

This Week

Junior ROTC and Americanism Awards

Guest Program Host:
Tom McCurry

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. The primary purpose of the original 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, presents a total of ten awards to our future leaders. Please join us for this always-fun and always-heartwarming event!



View from the Hill

by President
Tony Hill

I love Paraprosdokians. Don't You?

As I am in Rhode Island for my daughter Laura's college graduation, it will be your lot to endure more paraprosdokian jokes, passed on to me by Gordon Seyffert who borrowed them from the newsletter of the Pomona Valley Genealogical Society. Again a paraprosdokian joke is defined as a figure of speech used for humorous effect, in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected. Enjoy:

- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive more than once.
- The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!
- Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.
- An Irishman can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.
- Money can't buy happiness, but it sure

makes misery easier to live with.

- I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
- I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit *the target*.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Greeters

June 07

Hal Yorke

June 14

Mike Zoeller

June 21

Sue Applegate



Program Review

Altadena Rotary Awards Season Begins: Dewey Merrill Business Plans Awards & PCC Vocational Awards

This week's program was *two-for-one*. It involved first the presentation of a winning business plan by students from Monrovia High School, in concert with the awarding of the Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence to these same students. Second, Pasadena City College Vocational Student Awards were presented to a host of 25 PCC students by Dennis Mehringer together with representatives of the students' respective faculties.

The festivities began before Noon

when Past President Brian Hayes opened the meeting in the absence of President Tony Hill. Hayes promptly called Ray Carlson to the front to announce that today marked the 2nd Annual District 5300 Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurship Awards — which represent an expansion of our decade-long Altadena Rotary Club Dewey Merrill Awards.

Carlson, in turn, presented District 5300 Executive Assistant Governor (California West) Dennis Franklin, speaking on behalf of DG Doug Fowler. Briefly, Franklin told of people he had met who had prospered due to ownership of a business — theirs or their family's — and of how this, in turn, benefitted many others.

Next came the actual business plan presentation by two of the winning students of Monrovia High School. Although Monrovia High was the only school able to attend, owing to school regulations and staffing requirements at other area high schools, we were ourselves rewarded by observing one of the most thorough and complete high school business plans that Ray Carlson has ever seen.

The name of the venture is *Valuepon*, *Your Destination for Discounts*, and it is designed to compete against an industry-

leading issuer of coupons to consumers on behalf of local businesses. The presenters were Amanda Mansoorbakht and



Timothy Ramirez. Their teacher was Scott Sorgent (about

whom Ray spoke in his recent *Sparks* article on "Job Creation & Entrepreneurship").

A key virtue of the *Valuepon* venture is that the coupons — sent by USPS mail to customers who sign up on-line — are personalized to the individual consumer. This personal touch avoids the mistake of trying to interest, for example, young students living at home in retailers such as Home Depot. Other important factors are a *take rate* substantially lower than those offered local businesses by the established competitor(s), and a 60-day free trial for consumers.

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

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June Programs

Fellowship Month

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

Jun 07 - JROTC Awards

Jun 14 - Teacher Mini-Grant Reports

Jun 21 - Jeffrey Piece, Stifel, Nicolaus & Co.,
- The Warren Buffet Investment

Jun 28 - Demotion Party - An evening
Event

Congratulations



Birthdays

06/03 - Kathleen Anne Fennell

06/08 - Theo Clarke

06/12 - Tom McCurry

06/17 - Gary Clark

06/20 - Dotty Clark

06/28 - Phyllis Soza



Anniversaries

06/05 - Mike Noll & Wendy Davis

06/10 - Brian and Gloria Hayes

Chairmen's Corner A Rising Tide ... or An Ebbing Tide?

What will happen to all the boats?

by John Frykenberg, International Chair



**Row, Row, Row
Your Boat, Gently
Down the Stream,
Merrily, Merrily, Mer-
rily, Merrily ... Life**

is but a dream!

**If a rising tide lifts all boats ... What
does an ebbing tide do?**

Spending our way into oblivion? Are we doing that? What a way to go!

Margaret Thatcher told us socialism was great ... 'till you run out of other people's money. I think she was a very smart woman.

Maybe Greece and Spain have already arrived. These are beautiful countries. Some of the highest quality of living in the world! But, sadly, they are both out of money!

Kind of like beautiful California, don't you think? We are about out of money, too.

National average gas prices now are \$3.68/gallon. California's gas prices are closer to \$4.78/gal ... because we pay 0.48/gal gas tax ... conservatively double

that of most states.

How privileged we are!

We all know what is going on in Greece! So comforting. They think we're not nearly as bad! Really?

The comparison between Greece and California is startling! Stockton may soon become California's largest city to go bankrupt.

Over the years, California's high taxes, great entitlements and significant number of regulations have created a *European-style* welfare state right here at home.

In the past 25 years, the population of California grew by 10 million. In the same period Medicaid (welfare) recipients rose by 7 million. Income paying tax filers only rose by 150,000. Oops!

This year unfunded liabilities for the California pension and healthcare system is \$250,000,000! Wow!

In 9 of the last 10 years the California general fund spent more money than it took in in tax revenues.

Last year's tax deficit was \$5 billion!

And next year's budget proposes a spending increase of \$7 billion!

And the *solution* is? ... a *temporary* \$31 billion dollar multi-year tax increase which is larger than the *temporary* tax increase it replaces!

Thousands of Californian's, along with their businesses, are leaving the state for *greener pastures* like Texas.

Are we broke yet? Maybe a European-style welfare state does not work anywhere!

Oh yes, I forgot, John Maynard Keynes like Spain and Greece believe we must prime the pump some more if we are to get back on track to solvency.

Francois Hollande of France and Andria Merkle of Germany are arguing this point now ... to see how much more money to *invest* in Greece and Spain. Nothing much said about the fact that both countries have been spending more than they take in; just like California.

Well, time will tell! We are not totally broke yet. I'm sure the Occupy Movement will tell us when things get really bad. ☹

Program

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Although startup costs were only \$7,259 (the venture is already to be found on the internet!), the students have ambitious plans for it. They are hoping a financial angel will help them reach total investment capital of \$100,000 — and they foresee an IPO some day in the future. They anticipate the venture can be profitable within about six months, given that they will begin with the area they know.

Following the presentation and a brief Q&A period, Carlson introduced John Davis of the Rotary Club of Arcadia, who

will be a part of the next team headed to Nigeria. Finally, the students were presented with their awards, and Carlson closed with the call for young people everywhere to "**Be Entrepreneurs!**"

• • •

The PCC Vocational Student Awards were the province of a Rotarian equally as prominent as Ray Carlson in his dedication, year-after-year, in promoting a program that has distinguished the Rotary Club of Altadena. This month marks the 50th anniversary of our club's first pre-

sentation of these awards to deserving students at PCC.

Dennis Mehringer spoke of this fifty-year tradition, thanked Carlson for honoring Dennis Merrill, and introduced PCC Scholarship Liaison Kim Miles. He emphasized the importance of PCC students who return to the classroom to acquire skills that will not only support them, but which will benefit society by their service. Several of the presenting faculty referenced the *Service Above Self* Rotary motto in

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MONEY MATTERS

by Linda Wilkes

Last Week in the News

Existing home sales rose 3.4 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.62 million units from a downwardly revised 4.47 million units in March. The inventory of unsold homes on the market increased 9.5 percent to 2.54 million, a 6.6-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 6.2-month supply in March.

New home sales rose 3.3 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 343,000 units from an upwardly revised rate of 332,000 units in March. The initial March reading was 328,000. The February rate was revised higher to 358,000 units. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales are up 9.9 percent. At the cur-

rent sales pace, there's a 5.1-month supply of new homes on the market.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending May 18 rose 3.8 percent. Refinancing applications increased 5.6 percent. Purchase volume fell 3 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — rose \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$215.5 billion in April. This increase follows a revised 3.7 percent decrease in March. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, April orders posted a monthly decrease of 0.6 percent.

The Reuters/University of Michigan

consumer sentiment index for May's final reading rose to 79.3 (the highest level since October 2007) from 76.4 in April. On a year-over-year basis, consumer sentiment is up 6.7 percent.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending May 19 fell by 2,000 to 370,000 from a revised 372,000 the prior week. Continuing claims for the week ending May 12 fell by 29,000 to 3.26 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on pending home sales on May 30 and construction spending on June first.

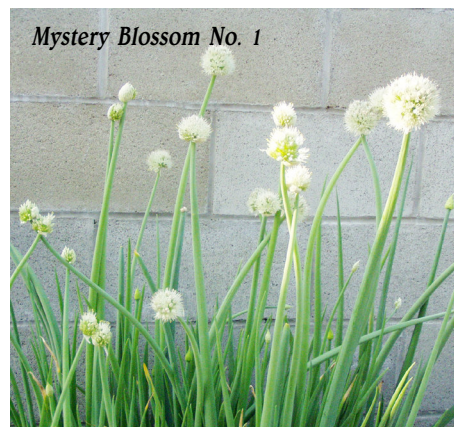
Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

Playing IN THE Mud

Share your gardening triumphs and tragedies.

That's what I say I'm doing when I'm gardening. And, unless one is extremely mean to a plant, it is usually quite forgiving. If you do gardening, step in and share your experiences and let us see those beautiful roses, etc.

Here are some flowers. See if you can identify them. I'm sure I would not be able to if they were not growing in my yard — actually be design.



Think you know what they are? First Clue: These two plants are related. Both are used as a garnish. The first is often used in place of onions. Let's see the blossoms up close. And the second



one! Both of these flowers and the leaves on both plants are edible. Spring seems to be the time they bloom. I don't know

yet if the plant lives after blooming. Parsley doesn't, but these may.

I'm running out of space, so time to let you know that plant and blossom No. 1 are scallions, and the second blossoms and plants are chives.

Let us see what you are growing in your garden. Have opinions about which shears to purchase? Here's an invitation to come play in the mud with me.

Jacque Foreman, Editor

Gordon's by Gordon Seyffert Corner

President Tony Our Newest American

Marsha and I joined Tony and his daughter Chelsea at 11a for the ride downtown to the LA Convention Center's Tom Bradley Hall for his swearing-in ceremony. I knew it would be a large undertaking, but I didn't expect the crowd that I actually saw. It was an overwhelming sight!

To think that 3,500 people were to be made citizens at this one ceremony, and that this happens every month or so. Later I was informed that there have been as many as 10,000 at these events. It was the US District Court that was in session, and I think I heard a reference to it being the court for the LA *central district*. So that implies that there are others — which I suppose accounts for the under 10,000 count.

Yet, never having been to one of these, I suppose I had imagined some hall the size of a high school auditorium. A setting at which one could actually see the faces of the officials presiding.... Here, we were just too distant, even though Chelsea, Marsha and I had seating in the very front rows of the visitors' section! It was only by chance that we could see Tony at all

amongst the sea of applicants.

And that flag! Larger than the original Star Spangled Banner! It reminded me of the opening scene in the movie *Patton*. The whole of the ceremony was very impressive and, I thought, dignified — yet at the same time personal. Judge Kenton spoke of his having had an immigrant mother and a second generation father. He made casual asides to the audience, even breaking in during his administration of the oath to encourage a louder response, and later to explain away the oath's archaic text by reminding all that it was written in the earliest years of the Republic.

The historical reference brought to mind a few observations of my own. First, that my paternal immigrant ancestor — a '48er who emigrated in 1854 — had not had *German* citizenship, but rather citizenship in the several *cities* in which he had lived. He was a subject of the Kingdom of Saxony, but never a citizen of that German state because he was guaranteed no rights by virtue of his birth and/or residence. I later kidded Tony about his

no longer having to answer to those *Canadian potentates*, but for my ancestor that was very real.

And then I thought of how that cultural twist in the definition of citizenship had ensnared some of my ancestor's comrades-in-arms. Our ambassador to Prussia in the 1850s wrote constantly to the Secretary of State about returned Germans (often on visits to claim inheritances) who mistakenly thought that having merely applied for US citizenship (or, worse, having received a *citizenship* letter from their local US mayor) had entitled them to diplomatic protection when they found themselves imprisoned by Prussian authorities.

And so it was with more than just the usual in-born patriotism that I recognized the value of the document that our fellow Rotarian had just received. And, as I write this on the Friday before Memorial Day, I'm looking forward to the Mountain View Cemetery's observance for the Civil War dead buried at the GAR plots. I'm sure that some of them must have been immigrants who came for peace, yet fought for the Union. ☉



FELLOWSHIP ♦♦♦ by Theo Clarke, Fellowship Chair The Core of Altadena Rotary

Thanks to the Members of the Fellowship Committee

I raise my glass in appreciation and hearty thanks to members of the 2011-2012 Altadena Fellowship Committee. We had a stellar year of fellowship events, kicking off the 2011-2012 Rotary year with the October 2011 Meet and Greet at the McCormack and Schmick in Pasadena, the

one during which Theo sat at the bar wondering where everyone was. Committee members helping make it happen were John Frykenberg, Gordon Seyffert, Tony Hill and Theo Clarke. Thanks.

We had a wet Meet and Greet at Craftsman Brewery on Lincoln Avenue in No-

vember 2011. It rained like the dickens during the gathering, but no one noticed as we were all slugging down the brewskies. Tom McCurry, Gordon and Marsha Seyffert, Theo Clarke, Tony Hill, and Dave Smith helped make it happen. Thanks. It was a very good year. ☉

Program

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explaining why these individual students had been selected for their awards.

Due to late entries in some instances, not all of the plaques were present and, as Mehringer wryly observed, "The checks are (also) in the mail!"

But suffice to list here those plaques that could be viewed at the awards table: Accounting/Bus. Admin., Audio Production, Biotechnology (2), Computer Info Systems (2), Dental Laboratory Technology (2), Fashion (2), Medical Assisting (2), Nursing (2), Paralegal Studies (2), Radiology Technology, Speech - Language Pathology (2), Television Operations, and Television Production.

My apologies for such a lengthy program review. Yet, to do justice to *two programs in one*, it was necessary to be twice as long....

Gordon Seyffert



Dental Assisting & Dental Hygiene - (l to r) Emily Purnell, Angelica Lesaca, Barbara Freund (Dean) and Stephanie Hardley



Business - (l to r) Stephen Isenberg, Daryl Taylor (Instructor), Michael Granados, Barrett Fernando, Corina Davis and Madison Leiren



Radiologic Technology - (l to r) Duy Nguyen, Robert Benson, Lynn Lehou (Instructor), and Barbara Kissel (Program Director)



Radio/Television Operations & Production - (l to r) Viridiana Noriega, Andrew Rodriguez, Carmen Porreca (Instructor), Sarah Barker (Instructor), and Brian A. Diaz



Nursing & Medical Assisting - (l to r) Esther Kim, Alma Sainz, Barbara Freund (Dean), Steve Fregoso and Victoria Ngo



Bio Technology - Ristin Drewry, Pamela Eversole-Cire (Instructor) and Salvador Recinos



Speech & Language Pathology Assistant - (l to r) Hannah Gallaher, Rosemary Scott (Instructor), and Libai Ambrose

Health Services: Dental Laboratory Technology - (l to r) Ben Laaly, Anita Bobich (Professor) and Thomas Ball

