

November 07, 2013

This Week Meet the Rose Queen and her Court Guest Program Host: San Marino Rotary

We will be joining the San Marino Club for a special program: The meeting of the Rose Queen and her court. The meeting will begin at noon and will be held at

**San Marino Community Church,
 1750 Virginia Rd.
 San Marino
 (cross-street: Huntington).**

You will have a chance to meet and talk with these fine young ladies. Each in turn will tell us a bit about herself and her future plans for school and career.

Special Morning Activity

For those who are available, San Marino Rotarians have invited us to participate in an education program held at Huntington Library & Gardens at which young students will learn about plants while building their own mini-Rose Parade floats. The morning program begins at 8:15a.

Please remember: Do not go to Altadena Town & Country Club on November 07! Go to the San Marino Community Church instead.



Dollar & Sense

by President
 Dennis Mehriinger

College Education comes to the Internet

We have seen the internet decrease the cost of music, books and retail apparel. We'll now it is drastically reducing the cost of college degrees.

Not just newly formed no name universities are participating, but also some more traditional widely known schools as well.

Here is a sampling of the degrees currently available and their costs:

1. **Capella University** - \$2,000 per quarter for a BS in Business and \$2,200 per quarter for an MBA.
2. **College for America** - \$1,250 per semester for an AA in General Education to get those early requirements out of the way at a low cost.
3. **Northern Arizona University** - \$2,500 per semester for BA in Liberal Arts, Business or Computer Technology.
4. **University of Wisconsin** - \$2,250 per quarter BSN in nursing or a BS in for

other medical fields.

5. **Western Governors University** - \$2,890 per semester for many degrees in education, computers, and business including MBA.

However, the most fascinating movement in this area is courses through apps on the tablets and smart phones. Carlo Yuvienco a recent PhD in Biotech Engineering has developed an app in Chemistry for smart phone for a course in chemistry which sells for \$10 and has already been downloaded 40,000 times. Now that is entrepreneurship!

Greeters

- November 07
James Gorton
 November 14
Anthony Hill
 November 21
Boyd Hudson

Program Review



That was the message of our speaker last week, Dr. Harold Martin. Martin is Assistant Professor of Psychology at Pasadena Community College, and his major emphasis is on serving the military veterans who are enrolled at the college. There are 700 veterans attending PCC, and all of them have varying needs associated with the issues of returning to civilian life from the military.

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
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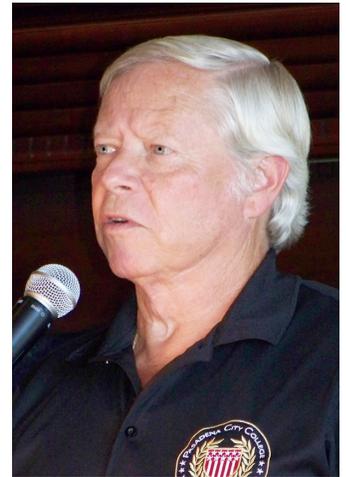
Coming Home . . . It isn't Easy

Martin served in Vietnam, and, therefore, has a very realistic view of what it is like transitioning from military to civilian life. There is a military subculture that bonds veterans, and, since he is a part of that, Martin is uniquely qualified to help. He connects with these veterans, and he doesn't want what happened to Vietnam veterans to happen to them. He pointed out that, while millions of dollars were spent to prepare these soldiers for war, nothing has been spent to reverse the process. The problem is that while the US Government is at war, the country as a whole isn't. As a result, no one was prepared for the large number of veterans returning home.

Martin stated that these veterans come home with a great sense of pride and self-esteem. They've learned new skills during their service, seen new cultures. They come back still on edge from their combat experience. Martin described an incident where three veterans exercised restraint and self-discipline in dealing with a young man who was demonstrating lack of respect for them and the flag.

Surveys reveal that the number one reason for enlisting in the armed services

is access to higher education. Unfortunately, the number one reason for veterans not making it is lack of



social support. The military mindset is 24/7, and there is no room for mistakes. There are people watching all the time, and there is the sense of close brotherhood that comes from sharing dangerous experiences.

Some of Martin's classes are filled with only veterans. He knows that at least one-third of his class probably suffers from post-traumatic-stress-disorder (PTSD), but two-thirds of them don't, and he works accordingly. Counselors and other support services can be brought in to provide help where needed. And, it is needed. Ninety percent of wounded vet-

please turn to Program, p.3

November

Foundation Month

Program Chair, Mike Noll

Nov 07 - Meet the Rose Queen and her court — joint meeting, San Marino
 Nov 14 - Min Luu, Pasadena Boys & Girls Club
 Nov 21 - John Casci - Craft Talk
 Nov 28 - Thanksgiving - Dark

December

Membership & Family Month

Program Chair, Jim Gorton

Congratulations



Birthdays



11-08 - Sterling Louviere
 11-13 - Ed Jasnow
 11-26 - C. Ray Carlson
 11/26 - Roger Fennell

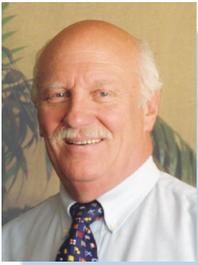


Anniversaries



11/01 - Jacque Foreman (Bruce Conroy)
 11/06 - Hal & Barbara Yorke
 11/24 - Carlton & Julie Gustafson

Condemned by Our World View . . . *Weltanschauung!*



Recent Headlines:

- NSA Spied On Vatican and Top Catholic Cardinals, says Italian Report.
- The US National

Security Agency's eavesdropping on foreign heads of state from

Angela Merkel to Dilma Rousseff

- Germany and Brazil are in agreement: spying by the NSA has gone too far. With a UN resolution they want to protect privacy in the digital age
- New allegations that the NSA spied on the Brazilian president's communications have cast a pall over US-Brazil relations and Ms. Rousseff
- Spain summons American ambassador on new reports of NSA spying
- NSA hacked Email Account of Mexican President
- US National Security Agency 'spied on

Program

Continued from p.2

erans wind up getting divorced.

Social networking is helping keep the bonds of brotherhood intact. A veteran who had his home vandalized put pictures of it on Facebook, and, within minutes, 27 veterans had responded with support. Martin further fosters this brotherhood by reading the names of soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

With its Veterans Resource Center, PCC ranks first in California in providing services for veterans, and eighth in the nation in the same category. Our club supports PCC veterans with awards and scholarships. It's the least we can do to support those who sacrifice so much so that we can be free. Ed Jasnow ☉

- French diplomats'
- NSA Spying Killed US "Cloud" services, Email in Europe
- Brazil Threatens to Cancel Boeing Order Over NSA Spying
- NSA: Evidence of Participation in Economic Espionage
- Indonesia protests to US over reported NSA spying in Jakarta
- NSA Spying Threatens US Foreign Policy Efforts
- US spy chiefs defend targeting EU allies • Americans • Al Jazeera
- Report: NSA Spied on 60 Million Calls in Spain in 1 Month
- NSA Caught Illegally Spying on Americans
- US admits electronic spying on Americans was illegal

Some of the headlines in recent days have given cause for concern. "The inevitable price for living in today's world," you say? A Utilitarian view? Something John Stuart Mill or Vince Lombardi or Machiavelli would have approved of, right? The *greatest good for the greatest number*, right?

Immanuel Kant would have taken a very different view. A categorical imperative, even a Biblical imperative; '*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*' would leave no margin for falsehood in a world built upon "*truth, justice and the American way*" (Superman).

We are imperfect. We do lie. We do act selfishly and steal. And we can justify subterfuge to serve our ends as we so often do . . . to justify imperialism, slavery, genocide, oppression, even war. But should we? Martin Buber thought much about *I-Thou and I-It relationships*. His conclusions and those of Moses and Isaiah and Jerimiah, even Dostoevsky, Aquinas and Plato

would concur . . . ***Don't lie!*** Falsehood leads to the dark side; inevitable loss of credibility — disappointment, disillusionment, destruction.

We are living in a very sad day. Our foreign policy (*if there is any*) is collapsing (Egypt, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Tunisia), our allies view us with disdain (Brazil, Spain, Germany, France), our enemies say, "*I told you so*" (Russia, Iran, N Korea), our troops question loyalty to leadership that will abandon them (*Benghazi*). Our word means nothing (*promise to stop poison gas in Syria*). Can things get much worse.

Are you proud when your leadership is caught lying? Rhetoric from the White House trumps reality? How many lies can we believe?

Each week we recite the ***Four-Way Test***. Is it true? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Apply these to US foreign policy, and the answers are; No, No, No, and No!

Under these circumstances, what is the duty of Rotarians?

'*J'accuse*' wrote Emile Zola in defense of wrongly accused Jewish artillery commander Alfred Dreyfus in 1898. His courageous stand shows how believably injustice and truth can transform circumstances by particular individuals into a juggernaut that can alter the political and cultural landscape.

It is time to put a stop to duplicity in the affairs of our nation. If we must spy upon our citizens and our friends, at a minimum, let us not lie about it. This is not naiveté. *Quid pro quo* may be a fact of life in international relations. Then we must so state. Any thing less is unacceptable for Rotarians and for our nation. ☉



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

Existing home sales fell 1.9 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.29 million units. Compared to a year ago, existing home sales were up 10.7 percent in September. The inventory of unsold existing homes on the market was unchanged at 2.21 million in September, a 5-month supply at the current sales pace.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending October 18 fell 0.6 percent. Purchase volume rose 1 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 1 percent.

The trade deficit increased from \$38.6 billion in July to \$38.8 billion in August. Exports fell \$0.1 billion to \$189.2 billion. Imports were unchanged at \$228 billion.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — increased \$8.2 billion, or 3.7 percent, to \$233.4 billion in September. This follows a 0.2 percent increase in August. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, September orders posted a monthly decrease of 0.1 percent. The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for October's final reading fell to 73.2 from September's final reading of 77.5. The current conditions component rose slightly from 92.6 to 92.8. The weakness came largely from the expectations component, which fell from 67.8 to 62.5.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.5 percent to \$503 billion in August. Sales at the wholesale level also rose 0.6 percent to \$428.4 billion in August. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 5.6 percent higher than August 2012. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/

sales ratio in August was 1.17.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending October 19 fell by 12,000 to 350,000. Continuing claims for the week ending October 12 fell by 35,000 to 2.847 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 348,250. The unemployment rate fell to 7.2 percent in September, its lowest

level since December 2008. Employers added 148,000 jobs in September.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on pending home sales on October 28, the housing price index on October 29 and the consumer price index on October 30.

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

In Honor of Our Veterans by Jacque Foreman

Eight of us — Ray Carlson, Steve Cunningham, John Frykenberg, Julius Johnson, Dennis Mehringer, David Smith and I — joined approximately 150 others in attending the honors dinner for those who were being inducted into the *Sons of the American Legion Hall of Fame*.

JROTC students — probably from Muir High School — served dinner and coffee. Rose Queen Ana Marie Acosta and her

court were honored guests. The American Legion hopes that this marks the return of a formerly close relationship between the Legion and the Tournament of Roses.

Many of the guests and honorees were escorted and *piped* to the podium by bagpipe honor guards.

Unfortunately, Mehringer arrived late and is not included in the pictures.



> > NEXT BOARD MEETING < <
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 05, AT 6:15p
260 S. Los Robles, Pasadena
3rd Floor Conference Room

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Los Angeles County Superior Court is currently seeking qualified citizens who are interested in applying for the LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY.

Applicant must possess each of the following qualifications:

- *citizen of the United States;*
- *at least 18 years of age;*
- *a resident of Los Angeles County for at least one year;*
- *of ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, fair character;*
- *working knowledge of the English language.*

Primary functions of the Civil Grand Jury:

- *investigates county, city and joint-power agencies;*
- *acts as "watch dog" by examining carefully and completely the operations of various government agencies within Los Angeles County.*

Willing to volunteer 30-40 hours per week and earn \$60.00 for each full day of service?

2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury is now open for recruitment.

Deadline to submit an application is November 25, 2013.

For an application packet, please contact:

Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center Building

210 W. Temple Street, 11th Floor Room 11-506

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone No. (213) 893-1047

Fax No. (213)229-2595

For forms online: <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us>