

June 27, 2013

## This Week

### The Demotion Party for Julius Johnson

**Special Location: The home of Gordon and Marsha Seyffert**

**Guest Program Host: Tony Hill, Immediate Past President**

Please join your Rotary friends to celebrate the presidency of Julius Johnson and welcome him into the exclusive Past President's Club.

The event will feature our wonderful *Not Ready for Prime Time Players*; *Master of Ceremonies*, Don Applegate; a delicious BBQ dinner, and the world premiere of a an original one-act musical play based on the presidency of Julius Johnson.

Since this event coincides with the Rotary International Convention — the location to which we have sent our incoming President — we will be inducting Dennis Mehringer on another occasion.

Spouses, significant others and families are welcome to attend. The cost is \$30 per person.

Please confirm your attendance on Clubrunner.



## Johnson's Judgments

by President Julius Johnson

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Writing a weekly article has been a wonderful discipline for me. It has forced me to look back on the events of each week and decide what I learned that was worthy of sharing. In this, my final *Johnson's Judgments*, I'm looking back on this entire year. I owe some thank-yous to a number of special people.

First I have to say thank you for my Father in Rotary, Ray Carlson. Ray has shown me Rotary by example. His energy and excitement toward each project he undertakes is infectious in a most positive way. He got me involved with teaching a class at Elliot Junior High School in 1998. Shortly after that he invited me to join the Altadena Rotary Club. A year later, he recruited me to teach a semester of Junior Achievement to a fourth grade class at Jefferson Elementary School. Those young kids just stole my heart. It was Ray who invited me to go to Nigeria and teach college students how to write Business Plans. When I got back from Africa, it was Ray who worked with me side by side to launch the *Get IN Gear Now Program*. This program was designed to bring those Business Development and job creation projects to our local community. Thanks Ray!

Tony Hill was such a special Presidential Mentor to me. He took me to coffee and breakfast several times before I took office to make sure I knew the enormity of the office. He didn't abandon me after I took office, but stayed on the job to make sure I didn't drop the ball. He did his mentoring in the most positive and encouraging way. A big thank you to Tony!

Jacque Foreman is the award-winning Editor of our *Sparks* Newsletter. This is a fact well know throughout Rotary District 5300. However, what is not well known is her role as corporate memory for our Club and an all around go to person. If ever I need to know something about club history, procedure, Board status, Jacque was generally my first and last call. If I needed to blast the club or the Board with some information, Jacque was right there and made it happen. Thank you Jacque!

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## Greeters

June 27

**Demotion Party - evening**

July 11

**David P. Smith**

July 18

**Wilbert Smith**



# Program Review

## Earth Encounter

Our very own irrepressible member, Theo Clarke, enthusiastically presented *Earth Encounter* this past Thursday, June 20. Living up to his *Renaissance Man* moniker, Clarke interwove mythology, history and science as he discussed man's evolving understanding of his place in the universe.

For the ancient Greeks, it all started with *Gaea* as "the protogenos of earth" — the great mother of all creation with Greece as the center of the universe. 600

years later, Aristotle postulated that *Earth was the center of the universe and that all the planets were divine and perfect.*



Clarke believes that three elements are essential for a renaissance: Peace, Knowledge and Technology. In 1453 all of these elements came together — The 100

Years War ended. The Byzantine Empire collapsed, and its scholars were scattered throughout the world. The printing press was invented. **Peace, Knowledge and Tech-**

### The Renaissance – Causes

1453

- Peace: End of 100 Years War in Europe
- Knowledge: Fall of Byzantine Empire. Byzantine Scholars flee to Florence with thousands of volumes of classic learning
- Distribution of that knowledge: Invention by Johannes Gutenberg of the printing press with movable type. All knowledge can theoretically be recorded with just 50 characters used many times

*nology* combined to bring a spiritual, cultural and scientific renaissance. This was the time of Michelangelo's painting of the Sistine Chapel, Correggio's painting of "Jupiter & Io", and Copernicus' *Revolution of the Celestial Orbs* in 1543. In 1610 ... with the aid of the telescope ... Galileo discovered that our moon is not perfect and that Jupiter has its own moons.

With people like Albert Einstein, Alexander Friedman, Edwin Hubble and others, the 1920s began a scientific renaissance. This was when the **Big Bang** theory of the creation of the universe was first

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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

Altadena Town & Country Club

2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA

626-794-7163

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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. 626-793-6215

Mike Noll, Treas. .... Bus. 626-683-0515

#### Directors

Jim Gorton • Craig Cox • David Smith

Gordon Seyffert • Sterling Louviere

Dennis Mehringer • Tony Hill

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Dennis Mehringer ..... Administration

Craig Cox ..... Foundation

Jacque Foreman ..... Public Awareness

Jacque Foreman ..... Acting Publicity

Jacque Foreman ..... Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects

Ed Jasnow ..... Community

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

## July

Month not designated

Program Chair, Hal Yorke

July 04 - Independence Day - No Meeting

July 11 - Club Assembly

July 18 - To be Announced

July 25 - To be Announced

## August

Membership & Extension Month

Program Chair, To be Announced

Aug 01 - To be Announced

Aug 08 - To be Announced

Aug 15 - To be Announced

Aug 22 - To be Announced

Aug 29 - 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



As the Rotary year draws to a close, and we prepare for a changing of the guard in the Membership Committee, let me thank incoming chair "Quick" Cunningham for assuming the responsibility for the coming year.

I'll do everything I can to support your effort, Quick, because I know it's not an easy job to take on. And part of that support will be through my taking the minutes for the meetings I can attend, as I know how hard it is to chair a discussion and keep it moving, while simultaneously trying to record the salient points of that discussion!

Jacque, you've been a stalwart contributor to our meetings. First, you've attended most of them, and I know how much you put into the *Sparks* newsletter, the many note cards you pen to our members, your labor for Christmas Tree Lane, and that you have several other commitments besides. Second, you really have

come up with some great ideas! One of these is *The Rotary Minute*, which we now deliver at the summer *Concerts in the Park* series. It is one way of getting our story before the community, so that we're not resigned to be some remote group about whom recognition varies between slim and none.

Ray, I've appreciated your persistence in reminding us of the importance of having projects ready for new members, and of how it made a difference in your life. In the same vein, you've talked about how having a mentor to guide you and support you in your first efforts at Rotary service were so valuable. I hope we can build on that vision in the coming Membership Committee year, because I feel that retention depends upon it.

Tom, you've had your plate kind of full these past two years, at least from my distant observation. Yet you never failed to suggest how you might contribute to the group effort. We need more like you on the committee as regular participants. We may or may not get around to com-

pleting everything we think we might, because life is what intervenes. But I value the person who takes that first step. Every chair needs the personal validation that a willing volunteer offers.

Craig, you've also had your hands quite full, but you led by example in my first year of attending these membership committee meetings. Your enthusiasm, general positive outlook, and quick humor are to me exemplars of what Rotary should be all about — fellowship and collaborative group service. I look forward to your continued wise counsel as Quick steps into his new role.

And thanks to all of the rest of you fellow Altadena Rotarians who took the time to drop by for an evening meeting or two. As you read this, you might just take a minute and send Quick your own thoughts about where we've been, and where we need to go in the coming year. With all of us saying, "Quick, we've got your back!"... I know he'll feel like he made the right choice in stepping forward. Let the new Rotary year begin!!!

## Program

Continued from p.2

proposed. The theory states that the universe "began from an initial point or singularity which expanded over billions of years." With the advent of the space program, man got his first photograph of the Earth in 1967. In 1968, Apollo 8 took *earth rise* photo from the moon in 1972. We would never look at our place in space the same way again.

In the late 80s, we again had a time of peace, knowledge and technology leading to a new renaissance as seen through the fall of the Berlin Wall, the broad application of binary code, and the beginnings

of the internet. It was at this time that the Galileo space probe was launched (10/18/1989). Galileo made two Earth encounters (the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1992) as it made its way to Jupiter in 1995.

On 8/5/2011, the Juno spacecraft was launched. Fully deployed Juno is 65 feet in diameter. Carrying special aluminum figurines of Jupiter, Juno, and Galileo, Juno will make its earth encounter in October 2013 on its way to Jupiter in 2016. Inspired by the story of Juno penetrating the clouds created by Jupiter to hide his affair with the fair Io, the Juno spacecraft is designed

to penetrate the clouds of the planet Jupiter to reveal its secrets. *Craig Cox*

### The New Renaissance - Causes 1989

- **Peace:** Fall of the Berlin Wall. Threat of nuclear holocaust ends
- **Knowledge:** Voyager encounters Neptune. Launch of Galileo. With binary code, terabits of data stream down from the heavens. All knowledge can theoretically be recorded with just two characters used many times
- **Distribution of that knowledge:** Invention of the Internet

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## Odds and Ends

Thank you, Jacque Foreman for the opportunity I've had to complete my first full year of columns for our club's newsletter. Some may think that writing is a chore, but I beg to differ. For me, writing is a chance to set forth what's on my mind in ways I wouldn't otherwise express — but for the discipline of (figuratively) setting pen to paper. And so, in an age when no one any longer keeps a personal diary by the bed at home, I'm still leaving my mark for future reference by either myself or my children. A true family historian not only studies the family record set forth in times past, but preserves a record for the future.

Now to return to a previous topic. Some months ago I opened a discussion of Rotary Fellowships with the idea that it would be a developing story. As a consequence of this assumption, I added *Part 1* to the title of that column. It was my expectation that I'd soon be returning to the subject with news of some new contacts made. Possibly I'd even have contributed by the time of *Part 2* to the start of a new RI Fellowship in genealogy.

It was not to be. My interest was too specialized. And, in retrospect, it is apparent that my enthusiasm for assisting Rotarian genealogists in other countries to overcome hurdles of cultural, linguistic, and/or historical understanding (and vice versa) wasn't attractive to people who were just looking for simple fellowship with a small "f."

But the real surprise came only recently. I'd further assumed that I was going to forge new ground by exploring a fellowship devoted to this hobby. Wrong again! While at the office and library of

the Immigrant Genealogical Society, our treasurer happened to remind me that her father had been a Rotarian. Was I aware, she asked, that our own library had copies of a Rotarian newsletter devoted to genealogy and heraldry? It was called *ROTA.GENE*, and it had existed until about ten years ago.

It was the internet that had put it out of business. In reviewing the issues year-by-year, I could see the slow progression. This newsletter had been comprised largely of general articles, queries, and book reviews. Often queries were repeated, and it was obvious that the same people were behind most of the submissions. Gradually members began noting email addresses, and I'm certain that what initially encouraged more fellowship then ended in being a drain upon member interest in this one small venture. There were now other ways to pursue the hobby.

I contacted the last editor, who had had to step aside when he assumed a leadership role within his district. While cordial, it became clear that he, too, did not share my enthusiasm for a renewal of the fellowship venture under a revised model. Alas, the time seems to have passed. And so I've now turned to an alliance with

bloggers with whom I share some interests. Few, I suspect, are Rotarians.

Lastly, I'm wondering how many of you knew that, during the Civil War, some 500 Californians had — *as a group* — joined the Union cause in the East? Enlisting here on the west coast, they used their enlistment bounty money to pay for passage across Panama and up to New England, where they became the cadre of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. They fought in Northern Virginia in 1863-64 against Mosby's Confederates, then were sent to disrupt supply lines to Lee from the Shenandoah Valley.

Ultimately they played a key role in breaking the stalemate at Petersburg, and in blocking Lee's army at Appomattox Courthouse. The book describing this regiment was published by Indiana University Press in 2000, and has the short title of "California Sabers." An appendix listing the killed, wounded and captured didn't have many names that I (as a transplanted Midwesterner) would recognize. But I did note that one 1st Lt. Lewis Munger was killed on April 1st, 1865 while leading an attack on enemy fortifications. Does anyone have a family association with, or knowledge of, this unit? Just asking. ☉

**DEMOTION PARTY**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 27 • 6-9p**  
**HOSTS: GORDON & MARSHA SEYFFERT**  
**610 E. CALAVERAS • ALTADENA**  
**RSVP - CLUBRUNNER**



# MONEY MATTERS

by Linda Wilkes

## ***Economic Update In The News***

Retail sales rose 0.6 percent to \$421.1 billion in May. This follows a 0.1 percent increase in April. Compared to May 2012, retail sales have increased 4.3 percent.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.2 percent to \$504.8 billion in April. Sales at the wholesale level rose 0.5 percent to \$416.6 billion in April. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 0.7 percent higher than April 2012. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/sales ratio in April was 1.21.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending June 7 rose 5 percent. Purchase volume rose 5 percent. Refinancing applications also increased 5 percent.

The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for June's preliminary reading fell to 82.7 from 84.5 in May, which was the highest reading since July 2007.

Industrial production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities was unchanged in May after a 0.4 percent decrease in April. Compared to May 2012, industrial production has increased 1.6 percent. Capacity utilization fell to 77.6 percent in May from 77.7 percent in April.

The producer price index, which tracks wholesale price inflation, rose 0.5 percent in May, following a 0.7 percent decrease in April. On a year-over-year basis, wholesale prices were up 1.7 percent in May. Core prices — excluding food and fuel — rose 0.1 percent in May.

Initial claims for unemployment ben-

efits for the week ending June 8 fell by 12,000 to 334,000. Continuing claims for the week ending June 1 rose by 2,000 to 2.952 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 345,250.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing market index on June 17, housing starts on June 18 and existing home sales on June 20. June 17, 2013

## ***Industry Insider State of the Builder Market 2013***

Tight housing inventory is leading homebuilders to build more homes. Single-family building permits increased 27 percent in the first quarter of 2013 compared to the first quarter of 2012, the highest increase since 2008.

This follows a long contraction in homebuilder business. At the height of the downturn, homes were so undervalued that they were selling for less than the cost of construction. This led new construction of homes to grind to a standstill for several years.

Consequently, inventory is at the lowest level in 12 years. While builders broke ground on 780,000 units last year — a 28 percent increase from the previous year — construction still needs to double just to keep pace with population growth and household formation.

Other factors are constricting inventory. There are fewer distressed homes on the market. Distressed homes accounted for 21 percent of sales during the first quarter of 2013 compared to 25 percent in the first quarter of 2012. Also, there's the rising price conundrum: With home

prices reaching their highest level in seven years, buyers are anxious to purchase while some sellers are holding out for higher prices.

"Builders are noting an increased sense of urgency among potential buyers as a result of thinning inventories of homes for sale, continuing affordable mortgage rates and strengthening local economies," said *National Association of Home Builders* Chairman Rick Judson. "This is definitely an encouraging sign even amidst rising challenges with regard to the cost and availability of building materials, lots and labor."

Despite challenges, the Housing Market Index (HMI) gauging expectations for future sales recently reached its highest level since February 2007.

Prospect is an experienced new construction lender, offering a full suite of products and features for our buyers. Most importantly, we offer 4-, 6- and 9-month extended rate locks that let buyers lock in at today's rate while the home is being built. Extended rate locks provide homebuyers with piece of mind, mitigate affordability issues if rates go up, and reduce pipeline fallout for builders and real estate agents. We also provide a wide array of financing programs, including Conventional, FHA, VA and Jumbo loans.

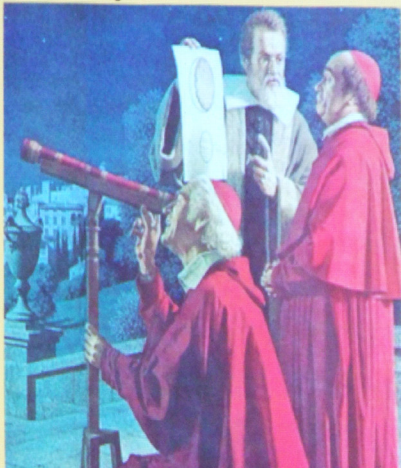
Contact me to learn more about our Extended Rate Lock Program — and the many other products and services that can help you sell more homes — available through our New Construction Platform.

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

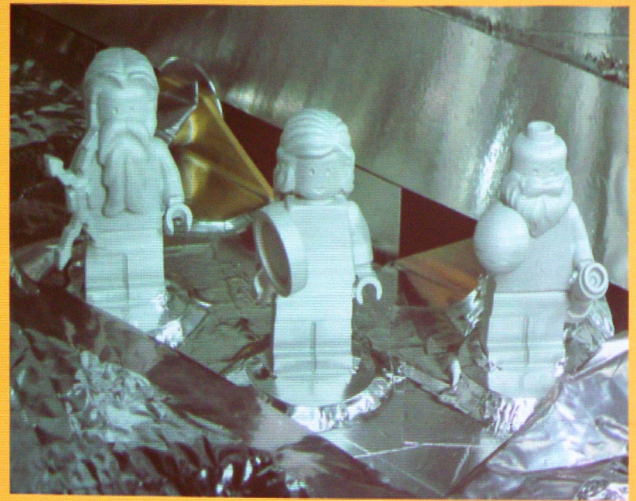
# Program

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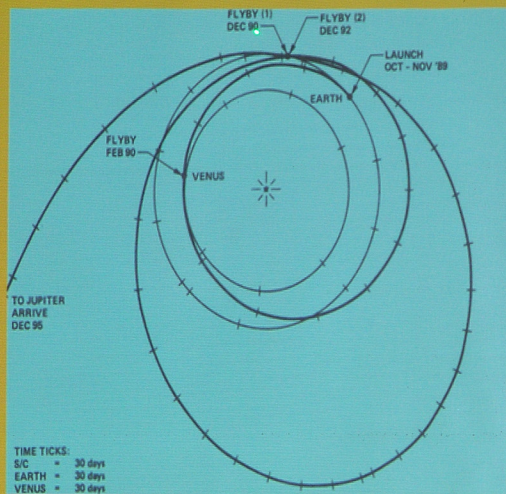
## Galileo Showing the Telescope to Skeptical Clerics



## Jupiter, Juno, Galileo Lego Figurines Flown on Juno Spacecraft



## Galileo VEEGA Trajectory to Jupiter



## Launch of Galileo, October 18, 1989



# Judgment

Continued from p. 1

Rebecca Hardiman and Danielle Gray served as Rotary back office staff and made sure that I had certificates for our speakers each week. They also made sure the board meetings had agendas and a place to meet. Thanks Ladies!

Rotary Partners are a big part of the success for any club President. My lady, Akyba Webb stepped up to the plate in a big way, all the way during my presidency. From editing my *Johnson's Judgments* articles each week to co-hosting the District

Hospitality Suite to making sure my Board members are covered. Akyba has always been there with positive feedback and hands-on involvement. Thank you Akyba.

Our Rotary Club is loaded with wonderful members who are so willing to step up to the plate, volunteer and follow through to make sure things get done. Quick Cunningham and Gordon Seyffert are newer members, but they are so actively involved, one would think that they are Altadena Rotary Institutions. You both

inspire me and our other members to be the best we can be. You men let your Rotary light shine. Thank you!!

*There is no leadership without fellowship.* A **Thankyou** to each of my Board members, Officers, Directors and Committee heads for all of your hard work and support in making this a fantastic year of fellowship. Your support this year has proven to me that, at Altadena Rotary, **Love is our Greatest Treasure**. Stay in love and Stay in fellowship. ☺





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**

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Rotary Club  
Of Altadena



*Georgia Rutherford  
In memory of  
Don Rutherford*

