



January 15, 2015

## This Week

### Denise Wadsworth Leave No Veteran Behind Program Host: John Frykenberg

This is the topic of guest speaker Denise Wadsworth, Co-Chair, Rotary International District 5300 Vocational Committee and Speech-Language Pathologist at Huntington Middle School in San Marino and member of the San Marino Rotary Club.

Veterans in the San Gabriel Valley lack local access to vital healthcare services and have to travel to Los Angeles, Long Beach or Loma Linda to receive the care they have earned and deserve. To solve this problem, Pasadena City College (PCC) and VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) have joined forces with numerous community partners to establish a new, state-of-the-art clinic for all San Gabriel Valley Veterans — the Veterans Health Center of the Foothills.

#### How Our Community Benefits:

With the help of community members — through direct donations, this new clinic will provide Veterans with access to VA health-care services, information

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## REFLECTIONS

by Hal Yorke, President

## BEEFLECTIONS?

### Human Echolocation

Listening to the radio while driving, I happened to catch the tail end of and was fascinated by a report on human echolocation. Echolocation is the process of using sound to detect objects and determine their size, shape, location, and *softness*. I was aware that bats are highly adept echolocators, capable of navigating complex paths and finding prey. The sound of their high-pitched shrieks bounce off everything around them, and their brains are able to construct a three dimensional image of the world around them from the complex echo patterns.

The fascinating part of the radio report was the adeptness of some blind people to do the same, namely construct in their brains a three dimensional image of the world around them not entirely dissimilar to the abilities of a color-blind seeing person with poor eyesight. The blurriness (or sharpness) of the sonar images of a talented human echolocator is about that of your fist held at arm's length. Echolocation allows blind bike riders navigate through traffic or mountain-bike through the wilderness.

One of the most proficient echolocators was Ben Underwood, whose eyes

were removed at the age of three due to retinal cancer. He self-taught himself echolocation and was able to play basketball and football, skateboard, rollerblade, and ride his bicycle, before he succumbed to the cancer at age sixteen.

Another notable echolocator is Daniel Kish, who also lost his eyes due to retinal cancer at the age of 13 months. As a child he learned to make clicks with his tongue and use the echoes to explore the world around him. He now teaches echolocation to the blind. In a 2012 BBC report he said, "The sense of imagery is very rich for an experienced user. One can get a sense of beauty or starkness or whatever — from sound as well as echo."

While I was a physics graduate student in Germany, friends of mine worked in the field of acoustics. Their lab invented *Kun-*

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## Greeters

January 15

**Ed Jasnow**

January 22

**Julius Johnson**

January 29

**Steve Kerekes**

# Program Review

## Mid-Year Club Assembly



The members and guests in attendance were excited to hear from each chair-

man of the various Rotary committees on either their plans for the next six months of the rotary year, or what their committees have already accomplished during the past six months of the Rotary year.

Club President Hal Yorke opened the meeting and then called upon each chair-

man to provide the members with a brief report. The following are the updates that were provided by the various chairman and committees:

### Treasurer's Report

**Mike Noll** shared the club financials and explained that we will have a balanced budget — which is a requirement of any non-profit organization. He also, said that enough money was raised to send our incoming President Steve “Quick” Cunningham to the annual conference in Brazil this year.

### Secretary's Report

**Gordon Seyffert** stated that the club is even on membership so far this rotary year. No other statistics were reported.

### International Projects/Grants

**John Frykenberg** shared with the club the success of the past international project teaching the university students of Nigeria topics such as financial literacy, how to write a business plan and entrepreneurship.

Frykenberg also shared that another project is currently being proposed for the club members to travel again to another university in Nigeria this late summer/fall.

### Mini Grants

**Ed Jasnow** shared that forty mini-grants were awarded in December at \$400 each to various local elementary and secondary schools in PUSD. This was the

highest total ever awarded to date.

In addition, he said that he had received a letter from Asst. Principal at Pasadena High School asking that the club sponsor two students to attend the Nuclear Planning Conference in Japan later this year. The board approved the \$1300 proposal to send both students.

### Community Service

**Craig Cox** said that he club completes four major community service projects a year. The following are the projects that the club performed over the last rotary year:

- 1) Built benches in the courtyard at Eliot Middle School
- 2) Summer Concerts in the Park
- 3) Built three new platforms and erected all weather tents at Camp Trask Scout Reservation that will be used by their summer camp staff as living quarters.
- 4) In the process of refurbishing a playhouse and installing it at the Pasadena Christian Children's Center.

Cox stated that the committee will reconvene in the next month to discuss next year's projects.

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### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949  
 P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003  
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Rotary Int. Pres. .... Gary Huang  
 Dist 5300 Gov. .... Larry Skaggs

### Officers

Hal Yorke, Pres. .... Bus. 626-577-9800  
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 Gordon Seyffert, Sec. .... Bus. 626-345-0658  
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### Directors

Mike Noll • John Frykenberg  
 Steve Cunningham • Dennis Mehninger  
 Gordon Seyffert • Mike Zoeller • Ed Jasnow

### Chairmen

Steve Cunningham ..... Administration  
 Ed Jasnow ..... Foundation  
 Jacque Foreman ..... Public Awareness  
 Jacque Foreman ..... Acting Publicity  
 Jacque Foreman ..... Sparks/Website  
 Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects  
 Craig Cox ..... Community  
 John Frykenberg ..... International  
 Tony Hill ..... Youth Contests/Awards  
 Mike Zoeller ..... Youth Projects  
 Ray Carlson ..... Vocational  
 Tom McCurry ..... Asst. Vocational  
 Craig Cox ..... Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting ..... Foreman Graphics  
 Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

## January Rotary Family Month

### Program Chair, John Frykenberg

- Jan 15 - Denise Wadsworth - New Vet Center at PCC
- Jan 22 - To be Announced
- Jan 29 - To be Announced

## Congratulations

### Birthdays

- 01/03 - Betty Ferris
- 01/10 - Santosh Srivastava
- 01/14 - Bill Reader
- 01/27 - Ann Rider Hill
- 01/27 - Barbara Yorke

### Anniversaries

- 01/03 - Jim & Karen Gorton
- 01/04 - Mike & Carol Zoeller
- 01/22 - John and Joan Frykenberg

## Good Job . . . Time to *Reset the Clock*



As I write this article, we are within striking distance of finishing our Winter hands-on project. Rotarians will be gathering this weekend to refurbish a playhouse (donated by Mike Noll). Next weekend we will transport, assemble and install the playhouse onto the beautiful cement pad we created at the Altadena Christian Children's Center. This will finish our 12-month goal to do a hands-on project for each season of the year.

Our Spring project was installing new permanent benches and trash cans on the Eliot Middle School Campus. We worked with Eliot's P.T.A. and staff to come up with a design. We supplied materials, equipment, manpower, and the benches. Most important, we had fun.

During the Summer, we supported the Concerts in the Park at Farnsworth Park. We sold beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks. We provided security. We shared about Rotary to the community. We had fun.

This Fall we built decks for tents at Trask

Scout Base in Monrovia. We worked with staff at the camp and council. We supplied materials, equipment, and manpower. Camp Trask now has a better place for their summer staff to live. We had fun.

Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall – chances for service and fellowship.

We now need to *reset the clock* for a new cycle.

Please plan on meeting at my home (3944 Altura Ave, La Crescenta) at 7p on Thursday, January 22. As always, the refreshments will be on me. ○

## This Week

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and resources otherwise not available in our local community.

In addition, this new partnership paves the way for medical academic affiliations between Pasadena City College and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. As a result, our community will see an increase in awareness, education and vocational training for Veterans, citizens and students in areas related to Veterans' healthcare.

**Why We Do This:** Through this innovative partnership, a new VA clinic will be built on the PCC campus to provide services to the more than 800 PCC student Veterans and central access to the thousands of Veterans residing throughout the area. PCC is providing the physical space and VAGLAHS will provide the medical staffing for the new center. This clinic will

be the first in the nation to be located at an academic institution and reflect our community's commitment to putting Veterans first.

The Veterans Health Center of the Foothills will provide all area Veterans with local access to:

- Primary Healthcare Services
- Women's Healthcare Services
- Mental Health Services
- Integrative Health and Healing Therapies

Join together with PCC, VAGLAHS, and our community partners to show your support for our Veterans. This is the message Wadsworth will bring to our Club. Your Board of Directors is committed to this vital project and to the opening of the Veterans Health Center of the Foothills on the campus of PCC. ○

## Program

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### *Public Awareness Newsletter and Website*

#### **Jacque Foreman**

- First reminded us of our Award winning weekly newsletter, and then she
- Encouraged each of us who is in business or has a hobby to share to submit a paragraph about that business or hobby that will be placed on the ***It's Great to do Business with a Rotarian*** page on the website. This is a place where each can share his/her profession, hobby, etc. and be found by the other club members and community members who may wish to do business or discuss your hobby with you.

### *Youth Programs*

**Tony Hill** spoke about many of our youth programs, several of which he

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# MONEY MATTERS

by Linda  
Wilkes

## *Economic Update In The News*

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, rose 0.8 percent in November, following a 1.2 percent decrease in October. On a year-over-year basis, November pending home sales were up 4.1 percent.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis fell 0.1 percent in October after an identical 0.1 percent decrease in September. On a year-over-year basis, prices have risen 4.5 percent when compared with October 2013.

According to the Federal Reserve, monthly consumer credit debt rose \$13.2 billion in October for a total credit debt level of \$3,278.9 billion. Revolving debt, which includes credit cards, increased \$0.9 billion to \$882.6 billion. Non-revolving debt, which includes car and student loans, rose \$12.3 billion to \$2,396.3 billion.

Retail sales were unchanged for the week ending December 27, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 2.2 percent.

The consumer confidence index rose to 92.6 in December from a revised 91 in November. The current conditions component rose to 98.6 from 93.7, the strongest reading since February 2008. The index was benchmarked at 100 in 1985, a year chosen because it was neither a peak nor a trough in consumer confidence.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending December 27 rose by 17,000 to 298,000. Continuing claims for the week ending December 20 fell by 53,000 to 2.353 million. The less volatile

four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 290,750.

Approximately 308,500 workers a week filed applications for unemployment benefits in 2014, the lowest level since 299,600 in 2000.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on factory orders on January 6, international trade on January 7 and wholesale trade on January 9.

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

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## Program

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chairs.

- **Interact Club** at Pasadena High School – youth do projects in the community as Jr. Rotarians.
- **RYLA** – Club sponsors outstanding HS Juniors who show leadership skills to attend a leadership conference in the mountains (camp was undetermined) every April.
- **Dewey Merrill** – Entrepreneur Scholarship competition
- **PCC Awards** – given to outstanding students and faculty at Pasadena City College.
- **Veterans Awards** – given to veterans attending PCC for help to cover the cost of tuition or school needs.
- **Dan Stover Music Competition** – local student musicians invited to perform, if chosen are sent to the District 5300 competition to compete for scholarship funding.
- **Four-Way Test Competition** – Speech competition offered to local students for speeches in relation to the principles of the Rotary Four-Way Test of things we think, say, or do.
- **Jr. ROTC Awards** – financial awards given to local ROTC students for use towards the future costs of higher education.

### *Entrepreneurship*

**Ray Carlson** is currently working on getting the State to pass a bill that requires schools to teach financial literacy as a requirement for graduation.

### *Administration Club President Elect*

**Steve Cunningham** said that we will be holding the new board member election meeting to review the procedures in the next month or two.

### *Social Programs Immediate Past President/ Vice President*

**Dennis Mehringer** shared with the club the four events he chaired and will chair this Rotary year, which included:

- Annual Christmas Party
- Dodger Game X 2
- President Hal's Demotion Party

**President Hal Yorke** then ended the meeting by sharing with the club the details of the District Governor's Project. It is titled *ROTOPLAST*, and involves Rotarians funding and traveling with doctors and specialists who will be going to Guatemala to repair children who have been born with cleft pallet. This operation changes their lives. Our club is participating by making a contribution for this noble cause.

Charles Wilson ○

# The Playhouse Project Continues

This past Saturday — January 10, 2015 — a group of us assembled at David Smith's shop for the next phase in the saga of moving a playhouse out of Mike Noll's yard and relocating it to a local child care facility.

The stated job for this weekend was to restrain the floor and the fence-like pieces that hold up the roof extension that covers the front porch. Next we were to assemble the four walls of the playhouse and place the roof on top to make sure that the old roof pieces can be used as templates for creating the new roof.

When I arrived close to the appointed time of 8a, Craig Cox was already there.

Shortly thereafter Tom McCurry and Steve Kerekes showed up. I believe it was McCurry who mentioned that Mike Noll was getting coffee and breakfast items for us. David Smith came soon thereafter and let us into his yard and shop. If my memory is correct, Steve Cunningham arrived approximately at the same time as Noll came carrying coffee, muffins, yogurt and a bit more for breakfast.

Not long after Noll arrived, Smith and Kerekes left in Smith's truck to get the wood we would need later in the day.

As Mike Zoeller arrived, and shortly thereafter Theo Clarke, we realized that it really was beginning to sprinkle.

Noll brought out a blue, plastic tarp, and, in fairly short order, the pieces that had been stained and set aside to dry had been rearranged and covered with the tarp.

One of the two fence-like pieces had a leg that had sustained dry rot. It was replaced with a 2-by-4 that had been used to support the floor. It had already been decided that the old floor supports would be replaced with treated wood. The replacement leg was carefully measured and all the pre-drilled holes accurately duplicated.

This project is tentatively to be continued next week or the week after.



Before starting we moved the boat from the slab on which we would work and clean it.



Please turn to p. 6 for more photos

# Reflections

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*stkopfstereophonie*, which later became quite a fad among stereo aficionados. By placing microphones in the artificial ears of an artificial head, the recorded two channels contain spacial information (up, down, right left, and movement) that even normal seeing folks are able to discern, when they use headphones. Audio dramas using this technology have been recorded and broadcast over the air. For anyone interested, examples are available on-line.

Getting back to the radio report on echolocation ... Using *Kunstkopfstereophonie*, controlled laboratory experiments were conducted on experienced human echolocators. It was determined that the same areas of the brain *light up*, when the blind subjects echolocated compared to seeing subjects watching the same scene. Movement caused different areas of the brain to become active, but these areas were the same for the seeing

subjects and the blind echolocators. The blind subjects were able to describe the environment where these scenes took place with uncanny accuracy. Thus, in some sense, the blind were truly *seeing*.

The ability to learn how to echolocate is not equal among the blind. Some learn to do it well; others only learn the basics. Human echolocation is a relatively new field of scientific inquiry. I can imagine that we still have a lot to learn. ○

## More Playhouse Photos

