

March 06, 2014

This Week

It's going to be a Surprise ... The first week of the planned *Speaker Surprises* for the Month of March Program Host: David Smith

This is the first week in a mysterious succession of programs for March. Our program host is keeping his planned speakers to himself. He insists there is a method to his madness, but only time will tell. It is possible that he will tell you if you ask him, as long as you promise to keep it a secret from everyone else.

Meanwhile invite guests, telling them that you know our program host, and he has never failed to provide an interesting and informative program, but he wishes to keep the theme of his month a secret.

As this is being written for the first week in March, we are experiencing our first *REAL* rain storm of this rainy season. It could be the beginning of another *March Miracle*. The same might be said about the programs that have been planned. As with the weather, we must wait and see. ☺



Dollars & Sense

by President
 Dennis Mehriinger

Solution to Poverty?

Maybe the best solution to poverty is for the poor to relocate. Take, for example, the thousands of refugees who have moved from Syria to Jordan the last few years. The Zatari Refugee Camp is now the fourth largest city in Jordan with about 120,000 inhabitants.

That sounds frightening but the Saturday *LA Times* had a beautiful aerial view of the camp with clean, straight, wide streets plus the markets in the camp have well stocked shelves full of items not readily available in Syria.

Let's take a moment and examine pre-war Syria. This country which has been ruled by the Assad family for over thirty years, and had a population of over 22 million people with average annual income of about \$2,800 each.

On the other hand, Jordan — their next door neighbor — had a population of a little more than 6 million with an average annual income of over \$6,000 each. To me today the refugees are way better off in Jordan than they were in Syria before the war. Plus, if they stay, their families will be better off for years.

The class warfare rhetoric flies over the air waves constantly. The latest statis-

tic is that the 85 richest people in the world have more assets than the 3.5 billion poorest people in the world. However, if the super efficient governments of the world would tax 100 percent of the assets of those richest 85 people — without any graft — and transfer every cent of the collected taxes to the poor, it would support those 3.5 billion people for a whole 7 days.

So, clearly, *taxing the rich will not solve poverty.*

However, we have all experienced stories like Ruppert Murdoch who left Australia with only about \$10,000,000 to his name and the Australian government hot on his trail for tax evasion. Now he is worth billions.

My personal experiences are numerous, but here are three:

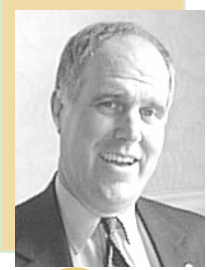
- My oldest and dearest client was one

Please turn to Dollars & Sense, p.3

Greeters

February 27
Santosh Srivastava
 March 06
Charles Wilson
 March 13
Hal Yorke

Program Review



Student Speakers shine in 4-Way Test Speech Competition

One of the highlights of the Rotary year is the 4-Way Test Speech competition. Every year, students from local high schools prepare and give speeches on some aspect of Rotary and the 4-Way Test. This year the speech topic was **Engage Rotary; Change Lives** which just happens to be the theme established for the Rotary 2013-

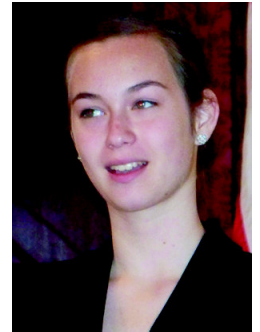
2014 year.

Kendall Holliman, a student at Maranatha, spoke of the plight of the homeless in our community in terms of numbers: 772 — the number of homeless people in the Pasadena area; 119 — the number of homeless under age 18; 23 — the number of senior citizens who are homeless. Many of the homeless suffer from substance abuse or drug and alcohol addiction; many are military veterans. Homelessness should not be a problem in our community. Rotary can be engaged to help people in our community who are homeless. With our efforts, the number of homeless can be reduced to the best number of all — zero.



Maya Malekian a freshman at Maranatha, spoke of her love of dance

and ballet and how the mere participation in dance can bring joy and happiness to young people. Malekian has been dancing for over 12 years, and it has been a great source of satisfaction to her. Dance and ballet are filled with physical, mental and emotional challenges. She spoke of her involvement at Glendale Unified School District in encouraging and training young men and women in the joy of dance. In her experience, dance performances brought the community of Glendale together in wonderful and unanticipated ways. Dance is an activity that embodies all facets of the 4-Way Test: Truth, Fairness, Builds Goodwill and Friendships, and is Beneficial to All Concerned. It also builds social and leadership skills.



Chelsea Ho, a senior at Blair High School, spoke about the action steps she

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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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 Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
 Ray Carlson Vocational
 Steve Cunningham Membership
 Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
 Photography Jacque Foreman

March

Literacy Month

Program Chair, David Smith

March 06 - It's a Surprise
 March 13 - It's a Surprise
 March 20 - It's a Surprise
 March 27 - It's a Surprise

April

Magazine Month

Program Chair, Gordon Seyffert

April 03 - To be Announced
 April 10 - To be Announced
 April 17 - To be Announced
 April 24 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



03/14 - Emily Aiken (Linda Wilkes)
 03/15 - David Smith
 03/15 - Trish Robinson



Anniversaries



03/01 - Tom & Etta McCurry
 Dennis Miller & Noriko Suzuki

Trends in Charitable Gift Planning



Conferences on charitable gift planning in the past year have generally featured speakers who noted changes and developing trends with respect to contributions, donors and the objects of their bounty. Here is a sample of pronouncements and prognostications heard recently:

- Real estate is becoming more common as a funding asset for charitable remainder trusts;
- Donors increasingly are making their annual gifts through donor advised funds;
- It's becoming popular among grantors of charitable remainder trusts to have trust assets co-invested with the remainder beneficiary's endowment funds;
- A study indicates that most realized charitable bequests are added to estate plans within five years of the donor's death;
- More and more estate assets are passing outside wills and revocable living trusts, via IRAs, POD and TOD accounts and other beneficiary designations (including real property and motor vehicles in some jurisdictions);
- High capital gains tax rates and the 3.8 percent net investment income tax are encouraging investors to harvest profits through charitable remainder trusts;
- A Depression-era *baby bust* resulted in matured charitable bequests being flat since 2000, but a boom is coming in the next five years, starting with chari-

table gift annuities and then extending to bequests to charities;

- New charitable gift annuity donors average between ages 75 and 79;
- The average age of new CRT donors is 65 to 75;
- Older donors continue to be mindful

of exhausting financial resources and are more amenable to revocable charitable legacy arrangements, such as bequests;

- Some parents are establishing term-of-years charitable remainder trusts that pay children for 20 years.

Dollars & Sense

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of three brothers who were orphaned during the Great Depression in Nebraska. All three have died over the last five years, but my client — the eldest — passed away in 2010 at age 92. His net worth was over \$30 million, and he employed 450 people, none of which is poor. What did he do? Moved to California.

- Another of my former clients escaped Vietnam when the North took over the south and moved to California. He now runs a company with \$50 million in annual revenue which employs 165 people.
- Lastly, I met a sweet, elderly man three years ago who was born on the streets of Tijuana to a 16-year old prostitute. He and his mom snuck into California when was a small child. He now owns and operates a huge marble import-

ing company with several hundred employees.

A friend of my wrote his PhD thesis on immigration and calculated that the USA could house the entire world population in 3 bedroom, 2 bath homes built four to an acre on uninhibited land in Texas and New Mexico. He did project in the thesis that immigration is a solution to world poverty but, it us clear, bad government — like in Syria and Haiti and Afghanistan — causes poverty and good government — like the USA, Germany, Japan, England and France — helps eliminate it by giving more freedom to individuals.

We in Rotary work every day to help people who want to help themselves. Every so often, when I am wearing my Rotary jacket during a rain storm, a stranger comes up to me and tells me how Rotary has improved his/her life. ☉

> > NEXT BOARD MEETING < <

**TUESDAY, MARCH 06, AT 6:15p
260 S. Los Robles, Pasadena
3rd Floor Conference Room**



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In The News February 24, 2014

The monthly National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing market index fell 10 points in February to 46. An index reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market. The drop — the lowest level since May 2013 — was largely attributed to severe winter weather.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending February 14 fell 4.1 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume fell 6 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 3 percent.

Existing home sales fell 5.1 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.62 million units. Compared to a year ago, January existing home sales were also down 5.1 percent. The inventory of unsold existing homes on the market rose 2.2 percent to 1.9 million in January, a 4.9-month supply at the current sales pace.

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in January fell 16 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 880,000 units, compared to the revised December estimate of 1,048,000 units. Single-family starts decreased 15.9 percent. Volatile multifamily starts fell 16.3 percent. Overall housing units were down 2 percent in January when compared to the previous year. Applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of

937,000 units, 5.4 percent below the revised December rate of 991,000 units.

Consumer prices rose 0.1 percent in January, following a 0.2 percent increase in December. Compared to a year ago, January consumer prices have risen 1.6 percent. Consumer prices at the core rate — excluding volatile food and energy prices — were up 0.1 percent in January.

The index of leading economic indicators — designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months — rose 0.3 percent in January, following a flat reading in December.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending February 15 fell by 3,000 to 336,000. Continuing claims for the week ending February 8 rose by 37,000 to 2.981 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 338,500.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing price index on February 25, new home sales on February 26 and pending home sales on February 28.

Knowledge Builder Greek Revival Architecture (1820-1850)

Greek Revival followed the Federal style of architecture (1780-1820), which was largely based on English architecture. The shift away from the Federal style began after the War of 1812 with England. Following the hostilities, trade between the two countries waned, along with the popularity of English architecture.

From the 1820s to the 1850s, Greek Revival was the most prominent style of architecture in the United States. During

this period, America enjoyed great peace, freedom and prosperity. The country was triumphant in its quest for an independent and democratic government, frontiers were being settled, and the population increased from 10 million to 31 million.

Fascinated by archeological explorations of Ancient Greek sites, and sympathetic to Greece's war for independence (1821-1832), American architects began to adopt ancient Grecian forms. While British-styled buildings represented colonial oppression, Greek Revival architecture was tangible evidence of America's support of the democratic ideal.

Greek Revival dominated all types of construction in all regions of the country. Like a Greek temple, floor plans were generally rectangular with a portico (an entryway consisting of a roof supported by columns at regular intervals, typically attached as a porch to a building) framing a centered entry door. Windows and doorways were large and sturdy, symbolic of a confident and independent young nation.

Roofs were usually low-pitched gables (sloping on two sides). Chimneys were small and insignificant. Buildings were typically painted white to reflect the white marble of ancient Greek temples.

Since the Greek Revival period occurred during the early stages of the Industrial Age, buildings were fitted with the latest inventions. Cast iron stoves appeared in kitchens, and a few bathrooms even had tubs, mechanical showers, and indoor toilets. ○

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

Program

Continued from p.2

has taken in her life to create more meaning and purpose. She offered a three-step prescription:

- 1) Find a niche in some aspect of community service, something that gives you satisfaction;
- 2) Detach yourself from your electronic devices; replace at least one hour of social media time per week with one hour of real face time;
- 3) Pay it forward.



Become the force of productivity in your community. By having a vision and taking steps to pursue that vision, one can truly change the world.

The final speaker was Saily Amador, also a senior at Blair High School. She spoke of the need for action; words are not enough. The future depends upon what one does today, not merely what one says today. It is often said that actions speak louder than words.



Martin Luther King, through his belief and advocacy of civil disobedience and non-violence was able to move a nation toward civil rights and racial breakthroughs. The actions and efforts of Gandhi led to the freedom of the Indian people. Amador's message was that we need to stop talking and start doing.

All of the contestants made excellent presentations and the judging was thoughtful and deliberate. Saily Amador was determined to be the winner of the competition, with Kendall Holliman as the runner up. They will continue in the Regional competition later in the month.

Boyd Hudson

Treasures where You least expect to find Them by Jacque Foreman

I was navigating my way out of the Holly Street parking structure after our meeting last week at the American Legion Post in Pasadena when I turned a corner and saw something lying on the floor of the parking lot. I wasn't exactly sure what it was, but decided to get out of my car and look.

There it was, a beautiful stuffed toy dog that appeared to be new. Of course I rescued it, it was obviously someone's

treasure and had fallen out of a bag. And it certainly would have been driven over and ruined if I hadn't picked it up.

I told it how lucky it was that I had managed to get turned around and was really going the wrong way.

When I got back to my home office, I



called the number on the parking lot ticket and was told that I had to call someone in Pasadena. I did and was told that I had to call lost and found for the Colorado Paseo shopping mall. I called there and was told that I had to call the previous call I had made where they told me that I would

have to call the person to whom I was speaking. Obviously there was no help. No one cared if the toy ever got returned to the person who lost it. I explained that someone had lost this beautiful little toy and would want it back. Could I leave my number in case someone came to ask about it. NO!!

So I decided to treat my finding it as a *miracle* in my life. I will keep it, and it will be my first toy for the Food and Toy Drive that I have spearheaded for my Business Network International chapter for

at least 10 years. I do this each December. The planning starts in September when I call the Sheriff's department and make arrangements to have the deputy at our meeting as our guest. I feel sorry for the person who lost it, but another little boy or girl will treasure it.

District Assembly
for the
2014-2015 Rotary Year

Saturday, April 5, 2014
Sign-in - 8a <> Event - 9a

Victor Valley College

18422 Bear Valley Road
Victorville, CA 92395

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ON LINE