

June 06, 2013

This Week
The Best Program of the Year . . . The Teachers' Mini-Grant Report Program Host: Ed Jasnow

This past year, the Rotary Club of Altadena gave out 35 \$300 mini-grants, 25 unrestricted and 10 Americanism, to teachers at eight schools in the Pasadena Unified School District. These mini-grants were for the purpose of enhancing the classroom experience for their students. They were based on proposals submitted by the teachers and reviewed by a committee of Rotarians.

This week, those teachers will tell us how they used the mini-grant funds. As is always the case, we will be amazed at how far these teachers can stretch \$300. Unfortunately, next Thursday is the last day of school, and some teachers will be unable to attend, but their principals will be there to report for them.

Come and see how grateful the teachers and principals are for our support. It will make you feel good to be a Rotarian.



Johnson's Judgments
 by President Julius Johnson

Quality Time . . .

The famous author, Ernest Hemingway, once said "I hate to write, but I love to have written." Although my prose are not even in the same universe as Hemingway's, I do understand the sentiment. When I start to write something personal, I find myself editing the story because you can't say that, without exposing this. So in order to keep from outing oneself, the story becomes generalized like I just did. So let me start again.

Yesterday I had an incredibly good time with my son Noah. I picked him up at his new apartment, which he showed off to me with a great deal of self pride. We drove down to Redondo Beach and spent some quality time swabbing the deck of the sail boat and reporting to each other what's going on in our worlds. It was just the two of us, and it was wonderful.

There is something really magical about father and son time, especially when it is freely and mutually given. Not repair time, not make up time, not set up for some future request — but just plain quality time because that's what you want to be doing. My God has truly blessed me. There is a passage in Psalms that says

"Children are a blessing from the Lord. Happy is the man whose quiver is full of them."

I now have a better understanding of that sentiment as well.

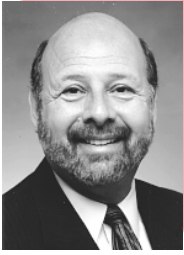
The Bible tells us that we were made in the image and likeness of God and that God created man for fellowship with himself. Since I get such joy and fulfillment by spending quality fellowship time with my children and I am made in his image and his likeness, maybe God is likewise pleased when we chose to spend quality time with him. What a thought!

There are children that we beget and there are children that we help raise because they come into our personal lives or because they are a part of *Our Village*.

Please turn to Judgment, p.5

Greeters

- June 06
Joshua Miller
- June 13
Kevin Moore
- June 20
Gordon Seyffert



Program Review

Everything You wanted to know about ClubRunner . . . But were Afraid to Ask

For quite awhile, the Rotary Club of Altadena has been utilizing a program called ClubRunner to coordinate various events on the club's calendar. Unfortunately, many members of the club are unfamiliar with the many features of ClubRunner and how to navigate the system in general. Craig Cox, our member who has be-

come the guru of ClubRunner, volunteered to conduct a tutorial to make our members more familiar with its features and how to use them.

Utilizing the Town & Country Club's Wi Fi, Craig was able to conduct a *live* demonstration of navigation through the system. First, he went to the Altadena Rotary web site (www.altadenarotary.com), where he clicked on the link for ClubRunner. The home page will appear and invite you to log on with your user name and password. If you forget your password, click on the "Forgot Password" tab, and you will get an automatic e-mail from Tom McCurry to re-set your password.

When you are successfully in, you go to the Administration (Admin) page, and click on the My ClubRunner tab. Once there, you can update your member profile, including your picture. Clicking on the

My Commitments tab will show you all the events for which you have signed up. You can also click on the Directories tab and see a list of all the member and their home and e-mail addresses. You can also click on the club photo directory and see pictures of each member.

The tab called Events 2.0 lists all upcoming events. As a demonstration, Craig clicked on this Sunday's Lamp dinner, and saw who had signed up.

All events listed have a "Register/Decline" tab, and you can click the one you want. If you register and change your mind, you can go back in and unregister. Craig then told us he was going to give us a test. He was going to put something on ClubRunner this afternoon (May 30), and we would be required to respond. If we didn't, we would be fined \$5.00 at next week's meeting. You have until June 5 to respond.

After Craig's great tutorial, no one should be fined. *Ed Jasnow* ☺

Please turn to Program, p. 6

Sparks is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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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Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects
Ray Carlson New Generation
Gordon Seyffert Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

June

Rotary Fellowship Month

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

Jun 13 - Bill Patzert - Climate Change, 7 Billion People and 5 Billion Cell Phones: The Future Ain't What It Used To Be
Jun 20 - Theo Clarke - "Earth Encounter"
Jun 27 - Demotion Party - Evening Event

July

Month not designated

Program Chair, Hal Yorke

July 04 - Independence Day - No Meeting
July 11 - To be Announced
July 18 - To be Announced
July 25 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



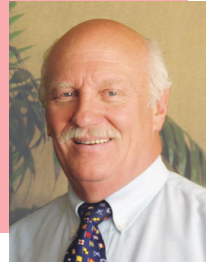
06/03 - Kathleen Anne Fennel
06/08 - Theo Clarke
06/12 - Tom McCurry
06/17 - Gary Clark
06/20 - Dotty Clark
06/28 - Phyllis Soza



Anniversaries



06/05 - Wendy Davis & Mike Noll



Would that Rotary could administer US Foreign Policy! Rotary tries very hard to address inequities throughout the world including the eradication of Polio, provisioning for disaster relief, clean water, better health care, peace and understanding, accountability in the stewardship of scarce resources, wheelchairs for the crippled, worldwide literacy, fair trade and educational exchanges, technology transfer and educational support, doctors without borders and understanding and mutual support of human dignity between all peoples.

By contrast, current US Foreign Policy seeks to *buy friends* with no reciprocal respect for the freedoms or human rights we hold dear. The US is arming those who seek our destruction; (*the Islamic Brotherhood in Egypt*), criminal enterprises (*Fast & Furious drug cartels in Mexico, supporters of Al Qaeda in Pakistan*). Admittedly, the US policies in support of the Arab Spring have yielded mixed results at great cost that has failed to make our nation safer or more influential in world affairs (*disaster in Syria*).

So what's the point? Why is Rotary so successful and well respected and why is the US so hated around the world?

Start with the 4 Way Test!

Is it the truth? Rotarians pride themselves in truth, and, when members in the US or internationally are found to be lying or stealing, they become a pariah almost instantaneously. Members found cheating or being dishonest simply lose credibility and no one wants to associate with them or have anything to do with

Rotary International vs US Foreign Policy

them. Not so with our politicians and senior bureaucrats in the US who we scarcely can believe. The lies are so many and so frequent that we have come to expect it. The President equivocates, the Attorney General investigates his own misconduct and conflicting statements, the Commissioner of the IRS resigns and refuses to acknowledge half truths in testimony before Congress, the Secretary of State asks '*What difference does it make?*' when four brave Americans are murdered in Benghazi even as senior executives twiddle their thumbs.

Is it fair to all concerned? Rotarians ask the question in their personal dealings, in their business dealings and in human relationships on an international scale. The US has historically stood against injustice in the world wars, but not in all wars or dealings internationally. US mercantile policy allowed companies like Standard Oil, United Fruit Company, even Sears and Roebuck to exploit and dominate the economies of poorer neighboring states. We lived through a totally failed colonial policy in the Philippines. And the Mexican-American War of 1848 was little more than an adventure in imperial manifest destiny with consequences we still live with every day.

Will it build good will and better friendships? Rotarians reach out in international friendship in recognition of those less fortunate materially and spiritually to bring medical aid, housing, friendship, food, jobs and opportunity to a suffering world ... giving of time and treasure. With love and compassion, Rotarians reach out across the seas in expectation of nothing except the hope of friendship in return. Mean-

while the US that once sacrificed the flower of its youth on the beaches of Normandy for the preservation of democracy now refuses to even provide arms to civilian and rebel forces in Syria who fall like flies (*80,000 dead to date*) under clouds of poison gas foisted upon his own people by Bahar al-Assad the butcher-president.

Is it beneficial to all concerned? Embracing the highest ethical standards of our Judeo-Christian heritage, Rotarians embrace the rule of law, nature's law of human respect and dignity for all, respecting if not agreeing with fellow Rotarians embracing Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. The US meanwhile, in the name of political correctness, cannot even name terrorism for what it is. The Administration turns its back upon reciprocity in recognition of human rights in international relations, ignores the freedom to worship freely or expect its allies to treat their own people or foreigners with equity. So, with *wishful thinking* and naivete the US hopes to *muddle through* with no long term clear objectives or commitment to truth or fairness or justice.

All so sad, the lessons of history ignored, the warnings of our founding fathers relegated to the dust bin, our honor sullied, our principles and vision no longer clear, our commitment to truth, fairness and all that America has stood for in question; is this what we have been consigned to? On the other hand, Rotary still seems to understand the importance of building a stronger, safer international community by what we can do for ourselves and our fellow man. It is a pity that our nation has seemingly lost its way.

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

The Traveling Rotarian Part Two

In last week's column, I mentioned that I felt proud to be an American. A part of this is due, of course, to the several times people brought up the matter of our government's role in negotiating an end to *The Troubles*. But further to the point there came, for me, another of those moments where an image said as much or more than words of appreciation.

I had been just a bit nervous upon arriving by elevator at the penthouse floor of the Europa Hotel. It was all so imposing, this visit to a major Rotary Club in the heart of the city. Whom and what might I find there? When the doors opened I was at the foyer of a moderately large banquet hall, just what one might have been expecting to see in such a hotel. The hall itself had a lot of white tablecloths and curtains, tall ceilings and chandeliers.

But before I reached the hall I was greeted by a gentleman who was arranging the Rotary badges in his travel box, similar to ours. He was expecting me, but I'd come early and the two of us were the only people present at that moment. He explained that he was there to make the badges available to members and to collect the cost of the buffet lunch — £11, as I recall. My contact was "Rosemary EC Simpson, Hon Secretary, The Rotary Club of Belfast, District 1160," and she was one of the first half-dozen members to appear on the scene.

I quickly was introduced to another early arrival, Doris Houston, an artist who had designed the commemorative tie (1911-2011) that I was later given. She took me under her wing by engaging me in conversation and by leading me to the

buffet line at the appropriate time. I then took a seat at one of the several tables set for ten, and, as it happened, my back was to the podium. Once seated, I took a moment to glance around at the rest of the hall.


To the right of the podium was an ornamental flagstand. Two flags of equal size were displayed, each tilted slightly outward from the center so as to display the respective colors. To one side was the Union Jack. Next to it, and in an obvious place of honor, was The Star Spangled Banner.

I must admit to being a bit stunned by this vision. Why the American flag? Later I was presented, in addition to my tie, with a copy of a glossy booklet summarizing the club's second fifty years. Early chapters concern "Turbulent Times" and one titled "Belfast and Dublin Presidents visit American Clubs." But then, a bit further back, came "Towards a Better Understanding," featuring a photo of an American Rotarian with this large caption:

"In 1989 Rotary 1160 District set up a Mutual Understanding Committee. In 1990, in Chicago, Rotarian Mike S. Shaw, Highland Park Club, Chicago, got the idea that Rotary could do more to bring about peace in Ireland. District was already active in the area and our Club had developed many projects, the most prominent being the Harmony Trust which had been established in 1975 and was very successful. A new source of funding had been established by Rotary Foundation as the result of a 1-million dollar donation from Carl Miller to go to work to improve mutual understanding around the world.

Mike Shaw applied for one of these grants to visit Ireland and to come up with recommendation for further work in the field and how other districts could help. Mike arrived in Ireland in September 1990 and visited many clubs in the South with a lot of help from Sean Boylan, a member of the Monaghan Club. He arrived in Belfast on the 1st October 1990."

Following this opening statement and photograph came a tribute written by a Belfast Club Past President upon Mike Shaw's death in 2001. Out of Rotarian Shaw's efforts the TABU (Towards A Better Understanding) project was born. A photo of the TABU banner features this quote from Edmund Burke: "All that is required for EVIL to prosper is that good men do NOTHING."

Now it all becomes clear. Those Peace Conferences we hold each year? They're not just for show; they're held to inspire new efforts within our service organization — efforts that can achieve in the future what was achieved in the not-so-distant past in Northern Ireland. Efforts that were supported by Rotary International, formed from one club founded in 1905 in America. Wow! 

**> REMEMBER <
GO TO
CLUBRUNNER
TAG CRAIG'S
GAME . . . SO . . .
YOU WON'T BE IT**



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

New home sales rose 2.3 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 454,000 units from a rate of 444,000 units in March. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales were 29 percent higher than April 2012. At the current sales pace, there is a 4.1-month supply of new homes on the market.

Retail sales rose 0.2 percent for the week ending May 18, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 3.1 percent. The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications

for the week ending May 17 fell 9.8 percent. Purchase volume fell 3 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 12 percent.

Existing home sales rose 0.6 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.97 million units from 4.94 million units in March. Compared to a year ago, existing home sales were up 9.7 percent in April. The inventory of unsold homes on the market rose 11.9 percent to 2.16 million in April, a 5.2-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 4.7-month supply in March. Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — increased \$7.2 billion, or 3.3 percent, to \$222.6 billion in April. This follows a 5.9

percent decrease in March. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, March orders posted a monthly increase of 1.3 percent.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending May 18 fell by 23,000 to 340,000. Continuing claims for the week ending May 11 fell by 112,000 to 2.912 million, a new recovery low. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 339,500.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing price index on May 28 and gross domestic product and pending home sales on May 30. ○

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

Judgment

Continued from p. 1

This morning I am headed to the Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation LAMP Program luncheon. We will be honoring twelve young men from our community

into whose lives we have poured — over the past three years — through mentoring and financial support.

You, Altadena Rotary Club members,

have helped to make a difference in the lives of these young men who are a part of *our village, our children*. Keep up the good work. ○

Telling Lies may be Bad for Your Health . . . Even Little White Ones

Those who say that telling small lies may not be bad, but may even be good for relationships should turn to page 18 in the January 2013 *Rotarian*, “News, studies, and recent research.”

New research from the University of Notre Dame suggests that telling even *little white lies* may take a toll on the mental and physical health of those who tell them.

The article goes on to say that participants who told fewer lies than they had in the weeks before the study took place

reported feeling less tense and melancholy and having fewer maladies such as sore throats and headaches.

Sounds like a good reason to heed the first of the 4-Way tests, doesn't it? ***Is it the Truth?*** may be more important in our lives than we all thought.

Meanwhile researchers at Northeastern University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cornell University found four telltale signs of a liar:

- Hand touching,

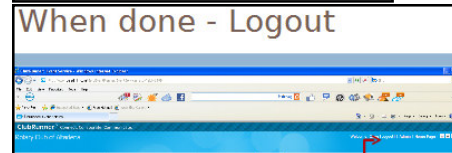
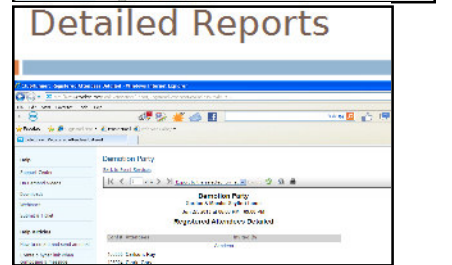
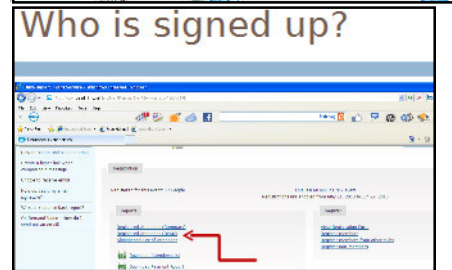
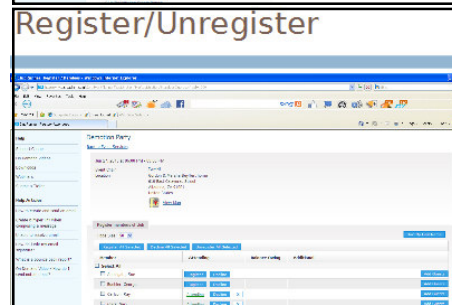
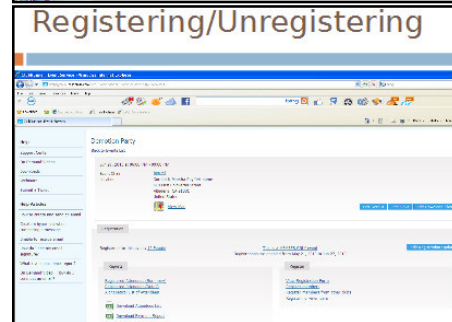
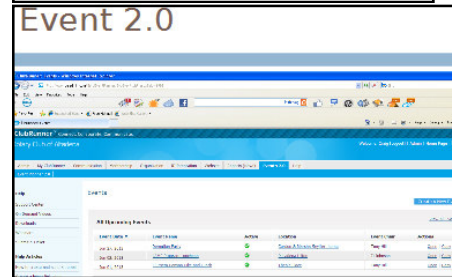
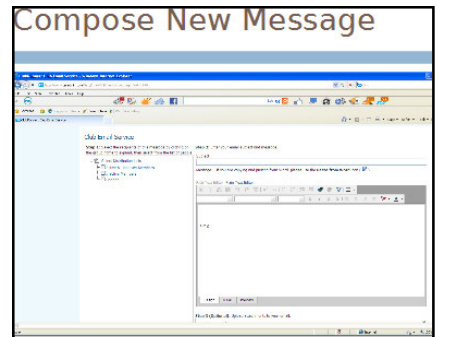
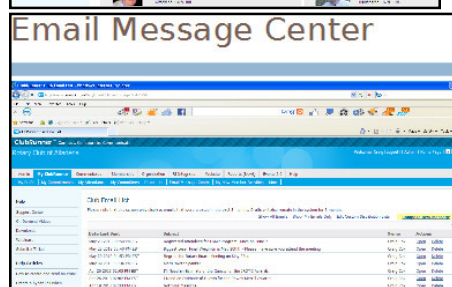
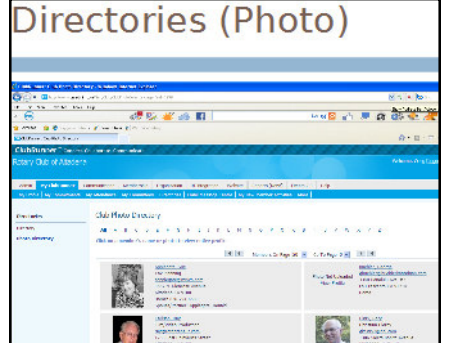
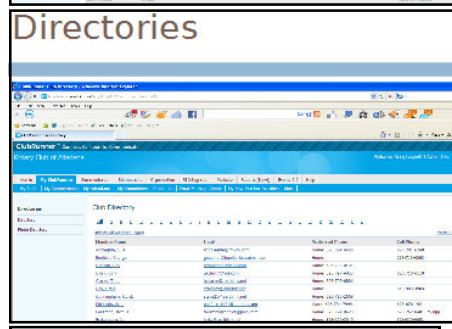
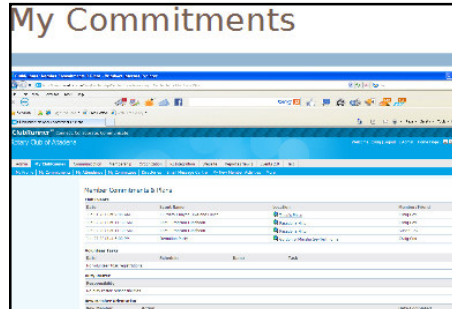
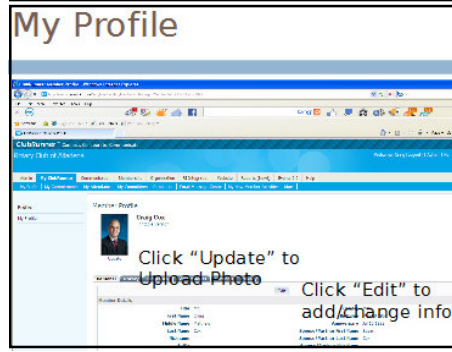
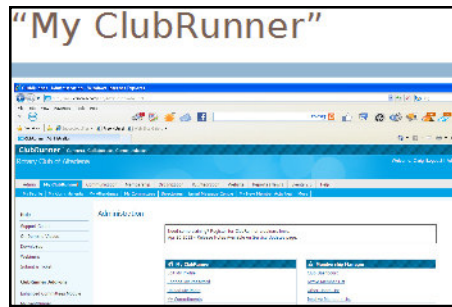
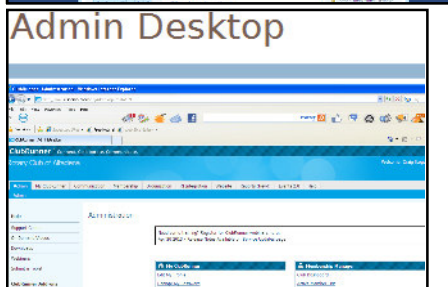
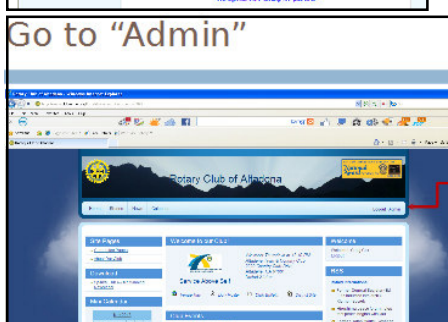
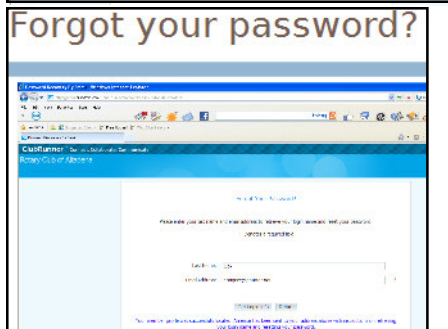
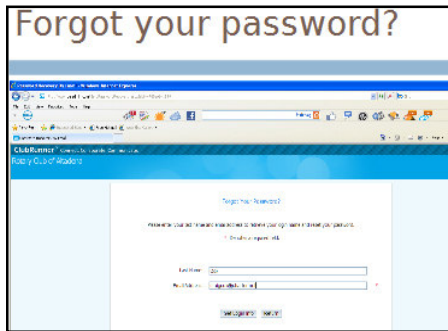
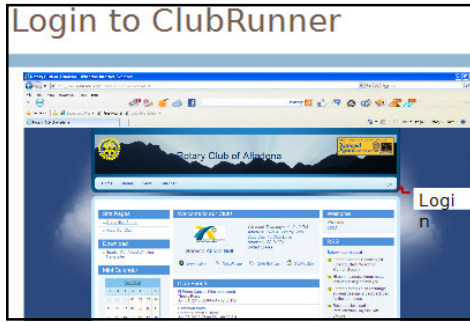
- Face touching,
- Crossing arms, and
- Leaning away

While individually these signs mean nothing, put them all together, and they spell D.E.C.E.P.T.I.O.N.

As an aside, I'm wondering how certain members of the IRS, the Attorney General's office, and others are feeling after a couple weeks of hearings on Capital Hill. Do you suppose that headaches and sniffles abound? *Jacque Foreman* ○

Program

Continued from p.2





Job Creation & Entrepreneurship

by C. Ray Carlson, Chair,
New Generations Service

Veterans need Jobs . . . We need To Help . . . and We Can!

Veterans have been streaming home from Iraq and Afghanistan at the rate of 20,000 per month. But they are encountering great difficulty in finding jobs, even those they had before leaving home. A few of them — 800 or so — are studying at Pasadena City College to seek a better chance of finding jobs. 200 of them are young ladies, some with children, making it even more difficult to find and hold down a job.

Our signature mission for almost a quarter century has been to stimulate Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Education and, especially, teaching how to write a Business Plan. Yes, only a few — maybe 1 in 5 according to surveys — will actually embark on starting a business, but they will hire on average 4 employees. Giving 5 jobs for every 5 trained! The rest will more likely find jobs and better ones because they understand the basics of business and, especially, the importance of *the bottom line*.

Altadena Rotary was the beneficiary of an endowment of more than 1-million dollars from American Legion Post 470 in Altadena when the Post dissolved back around 2000. Our own PDG Joseph B. McMullin, attorney and veteran of the US Army, was a member of that Legion post along with several others in Altadena Rotary, and he made all the arrangements for the endowment transfer. The Pasadena American Legion Post 13 received a like amount. So funding for a proposed joint program to help veterans should not be a problem.

Josh Miller, 5-year US Marine Corps veteran and new member of Altadena Rotary, came to us because we gave him

a scholarship award while he was studying at Pasadena City College. That award amount originally came from the American Legion endowment and through Al-



tadena Rotary Charities.

Josh joined American Legion Post 13 and soon found himself engaged in trying to rebuild membership and to create better use of the magnificent facilities on North Marengo Avenue near Old Town Pasadena. He invited our club to hold a regular meeting at the Post, and we enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch prepared by a Post member. Then he started a bi-weekly Wednesday morning gathering for networking, open to anyone interested in the Post, and meeting other community people

Josh was at the front gate — huge, magnificent wrought iron — and welcomed me. I asked if the Post might become interested in collaborating with Altadena Rotary in the entrepreneurial

education of veterans at PCC? An emphatic “Yes!” encouraged me to ask, “Who should I talk with?” “Me” he replied. So with just two words: **Yes** and **Me**, we have embarked on a path to **Create Awareness & Take Action** — the slogan of Rotary International when I was club president (2000/2001).

The first meeting involved only six people, but it doubled by the next meeting and was attended by the faculty advisor for vets at PCC, the president of the student vets’ organization, and an assembly of diverse but important career and skill sets that could greatly enhance the mission before us. After my pitch on what could be done (Create Awareness!), enthusiasm blossomed for **action**, and I was appointed to write a Business Plan for how to proceed, due at the next meeting.

While looking at all the displayed recognition and honoring of past Legion Post members, and the new Hall of Fame for Sons of the American Legion, I thought of naming our effort: The Joseph B. McMullin, Colonel (ret’d), US Army, Program to Strengthen the Livelihood of Veterans and their Families, or something like that. Then to invite names of Altadena Rotary’s veterans, past and present, to our own Hall of Fame; followed by other Rotary Clubs to do the same.

An American Legion Post 13 Gala and Awards Banquet is already scheduled for November 2, 2013 to “host a gathering of American Legion Family dignitaries from across the United States.” Sounds exciting to me!

For more details, contact Josh Miller <joshuamiller28@yahoo.com> or C. Ray Carlson <crayc@me.com>



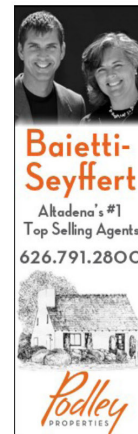
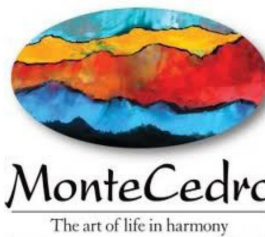
All **FREE** Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.
 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

17th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2013

Downbeat Express (Big Band with Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 6th
Law & Disorder (Classic Rock 'n Roll)	Saturday, July 13th
The Blue Breeze Band (R & B, Soul, Blues & More)	Saturday, July 20th
Louis van Taylor Quintet (Cool Jazz)	Saturday, July 27th
Guitarist Brian Hughes Band (Contemporary Latin-Jazz)	Saturday, August 3rd
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 10th
The Groove (Oldies but Goodies)	Saturday, August 17th
Those Manning Boys & Friends (Music from Ireland)	Saturday August 24th

And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 7th
Back by Popular Demand, Hot August Night Staring Dean Colley in a Tribute to Neil Diamond
Presented By: Community Events & SSGA

Thank You to our generous sponsors



Rotary Club
Of Altadena



*Georgia Rutherford
In memory of
Don Rutherford*

