational/Youth Projects

TBD ..... Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting ..... Foreman Graphics

Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

## August Programs

### Membership & Extension Month

#### Program Chair, Craig Cox

Aug 25 - Don Kenny, International Brotherhood of Magicians

## September Programs

### New Generation Month

#### Program Chair, Ray Carlson

Sep 01 - Rodney Walker - Grant Writing Institute -- How to leverage ARC funding to do bigger projects

Sep 08 - DG Doug Fowler - District Governor's visit

Sep 15 - Raoul Pascal - WYNK Marketing - Website, Facebook, marketing design

Sep 22 - To be Announced

Sep 29 - To be Announced

## Congratulations



### Birthdays



08/02 - Phyllis Merrill

08/05 Kevin Moore

08/08 Joseph McMullin

08/10 - Don Applegate

08/11 - Joy Carlson

08/22 - Nick Robles (John Guerrini)

08/24 - Hal Yorke

08/27 - Elaine Klock

08/31 - Bruce Conroy (Jacque Foreman)



### Anniversaries



08/01 - Phyllis & Ed Soza

08/23 - Dotty & Gary Clark

# Chairmen's Social Media ... What's That?

by Jacquie Foreman, Public Awareness Chair



And after I found out what it is, my next question was, "And, why should I participate?" From other small business people, I've learned that, if you are in business, it behooves you to at least have a presence on LinkedIn and Facebook. And, for a Rotary Club that is looking for new members, it is necessary to have as much visibility on the internet as possible.

Some months ago, a member who is no longer with us volunteered to set up a Facebook page for Altadena Rotary. That didn't happen. However, the membership committee (of which I am a member) agreed that we need a Facebook presence, so I decided to see what I could do.

And, since I'm a member of a business group called **MyCity**, and they are helping me learn how to put information on my personal and Foreman Graphics Facebook pages, I asked Jordan Marquez, my current helper with **MyCity**, if he would

be willing to help me put up a page for Altadena Rotary, and find out what other Rotary Clubs are doing with their pages.

Because I want the information on our Rotary Facebook page to reach as many people as possible, if you have a presence on Facebook, please go to **Altadena Rotary** and **Like** us. If you are a Committee

Chair, please set up a presence on Facebook and **Like** us. Then I can make you an **Admin**, and you can post committee information directly onto the Altadena Rotary Facebook page.

Chair, please set up a presence on Facebook and **Like** us. Then I can make you an **Admin**, and you can post committee information directly onto the Altadena Rotary Facebook page.

## Thank You for Your Service

On July 14, we were privileged to honor four veterans who are attending PCC and live in Pasadena or Altadena. It was not until some time later that we received the requested profile information on each recipient. Valentin Sanchez and Ian Smith were unable to attend, and we have no pictures of them.

**Valentin E. Sanchez** - Sanchez served in the US Marine Corps from June 2006 to January 2010. His experiences in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom have inspired him to become a history teacher. If "kids understand why some of the things in the world are happening ... future generation[s] may not make the same mistakes."

**Ian D. Smith** - Smith served in the US Marine Corps from December 2000 to May 2005. He participated in two combat deployments and a total of three tours in the Middle East. After completing his studies at PCC, he plans to transfer to CSUN in fall 2011. He aspires to become a music producer and educator.

**Kenneth J. Sniecinski** - Sniecinski joined the US Marine Corps in 1982 and served until 1985. The violence that he witnessed as a Marine and personal traumas he experienced inspire and influence his work as an artist.



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## View

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**Friday, August 19 at 10:30a:** I joined Ed Jasnow, Craig Cox, Tom McCurry, Mike Noll., Mike Zoeller, former Rotary member Bill Jennings and some friends and relatives at the Altadena Golf Course for 18 holes of golf. I was paired with Bill, and we had a great time chasing that little white ball around that big field. Half way through we all met for an outstanding bacon burger lunch, and, at the end, we paused for a large ice cold beer and boy did it taste good — right Tom.

**Saturday, August 20 at 6p:** In about an hour I will be meeting a large group of Altadena Rotarians (I hope) to work on another Concert in the Park at Farnsworth Park. This week good ol' Rock and Roll — I can't wait. Plus something special: this week Mike Noll has arranged to have the Corvette on hand that we are selling tickets to auction off at the LA County Fair. Having the car there should greatly enhance ticket sales which, in turn, will pump up our general fund to allow us to have the funds necessary to finance our community projects. This is in addition to the revenues coming in as a result of all the hard work of Dave Smith and other volunteers in setting up and selling beer, wine, sodas and chips each week at these concerts.

So, this has been my busy three days in Rotary world but I would not have wanted to miss any of it.

## This Week

Continued from p. 1

fects editor working at Paramount and Universal Pictures on shows like The Brady Bunch, Murder She Wrote, and many Hanna Barbera cartoons. When he retired, he returned to the world of magic.

He became a magician member of the Magic Castle and joined Ring 280 (Valencia) and Ring 21 (Hollywood) of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He served two terms as President of Ring 21 from 2006 – 2008.

He continues to be active in both rings, and participates in their activities, including the stage shows they produce to benefit the local Boys and Girls clubs and various junior high and high schools.





# MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

## ***Last Week in the News***

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending August 5 rose 21.7 percent. Refinancing applications increased 30.4 percent. Purchase volume fell 0.9 percent.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.6 percent to \$458.7 billion in June. This followed a revised 1.7 percent rise in May. Sales at the wholesale level rose 0.6 percent in June to \$395.8 billion. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 15.4 percent higher since June 2010.

The trade deficit increased to \$53.1 billion in June from a revised \$50.8 billion in May. Exports fell 2.3 percent to \$170.9 billion. Imports decreased 0.8 percent to \$223.9 billion.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent to \$390.42 billion in July after an upwardly revised 0.3 percent increase in June. The gain posted in July was the largest in four months. On a year-over-year basis, retail sales rose 8.5 percent.

Total business inventories rose 0.3 percent in June to \$1.518 trillion, up 11.1 percent from a year ago. Total business sales increased 0.4 percent to \$1.187 trillion in June, up 12.4 percent from a year ago. The total business inventories/sales ratio in June was 1.28.

The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for August's preliminary reading fell to 54.9 from 63.7 in July. The reading was the lowest in more than 30 years, surpassing a record low of 55.3 set in November 2008.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 7,000 to 395,000 for the week ending August 6. Continuing claims for the week ending July 30 fell by 60,000 to 3.7 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar

are reports on the housing market index on August 15, housing starts on August 16 and existing home sales on August 18.

## ***Mind Your Money Federal Grants and Loans for College***

Pell Grants are the foundation of federal student financial aid, to which aid from other federal and nonfederal sources might be added. A Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. Award amounts change yearly. The current maximum award per student per year is \$5,550. The amount made available depends on financial need, costs to attend school, status as a full-time or part-time student, and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

Pell Grants are usually awarded to undergraduate students, but some exceptions are available to students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher certificate program. The amount of other student aid you might qualify for does not affect the amount of your Pell Grant. For more information on Pell Grants, visit [www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html).

If you must borrow money for college, think federal aid first. A federal student loan allows students and their parents to borrow money to pay school expenses, such as tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies and transportation.

Federal student loans have lower interest rates and offer better repayment terms than loans from banks or other private sources. Federal student loans offer low fixed interest rates, income-based repayment plans, loan forgiveness and postponement options, including deferment of loan payments when a student returns to school. For these reasons, students and parents should always exhaust federal student loan options before con-

sidering a private loan.

Student loan limits range from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year for undergraduates and up to \$20,500 each year for graduate students. To apply for a federal student loan, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). For additional information on federal student aid programs, visit [www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov/pubs](http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov/pubs).

*The above content is for informational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a financial, accounting, tax, legal or other professional adviser.*

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

## **Service**

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Through his art, Sniecinski hopes to "offer mental stimulation to people ... allowing them to find the best outcome in a negative situation, and this is to have love prevail."

**Christopher Wright** - "An experience in the US Navy," says Wright, "opened my eyes to the state of global healthcare and guided me in my decision to pursue a career in medicine."

Witnessing the prevalence of tuberculosis in Southeast Asia and the Middle East kindled his desire to become a physician. Wright is currently enrolled as a full-time student at PCC, but somehow finds time to volunteer at Huntington Memorial Hospital, tutor students in biology, and work in a laboratory twice a week.





All **FREE** Concerts start at **7:00 PM** in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park. 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-1131  
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

### 15th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2011

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| The Irish Volunteers & the Irish Pride Dancers       | Saturday, July 9th    |
| The Downbeat Express (Big Band Sound)                | Saturday, July 16th   |
| The Brian Hughes Quintet (Jazz)                      | Saturday, July 23rd   |
| Upstream (Caribbean Music & Much More)               | Saturday, July 30th   |
| The Blue Breeze Band (R & B, Soul, Blues & More)     | Saturday, August 6th  |
| Lisa Haley & the Zydekats (High Energy Zydeco Music) | Saturday, August 13th |
| The Mixx (Get Ready to Rock 'N Roll!)                | Saturday, August 20th |
| The Tumbling Tumbleweeds (Country Western)           | Saturday, August 27th |

**And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 10th**  
**THE BEACH TOYS in the Ultimate Tribute to THE BEACH BOYS**  
**Presented By: Stage Door Music Productions & SSGA**

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