

March 17, 2011

This Week

**Van Snyder
 Mathematician
 Program Host:
 Paul Sirois**

Van Snyder is a mathematician and former professor of computer science who has an interest in technology and nuclear power in particular.

Snyder will present and discuss technology for nuclear power that is newer than what is currently deployed. Most important, the new technology destroys waste from the current generation — and nothing else can.

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



Hayes Stack

by President Brian Hayes

Flirting with Disaster

Im skimming the newspaper, stunned by the sight of carnage in Japan following an earthquake of almost unimaginable magnitude. Japan, an island nation formed by the earth's tectonic thrusts over the past billions of years is no stranger to seismic activity. They have among the most refined disaster response policies and the strictest building codes. Even with these preparations, they were overwhelmed by the enormity of the disaster.

Prior to my current position at CHAP, I served as Director of Development for the American Red Cross, Pomona Valley Chapter. Not only did we have to mobilize our team of volunteers and donors for major international and national disasters (9/11 was my first test under fire!), we responded to minor disasters, like home fires and wildfires, on a weekly basis. For a disaster relief organization, the compelling images in the media are what drive donations. Unfortunately, the news cycle quickly draws the public's attention to another crisis, leaving a family, community or nation without the resources to rebuild.

You might recall the recent presentation at our Club meeting by "Dr. Bud" who

talked about making relief flights to bring food and essential supplies to Haiti following devastating earthquake that occurred in January 2010. I remember the desperate images that appeared in newspapers and on the television news at the time, but I must admit that I quickly forgot about Haiti's terrible plight. The impact of that disaster still paralyzes that poor nation, but the world now looks to support the Japanese people.

During my days with the Red Cross, we often talked about "*donor fatigue*" that occurred when there was seemingly more disaster than there were resources and will to address them.

Rotary — with clubs and members in nearly every nation — is in a unique position to mobilize support, deliver resources and, perhaps most important ... *remember*. 

Creetings

March 17

John Guerrini

March 24

Carlton Gustafson

March 31

Dyanna Henderson



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 Photo Essay
 Fellowship Event**



Program Review

Learn Software Applications Online

I have been attending programs at Altadena Rotary for over 10 years, and the diversity and breadth never ceases to amaze me. Laurie Burruss, a senior manager at the website www.lynda.com was the speaker, and it was a privilege to hear her presentation.

Lynda.com is an online software application training company. For the modest monthly premium of \$25, one can become a member of Lynda.com and have access to a wide variety of well-designed courses that teach one how to use both leading and obscure software products. Currently,

Lynda.com is offering almost 1000 courses in a large number of areas. For example, there are over 200 courses relating to business applications. For example, there are

- 29 separate courses focusing on learning Microsoft Excel, a well-known and well-used spreadsheet program,
- 12 courses on Microsoft Word, a prominent word processing program, and
- Courses on Microsoft Access and Outlook.

Other major subject areas include Animation, Video and audio editing applications, social media tools, Photography, Web Design and development, iPhone applications, and home computing.

There appear to be many benefits of becoming a Lynda.com member and taking advantage of the courses that are offered. First of all, one



subscribers end up coming back for more.

Lynda.com offers a one-year subscription, which is cheaper than paying month-to-month. One can have a regular subscription or a premium subscription. Premium offers all of the courses plus



only has to pay for one month at a time. For example, you can pay for one month, take all the courses you need and end the subscription at the end of the month. Most

Please turn to Program, p. 3

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
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

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Tony Hill • TBD

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Craig Cox Foundation.
TBD Public Awareness
TBD Publicity
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

March Programs

Literacy Month

Program Chair, Paul Sirois

- March 10 - Laurie Burruss, Director of Education, lynda.com
- March 17 - Van Snyder, Specialist on Nuclear Power
- March 24 - Dale E. LaCasella, President of Altadena Library District Board of Trustees
- March 31 - Robert Piccioni, Scientist

Congratulations



Birthdays

03/13 - Regina Bette
03/14 - Emily Aiken (Wilkes)
03/15 - David P. Smith
03/15 Trish Robinson
03/24 - Ed Soza





Anniversaries

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



Chairmen's Find Yourself in Rotary Corner

by Craig Cox, Foundation Chair



March 10th 2011 was my 25th anniversary with Merrill Lynch. It has been quite a ride. My first week in the business there were news reporters swarming the San Marino office regarding the poisoned Tylenol case because the office manager was able to identify the voice of the perpetrator. One year later the bond market crashed, followed by **Black Monday** where the stock market fell 25 percent in one day. We've lived through the first Gulf War, the bankruptcy of Orange County, the Long Term Capital meltdown, the Dot-Com bubble bursting, 9 11, The 2nd Gulf War, the

mortgage crisis, and the failure of Lehman Brothers.

Why in the world (you might ask) would you stay in the business with all that going on? I guess the short answer is: I like it. And, because I like it, I have been able to look past the *glass half empty* times enjoy the *glass half full* times — to dedicate myself to helping clients be successful in spite of how crazy the world is. To *go for it* as they say.

There is an idea in the Gospels that to find your life you must be willing to give your life away (it says, "for My sake"). Giving your life away to business, it seems to me, can only take you so far. Happily those who are reading this have discovered Rotary — and, through Rotary, there are

some great opportunities to give your life away. To do so, however, takes a mental decision to *go for it*.

If you are waiting for your fellow Rotarian to come up with an idea that you can support ... you are missing half the fun. John Frykenberg decided he was going to Nigeria, and, by golly, he did. Many people were blessed because he set his mind to serve. Ray Carlson has dedicated himself to promoting entrepreneurship. No one said, "Ray, I think this would be a good project." He just decided this was what he wanted to do.

What do you want to do?

There is no better platform in the world for you to give your life away — and in doing so you might discover yourself. ☺

Program

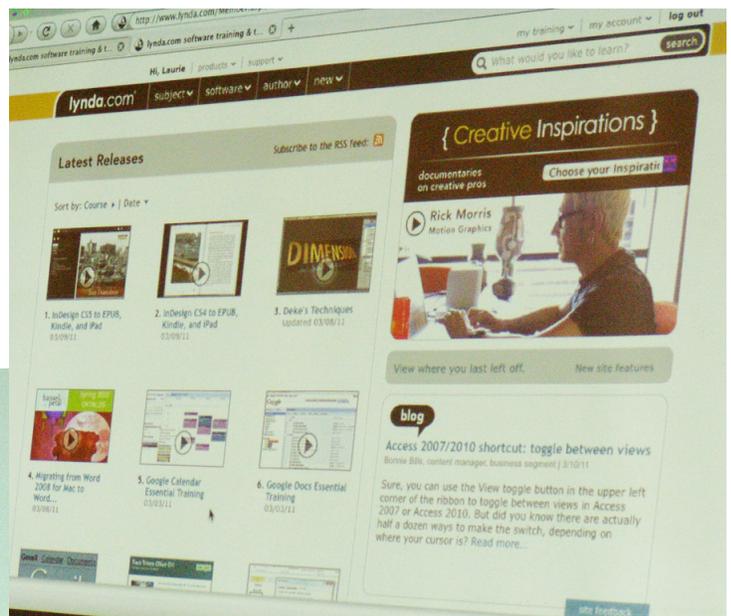
Continued from p.2

the exercise files that go along with each course. The exercise files provide a way to continue learning and exploring the course material after the course has been completed. Exercise files are valuable if one is taking the courses in programming. Special pricing is also available for multi-user corporate and educational options. Courses are also available on DVD.

Even though the courses can be several hours long, Burruss emphasized that they are organized into short lesson segments. A segment can be as short as

About lynda.com
The lynda.com Online Training Library® delivers high-quality instructional videos that teach computer software and related skills for the 21st Century Learner.

- Available, anytime, anywhere via the web or mobile delivery.
- Hundreds of top authors.
- Real-world training at all skill levels.
- Constant updates & new releases (4 - 6) on a weekly basis.
- Full access to the library of over 54,000 videos & over 970 courses.
- Nine content areas: design, digital photography, web & interactive design, developer, video, 3D & animation, business, audio, and consumer.
- Videos can be watched in order or in non-linear sequences.
- Members create an individualized learning path based on choice and needs.
- Device agnostic - Lap Top, Cell Phone, Tablet + 3 Player Options!



five minutes. Thus one can pick and choose among the material. The courses proceed in a systematic fashion, with realistic

examples. Laurie stated that the instructors are generally very knowledgeable, competent and know their topics well.

If your job or life demands that you need to learn software applications quickly, you should check out Lynda.com

Boyd Hudson ☺



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Last Week in the News

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 20,000 to 368,000 for the week ending February 26. Continuing claims for the week ending February 19 fell by 59,000 to 3.77 million. The monthly unemployment rate fell to 8.9 percent in February from 9 percent in January.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of manufacturing activity rose to 61.4 in February after a revised 60.8 in January. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 19th straight month of expansion and the highest reading in almost seven years.

The National Association of Realtors reported that its pending home sales index, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, fell 2.8 percent in January after a revised 3.2 percent decrease in December. On a year-over-year basis, pending sales are down 1.5 percent.

Total construction spending fell 0.7 percent to \$791.8 billion in January, following a revised 1.6 percent decrease in December. Economists had anticipated a decrease of 0.8 percent in January.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week

ending February 25 fell 6.5 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 6.5%. Purchase volume fell 6.1 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of non-manufacturing activity rose to 59.7 in February from 59.4 in January. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 14th straight month of expansion in the services sector and the fastest pace since August 2005.

Factory orders rose 3.1 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted \$445.6 billion, following a revised 1.4 percent increase in December. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, orders rose 0.7 percent.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on wholesale trade on March 9 and retail sales on March 11.

Important Changes from the FHA FHA Annual Mortgage Insurance Premium to Increase

If you, your friends, family or clients are still on the fence about buying a home, you should know — and let them know — that the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is increasing mortgage insurance premiums on FHA home loans as of April 18, 2011. This deadline applies to the FHA case assignment date.

This increase could cost buyers more

money each month for their total monthly mortgage payment. What can buyers do? If they are close to contract, buy now before the new mortgage insurance premium takes effect. They must have an active loan application for the subject property prior to April 18, 2011.

HUD Temporary Flipping Waiver Extended

In an effort to expand access to FHA mortgages and allow for the rapid resale of foreclosed properties, HUD announced a temporary waiver of the 90-day flipping restriction until December 31, 2011.

The waiver is subject to certain conditions, and eligible mortgages must meet these conditions to take advantage of the waiver. The complete text of the **waiver extension**, including conditions the waiver is limited to, is available on the **HUD website**.

Of Interest - There is an increase in buyers using their tax refund to make a down payment on a property, and it's a GREAT IDEA! As you know, the fantastic opportunity of low interest rates and home prices combined with a large housing inventory makes the current market extremely advantageous to buyers. ☺

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

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENT

STAY TUNED - DETAILS MAY CHANGE

Sunday, March 20 at 2p
Celebration of
Kapasa's Accomplishments
and Farewell as she leaves for Zambia
Theo Clarke's Home
5000 Risinghill Rd., Altadena



FELLOWSHIP ♦♦♦

The Core of Altadena Rotary

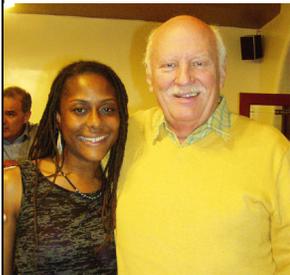
Photo Essay by Jacque, Sparks editor

Open House at Sidewalk Cafe HTS

Dyanna Henderson's new Endeavor



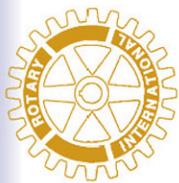
Sidewalk Cafe HTS



FRIDAY, MARCH 11



**THANK
YOU
DYANNA**



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 5300**

16th Annual Peace Conference

**“ACHIEVING
PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN:
Challenges and Opportunities”**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The Honorable **Zalmay Khalilzad**,
Former United States Ambassador to
Afghanistan and the United Nations

Rotarians and Rotary Peace Scholars will join the slate
of speakers sharing their experiences in Afghanistan

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011, 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Mudd Theater, Claremont School of Theology
1325 N. College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711
(on Foothill Blvd., just east of Indian Hill Blvd.)



The Honorable **Lee Baca**,
Los Angeles County Sheriff,
“Pacemaker of the Year” Award
Recipient



The Honorable
Abdulla Ainaque
Consul General of
Afghanistan in Los Angeles



Ms. Sonia Nassery Cole
Filmmaker and Philanthropist;
Founder and Chairwoman of
Afghanistan World Foundation



Ms. Pamela Broussard
Rotary World Peace
Fellow (currently working
in Afghanistan)



Mr. Sadiq Tawfiq, Afghan
AMITY Society; Founder and
First President of the Rotary
Club of Herat, Afghanistan



Dr. Art Mendoza
Rotary Club of
La Jolla Golden Triangle

ADMISSION:

\$20.00 per person
(if registered before March 1, 2011)

\$30.00 per person
(if registered after March 1, 2011, or at the door).

Students: \$5.00

For online registration:
www.district5300.org (only Visa /MC accepted).

Make your check payable to:

Rotary International District 5300
and mail to:

5812 Temple City Boulevard, #801
Temple City, CA 91780-2112.

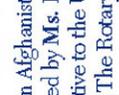
For further information:

(818) 523-3353

E-mail: mashdots@aol.com



Mr. Steve Brown, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation
Rotary's Humanitarian Projects in Afghanistan --
Powerpoint Presentation Prepared by **Ms. Fary Moini**,
Rotary International Representative to the United Nations
and **Mr. Steve Brown**, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation



Rotary International
District 5300 Governor:
Mr. Roger Schulte



Peace Conference Chair:
Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian
Past District Governor

