

January 31, 2013

This Week

History through the Eyes of Women


A Salute to the "Red, White and Blue"

Guest Host:
Sue Applegate

Today we are going to hear the story of our national emblem, known as *The Stars and Stripes*, *Old Glory*, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and *The Grand Old Flag*.

The many stories surrounding how they were designed, sewn, celebrated in poetry and song, and the ironic images of where our flag has flown will leave you with a new respect for this enduring symbol of patriotic identity and pride.

Since 1987, Deborah McIntosh has portrayed many women, providing entertaining and informative presentations for organizations such as elementary and middle schools, high schools, senior centers, California Retired Teachers Association gatherings and more.

What would it be like to meet Cleopatra, Helen of Troy, Joan of Arc, Abigail Adams and other famous historical women in person? Would you like to learn about the History of Hats and Victorian Tea, Bastille Day and the French Revolution? Why is our flag called *Old Glory*, and how did women contribute during wartime in America? 



Johnson's Judgments

by President Julius Johnson

Something Greater . . .

Last night (Friday, January 25) I attended a very interesting service. The organization calls themselves *Legionnaires for Christ*. This is an interdenominational, interracial group of pastors in the Pasadena/Altadena area who are banding together to create a revolution of unity and Christ based love within the Church. They are bold enough to call themselves the *Restoration Generation*. Lead by a female foreign missionary from Uganda whom they call *The General!* Their goal is to restore the church, its members and the community back to a *right relationship* with God the father through Jesus Christ. They are even going so far as to suggest that the right to pray ought to be brought back to public schools.

One of the speakers said that each of the Legionaries should be prepared to share their story of how they came to Christ and extend an invitation to others to do the same thing on a regular basis. He said, "If you had a cure for cancer, and you met someone dying from this disease, wouldn't you share with this person your knowledge of their cure? Would you let the fact that you do not know the person that well or the fact that you are shy, keep

than Yourself

you from sharing with them the cure for their deadly disease.

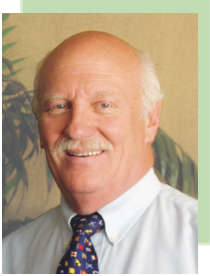
We can take a play from their play book.

Rotary won't cure cancer, but it did play a major role in ridding the world of polio. Rotary can't make the lame walk again, but it does provide wheel chairs to people in poor communities, giving them mobility and new hope. Rotary cannot make water flow from a rock, but Rotarian's working together have brought clean water to many villages and communities who never had clear water available to them before Rotarian's got involved with their community and their lives.

Getting involved in Rotary can cure
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Greeters

January 31
George Buehler
February 07
Ray Carlson
February 14
Gary Clark



Program Review

Containers of Life

Architects — good and bad — house our immortal souls on earth with their sweeping and creative imaginings and edifices both soaring and mundane.

Our Club was privileged to have Dion Neutra and, by extension, his father Richard with us as the *father of green architecture*. Both in slide and illustrative portfolio, Dion's sweeping designs for *survival living* to reconnect mankind to the wonders of nature, water, air and expanse of

all we behold proved breathtaking and reminiscent of what can be when we bring the outside, inside.

Water features galore, infinity pools, fountains and lakes extending their tributaries into our living spaces via vast glass expanses and careful citing have proven the Neutra's capacity to make a landscape of every window.

Venues for the enormous talent of the visionary architects carry from the US Embassy, Karachi, Pakistan (*now Consulate*) to the Battlefield at Gettysburg and the hills of Silver Lake and Griffith Park in Los Angeles.

Joint ventures with Frank Lloyd Wright, notwithstanding, the Neutra family has laid claims to National Register of Historic Place buildings, some of which are threatened today by neglect and inadequate maintenance and lack of foresight. Dated to be sure, but — like great art or fine wine — to be savored and appreciated as gifts from the creative mind, the architecture of the Neutra family inspires, challenges and exhorts us to *be all that we can be* if not as builders than certainly as connoisseurs of spaces of our lives.

'Envy' would be too diminutive a description for the feelings created or awe



we acknowledge in appreciation for the work of architects in literally raising our horizons and pointing us to a future of anticipation and expectation and appreciation of the gifts God has given us and to those who design the most beautiful *containers of our lives*; the ones in which we live and work.

Dion is publishing the first of 10 Volumes of the architecture of the Neutras, currently for sale at \$35. We thank Dion

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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

Rotary Int. Pres. Sakuji Tanaka
Dist 5300 Gov. Sylvia Veronica Whitlock

Officers

Julius Johnson, Pres. Bus. 626-797-1186
Dennis Mehringer, Pres. Elec. Bus. 626-577-9800
Tony Hill, VPres. Bus. 626-795-5363
Jim Gorton, Sec. Bus. 626-795-6215
Mike Noll, Treas. Bus. 626-683-0515

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Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

January

Rotary Awareness Month

Program Chair, Dennis Mehringer
Jan 31 - History through the eyes of Women

February

Family Month

Program Chair, Tom McCurry

Feb 07 - To be Announced
Feb 14 - To be Announced
Feb 21 - To be Announced
Feb 28 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays

01/03 - Betty Ferris
01/10 - Santosh Srivastava
01/14 - Bill Reeder
01/27 - Ann Rider Hill
01/27 - Barbara Yorke



Anniversaries

01/13 - Jim & Karen Gorton
01/04 - Mike & Carol Zoeller
01/22 - John & Joan Frykenberg

Rememberance: Keeping us Attached



REMEMBERANCE:

More than a card and more than a thought. It's a reminder to our members and their partners that they are thought of. And, in this increasingly *detached* world where many no longer meet face to face or even talk, but text, this is a very important part of Rotary ... and life in general. I'm repeatedly reminded of the connection a card can make. Just asking for a *snail mail address* so I can send a card has brought

positive feedback and a recognition of how important it is that we all stay in touch in as many ways as we can. A card is a very tactile way of doing this. Cards that come in the mail last; e-cards don't. And e-cards can come with a very unwanted gift — a computer virus. Cards can come with gifts you can share, or wear, or re-gift to others.

Cards are nice on your birthday and anniversary, but maybe even especially nice when one is not feeling quite up to par ... or maybe even a long way from

par ... shall we say "in the dumps." This can be the time for just that little bit extra. Perhaps some baked goodies, an *Angel* card, or even a small Starbucks card for when the person is feeling better.

Cards are a tangible way of letting others know we think of them, of sending a special thank you, letting others know they just *fit in*.

While *Rememberance* is not technically part of *Public Awareness Committee*, it gives us a way to stay in touch with each other. And that's why we do it. ☉

Program

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for sharing the vision of his family and work of his life with members of Altadena Rotary including local shining examples in the Scheimer House in Tarzana, the Huntington Beach Library, the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitors Center, the Kaufmann House in Palm Springs and the Lovell Health House in Griffith Park.

We all are grateful for an enlarged vision of the possible and reminded of the treasures of architecture in our midst and in our community; from the Neutras to Frank Gehry, the Greens, Mies Van der Rohe and I M Pei. [Architectural examples follow]

Judgment

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Loneliness, apathy and boredom. It can also give you the opportunity to be a part of something much bigger than yourself.

Tell others what you have found to be true, and invite them to be a part of something truly magnificent:

***Something greater
than themselves.***



To see more fine architectural examples, please turn to Program, p.4



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in December rose 12.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 954,000 units. Single-family starts increased 8.1 percent. Volatile multifamily starts rose 20.3 percent. Compared to the previous year, housing starts were up 36.9 percent in December. Applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, rose 0.3 percent to an annual rate of 903,000 units.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending January 11 rose 15.2 percent. Purchase volume rose 13 percent. Refinanc-

ing applications increased 15 percent.

The producer price index, which tracks wholesale price inflation, fell 0.2 percent in December, following a 0.8 percent decrease in November. On a year-over-year basis, wholesale prices were up 1.3 percent in December.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent to \$415.7 billion in December. This follows a 0.4 percent increase in November. Compared to December 2011, retail sales have increased 4.7 percent.

Consumer prices were unchanged in December, following a 0.3 percent decrease in November. Compared to December 2011, consumer prices have risen 1.7 percent.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo monthly housing

market index remained unchanged in January at 47, holding at the highest level since April 2006. An index reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market.

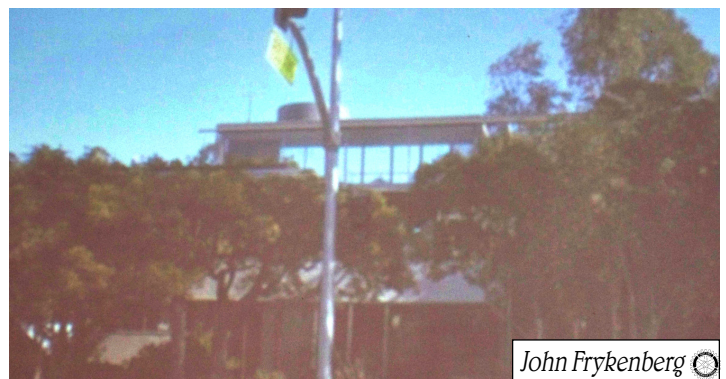
Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending January 12 fell by 37,000 to 335,000, the lowest level since January 2008. Continuing claims for the week ending January 5 rose by 87,000 to 3.214 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 359,250.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on existing home sales on January 22 and new home sales on January 25.

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

Program

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John Frykenberg

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

Genealogical Secrets

Alan Kindrick was kind enough to think of me when he saw an article on genealogy in the January 16 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. The title was: "When a Genealogy Hobby Digs Up Unwanted Secrets." It dealt with the reactions people have to learning that their ancestors might not have been the fine, upstanding folks we all imagine them to be.

There are the run-of-the-mill transgressions, of course, but then there are the forebears who truly deserve their designation as infamous. Take the great-great-grandfather of one man. His ancestor became known as the *sausage king* after he murdered his wife and found a creative way of disposing of the corpse at his meatpacking plant.

The article reports that some experts estimate that perhaps 1 in 5 discoveries about our ancestors are negative. Assuming that most of us don't grow up knowing much about ancestors beyond our eight great-grandparents, that means that, thorough research in available records (not a given, by any means!) should turn up at least one rogue among our eight great-great-grandfathers.

A positive spin on this is that the shameful pasts we uncover may lead to a better understanding of the ancestors in question. A 2nd great-grandfather of mine turned out to have been illegitimately born in Germany, a circumstance that limited not only his own personal occupational choices but also those of his sons — and likely the possible marriage prospects of his daughters. It is for this reason, I feel, that he emigrated with his family as soon as his military obligations had been met (and before his sons would have been old

enough to have their own such obligations).

In the WSJ article, genealogist Jean Wilcox Hibben talked about "debunking proud family legends." I know about that, too. My father always said the wife and mother of our Seyffert emigrant family had been a cousin of the composer Richard Wagner and was raised by his parents. All branches of my family seem to have heard this story, and I've even seen it in print in a local newspaper published in a family home town.

A reading of the church books confirmed that this ancestor had, in fact, been orphaned when very young. And — also true — she'd been sent to live with a Wagner couple in Leipzig, where the composer was raised. But although the *call names* of two separate Wagner couples had been the same, the occupations of the husbands & fathers were not! I suspect that there had been a simple case of mistaken identity, for by the time Richard Wagner had become famous in America, my immigrant couple had already passed away, along with all their daughters and

all but three of their sons. And it's the women in the family who generally pass on the family lore....

But my research on a branch of my mother's family also makes a strong case for the confirmation of a story I took to be fanciful when I was young. My mother gave me a family photo of another great-great-grandfather — after writing on its back that this man once "bought horses for the King (of Prussia)." She was off by a generation, but still my research in SS records captured in 1945 (it's a long story!!) ended up revealing the fact that the father of the man in my photo had been the appointed village mayor (following *his* father and grandfather before him). Appointed — probably indirectly — by the King. And, one of his duties would have been to requisition the draft horses needed by the villagers to farm the King's lands.

So, rather than buying the *carriage* horses I'd naturally envisioned, an ancestor of mine had most likely been buying *plow* horses for the King. It's close enough; I'll take it! ○

Playing IN THE Mud

by Jacque Foreman

Share your gardening triumphs and tragedies.

This weekend it really has been *playing in the mud*. Yesterday [Saturday, January 26] I decided to go out a hoe a bit in what used to be — and will once again be — the 9- x 9-foot strawberry area in my backyard. The weeds have taken over.

Even after everything had been drying out for a couple of hours plus, the

ground was still way too wet to hoe. So I ended up pulling stuff out by hand. I think I won't try to fight it on Monday, I'll just prune back the grapes. While they may not need to be pruned all the way down to about 18 inches, the branches do need to be thinned and detangled so I can tell *who belongs to what*. ○