


## This Week

### What did They do with the Money?

*(or The story of the  
Mini-Grants)  
Program Host:  
Ed Jasnow*

That's the question that will be answered this week when the teachers who have been recipients of Altadena Rotary mini-grants report to us on how they used the money to enhance the classroom experience of their students.

This is one of the most anticipated programs of the year as we listen in amazement as these teachers tell us how far they stretched \$300. In this year of severely constrained education budgets, this grant money is appreciated by the teachers more than ever.

This program always makes us feel proud to be Rotarians. It's a perfect program to bring a guest so they can see first hand the good work we do. 



## View from the Hill

by President  
Tony Hill

### I'm Proud to be An American!

**I**n case I have not adequately conveyed it to all of you, I am very proud to now be an official citizen of the United States of America. I have always admired America even as a young boy. As a kid I loved the western movies with such heros as John Wayne and Gary Cooper, and the war movies with such heros as John Wayne and Gary Cooper (a little redundant but they are two very good examples). As a teenager I enjoyed reading about the exploits of American inventors such as Edison and entrepreneurs such as Henry Ford. I enjoyed studying US history about the thirteen colonies, the war of independence and the civil war. In college I was especially drawn to the text *Economics* by Paul Samuelson who artfully made a very complex subject understandable. In my Psych major, I enjoyed studying the theories of California psychologist Carl Lewis. When I made it to law school, I was blown away by reading the Federalist Papers and absorbing the wisdom of the many Supreme Court rulings over the years. And now I am part of this wonderful country.

It is not to say that I am naive. Believe me, there is a lot about this country that bothers me, but I do not think that there is

a US citizen alive who would not like to change something or other about the country. But the founding fathers were brilliant in setting up a dynamic process where free expression is welcome, and change is always possible. There is always going to be a pendulum swinging back and forth, from right to left and left to right. But that is the beauty of it all. And now I have the opportunity to make my contribution to the process by voting my mind.

I will use the balance of this article to set forth the letter from President Obama that I, and the other 3,500 candidates for citizenship, received on May 24, 2012. I see this as apolitical because I am sure that the letter from President George Bush contained a similar message. But I found it inspiring, particularly the part about giv-

*Please turn to View, p.3*

## Greeters

June 14

**Mike Zoeller**

June 21

**Sue Applegate**

June 28

**Demotion - An Evening Event**



# Program Review

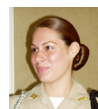
## Recognizing Outstanding ROTC Students

The arrival of spring means it is time for the Rotary Club of Altadena to host a series of award luncheons. These include the annual award of mini-grants to teachers in the Pasadena Unified School District or the vocational



awards ceremony to students from Pasadena City College. But the one awards ceremony that we all look forward to with great anticipation is the annual ROTC awards program to recognize the outstanding students from Blair, Pasadena and John Muir High Schools who participate in the military programs offered on these campuses. The Club makes awards in the categories of leadership, academics and Americanism.

Navy LCDR Francis Stubbe noted that he had been involved with the Naval ROTC program for 25 years, and he expressed his gratitude to the Rotary Club of Altadena for their support. Commander Stubbe introduced his two award recipients: Theresa Mijares (leadership) and Jeffrey Valdez (Academics). Mijares was the unit commander and exhibited outstanding leadership skills. She arranged for the transfer of the PHS commencement ceremony to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, so that people did not have to sit outside. She plans to attend Cal State Los Angeles and pursue a career in criminal justice. Valdez



received honors in marksmanship and plans to attend Cal State Northridge and major in political science.



Army Sergeant Ervin Turner from Blair High School introduced his recipients: Olivia Jones (Leadership) [not present] and Stephanie Frasquillo (Academics). Jones was the battalion commander and demonstrated outstanding leadership skills. At Blair, the last 10 battalion commanders have been female. Frasquillo had a great influence on the battalion and was able to get many tasks completed. She is planning on attending PCC in the fall.



Air Force Sergeant Tony Loar from John Muir High School was next to speak. He was excited to be at the ceremony as this was his first year at John Muir. He introduced his four recipients: Angelica Salcedo (Leadership), Crista Santacruz (Academics), Dalia Avalos (Leadership) and Miriam Lopez (Leadership). All four students were recipients of the John Muir Service award



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### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949  
P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003  
www.altadenarotary.com  
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p  
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## June Programs

### Fellowship Month

#### Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

Jun 14 - Teacher Mini-Grant Reports  
Jun 21 - Jeffrey Piece, Stifel, Niclaus & Co.,  
- The Warren Buffet Investment  
Jun 28 - Demotion Party - An evening  
Event

## July Programs

### No Designation

#### Program Chair, To be Announced

Jul 05 - Club Assembly  
Jul 12 - To be Announced  
Jul 19 - To be Announced  
Jul 26 - 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  
06/28 - Phyllis Soza



### Anniversaries

06/05 - Mike Noll & Wendy Davis  
06/10 - Brian and Gloria Hayes

## Thank you for your continued support of the Rotary Foundation



It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of another Rotary Year. I want to thank all of you who have supported the Rotary Foundation

through Tony's year. As Altadena Rotarians understand the tremendous work of the Foundation, it is my hope that they (you) will support that work by mak-

ing it one of their (your) main charities each year. Our small club has contributed over \$500,000 over the years. This has happened as members have committed to being sustaining members with contributions of at least \$120 per year. Many have embraced the opportunity of being Paul Harris Fellows with contributions over time of \$1000 — with most going on to make family and friends PHFs as well. A few of our members have taken the ex-

tra step of committing to a donation of \$1,000 per year to the Annual Programs Fund through the Paul Harris Society or by naming the Foundation in their will, trust or beneficiary designations.

For all this I say "Thank You." Your generosity continues to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through improvements in health, support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. ○

## Program

Continued from p.2

given recently at the High School awards ceremony. Loar called Salcedo "the backbone of the program" and she will be attending San Jose State University in the fall; Santacruz was the squadron commander and will attend the University of California at Irvine; Avalos will attend PCC to pursue her studies in nursing; and Lopez will also be attending PPC to study culinary arts.



The final awards were the annual Americanism awards for two students from Elliot Middle School. Peter Pannell, the principal from Elliot, presented these awards to John Pointer and Ronna Mae Pidut.



Pidut was one of the outstanding math students at Elliot; she plays the piano and the guitar; she is active in the marching band and her church. She will be attending PHS in the fall. Pointer is a committed student who demonstrates outstanding skills; he was a past Student of the Month, plays basketball, worked on Black History month; he wants to go to film school after attending John



Muir.

All of the recipients expressed their gratitude to the Rotary Club for making

the award possible. We look for great things to come from these outstanding student leaders. *Boyd Hudson* ○

## View

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ing back by becoming involved in your community, as we all do through Rotary.

So here is the President's message to new citizens: ○

Dear Fellow Americans:

I am honored to congratulate you on becoming a citizen of the United States of America. You represent the promise of the American Dream, and because of your determination, this great Nation is now your Nation.

You have sworn a solemn oath to this country, and you share in its privileges and responsibilities. Our democratic principles and liberties are yours to uphold through active and engaged participation. I encourage you to be involved in your community and to promote the values that guide us as Americans: hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism.

Since our founding, generations of immigrants have come to this country full of hope for a brighter future, and they have made sacrifices in order to pass that legacy on to their children and grandchildren. This is the price and the promise of citizenship. You are now part of this precious history, and you serve as an inspiration to those who will come after you.

We embrace you as a new citizen of our land, and we welcome you to the American family.

Sincerely,  
Barak Obama



# MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

## ***Economic Update Last Week in the News***

Total construction spending rose 0.3 percent to \$820.7 billion in April from a revised \$818.1 billion in March. Compared to April 2011, construction spending is up 6.8 percent.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — showed no change in March, following a 0.8 percent decrease in February. On a year-over-year basis, prices fell 2.6 percent compared with March 2011.

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, fell 5.5 percent in April after a revised 3.8 percent increase in March. On a year-over-year basis, pending home sales are up 14.4 percent compared with April 2011.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending May 25 fell 1.3 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 1.5 percent. Purchase volume fell 0.6 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of manufacturing activity fell to 53.5 in May after a reading of 54.8 in April. A reading above 50 signals expansion.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product —

the total output of goods and services produced in the US — increased at a revised annual rate of 1.9 percent in the first quarter of 2012, compared to the initial estimate of 2.2 percent. This follows a 3 percent pace of growth in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending May 26 rose by 10,000 to 383,000 from a revised 373,000 the prior week. Continuing claims for the week ending May 19 fell by 36,000 to 3.242 million. The unemployment rate rose to 8.2 percent in May from 8.1 percent in April. Employers added 69,000 jobs in May, the fewest in a year.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on wholesale trade and international trade on June 8.

### ***Big Idea***

#### ***What Animal Are You?***

Everyone has his/her own Serengeti to survive, be it a hostile environment or difficult challenges. And learning how wild animals survive in the Serengeti can help us negotiate our own travails.

This is the subject of Stefan Swanepoel's new book, *Surviving Your Serengeti*. The book calls attention to seven survival skills "that the animals on the Serengeti use to overcome their harsh conditions."


We see the endurance of the migrat-

ing wildebeest and are reminded that people frequently give up too soon or fail to pace themselves adequately in their endeavors. They might run a sprint when the real task is a marathon. The wildebeest shows us methodical determination through difficulty and hardship.

We witness lions hunting as a team with exact precision and stealth, each with a specific responsibility. If one falters, the hunt is unsuccessful and the pride goes hungry. Similarly, if someone on your team fails to execute his or her part of the plan, might your team go hungry?

We see the enterprising crocodile — unable to chase its prey like the lion — waiting and then boldly seizing every opportunity that comes its way. A fitting parable for business: You must develop a mindset to actively seek opportunities, be prepared to act and swiftly execute.

The flipside is also true. Avoid the skeptical or cynical mindset that will prevent you from seeing opportunities. Avoid being so wrapped up in daily operations that you're left unprepared or slow to execute.

*If you're curious, you can find out your instinctive animal skill by taking a three-minute quiz at What Animal Am I? [www.whatanimalami.com]* 

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

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## **Rotary Hands reach Across America**

In April, 2011, a series of massive tornadoes rolled across the State of Alabama. One of the towns nearly destroyed by one of these tornadoes was the town of Cullman, which happens to be the home town of my wife, Mona. Her brother, Max, is the Mayor of Cullman. The destruction

wreaked by the tornado was nearly impossible to believe. Almost the entire downtown area was demolished. Three hundred homes were destroyed, and nearly 2,300 trees were uprooted or blown down.

When Mona and I visited last July, we

were amazed at the changes wrought by the tornado. Whole buildings were gone. Entire stands of trees had disappeared. City streets were still blocked by either rubble or fallen trees. It was truly a natural disaster of incredible proportions.

*Please turn to Rotary Hands, p. 5  
Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter*

# Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

## Getting Better over Time

Recently I read Ed Jasnow's lament in which he noted that he was beginning his *umpteenth term* as Community Service Chair. He went on to say that he'd thought that the title of *Chairman for Life* had been abolished with the fall of communism. That got me to thinking that maybe he'd been kept in that position due to his successes. Is he, perhaps, getting better over time at doing what he does?

And then my memory kicked in — not to mention my quirky sense of humor. I made a connection in my mind which Ed might not appreciate, but which I feel duty-bound to share with our Club.

In the late 19th century, many localities in America began to publish histories of their town or county. The frontier era was at a close, and people naturally had an urge to remember those who had

settled the area at an early date.

One such history appeared in my wife's *home county* in the late 1880s. In it was a typical description of one fellow who had been born in Greene County, Pennsylvania in 1812, and who went with his parents into Ohio in 1816. This man married in 1831, and with his family came to northern Missouri in 1840 — just one year after the first settlement of the local area. Think for a moment about that. The fellow began life southwest of Pittsburgh, moved when he was four to the easternmost part of the Middle West, and then at age 28 journeyed almost to the edge of the Great Plains! People traveled a lot then.

And so he continued to travel. The county history recounts the story:

"In 1850 he made a five months' trip to

California driving an oxen team. He remained there about nine months, and then returned by land on muleback, ninety days being consumed in the journey. In 1852 he again went to California, and in 1853 made the return trip in sixty-six days, which made the third time he traveled the distance upon the same mule."

That mule appears to have bested its time with each retracement of the route. In point of fact, the third trip cut the elapsed time from the first trip by over a quarter!

Now, I'm not sure if we have the metrics to measure Ed's progress over the course of his years as Community Service Chair. But I'm willing to wager that's he's gotten better at it over time. So, Ed, it's time to *saddle up!* ○

## Rotary Hands

*Continued from p. 4*

Over the past year, Max has been keeping us informed on the progress of the rebuilding effort. In one of his reports, knowing that I'm a Rotarian, he mentioned that the Rotary Club of Cullman had started a project to restore the trees that had been destroyed. They had taken it upon themselves to do what they could to restore the beautiful forest environment that had surrounded the town.

When I heard that, I was proud that another club of an organization that I was a member of had undertaken this huge task. I thought that if we had a natural disaster affect our community, we would appreciate it if another Rotary Club came to our assistance. So, I wrote an article in

SPARKS, and asked our club members if they would contribute funds to help the Rotary Club of Cullman reforest their town. Sure enough, the generosity of our members came through, and we collected a total of \$485 through Altadena Rotary Charities.

Last Thursday, May 31, I was in Cullman and personally presented our check to the President of their club, Lisa Eckenrod. I cannot tell you how grateful they were to receive this money. After the meeting, nearly every member of the club came up to me and expressed their appreciation that a club 2,000 miles away in Altadena, California, would help in the re-forestation of a small town in Alabama. It

was truly an example of Rotary hands reaching across America.

Max, Mona, and I thank all of you for your generosity. You all really have the true spirit of Rotary. ○



*Ed presenting check to Cullman Alabama Rotary President, Lisa Eckenrod, 12-May 31*



All **FREE** Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.  
 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335  
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

### 16th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2012

Those Manning Bhoys & the Irish Pride Dancers (Irish music)	Saturday, July 7th
Downbeat Express (Big Band Sound featuring Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 14th
Wreck N Sow (Americana, Folk & More)	Saturday, July 21st
Susie Hansen Latin Band (Hot Latin Jazz & Salsa)	Saturday, July 28th
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 4th
Sgt. Pepper (The sounds of the Beatles and more!)	Saturday, August 11th
Lisa Haley and the Zydekats (Cajun Zydeco Music)	Saturday, August 18th
Guitarist Brian Hughes & Band (Contemporary Latin-Jazz)	Saturday, August 25th

**And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 8th**  
**The Walking Phoenixes in a tribute to Johnny Cash & other Country Classics**  
**With Special Guests The Red Mutts 'Top Classic Rock'**  
**Presented By: Stage Door Music Productions & SSGA**

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