

January 29, 2015

**This Week**  
**Dr. Roberta King**  
*Associate Professor*  
*of Communication*  
*& Ethnomusicology,*  
*Fuller Theological*  
*Seminary*  
**Program Host:**  
**John Frykenberg**

Dr. Roberta King, Associate Professor of Communication and Ethnomusicology at Fuller Theological Seminary, will join us for a discussion and be our featured speaker this week. King has served at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, she has worked with church leaders in 11 African nations, from Senegal to Madagascar, to develop appropriate songs for communicating the gospel in over 80 different languages. In addition to her teaching at Fuller, King continues outreach to the global church, teaching and holding workshops in Chennai, India; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Nairobi, Kenya. She has also published *Music in the Life of the African Church*, and *A Time to Sing: A Manual for the African Church*, among other publications.

King's most recent research focuses on *(un)Common Sounds: Songs of Peace and Reconciliation among Mus-*  
*Please turn to This Week p. 5*



**REFLECTIONS**  
 by Hal Yorke, President  
**REFLECTIONS?**

**on . . . Air**

**A**ir is something that we hardly ever think about, yet it is one of the most important necessities of human life. Humans can live 3 weeks without food, 3 days without water, but only 3 minutes without air. The bottom line is: We only really notice air when it is not there — like when it is missing from 11 out of 12 footballs.

A football properly inflated contains about 1/10 of an ounce of air. If it is underinflated, it will weigh a couple of 1/100ths of an ounce less. The slightly underinflated ball is easier to grip, easier to throw (if you practice at it), and easier to catch. Stealing the air out of a ball is a definite **no no**.

Those few 1/100ths ounces of stolen air can be worth more than 1000 pounds of gold. It could make a difference as to who gets to fight in the so-called *Superbowl*,

where a team of professional gladiators from one city battles the mercenaries of another. It could also mean that the team that stole the air and got caught can purchase one less professional *student-athlete*, when it comes time to replenish their depleted ranks in that yearly ritual we call the *draft*.

Still, I guess that there is one good thing about *Deflation-gate*: It takes our minds off of all the other bad stuff happening in the world. ○

**Greeters**

January 29

**Steve Kerekes**

February 04

**Sterling Louviere**

February 11

**Tom McCurry**

# Program Review

## The Simplest Ideas are the Best



Usually, it's the older generation that inspires the younger generation, but last week's speakers — a high school junior and senior — inspired us with an idea that is brilliant in its simplicity. Upon learning that orphans in many Third-World countries often have to walk two hours to get to school, Shawnt Bazikian and Matthew Davidian came up with the idea of provid-

ing these orphans with bicycles.

So, four years ago, they started an organization called *Bikes 4 Orphans*. In 1990, there were 1 million orphans in Africa. In 2001, there were 11 million orphans. And, in 2010, there were 20 million orphans. Of these, 15 percent committed suicide. A grim picture, indeed. The boys discovered that many charitable organizations were building schools, but few were offering transportation. Bazikian and Davidian figured that bicycles were simple and sustainable.

They proceeded with three steps: fundraising, qualifying orphanages, and sourcing and delivering bicycles. The fundraising came from family, friends, businesses, Rotary clubs, an elementary school that took up their cause, and a Bike-a-Thon/Hike-a-Thon.

Orphanages were certified as legitimate by various organizations in the countries where they were located. And,

bicycles are provided by World Bicycle Relief, Quebeca (mostly for Africa), and Velo, a local Pasadena shop that provides bicycles at cost.

Thus have 134 bicycles — two in Africa,



Shawnt Bazikian



Matthew Davidian

far, they provided bicycles to orphanages in Kenya, in South Africa, and one in Armenia. The effect has been absolutely transformative. The grades of the orphans with bicycles have gone up almost exponentially. In Kenya, they have reduced a walk of two hours to school to a bike ride of 30 minutes.

They have made this presentation to Glendale Sunrise Rotary and twice to the Glendale noon club. Sumner Elementary School in Pomona raised \$2,235 for *Bikes 4 Orphans*. Their group has received coverage from NBC, ABC, the *Los Angeles*

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**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  
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p  
Altadena Town & Country Club  
2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA  
626-794-7163

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Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

### January Rotary Family Month

#### Program Chair, John Frykenberg

Jan 22 - Bicycles 4 Orphans  
Jan 29 - To be Announced

### February World Understanding Month

#### Program Chair, Theo Clarke

Feb 05 - Liliana Garcia, Director of both the Altadena Senior Center and Altadena Community Center: A Look at both the Centers  
Feb 12 - Ralph Mauriello, Former Dodger and Singer Extraordinaire: A Glimpse of Two Worlds  
Feb 19 - 4-Way Speech Competition  
Feb 26 - Dan Stover Club-Level Competition

## Congratulations

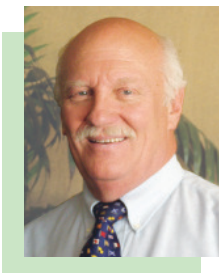
### Birthdays

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

## Down the Up Staircase . . . or Service Above Self in the World of Rotary



The past week's news has been dominated by the attack on Charlie Hebdo, the leftist and satirical French magazine. Twelve people were murdered. Protests and vigils took place across France the evening of the attack and subsequent marches in solidarity against terrorism by some 3.7 million people were the largest in French history.

The signs and the slogans bore witness to the French understanding of the attack as being one not just against a specific media house, but against freedom of expression in general.

However, if you thought 17 dead in Paris was bad for one week, it was a tiny fraction of those killed in Nigeria. More than 2,000 people are feared dead after Boko Haram launched its deadliest-ever attack on a strategic north-eastern town of Baga in Borno State. But where are the solidarity marches, the passionate editorials and the international condemnations?

Reports of the massacre there are necessarily hazy; the nearest journalists are hundreds of kilometers away (even there, they are not particularly safe), and information comes almost exclusively from traumatized refugees and unreliable government sources.

The body count varies, but Amnesty International puts it at over 2,000.

In normal circumstances, we could describe this as an act of astonishing brutality. But there's nothing astonishing about it. Instead, it's all wearily familiar,

and demonstrates yet again how little protection the Nigerian state is able to offer its long-suffering citizens.

There are no dramatic visuals from Baga. It is difficult to understand, and the situation doesn't fall neatly into the clash of civilizations. It's inconvenient to acknowledge that, overwhelmingly, Muslims are the biggest victims of Islamic fundamentalism.

So how do we stop the cycle of violence between Muslims and Muslims, and Christians, Hindus and Jews?

Judeo-Christian theology begs us to 'forgive our enemies and pray for those who despitefully use us and say all manner of evil against us...' Forgiveness and reconciliation clearly imply that we have a duty to employ Rotary's imperative of *Service Above Self*. In practice, the *Golden Rule* to 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you...' offers the best hope of reconciling apparently irreconcilable differences between people at enmity with one another.

Our beliefs about ourselves on issues which divide the world are key to expanding our empathy on individual and societal levels. We know from research that performing good deeds and random acts of kindness fosters feelings of happiness. Feelings of happiness may actually spur extraordinary acts of altruism, forgiveness and willingness to reconcile our differences.

Both Muslims, Christians and Jews claim that God is Love, the implication being that love is stronger than hate and will ultimately prevail. I came across this

quote within the past week from Dr. Samuel Ngewe, African International University:

"The concept of service to all, especially in service to those who are socially beneath us is foreign to Africa. A chief serving his subjects would be unheard of, yet that is what Jesus is telling us to do. If we would learn to do this it would take away half the pain the African continent experiences from day to day." That is a mouthful.

So how is escalation of unfairness or grievances claimed by both sides ever going to stop? Someone must just say 'Stop' and accept the blows without retaliation and offer forgiveness and love instead. It's the only way. We must say, I do not care whose fault it is ... it is all of our fault. There is plenty of fault to go around.

You may have read the bumper sticker, "He who lives with the most toys, wins." It is a lie. We were not made that way. Accumulation of wealth and status will not meet our needs for love, acceptance and being needed by others for who we really are. Great honor and recognition will not make you a better person than you really are. Many of history's most famous or infamous men and women were monsters.

I maintain that whatever position you have, whatever resource you have ... the way you find real joy is when you use those resources to serve others. Is your life characterized by gratitude and joy? This can be your life. You have the ability to make your family life a heaven or a hell. And collectively we can determine what kind of a world we wish to live in. It is just

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# MONEY MATTERS

by Linda  
Wilkes

## *Economic Update*

### *Surprise from a Swiss Bank*

The last two sessions of the week were extremely volatile, mostly due to a surprise announcement from the Swiss National Bank. Despite all the price swings, however, mortgage rates ended the period with little net change.

On Thursday, the Swiss National Bank unexpectedly made a major change in monetary policy (Switzerland is not in the European Union). The Swiss took the action to prepare Swiss markets for expected sovereign bond purchases by the European Central Bank (ECB). While the Swiss National Bank doesn't know what the ECB will do, this policy change caused investors to increase expectations that the ECB will begin a Quantitative Easing (QE) program similar to the program used by the US Fed over the last few years.

The US inflation data released on Friday revealed that December Core CPI inflation, which excludes food and energy, was just 1.6 percent higher than one year ago. It has fallen back to the lowest level of the year and remains well below the Fed's target level of 2.0 percent. Due to the decline in oil prices, overall CPI inflation was just 0.8 percent higher than one year ago, the lowest annual rate in over five years. Since mortgage rates are heavily influenced by expectations for future inflation, these tame levels of inflation support low mortgage rates.

The biggest event coming up will be the European Central Bank meeting on January 22, which might include the announcement of a new bond purchase program. Before that, the NAHB Housing confidence index will be released on Jan-

uary 20, and Housing Starts will come out on January 21.

## *Mind Your Money*

### *Develop Good Credit Card Habits*

Credit card abuse is a quick path to financial distress. Being late on just one payment or going over your credit limit just a few dollars can enact fees and penalties that can set you back regarding balance repayment. And these dings on your credit report can lower your credit score.

Here are some credit card tips to help you avoid situations that hurt your credit:

- Stick to your budget. A low-balance credit card with a high spending limit sitting in your wallet can tempt an unplanned purchase. If your budget calls for \$100 for clothes shopping, consider leaving the plastic at home and shopping with cash instead.
- Pay off your balances each month. Paying just the minimum amount can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. Also, consistently paying the minimum is considered a red flag and can trigger

an interest rate increase.

- Ask your credit card company for a lower interest rate. Your current credit card rate was likely based on your credit worthiness at the time you were approved for the card. Situations change and so can your interest rate.
- Read the fine print. Be careful of offers that seem too good to be true. Watch for skyrocketing annual percentage rates after an introductory period. Look for high penalties for missed payments. Your interest rate could default to 35 percent if you're careless with your card.
- If you cannot pay off your credit card balance each month, remember that your credit score is more likely to be adversely affected if your balances are above 30 percent of your spending limit.

For more information on credit cards, visit WiseBread's Best Credit Card Guide, and USA.gov's Choosing a Credit Card.

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

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## Chairmen

Continued from p. 3

a question of how much we are willing to sacrifice in service to our fellow man. How much are we willing to give?

Contrary to pop psychology, I maintain that we are not made to be self-serving or self-focused. We are made to serve others in community. Those we truly admire the most, those who rise to greatness and stand the test of time as truly great men and women are those who rise up by stepping down in humility to serve their fellow

man. They descend the up staircase; i.e., Mother Teresa might be a good example.

And the United States is fortunate enough to claim a George Washington and Abraham Lincoln among its greatest sons. They helped to make this nation a Shinning City on a Hill and an inspiration to the peoples of the world.

Want to make a difference? Try going down the up staircase in service to humanity. ○

# The Playhouse Project . . . Almost Finished

This Saturday — January 24 — we almost did it. I think if we'd had a slightly larger crew, we would have finished the job. There is a bit left to be done, but the playhouse is assembled; all but the base trim is in place, and its new roof is gorgeous — green sculptured shingles. David Smith and Craig Cox did a great job. It has the black felt paper over the plywood and then the shingles. That roof is good for several years.

Well, that's the ending. Before we got to that point, there was much to be done. I arrived at David Smith's shop 5 minutes or so before 8a — our scheduled time to begin. Then came Smith and Steve Cunningham about the same time. A little time later, Mike Noll arrived with breakfast-type stuff and tools to disassemble the house.

The previous week, we had left the playhouse mostly assembled. So the first thing was to dis-

assemble it. Noll and Smith decided that the porch could be taken assembled.



But the walls were taken apart, and put

on Smith's truck individually, along with the roofing pieces and pieces of trim that would be added after the house had been reassembled. Surprise! We could take the whole house and trim pieces in one trip along with some of the tools that would be needed for

reassembly.

When we all arrived, at the Altadena Christian Children's Center, the guys unloaded the truck, putting all the pieces and tools in the yard where the house would be reassembled, and I was asked to sweep the accumulated leaves off our cement

footing for the playhouse.

Smith made a return trip to his shop to get the big tools that would be needed, and

Cunningham and Noll took the board forms away from



the footing and then went to take the forms away from the walkway we had poured at the same time as the house footing. Removing the forms from the walkway was a challenge. And Cox arrived at the perfect time to help Cunningham with that venture.

When Smith returned with his tools, one of which was a beautiful table layout for what looked to me to be a miter saw, he and Noll started reassembling the playhouse, starting with the floor.

Tom McCurry arrived as Noll was making the last of the decorative rafters on the underside of the roof, and Cox and Smith were busy shingling the roof. I have no pictures of him working because my camera broke just before he arrived. ○

Please turn to p. 6 for more photos

## This Week

Continued from p. 1

*lms and Christians*, the research topic of a 5-year Henry Luce grant to study the contribution of music and the performing arts to sustainable peace-building. The first consultation was held in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2009, and another was held in 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A documentary film, *(un)Common Sounds: Songs of Peace and Reconciliation among Muslims and Christians*, was selected in the Fall 2013 to air for 90 days on US national television's American Broadcast Corporation (ABC). The book that brings together the work of the 22 scholars who contributed to the project is forthcoming. ○

## Program

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*Times*, the *Pasadena Star-News*, and other media outlets. So far, Bazikian and Davidian have raised \$26,000 for their cause. They want to raise an additional \$10,000 by July 2015.

Their next bicycle deliveries are scheduled for orphanages in Ethiopia, South Africa, and India. They are now at the point where they need help from adults.

Their next Bike-a-Thon/Hike-a-Thon is scheduled for February 28 at the Glendale Sports Complex.

They would like to be introduced to local businesses. And, they would like us to spread the word. For such a great cause with a brilliantly simple idea, we should be happy to get on board.

Ed Jasnow ○

# More Playhouse Photos



Please turn to p. 7 for more photos  
Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

# And More Playhouse Photos





# 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON & HIKE-A-THON



## FEBRUARY 28

FROM 9 AM TO 12 PM

Glendale Sports Complex - Catalina Verdugo Trail

\$20/Person Entry Donation

Lobos Food Truck

Live Music by Major Minus Band

Bring your family

Pets are welcome, too!



**ALL PROCEEDS WILL FUND THE NEXT BICYCLE DELIVERIES**



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