

This Week
Dr. João Teixeira
Clouds and Climate
Change
Program Host:
Hal Yorke

That the Earth's climate is changing — on the global average the Earth is warming up, land ice is melting and the sea level is rising — is now a well-established scientific fact. It is also a well established fact that human activity is the primary cause of these changes. These facts are not disputed among active researchers of climate science. What is not well known is the rate and extent of these changes. How quickly is the average Earth warming? What consequences do these changes have for local climate and rainfall patterns? What should we do about this? The latter question is something politicians and voters need to decide. The former questions need to be answered through careful, unbiased scientific research.

Some of the greatest unknowns in current climate models are the details of changes in cloud covers as the Earth warms. These details determine how quickly the Earth is warming in model calculations and where local effects of global warm-

Please turn to This Week p. 3



View by President
 Tony Hill
from the Hill

Principal for a Day ...
Learning about PUSD from the Inside ...
the Challenges, the Rewards

Last week I participated in the “Principal for a Day” program. Although sponsored by Merrill Lynch and coordinated by the Pasadena Educational Foundation, it is also very much a program of Altadena Rotary through the hard work of our tireless members **Ed Jasnow** and Merrill Lynch employee **Craig Cox**, both of whom work very hard to set up this program every year.

I was assigned to tag along with the principal of Eliot Middle School, Peter Pannell. For the reasons that follow, I came away extremely impressed with the school, the students, the teachers and, particularly, the Principal.

My day started with an initial meeting with Peter in the principal's office. I had been in principal's offices before but for once this was a pleasant experience. In talking about our backgrounds we discovered that we had one thing in common: Detroit, Michigan, where Peter grew up and where I hung out a lot when I was going to college in London, Ontario.

We then walked the halls and *dropped*

in unannounced to a variety of classrooms. None of the teachers missed a beat even though *the boss* had just walked in in the midst of their lesson. One teacher had the kids reading from a story but also acting out roles conveyed by the story — the kids clearly loved it. I was introduced to a teacher who taught *robotics* to very eager students — a program supported by JPL and CalTech. I saw a class comprised of *English as a Second Language* students. I met the school psychologist — a valuable asset in assessing and assisting students dealing with many complex life stresses. I met the school librarian and fi-

Please turn to View, p. 3

Greeters

November 17

Linda Wilkes

November 24

Thanksgiving - Dark

December 01

Hal Yorke



Program Review

Meet the Royal Rose Court

Attendees of a combined meeting of the Rotary Clubs of San Marino, Altadena, South Pasadena and Montebello had the great pleasure to meet this year's Rose Parade Royal Court. These young women did a great job representing the Tournament with poise, humor and style.

Princess Sarah Zuno: Sarah is 17 and attends Benjamin Franklin High School in Highland Park. This will be the first time she will attend the parade in person. At school,



Sarah participates in basketball, softball, and glee club. She also serves as a mentor to younger students. When she was in 9th grade, she raised funds for the Dream Project — to help build fresh water wells in Africa. Sarah thanked Rotary for our efforts to provide fresh drinking water throughout the world.

Princess Stephanie Grace Hynes: Stephanie is 18 and attends Maranatha High School where she is a varsity dance member and cheerleader. She would like to



be a pediatrician. Her great love is riding horses. She is eager to see the 22 horse units in the parade. This year the parade will be on January 2nd — never on a Sunday. This tradition started in the early days of the parade when horses that were used to take people to church would be disturbed by the festivities.

Princess Cynthia Louie: Cynthia is 17 and attends LaSalle High School. She loves to volunteer. She has been a docent at the Los Angeles Zoo. She also is a mem-



ber of the *petal pushers*. These parade supporters decorate the floats with over 500,000 flowers using 5,000 gallons of glue.

Stephanie is very excited about actually getting to ride on a float this year. She thanked the Rotarians for all their volunteer hours.

Princess Kimberly Victoria Ostiller: Kimberly is 17 and attends Flintridge Prep. This last summer she spent three weeks teaching English to an orphanage in Tanzania.



She also likes to volunteer with the National Charity League, where she enjoys helping kids get access to dental and medical care. She plans to be an orthodontist. At her high school, she serves as student body president and is a varsity cheerleader. She looks forward to being one of the 92,000 spectators at the Rose Bowl.

Queen Drew Washington: Drew is 17 and attends Flintridge Sacred Heart Acad-

Please turn to Program, p. 3

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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TBD Vocational/Youth Projects
TBD Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

November Programs

Rotary Foundation Month

Program Chair, Hal Yorke

Nov 17 - Dr. Joao Teixeira - Clouds and Climate Change
Nov 24 - Thanksgiving - Dark

December Programs

Rotary Family Month

Program Chair, Sue Applegate

Dec 01 - To be Announced
Dec 08 - To be Announced
Dec 15 - Christmas Party - evening
Dec 22 - To be Announced
Dec 29 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



11/06 - David Steinbacher
11/08 - Sterling Louviere
11/13 - Ed Jasnow
11/26 - C. Ray Carlson
11/26 - Roger Fennell



Anniversaries



11/01 - Jacque Foreman & Bruce Conroy
11/04 - Hal & Barbara Yorke
11/09 - Art & Betty Ferris
11/24 - Carlton & Julie Gustafson

Chairmen's Rotarians as Principals for a Day

by Ed Jasnow, Community Services Chair



Tuesday, November 8, was the annual PUSD Principal for a Day event, sponsored by Merrill Lynch and coordinated by the Pasadena Educational

Foundation. Craig Cox and I have served on the PFAD Committee since the beginning, Cox because he's an associate of Merrill Lynch, and I because of my serving as Chairmen of the Coalition of Rotary clubs within the PUSD.

This year was noteworthy because of a more significant Rotary presence. By my count, six Rotarians served as Principals for a Day, including three from our club. They were President Tony Hill, our newest member, Gordon Seyffert, and Craig Cox. Of the other three, two were from the Pasadena After Hours Club (formerly Pasadena Sunrise), and one was from the Pasadena Club.

Each year, this event gets bigger and bigger. This year, thirty-three community members served as Principals for a Day, covering every school in the District. It is

an outstanding way to really learn what is going on in the schools. Every single person who was a Principal for a Day came away with a much greater appreciation of what is happening in our schools.

I spent much of the morning at Woodrow Wilson Middle School because the Principal for a Day was a Caltech colleague. We were incredibly impressed with the principal, Sarah Rudchenko, who truly loves her job and demonstrates that in everything she does, particularly in her relationships with the students.

We spent a long time in their robotics lab, which is run by a former Caltech undergraduate. The students are being taught to encode software that will make their robots go through a series of maneuvers to enable them to find a piece of cheese. It was fascinating to watch the students do the work on their computers, test the software with their robots, then run back to their computers to make changes. This program is being implemented in all the PUSD middle schools, and is enormously successful. Studies are now underway to see if it can be implemented at the high school level.

At the end of the morning, all the Principals for a Day and their principals convened at the Altadena Town & Country Club for a delightful luncheon, hosted by Merrill Lynch. Speaking at the luncheon were the Mayor of Pasadena, Bill Bogaard, and Assemblyman Anthony Portantino. The keynote speaker was Jon Basalone, Vice-President of Marketing for Trader Joe's. After his talk, many of the Principals for a Day stood up and spoke about their experiences, and all of them were extremely impressed by what they saw happening in the schools.

I was very heartened by the increased Rotarian presence at this event, and I hope it increases next year. Think about it for yourself. You'll be glad you did.

This Week

Continued from p. 1

ing are the greatest. Producing better cloud models is an important step in determining, for instance, the future outlook for precipitation in California and how to prepare for these expected changes. For-

Program

Continued from p.2



emy. She understands how great it is to be "part of something bigger — like Rotary." Seeing many of the clubs and organiza-

tions that make up greater Pasadena she has a greater appreciation for the beauty and life of the community. At her high school, she is a member of the varsity track and field and volleyball teams. She likes to volunteer with the Christian Action Movement, and serves as a student ambassador. Her hobbies are running, watching movies and spending time with family.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet Princesses Eniza Devaud and Hanan Bulto Worku because they were both ill.

Craig Cox

unately, progress in cloud modeling techniques is being made. This is one of the forefronts of current scientific climate research.

Dr. João Teixeira has a PhD in Physics from the University of Lisbon. In addition to his role as a Research Scientist at JPL, he does triple duty as 1) Deputy Director of the newly created JPL Center for Climate Sciences, 2) Supervisor of the JPL Climate Physics Group, and 3) the space mission AIRS Science Team Leader. Prior to joining JPL in 2008, he held positions at the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts, the US Naval Research Laboratory, and the NATO Undersea Research Centre. He uses observations and climate models to explore interactions between the Earth's climate systems (clouds), with an emphasis on small-scale processes. He has developed new methods to model clouds and atmospheric turbulent motions and has played a key role in developing new approaches for evaluating climate models using satellite observations. He serves on several international committees that address climate-related issues.



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update Last Week in the News

Retail sales rose 0.7 percent for the week ending October 29, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 3 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of manufacturing activity fell to 50.8 in October after a reading of 51.6 in September. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 27th straight month of expansion.

Total construction spending rose 0.2 percent to \$787.2 billion in September, following an upwardly revised 1.6 percent increase in August. Economists had anticipated an increase of 0.3 percent in Sep-

tember.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending October 28 rose 0.2 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 0.2 percent. Purchase volume rose 1.8 percent.

Factory orders rose 0.3 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted \$453.5 billion, following a revised 0.1 percent increase in August.

Excluding the volatile transportation sector, orders rose 1.3 percent in September.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of non-manufacturing activity fell slightly to 52.9 in October from 53 in September. A reading above 50 signals ex-

pansion. It was the 23rd straight month of expansion in the services sector.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 9,000 to 397,000 for the week ending October 29. Continuing claims for the week ending October 22 fell by 15,000 to 3.68 million.

The monthly unemployment rate fell to 9 percent in October from 9.1 percent in September. The Labor Department said the economy added 158,000 jobs in September and revised figures in August to a gain of 104,000 from 57,000.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on wholesale trade on November 9 and international trade on November 10.

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

View

Continued from p. 1

nally was able to solve my *speaker gift* problem.

I met a teacher who was working with kids who were finishing up their homework. She had an incredible tool — a white board that was coordinated somehow to her laptop computer. Documents on her laptop were immediately projected onto the white board so all the kids could clearly see. If you picked up one of the colored pens from the white board tray, any writing on the white board by the teacher or student would appear in that color on the white board but also on the teacher's lap top.

Then, when the lap top was turned off, the white board went blank. Everything that appeared to have been written or drawn on the white board was imaginary, but at the same time had been recorded on the laptop and could be printed out.

Truly amazing. In addition, there was a remote control unit for each student so, for instance, if a multiple choice test were on the white board, each student could give his/her answer. The collective results were then conveyed to the teacher's laptop and she could immediately gauge how well the students had grasped the lesson.

Peter and I then joined members of the newly elected student council in the lounge in his office. These grade eight children were mature, thoughtful and destined for great things. With Peter's leadership, they gave their perspective on such things as the school's bullying program, how to increase academic achievement, getting parents more involved, school safety, college and career plans.

I was shown the school's gardening

Please turn to Wine, p.5



CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Thursday, December 15
Gordon Seyffert's Home
610 E. Calaveras
Altadena
More info as it comes**

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

Continuing from last week, where does this new brain research take us? Dr. Douglas Gerwin has cited new studies on the plasticity of the brain to argue that the brain is not *hard-wired* as once was thought. Expressed another way, that view lent itself to the notion that much of our intelligence was genetic and static. Some now maintain that our mental capacity is roughly 80 percent environmental vs. 20 percent genetic. While that's certainly a new slant on things, an even more startling concept is that there is an environmental effect ON genetics — hence the term, *epigenetics*. [That's a good one to Google, by the way.]

The Waldorf view is that we shape our brains, instead of the brain shaping our thought. The thoughts we have, then, give rise to the brains we have. And, if we are to accept all that, then it follows that education is no longer merely about the delivery of content.

In a Waldorf primary school, kindergarten becomes play-based as opposed to skill-based. But Gerwin assured his audience, even if your own experience or that of your child was skill-based, you needn't despair.

The absence of play is often addressed through parental or other intervention. Again, there are many paths to the ultimate goal of an educated and capable young person. Which reminds me of what he said at the opening of his lecture: He asked that nothing he might state or suggest be used as an argument with any teacher in regard to their personal approach to teaching.

But I digress. Waldorf schools aim to stimulate the imagination in those earli-

The Waldorf Way Part III

est years. The creation of self-directed play activity is enhanced through the arts. We heard from Tom McCurry about that *Wall Street Journal* article that focused upon the Waldorf aversion to the introduction of computers to our young children. It's understandable when considered within the context of stimulating the imagination. And really, how are we going to make lifelong learners of our children if we don't teach them to explore and question?

Gerwin spoke briefly to that computer issue when he expanded upon his path-in-the-forest metaphor. Drawing again upon brain studies, he said the research seems to tell us that having many pathways is not always beneficial, and that the pruning of pathways that go unused is also very important.

But the worst enemy of the brain is stress, he said, and constant attention to

such things as email and texting has an effect in the brain similar to that of a stress response.

Research now reveals that there is a brain chemical that reinforces the neural connections that we make over and over again. Think of the image he painted of putting down mulch or light gravel on that forest path. Now think of a stress-induced chemical that eats away at that reinforcement sheath of the brain's pathway.

That's the concern of Waldorf education: enhance that which creates imagination and limit the things that tear away at what is being encouraged. The computer isn't *evil*, but it's being introduced at just the wrong time. And to boot, Gerwin says, the best way to get students to forget is to test! Think about that. Again, education is no longer about the delivery of content. Flexibility, he added, is the signature of humanity. ○

View

Continued from p.4

program, which was funded by monies donated to the school by the movie studio for allowing the filming of "Bad Teacher" at their school. Students signing up for the program will organically grow crops, from planting to harvesting.

Not only will they have the growing experience, they will have the business experience of then selling their crops to fund selected charitable causes. I visited the cafeteria where I was told that Eliot is one of the few schools in the District in which fresh food is cooked from scratch every day for the students.

Finally I was shown a state of the art exercise room filled with modern exercise equipment. This was the prize awarded to Eliot Middle School for win-

ning a State wide competition for being the school in which the student population lost more weight and developed greater improvement in over all fitness than any other school in the state.

At the end of my time with Peter Pannell I had seen how well the school was running, the great variety of programs, the dedication and skill of the teachers and the respect of the children for their school and their principal. It reminded me of something my high school principal once said — that "when you are not sure which spelling to use when referring to your school principal remember that your principal is your *pal*." It was clear to me that this was certainly the case at Eliot Middle School. ○