

This Week

The Mini-Grant Report Program Host: Ed Jasnow

Yes, it's that wonderful time when the teachers of the Pasadena Unified School District who received Rotary Club of Altadena mini-grants report to us on how they used the funds to enhance the classroom experience of their students.

This year, our club gave out 25 unrestricted mini-grants, and 10 Americanism grants, each worth \$300, in response to proposals submitted by the principals. The mini-grants went to teachers in eight different schools.

With unprecedented budget cuts to our schools, the teachers are more appreciative than ever for our mini-grants. Come and hear how creative these teachers are in stretching \$300 to the maximum possible, and bring some friends.

This is one of those programs that make you proud to be a Rotarian — and an Altadena Rotarian in particular. 



Hayes by President Brian Hayes Stack

Remembering our Men and Women in Harm's Way

When I was growing up, I remember the violent images of the Viet Nam War being shown on the nightly news. I'm sure that broadcast standards did not allow them to show the worst of the carnage, but it was disturbing enough to leave a deep and conflicted impression on a boy like me. During the day, I would re-enact battles with my GI Joes, but, in the darkness, I would have nightmares of deafening explosions and severed limbs.

In the early 1970s, there were only three major networks, and all of them maintained robust foreign bureaus for reporting on world events. It was hard to forget that our troops were mired in a foreign conflict because television and the print news reports were constant.

Today, even with 24/7 news stations, it has become increasingly more possible to forget that we have troops at risk in foreign fields. The vast array of media choices allows us to avoid thinking about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I would guess that many Americans know more about the Kardashians than the Taliban (although I wish both were wiped

from the face of the earth!).

As we celebrate Memorial Day, let's remind ourselves that it's about more than barbeques and road trips. It's a remembrance of the brave men and women who have lost their lives defending the freedoms that make our way of life possible.

I salute the members of the Club who have served in our country's Armed Forces. I honor the troops who are spending this holiday weekend away from their families and under threat of fire. I proudly recognize the young people like the JROTC participants who visited our Club last week. It's good to know that the values of honor and valor are still taught and practiced.

Happy Memorial Day! 

Greeters

June 02
David Smith

June 09
Linda Wilkes

June 16
Hal Yorke



Program Review

What incredible young Men and Women

Altadena Rotary Charities was formed to support the philanthropic activities of the Rotary Club of Altadena. Since then, the Club has received several restricted endowment donations from the Altadena American Legion Post No. 470, Inc., one of which is earmarked to fund scholarship awards to several local high school Junior ROTC units. (For a discussion of these endowments, visit the Members Only section on our website — www.altadenarotary.com)

The primary purpose of the original

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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. Roger Schulte

Officers

Brian Hayes, Pres. Bus. 626-398-6300

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

David P. Smith, VPRES. Bus. 636-398-2010

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

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

Directors

Jim Gorton • Craig Cox • John Guerrini

Sterling Louviere • Brian Hayes

Tony Hill • TBD

Chairmen

Tony Hill Administration

Craig Cox Foundation.

TBD Public Awareness

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Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller Service Projects

Ed Jasnow Community

John Frykenberg International

Regina Bette Youth Contests/Awards

Tony Hill Vocational/Youth Projects

John Guerrini Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

Photography Jacque Foreman

endowment is to grant two awards of \$1,000 each annually to graduating students at Pasadena High School (Navy), Blair High School (Army), and John Muir High School (Air Force). The endowment also funds two scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors at John Muir High School (one boy and one girl), and two scholarships of \$500 each to graduating eighth graders at Elliot Middle School (also one boy, one girl). These scholarships are known as the Americanism Awards and are awarded according to courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service.

This week, the Rotary Club of Altadena, with this generous gift from Post No. 470, operating through the Club, presented a total of ten awards, as follows:

From Pasadena High School:

Lieutenant Commander Janet Llamas Diaz received the academic award. Llamas shared that, after high school, she plans to pursue a ca-



reer in criminology.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Randy Robles received the military award. Robles shared that marksmanship is a passion of his, and that, after high school, he is off to boot camp with the United States Marines.



They were accompanied by their teacher, LCDR Stubbe, Senior Naval Science Instructor. The color guard was also provided by Pasadena High School, and as usual, the event was remarkable.

From John Muir High School:

Technical Sergeant Cristina Valencia

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June Programs

Rotary Fellowship Month

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

Jun 02 - Teacher Mini-Grant Report

Jun 09 - Spencer Lyons, the American Cancer Society

Jun 16 - PCC Awards

Jun 23 - Dr. Jeff Plaut, JPL Scientist

Jun 30 - Domotion Party

July Programs

No Designation

Program Chair, To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



06/03 - Kathleen Anne Fennell

06/08 - Theo Clarke

06/12 - Tom McCurry

06/17 - Gary Clark

06/20 - Dotty Clark

06/23 - Margarita Figueroa

06/28 - Phyllis Soza



Anniversaries



06/05 - Wendy Davis & Mike Noll

06/10 - Brian & Gloria Hayes

Chairmen's Corner

by John Frykenberg, International Chair



Unity is at the heart of peace, tranquility and the pursuit of happiness as surely as justice in the world embraces fairness and truth.

We applaud the apparent struggle for freedom and democracy we see at the heart of revolutions in Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Libya, Tunisia, Ivory Coast and elsewhere, hoping in our hearts that the Muslim Brotherhood will not replace autocracy and dictatorships with an intolerant Islamic theocracy based upon Sharia law in all its machinations.

When to compromise and offer the olive branch and when to stand firm upon principal is the question.

Appeasement, synonymous with the name Neville Chamberlain and others willing to sacrifice principal for expediency in the face of injustice have predictably not brought peace and understanding among the people of the world as much as forgiveness and insistence upon the very principals espoused by Rotary in its *4-Way Test*. As we have discovered, sometimes, war is the answer.

Program

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Torres received the academic award. While in her unit, Valencia has been awarded nearly every ribbon possible. Like some of her fellow students, she too has already committed to join the United States Marines in a few months.



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To see a lie and call it by another name does harm to all parties. Muslims are killing Christians in Egypt and Nigeria as this article is being written and neither Rotary nor the United States of America can afford to look the other way and say nothing. We need to speak out.

Decades of relative peace with the exception of attacks by Hamas on Israel are now in danger of disintegrating into all out war.

Acquiescence to Pakistan — in deference to a mythical alliance kept in check with regular multi-billion dollar checks to keep the lid on — poses a form of self-deception akin to buying off pirates in hopes they will reform their ways and leave us alone.

The lessons to be learned are as old as the earth. We used to call payments in lieu of war ... tribute! Times have not changed. Jealousies, envy, the on-going struggle between the haves and have-nots, building resentments between neighbors, exploitation of one nation over another, perceptions of fairness, subjugation ... we are all familiar with the terms and the history.

Given our understanding of the nature of mankind or misunderstanding between people, is it surprising there are typically 20 to 30 wars going on in the world at all times. And yet we recognize the benefits of peace, the rewards of working together, the value of multi-cultural and, indeed, all relationships. It is hard to hate those we get to know and share our lives with. And yet our divorce rate is 50 percent and growing.

It is a great revelation when we discover that it is *not all about us*, that doing it *my way* is not necessarily in the best interests of our families, our communities and our world.

We get so used to lies, we expect them. We meet to negotiate **peace** with hopes of

killing our enemies. And we conclude that **incompatibility** requires stronger and stronger defenses to protect our turf.

Examples of **making peace work** as espoused by George Marshall in the implementation of the Marshall Plan following WWII prove that kindness and fairness in dealing with one's enemies can indeed work. And we know that reaching out to the fallen without compromising principals as Douglas McArthur did in governing Japan after the war led the Japanese people to reject militarism in favor of survival strategies that resulted in an economic miracle unlike anything the world has seen.

What are the lessons learned? What observations of value can we make? For certain, mutual adversity makes for friendships. Misery loves company and prompts people to work together. Diversity in the face of sufficient pressure makes for unity of thought and purpose as surely as the short era of **good feeling** following 9/11 in the US. And unity — when directed constructively — can yield enormous dividends for the good of all.

The common axiom that "*things have to get worse before they get better*" unfortunately seems to be true. Streets don't get *stop signs* until someone gets killed. And wars do not end until the results are devastating. Then the folks really do sit down to take stock, set priorities and recognize in each generation the value of peace and prosperity as the antidote to man's inhumanity to man. Unfortunately, the cost in blood to preserve **freedom** as we know it is a cost we apparently must continue to pay.

Let's continue to pray for the brotherhood of all mankind and for the peacemakers ... even as the world appears to be coming a part at the seams. And let us pray for unity without the need to sacrifice the principals for which we stand. ☉



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Last Week in the News

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo monthly housing market index was unchanged in May at 16. An index reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market.

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in April fell 10.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 523,000 units. Single-family starts decreased 5.1 percent. Multifamily starts fell 24.1 percent. Applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, fell 4 percent to an annual rate of 551,000 units.

Industrial production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities was unchanged in April, following a revised 0.7 percent increase in March. Compared to a year ago, industrial production is up 5 percent. Capacity utilization was 76.9 percent in April.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending May 13 rose 7.8 percent. Refinancing applications increased 13.2 percent. Purchase volume fell 3.2 percent.

Existing home sales fell 0.8 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.05 million units from a revised 5.1 million units in March. The inventory of unsold homes on the market increased 9.9 percent to 3.87 million, a 9.2-month supply at the current sales pace, up from an 8.3-month supply in March.

The index of leading economic indicators — designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months — fell 0.3 percent in April, following a revised 0.7 percent increase in March.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 29,000 to 409,000 for the week

ending May 14. Continuing claims for the week ending May 7 fell by 81,000 to 3.7 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on new home sales on May 24 and pending home sales on May 27.

Is a Mortgage on Your Mind?

With all the intense changes affecting housing markets and the mortgage industry these days, it's no wonder that many consumers are feeling overwhelmed and maybe even a little confused.

In the face of all this change, rest assured that I am here for you. Whether you are interested in buying a new home or investment property; refinancing your current mortgage at historically low rates; or seeking information about REO properties, short sales or any other mortgage topic, please remember that providing you with answers, information and advice is my core purpose as a mortgage lending professional. We run our business according to the Prospect Constitution, which upholds such principles as integrity, fair-

ness, diversity and providing a world-class service experience to our customers. One of the most powerful articles in our Company Constitution states, "We believe that the right mortgage positively changes the lives of our customers and is our ultimate purpose."

Some changes in the housing and mortgage industries have made real estate financing transactions more difficult. But it's also true that recent changes have produced incredible, unprecedented opportunities that are creating value right now for homeowners and real estate investors in many ways.

If a mortgage is on YOUR mind, wouldn't you like to know the realities of the market and how you could benefit from existing opportunities? I am here for you and your family members, friends, work colleagues and neighbors. Knowledge is power, and I am ready to share my knowledge with you.

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

Flags up from Memorial Day to July 4

First we assembled the flags; then we put them up. This Memorial day marks the first time that we did not have to collect the flags before the sun set. And, "Why?" you ask. Because we are doing something new — putting flags on light poles so they will be lighted

after the sun sets. The flags, which were put up the Saturday before Memorial day, will be taken down after July 4.



Program

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Technical Sergeant America Gutierrez received the military award. Like Valencia, Gutierrez has also earned nearly every ribbon possible while in her unit. Upon graduation, she plans to attend trade school UEI.



They were accompanied by their teacher, Major Stone.



Ariana Villafuerte received an Americanism award. Villafuerte shared that she enjoys both sports and painting, though she hopes to pursue a career in environmental science at UC Davis or UC Berkeley.



Miguel Reyes received an Americanism award. Reyes shared that he worked on the solar boat with Villafuerte, and, while they bantered about who was in charge, it was obvious that both are future leaders. Reyes plans on attending Cal Poly Pomona.



They were ac-



companied by their teacher, Nancy Heuser.

From Blair High School:

Second Lieutenant Mabel Morales received the academic award. When she is not swimming, Morales spends a lot of time playing the keyboard. She plans to attend Weber State University to pursue a career in education.



Lieutenant Colonel Hilda Ramirez received the military award. Ramirez shared her love of dancing, though she declined the invitation to actually dance for us. After high school, she plans to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



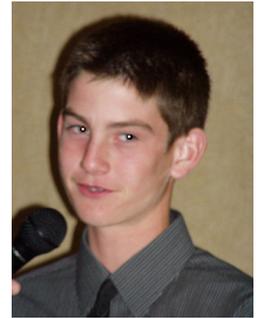
They were accompanied by their teacher LTC Ed Tyrrell, SAI Blair JROTC. Unfortunately, this is his last year as a JROTC instructor. He thanked Altadena Rotary for its on-going support of the JROTC program.



From Eliot Middle School:

Matthew Klein and Stephanie Nunez each received the Americanism award. Klein hopes to make a career of baseball or being in a band or a novelist (but con-

cedes that, if those dreams don't pan out, college is not out of the question). Nunez plays three instruments, but her true love is the stars. She hopes to pursue a career in astronomy.



The students were accompanied by Principal Peter Pannell.



Of course, we could not forget to honor the parents and administrators behind

each of these students.



May is the highlight of the Rotary Year for this writer and program chair, and the JROTC and Americanism

award presentation is a favorite of mine. It's refreshing to see youth full of ambition, on the edge of the rest of their lives, with the world at their proverbial feet. Wouldn't it be great to see where these kids are in ten years? I am honored to be a custodian of the awards (and money) that Rotary bestows each year at this time.



John Guerrini ☺

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS