

December 13, 2012

This Week
Meet the Rose Queen
And Her Court
Guest Program
Host: San Marino Rotary

We will be joining the San Marino Club for a special program: The meeting of the Rose Queen and her court. The meeting will begin at noon and will be held at

San Marino Community Church,
1750 Virginia Rd.
San Marino
(cross-street: Huntington).

You will have a chance to meet and talk with these fine young ladies. Each in turn will tell us a bit about herself and her future plans for school and career.

Special Morning Activity

For those who are available, San Marino Rotarians have invited us to participate in an education program held at Huntington Library & Gardens at which young students will learn about plants while building their own mini-Rose Parade floats. The morning program begins at 8:15a.

Please remember: Do not go to Altadena Town & Country Club on December 13! Go to the San Marino Community Church instead. ☉



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah & a Joyous New Year

To my Rotary Family,

I have been writing about having our hearts filled with thanksgiving — an attitude of gratitude — and our spirits focused on Love. This Christmas season let us not forget that Jesus' birthday is what is being celebrated, and he is the reason for the season.

This is also the week of Hanukkah, sunset December 8, to sunset December 16 of this year. Hanukkah is a celebration which recognizes the Jews' triumph over the Syrians. Led by Judah Maccabee, the Jews successfully drove the Syrians out of Jerusalem and cleansed the Second Temple.

The celebration called for the Menorah to be kept burning ever night for eight nights. They only had enough untainted olive oil to keep the Menorah's candles burning for a single day, miraculously, the flames continued flickering for eight nights (Hence, the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah).

As we close out this year and look back

on the many blessings that have been showered upon us, and the accomplishment we have made, we have a lot to be thankful for and many reasons to give Him praise.

I thank my God for each and every one of you. My life, and this community is better off because of you. I will pray for your Health Prosperity and Happiness in this up coming New Year. Please Pray for me.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and have a Joyous New Year, and be blessed. ☉

Greeters

December 13

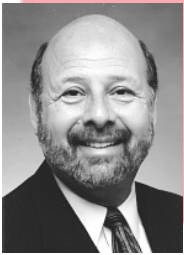
**Combined Meeting
 San Marino**

December 20

Evening - Christmas Party

December 27

Dark



Program Review

A very Leisurely Afternoon Lunch

That was the program for our meeting last week. Due to the fact that the Altadena Town & Country Club couldn't accommodate our meeting last week, we had to search for another place to meet. The result was Kathleen's Restaurant on North Lake Avenue. While it is a lovely eatery, it could not accommodate the scheduled speaker, who required a projector and screen. So, the speaker was re-scheduled for January 31, and we

had the aforementioned leisurely lunch. The menu at Kathleen's is quite extensive, so there were lots of delicious choices.

The conversations were quite lively and interesting, and we had some interesting guests. There was a visiting Rotarian from the Pasadena Club who



worked extensively in Cambodia to provide relief for the people there. Gordon Seyffert brought his lovely wife, Marsha, and I brought my younger brother, Stan, who is visiting from Chicago.

There were lots of announcements. Tony Hill re-capped the meeting of the Fellowship Committee, and handed out a

survey regarding proposed fellowship events for 2013. He also discussed the Christmas Party scheduled for Thursday,

December 20, at the Mehringer residence. Next Thursday's meeting is with the San Marino Club to meet the Rose Queen and her Court. We will be dark on the 27th, Please turn to Program, p.4

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7185

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

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John Frykenberg International
Gordon Seyffert ... Youth Contests/Awards
Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects
Ray Carlson New Generation
Gordon Seyffert Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

December

Family Month

Program Chair, Sue Applegate

Dec 13 - Combined meeting, San Marino
Rotary - Meet the Rose Queen & Court
Dec 20 - Evening - Christmas Party
Dec 27 - Dark - No Meeting

January

Rotary Awareness Month

Program Chair, Dennis Mehringer

Jan 03 - Club Assembly
Jan 10 - To be Announced
Jan 17 - To be Announced
Jan 24 - To be Announced
Jan 31 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



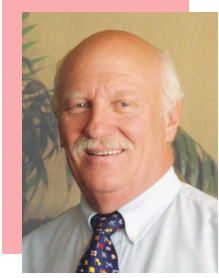
12/05 - Linda Wilkes
12/06 - Carlton Gustafson
12/09 - Sammy Kayali
12/12 - Karen Gorton
12/15 - Jacque Foreman
12/15 - Gordon Seyffert
12/18 - Olga Louviere
12/26 - Mona Jasnow
12/26 - Carol Zoeller



Anniversaries



12/10 - Kevin & Ursula Moore
12/22 - Gordon & Marsha Seyffert
12/29 - Ran & Joy Carlson



December 7... Not a Good Day in International Relations ... *But a Good Day to Remember*

Remembering Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941): At least 2400 died as a result of the sneak attack. Another 1200 were wounded. WWII followed with the loss of 300,000 Americans.

911: 3000 killed and many more suffered from another attack. The aftermath of Desert Shield killed many more. Maybe 50,000.

Our losses by-in-large are small in comparison to many other combatants in other nations in other wars. Some recent examples include the Biafran War in Nigeria in the 1970s, which accounted for 2,000,000 dead; another 1,000,000 in Rawanda in 1994; 2,000,000 in the Sudanese Civil War since 1983; 50,000,000 in WWII overall; and 20,000,000 in the Gulag Archipelago courtesy of Stalin.

Gruesome, gruesome ... what else to say! Man's (and woman's) inhumanity to man (and woman) continues in historic cycles throughout the age of man. So little regard for human life. Squabbles, disagreements, competition over limited resources, the desire of those with power to rule over those with none or those with resources to rule over those with none obviously create resentment, hatred, animosity, jealousy, envy, strife, desire for revenge, willingness to kill, steal, maim, lie; all the vices ... the essence of evil.

Solutions anyone? Of course there are solutions. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, we have been fortunate enough to inherit Mosaic Law composed of 10 Commandments which, if followed, can assure peaceful coexistence and, by extension, prosperity and even good-will-to-all men and women. The problem was and is, that

none of us is so perfect that we can obey or adhere well to the Ten Commandments without stumbling miserably because we are neither sufficiently talented nor strong enough to live up to our own — never mind God's — ideals without a lot of help from that same loving God. Even the Pharisees failed miserably, too often adhering to the *letter-of-the-law*, but failing to keep the *spirit-of-the-law*. The result was that they, like we, became self-righteous; 'I thank God that I am not as that miserable sinner.' pleading for mercy and forgiveness for his many transgressions and sins.

Nowadays, of course, your truth may not be the same as my truth, and my way may not be your way, so everyman (and woman) becomes destined to do or act in accordance with his or her own concept of what is right, what is true and what is ethical. We might even frame our concepts right and wrong upon *situational ethics*; each man or women doing what is *right in his/her own eyes*.

Remember the book *1984* by George Orwell? Remember the *Ministry of Truth*? ... whose job it was to *tell lies!*

With no true moral code and a clear tendency to *legislate from the bench*, obedience to the law presupposes liberty or license to be equivalent to freedom under the law, which it is not. John Adams proclaimed our freedom to be enshrined in a *nation of laws, not of men* ...; the presumption once more being when you agree with those laws; which we did by-in-large when we were governed by the Ten Commandments, the US Constitution, Bill of Rights and holy scriptures of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Now. Not So Much!

And we wonder why it all doesn't work so much any more. Ben Franklin retorted '... *we have given you a republic, if you can keep it.*' He went on to say, "*Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.*" (Is this why we need so much government?)

So ... Have we lost our virtue? ... Our belief in the law? ... Our adherence to a single moral code to which we can subscribe? Then no wonder we have inherited the wind.

For a century and more America has tried, not always successfully, but tried to serve as a beacon of freedom, of equality of mankind under the law building an ideological empire founded upon the ideal of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all and the ownership of private property. Now we no longer believe in or understand the price at which our freedom has been purchased or appreciate what we hold in our hands ... until it is gone.

Other nations see, know and appreciate what we are, what we have accomplished and what we stand for ... At least they did. A kingdom of the mind and spirit, America captured the hearts and souls of freedom loving peoples everywhere for generations. And now it seems we may be in the twilight of our glory, our grandeur.

On December 7, it was a time to remember again who and what we are, one nation under God with freedom and justice for all ... not a nanny state. Again Ben Franklin may have said it best; "*They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither safety nor liberty.*"



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — increased slightly to \$216.9 billion in October. This increase follows a downwardly revised 9.2 percent increase in September. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, October orders posted a monthly increase of 1.5 percent.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — rose 0.3 percent in September, following a 0.8 percent increase in August. On a year-over-year basis, prices rose 3 percent compared with September 2011.

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

ending November 23 fell 0.9 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 2 percent. Purchase volume rose 3 percent.

New home sales fell 0.3 percent in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 368,000 units from a downwardly revised rate of 369,000 units in September. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales were up 17.2 percent compared with October 2011. At the current sales pace, there's a 4.8-month supply of new homes on the market.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the U.S. — increased at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the third quarter of 2012, compared to the initial estimate of 2 percent. This follows a 1.3 percent pace of growth in the second quar-

ter of 2012.

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, rose 5.2 percent in October after a revised 0.4 percent gbnv increase in September. On a year-over-year basis, pending home sales were up 13.2 percent compared with October 2011.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending November 24 fell by 23,000 to 393,000. Continuing claims for the week ending November 17 fell by 70,000 to 3.287 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on construction spending on December 3 and factory orders on December 5.

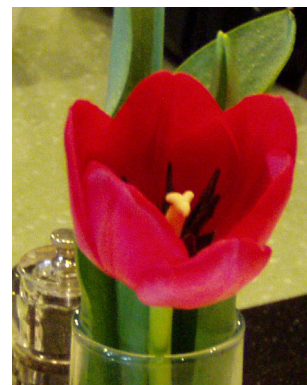
Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

Program

Continued from p.2

and the meeting of January 3 will be the Club Assembly. We will be told if that meeting will be held at the Club or Big Mama's.

The meeting was relaxed, the food and conversation were wonderful, and a great deal of information was shared. It was a nice break from the regular meetings.



A Look at Education from Abroad

The Rotary Club of Milford (Auckland, New Zealand) carried a program review in late November of the Vice-Chancellor at Massey University. He was speaking on the topic of the future of education. Steve Maharey, the presenter, is a Rotarian, former Member of Parliament, and former Minister of Broadcasting in New Zealand. I found the review of his remarks interesting for several reasons, but believe it best that I merely share first what I read before commenting.

“Steve’s message to the Club was to get involved in the education conversation that is taking place; debate is extremely important. It is very important because what we teach our children today will reflect society in 30 years’ time. The challenge for teachers is now greater than it has ever been. The pace of change is accelerating, so teachers have to factor this into what they teach. Rote learning facts and lots of content under the traditional model will no longer cut it; students now need to be actively involved in problem solving, collaboration, risk taking, creativity and learning how to learn.

“As to change, Steve spoke of the fu-

turologists’ predictions that students at schools will have to cope with;

- 85 percent of the jobs that will open up for them have not yet been invented.
- What an IT graduate learns in his/her first year at university will be redundant by the time they graduate.
- 3D printing will impact the way services are delivered
- Singularity, where we as humans are able to interact with machines by merely thinking.
- In the next 30 years, there will be more tertiary qualifications issued than issued in all the time to the present date, a tertiary qualification will be the norm.

“As to which countries have an education system that we can model; Finland stands out as having a learning environment that is based on the principles involved with problem solving, collaboration, risk taking, creativity and learning how to learn. It consistently comes out on top of most education measurements. Interestingly, they don’t start school until they are 7 and are not measured for the first six years. Singapore is in the process of changing the way it approaches edu-

cation and will transform their system in the next five years.

“John Avery commented that, in Finland teachers are valued, are required to have a Masters degree, and have the same status as doctors and lawyers.”

• • •

You will each have your own reaction to the above. But this reminded me of how, in my grad-school years, it slowly became clear just how much my supposed “Blue Ribbon” K-12 schooling had left out of my education. Namely, the doubly-stated: “problem solving, collaboration, risk taking, creativity and learning how to learn.”

Much progress has come in the intervening years, of course. Yet I wonder how much of what we **now** know about teaching filters down to the student. My own children benefitted greatly from a brief period of enlightened teaching in the Kansas City public schools.

But in time the forces of *status quo ante* managed to stamp out what was good, and the younger two ultimately had to leave for other schools. A major part of this unfortunate saga came about because key elements in the community (and even within the school system itself) did not value what the new schools were attempting.

I feel this was largely due to a failure to differentiate between the traditional and the experimental teaching. For too many outside education, **all** teachers were merely members of the lowly subset of public servants. And within education, *professionalism* too often took second place to job advancement. Better we should see it as the Finns do, but how (I wonder) are we ever to get there? ○

**MEET THE ROSE QUEEN
AND HER COURT
THIS WEEK
A COMBINED MEETING WITH
SAN MARINO ROTARY**



Job Creation & Entrepreneurship

by C. Ray Carlson, Chair,
New Generations Service

You don't have to be big to be great. Think 'SWEDEN'

'Sweden is a little land' is a phrase I heard often during the nine years I lived in Stockholm working on a large oil refinery project. Even when multiple Swedish companies grew to become the #1 or 2 in the whole world in their field, that was insufficient to change their minimal bragging rights.

IKEA (home furnishings), H&M (clothing fashions), and ELECTROLUX (home appliances) are but a few in that ethereal category that Swedes might brag about. VOLVO and SAAB, though having low sales volumes, have faithful customers who will buy nothing else. VOLVO has always been famous for their many safety features, such that parents of teenagers are often advised to buy that brand, even older models. This week they announced that they will offer a *driverless car* by 2020, so fully equipped with sensing mechanisms front and back that will automatically slow down, steer away from danger, or stop the car, and not depend on the driver.

IKEA and H&M are noted for their low prices while offering designs that attract huge numbers of buyers. Young couples flock to IKEA and teenagers to H&M. Not knowing what to buy my granddaughter for her 20th birthday last week, I gave her an H&M gift card. She was ecstatic, said 'H&M is my favorite store.' When visiting from Germany, my other two granddaughters ask to be taken there almost directly from LAX. I noted the low price tags in the window display and wondered how they can rent prime space in Old Town Pasadena, next door to up-scale Tiffany's, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Apple?

Conclusion: Swedes excel at design and innovation, and they manufacture all over the world to get the lowest prices. Swedes don't seem to complain about the export-

ing of jobs. Unemployment remains around 7 percent Their government pays to re-educate and train them to stay on top of new technology and to become innovators of it.



Why am I mentioning all this? **Sweden's population is the same as Los Angeles County: 10-million! Land-mass-wise it is about the same as California's.**

I explain all this when training high school and college kids to write business plans. They tend to come up with grandiose ideas of titles for themselves and large staffs and large office or store space. I advise: start very small, on the kitchen table, or in their bedrooms, or in their garages. Like Bill Hewlett & David Packard, Bill Gates & Paul Allen, Steve Jobs & Steve Wozniak, or the many social media types who started in their dorm rooms, then never finished college because they became successful so quickly.

Sweden leads the world in many areas, the most notable ones being gender equivalence, percent of GDP donated to economic development in impoverished countries, and especially environmental safeguards. The focus on *green* originated in Sweden because of its pristine rivers

and forests. I had the distinction of providing a waste treatment design to the Swedish equivalent of EPA for their approval before the Swedish parliament would approve the refinery site on the Western coast. A few years ago, the refinery was still considered to be the *greenest* in Europe, having made many upgrades over the 30 years since it started operations. Ironically, though the refinery capacity size was set to serve Sweden's perceived growth in demand, the country became so efficient in conserving on energy that the refinery's products are exported to the US and European countries where demand is growing for its ultra premium quality.

Yes, Sweden is a little country but has an unusually strong conscience about the environment and compassion for the needy. Why? Although once a Protestant Christian nation where even its soldiers carried psalmbooks with hymns for daily worship, now a very small percentage attend church. I believe that the basic principles and truths of the Bible are so imbedded in the culture that it still manifests itself in legislation that led to *cradle to grave* welfare.

Know what the #1 hymn in the world is and where it originated? "How Great Thou Art." In a little village in Sweden 150 years ago. It was translated to Russian, an English missionary heard it and translated it to English, George Beverly Shea sang it at a Billy Graham Crusade in Manhattan every night for many weeks and in every crusade thereafter around the world. I heard it once from the platform of South Korea's largest megachurch, with everyone singing in parts and accompanied by a full orchestra. It was awesome.



*You are cordially invited
to our
Christmas Party Potluck*

*Thursday Evening
December 20, 2012*



6:30 to 9p



*257 S. Delacey
Pasadena, Ca 91105
Party Room above the Pool*

Turkey, Ham, Drinks, Utensils, etc. Provided

*Bring a Salad, Vegetable Dish, or Dessert
All Members and Families, including Children invited*

\$10 per person

Register on ClubRunner

