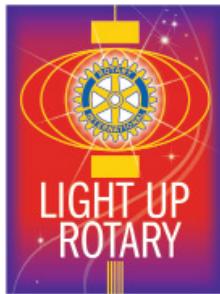




Rotary Club of Altadena

# sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL  
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



October 23, 2014

## This Week

**Varetta Heidelberg**  
*Founder/Director,*  
**Instrument of Praise School of Performing Arts**  
**Program Host:**  
**Gary Clark**

Varetta Heidelberg, founder/director of Instruments of Praise School of Performing Arts, trains students in the knowledge of music, discipline and performance. This is Heidelberg's twenty-fourth year directing the school, which develops the musical skills of area youth of all backgrounds and family status. The Instruments of Praise School of Performing Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation accepting youth sponsors.

Heidelberg is a saxophonist, flautist, and vocalist, performing in concert halls, church sanctuaries, and prison yards, music which touches the soul and spirit.

She serves as Executive Producer for the Concert of Dance Productions and is a platform guest for the Bill Glass

*Please turn to This Week p. 5*



## REFLECTIONS

by Hal Yorke, President

## REFLECTIONS

## On Water

**A**s Californians wonder what to do about their dwindling water supply, scientists continue their successful search for water elsewhere in the Universe. So far, water has been found in the polar craters of the Moon, on every planet of the solar system (including Mercury), on many of Jupiter's and Saturn's moons, in Saturn's ring, in comets and the asteroid/dwarf planet Ceres.

Water is found in the atmospheres of many exo-planets (planets circling other stars), in the circumstellar disks of many young stars believed to be forming planets and even in a distant quasar located 12 billion light-years from Earth. The latter discovery showed that vast amounts of water existed 12 billion years ago, when the Universe was a mere 1.8 billion years young.

Water is formed when two hydrogen atoms unite with an oxygen atom. Actually, the formation of water is not quite that simple; it has to be synthesized through a chemical sequence that includes chemical processing on interstellar dust grains. The

fact that water is so prevalent may not be all that surprising at first sight, when one considers that hydrogen is the most abundant element and oxygen is the third most abundant. However, oxygen is also popular with other elements, forming for example carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, silicates, and oxides of metals. Luckily, enough oxygen is left over for water.

The importance of water for life cannot be understated - it is absolutely essential. (I just have to look at my lawn.) To be useful as its prime purpose, a chemical solvent, it must be in liquid form. Considering that life on Earth formed 3.9 billion years ago, when the Earth was just 600 million

Please turn to Reflections, p. 3

## Greeters

October 23

**Craig Cox**

October 30

**Steve Cunningham**

November 06

**Fred Figueroa**

# Program Review



Decked out in their Nigerian best John Frykenberg and his fellow team member John Davis of the Rotary Club of Arcadia shared their experiences on their recent trip to Nigeria's Ogun State in the heart of Yourubaland.

This was John Frykenberg's 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Nigeria to teach our *Make a Job* seminar.

**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](http://www.altadenarotary.com)  
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p  
Altadena Town & Country Club  
2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA  
626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres.....Gary Huang  
Dist 5300 Gov.....Larry Skaggs

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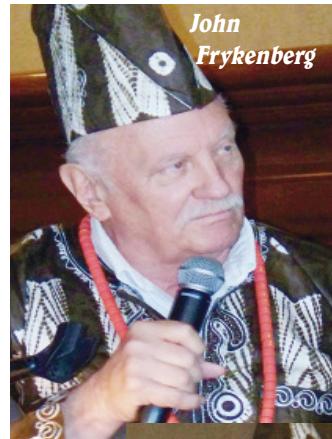
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Jacque Foreman ..... Sparks/Website  
Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects  
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Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

## Why do You keep Coming Back?

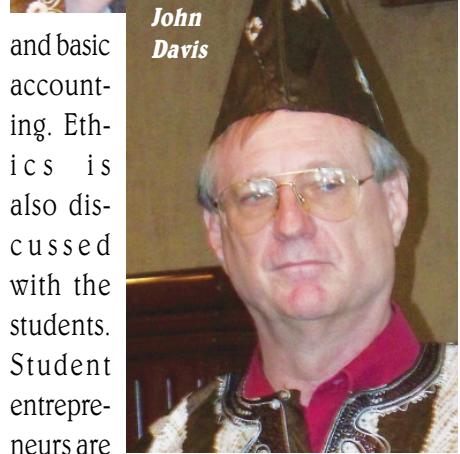
This time our host sponsors were Rotarians from the Sagamu Central Rotary Club. They met the team at Ibadan airport and delivered them to Ejiebo-Ode, home of Tai Solarin University of Education. 900 eager students learned the essential elements of how to create jobs with John Frykenberg and the team of Sarah Phillips, Mary lldo, John Davis.

The team also conducted classes at Abeokutas University in the capital of Ogun State. Because the team arrived in the middle of examinations, the number of students was closer to 600. But Frykenberg and the team met with the faculty and executives from the Nigeria Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to begin laying plans for additional training in the country.

The course starts with a simple one-page business plan. This is followed by a brainstorming, product and service identification, market identification and targeting, cost and pricing analysis. Additional



John Frykenberg



John Davis

time is taken planning for sales, marketing, distribution, communication,

and basic accounting. Ethics is also discussed with the students. Student entrepreneurs are encouraged to bring in their products and service plans along with their questions.

"Why do you keep coming back to Nigeria?" people ask. Frykenberg replies, "Because of the hope, the cry for any help, the belief that each and every student who tries hard enough can make it."

Craig Cox ◎

## October Vocational Service Month

### Program Chair, Gary Clark

Oct 23 - Varetta Heidelberg, Creator and Director, Instruments of Praise Program

Oct 30 - Sea Captain Bethany Clark, Entrepreneur

## November Rotary Foundation Month

### Program Chair, Jim Gorton

Nov 06 - To be Arranged

Nov 13 - To be Arranged

Nov 20 - To be Arranged

Nov 27 - Thanksgiving -- Dark

## Congratulations



### Birthdays

10/08 - Susan Cox



10/17 - Noriko Suzuki Mehringer

10/20 - Charles Wilson

10/24 - Jim Gorton

### Anniversaries

10/01 - Freddy & Margarita Figueroa

10/19 - David & Elsa Smith

# Chairmen's Corner

by Craig Cox, Membership Chair

## How to Propose a New Member



13.333 percent is a number that warms the heart of this Membership

Chairman.

Why? No, I am not a triskaidekaphile. But I am very encouraged when *three* of our members bring *four* guests who are considering being members of the Rotary Club. Four new members would grow our club by 13.333 percent, and that is a good thing.

I would like to clarify the process by which a person becomes a member of a Rotary Club.

Candidates do not *join* Rotary Clubs — they are *proposed*. I hope Jacque can

attach Rotary Publication 254-EN – *How to Propose a New Member* when she sends out your *Sparks in Brief*.

The steps are simple:

- 1) Once a candidate demonstrates an interest in membership,
- 2) A club member — usually the person who invited the candidate — fills in Part A of the Membership Proposal Form and
- 3) Gives it to the Club Secretary for submission to the Board of Directors.

***It is important not to inform the candidate until after the Board approves the proposal.*** Members should hear back from the Club Secretary within 30 days of their submission.

Once the candidate has been approved, the club will arrange for a Rotary information session. At this time we discuss the objectives of Rotary and the financial commitment.

The candidate then

- 4) completes Part B of the proposal form and
- 5) submits it to the Club Secretary.

The proposed member's name is then published according to our bylaws for club members to consider. If no objections are received, the new member is inducted into the club.

Keep up the good work of inviting people to the club. We are looking forward to your proposals in 2014 – 2015. ○

## This Week

*Continued from p. 1*

Champions for Life Prison Ministry. She received the Most Outstanding Instrumentalist Award at the Christian Artist Seminar in Estes Park.

Heidelberg holds a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University, a certificate from Dick Grove School of Music, and is a former Miss Black America. She has recorded four music projects and shared her songs, stories and writings throughout the United States, Nigeria, Japan and the Philippines. She is a resident of Altadena. Heidelberg's Performance CDs will be available for purchase. Sponsorships for needy area students will be provided. ○

## Reflections

*Continued from p. 1*

years old, it is quite exciting to hear that JPL's Curiosity rover has found evidence for a past era of liquid water on Mars — in particular lakes and streams — that lasted for at least a billion years.

Could life have formed on Mars? Yes, conceivably. Could life have formed elsewhere in the Universe? In my opinion, almost with certainty, considering that among the more than 10,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the observable Universe, about half of which have planetary systems, water will often be present in liquid form.

In addition to preparing for a new

mission to Mars to be launched in 2020, JPL has been tasked with designing a new mission to visit the Jupiter moon, Europa. Europa has liquid water below a rather thick crust of ice.

This liquid water has been around for 4.5 billion years. Occasional volcanic activity brings liquid water to Europa's surface, analogous to the lava that spews out of terrestrial volcanoes. We can expect exciting new discoveries from these NASA investments, further steps in the quest for understanding where we came from and answering the question of whether we are alone. ○



# MONEY MATTERS

by Linda  
Wilkes

## **Economic Update**

### **In The News**

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending October 3 rose 3.8 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume rose 2 percent. Refinancing applications increased 5 percent.

According to the Federal Reserve, monthly consumer credit debt rose \$13.5 billion in August for a total credit debt level of \$3,247 billion. Revolving debt, which includes credit cards, decreased \$0.2 billion to \$880.3 billion. Non-revolving debt, which includes car loans, rose \$13.7 billion to \$2,366.7 billion.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.7 percent to \$538 billion in August. Sales at the wholesale level fell 0.7 percent to \$453.9 billion in August. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 5.8 percent higher than in August 2013. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/sales ratio in August 2014 was 1.19, the heaviest reading since February.

Retail sales rose 0.1 percent for the week ending October 4, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 3.9 percent.

Import prices fell 0.5 percent in September, following a 0.6 percent decrease in August. On a year-over-year basis, import prices were down 0.9 percent in September. Export prices fell 0.2 percent in September, following a 0.5 percent decrease in August. Compared to a year

ago, export prices were down 0.2 percent in September.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending October 4 fell by 1,000 to 287,000. Continuing claims for the week ending September 27 fell by 21,000 to 2.381 million, the lowest level since May 2006. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 287,750, the lowest level since February 2006.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on retail sales on October 15, the housing market index on October 16 and housing starts on October 17.

### **Home Line**

#### **How to Inspect and Maintain Your Roof**

Pitched roofs should be inspected at least once every two years. To check the condition of an asphalt-shingle roof, go to the sunniest side and bend the corner of a few shingles. If they're brittle and crack, a new roof might be in order. Other tell-tale signs an asphalt roof is beyond its prime: curled tiles and bare spots where the shiny ceramic mineral granules are missing.

Flat roofs should be inspected annually. Keep an eye out for ponding, or standing water in the form of puddles after a rain, or dry pockets filled with residual debris. Such areas may need to be built up to assure water properly drains to the downspouts.

If your asphalt — often called composition roofing — is in need of repair, you may have a couple of options. If there's a

single layer of asphalt shingles, you might consider nailing over an existing roof versus tearing off the existing shingles. This is called a reroof. If there are two or more layers of asphalt shingles on a roof, a tear off will be required. Also, be sure to check local housing codes; some regulate the maximum number of nail-overs.

Wood shingles in need of being replaced will crack, warp and reveal larger than normal gaps between shingles. Aged tile roofs may show signs of cracking.

The flashing (meaning the plastic or metal weather stripping) around the chimney and any vent pipes also need to be inspected. Gaps can occur along flashing joints and this is often the source of water damage.

For an indoor roof inspection, look for sagging ceilings or stains that indicate water damage. In the attic, search for moist, dark spots on the roof deck. After rain, if these spots are wet, there's a problem.

Attic vents should be periodically checked to be sure they're clear of obstruction. Insufficient venting can damage your shingles and invalidate the manufacturer's warranty.

Clean your gutters annually and keep an eye out for algae and moss. Both can weaken roofing materials. You can prevent algae and moss growth by installing zinc strips along the ridge of the roof. Water running over zinc washes minute amounts of zinc carbonate over the roof, killing the moss and algae.

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