

May 14, 2015

This Week

Words from the Chief

Program Host: Ed Jasnow

Bill Reese, the former Chief of Police of South Pasadena, grew up on the Monterey Peninsula. He attended San Francisco Baptist College, Biola University, and Cal State, LA, where he received a BS in Police Science and Administration and a Masters in Public Health & Administration. He also earned an EdD in Institutional Management from Pepperdine.

Reese is a retired Army Captain, and served on the South Pasadena Police Force for 30 years, retiring as Chief in 1990.

He has been married to Kathy for 42 years, living in South Pasadena for 32 years. He has two daughters and a son. He's been a Rotarian for 25 years, serving as President of the South Pasadena Club in 1981-82.

He'll tell us about both his career in law enforcement, as well as the interesting things he's been doing since he retired 25 years ago.



REFLECTIONS
 by Hal Yorke, President
REFLECTIONS?

on . . . Space Discovery Day

I recently received an invitation from Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) to be the keynote speaker at their annual Science Discovery Day. I agreed and yesterday (Saturday, May 09) was the day.

The theme of this year's 6-hour program for kids in the age group 4th to 7th grade was *space*. In addition to my kick-off presentation, there were rocket building sessions, a planetarium visit, a *pet the laboratory rat* room, an insect room (in accordance with the theme *rats and insects in space*), a space-rock museum visit with real meteorites, and various other fun activities. There was limited space in the main auditorium — only about 2500 seats, so participants and their parents had to register in advance.

This program is apparently immensely popular and was sold out a month before Space Discovery Day. I was told that the 4th to 7th graders that attend this event are not your usual 4th to 7th graders, but rather are unusually bright, highly motivated, and keenly interested in science. I prepared my talk on "Eyes in Space and Wheels on Mars" accordingly.

It turned out, however, that the largest subgroup of kids at the event were more in the 4 to 7 year-old category than 4th to 7th grades and, with a careful eye to my audience, I had to make quick on-the-fly adjustments to my presentation. My wife Barbara attended the event and told me that I was largely successful in my readjustments, but that I should have skipped the part about methane chemistry on Mars. I, of course, disagree. Even if the part about olivine interactions with sub-surface liquid water and the possible production of formaldehyde through UV-photochemistry of outgassing methane is way over the head of a 4-year-old, if they are not introduced to the subject early, they may never learn it.

Please turn to Reflections, p3

Greeters

May 14

Craig Cox

May 21

Steve Cunningham

May 28

Roger Fennell

Program Review



Last Thursday (May 07) was one of the favorite and biggest days for Altadena Rotary. It was currently teacher appreciation week, which set the stage for the teachers — in attendance — to tell how the money for the 39 mini-grants given by Altadena Rotary was spent. Ed Jasnow, who holds this

Mini-Grants make a Difference

program close to his heart, explained that 39, \$400-dollar mini-grants were given, 29 unrestricted and 10 Americanism, to 8 schools in the area. A big thank you was also given to Dennis Mehringer, who donated a substantial amount of money so that all mini-grant applications could be funded. The teachers and principals in attendance from the 8 schools, came up to thank Rotarians and show how the money was spent.

First to come up were those from **Altadena Elementary School**. The first teacher said that if it weren't for the grant received, the kids could not go on field trips. Some of these kids have not even been to the beach, so the field trips were very important. The children took a trip to the Long Beach Aquarium and also Underwood Farms, where the students got to pick their own food. The next teacher brought a thank you card from the first grade thanking Altadena Rotary for the weekly readers that were purchased for lessons and enrichment. The last teacher stated that she was able to use the grant money, for tablets and

computer programs to aid the children in their education.

The next to come up were the recipients of the Rotary grant from **John Muir High School**. The art teacher used the grant money to help the children navigate public transportation so they could go on field trips to such places as the Watts Towers and MOCHA. This inspired the students to do artwork. The teacher also used the grant money to publish a book. The video teacher used the grant money to buy a teleprompter. This was used to teach the students that technology can be used as a tool, and not just toy. The kids used this technology to do to research on such subjects as World War II. The next teacher, the English teacher, used the grant money, which was used to purchase A/P prep test books. The principal of John Muir High, thanked Altadena Rotary for the grants.

The next to come up were those that received grants from **Franklin Elementary**. The principal spoke first and thanked the Rotarians for their unconditional support. The kindergarten teacher of 18 years explained that their playground needed

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

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

Officers

Hal Yorke, Pres. Bus. 626-577-9800
Steve Cunningham, Pres. Elec. Bus. 626-786-1937
Dennis Mehringer, V. Pres. Bus. 626-577-9800
Gordon Seyffert, Sec. Bus. 626-345-0658
Mike Noll, Treas. Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

Mike Noll • John Frykenberg
Steve Cunningham • Dennis Mehringer
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

Please turn to Program, p.4

May No Designation

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

May 14 - Bill Reese, Former Chief of Police, South Pasadena
May 21 - JROTC Awards
May 28 - Mendel Hill, author

June Fellowship Month

Program Chair, Mike Zeller
June 04 - To be announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



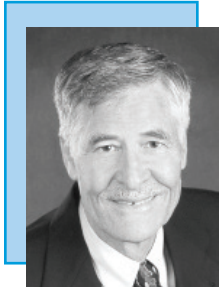
05/05 - Ursula Moore
05/15 - Elsa Smith
05/18 - Craig Cox
05/30 - Susan Applegate



Anniversaries



05/18 - Tony Hill & Ann Rider Hill
05/19 - Roger & Kathleen Anne Fennell



May is a busy month for Altadena Rotary as many of our Youth and Community projects are scheduled for completion and presentation to the club. A lot of hard work and effort comes together in a short period of time, and our weekly meeting become full to the brim with student, teachers, parents and Rotary members all vying for a table and chair.

During this period, the club hosts the JROTC students and instructors from area high schools as they received cash awards and recognition for their efforts during the year. This year, ten JROTC students will receive awards totaling \$12,200.

Also, our PCC Veterans' Award program brought many PCC students who have already served our country to the club to be recognized, and four vets received cash awards totaling \$6,000 this year.

We also had a large contingent of Teachers from local elementary, middle and high schools visiting the club to describe how they spent the money from the club's Mini-Grant program, which this year provided \$400 to each of 39 teachers from the PSUD system. The mileage that these dedicated teachers can get from \$400 is remarkable, and the return that the club members get from hearing about the benefits that students get from the grants is priceless.

We will also be hearing from our selected Altadena Club high school juniors

2014-15 Projects Coming to a Busy Close

who attended this year's RYLA program at Thousand Pines Camp in Crestline, California in April. The kids will tell the club how the experience contributed to their leadership skills and other fun details of the event.

Finally, we will wrap up the month with the completion of our Spring Project as we host breakfast and lunch for those participating in the 2015 American Cancer Society Relay for Life to be held in Farnsworth Park on May 30. Rotarians

will be flipping pancakes and grilling hot dogs for more than 100 participants who will be walking and running throughout the day to bring in sponsored contributions to combat cancer. We hope to see many of you there to cheer the walkers and runners on.

Yes, May is a busy month, but among our most rewarding of the year for all Altadena Rotarians. And there is plenty of activity to become involved in, so dive in and enjoy the water. ○

Reflections

Continued from p. 1

I am not serious about that last statement. I just wanted the kids' parents to know that their tax dollars are being well spent. Because it is so short-lived and not easy to produce by other means, existence of methane is considered one of the signposts of life. Theoretical chemists have postulated alternate explanations for methane, but the possibility of microbial life on Mars is so intriguing that Curiosity's recent discoveries of "spikes of methane gas" in the atmosphere and sub-surface liquid water is huge and begs to be followed up with further detailed studies.

I also mentioned that the current best estimate for Earth-like planets in the *Goldilocks* zone (not too hot and not too cold for liquid water that could potentially support life) is 1 out of every 100 stars, which means that there should be about

1-2 million Earths with liquid water in our Milky Way galaxy.

All in all it was a fun day for me, my wife and the 2500 other participants. ○

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
SATURDAY, MAY 30
FOR THE CANCER
RELAY FOR LIFE
CONTACT
STEVE KEREKES
AND THE
BOY SCOUT EVENT
CONTACT
CHARLES WILSON**

Program

Continued from p.2

color. With the \$400-dollar grant, and with the support of Tru Value Hardware, paint was purchased to transform the playground. Teachers, parents and students showed up from 2-5pm for several days to transform the playground with ocean and garden scenes. The teacher stated that sprucing up the playground helped the students emotionally. The children were now excited to go outside to play. The next teacher used the money for jumping toys, balancing toys, balls, and fine motor toys. She stated that recess is different now, the children are playing games. The first grade teacher used the grant money to buy a computer. This is helping the students become excellent readers, which is helping with their literacy. The last teacher at Franklin Elementary, used the grant money to set up a garden, which she said was used very effectively.

The next recipients of the Rotary grants came from **Webster Elementary**. The principal first came up to thank Altadena Rotary for the grants. The science teacher spoke of using the grant money to purchase animal cadavers for dissection, so the students could learn. The Social Studies teacher used the grant money to purchase computer programs, to aid in the students' learning. Another teacher used the \$400 dollars to buy books for Accelerated Readers, and used the \$400 dollar Americanism grant for literature books. The last teacher used the grant money to purchase a digital camera, and a portable basketball hoop. The \$400 dollar Americanism award was used to pay for a field trip to the museum, and to buy books.

The next recipients were those from **Jackson Elementary**. This school focuses on science and technology, and dual language English/Spanish. One problem with dual language schools is finding

materials. A lot of the teachers use money out of their own pockets to help pay for the materials. The first teacher who spoke was honored and grateful for the grant money received. She used the grant money to purchase Spanish literary books with CDs. The 4th grade teacher who received the grant money, bought three (3) Kindle Fires to access ebooks for the kids. Chapter books were also purchased with the money. The Americanism grant was used to take a field trip to the Gene Autry Museum. The 5th grade teacher used the grant money to buy weekly magazines. This also helped the teacher create tests on the articles and geography.

The principal of **Pasadena High School** came up next to thank Altadena Rotary for the grants received. The science department chair stated that six years ago she used her own money for the Academic Decathlon team. The money from the grant received, now goes to support the team in preparatory material and \$300 dollars to enter the competition. Jacob Newman, a student and part of the Academic Decathlon, was in attendance. He received the gold medal in art history and the silver in the interview competition in the latest decathlon. Wong, the first year Mandarin teacher, used the grant money, to buy tools and technology for language proficiency. The language immersion program uses online education for research, Chinese art history, and videos for the students to learn Chinese calligraphy.

The teachers from **Roosevelt Elementary School** came up to thank Altadena Rotary for the grant money received. The 5th grade teacher purchased scholastic magazines. The magazines contain information to aid the students to learn about various subjects, including problems that face our world. Science magazines were also purchased with the money. With the

money left over, the kids took a field trip to the Music Center, where they participated in a 2500-student ribbon dance. This was later entered into the Guinness Book of World Records. The 4th grade teacher stated that she used the grant money to buy a laptop for the room. She uses power point slides to create games to learn. The children are *lighting up* with this way of learning.

The last school teachers to come up that received the grants were those from **Marshall Fundamental**. First, the middle school art teacher spoke, that the money received, went toward designing a garden and purchasing garden tools. The students were outside getting their hands dirty. The teacher explained "that with dirty hands the students did not want to touch their cell phones." Money from the grants was also used to purchase clay, which was used to produce an irrigation system. The students ultimately were able to go outside and, "look forward for the sunflowers in September." Last, the 7th grade teacher used the grant money to purchase an iPad Mini. With the iPad Mini, she was able to do differentiate instruction, and use a scanner app to send notes home to parents.

Ed Jasnow spoke in conclusion to the teachers and principals in attendance, "that our support from Altadena Rotary is genuine." The money received from the mini-grants truly makes a difference.

John Casci ○

* * *

Editor's Note: The following are photographs of those who spoke about what they accomplished with their mini-grant money and those who introduced them. In a couple of instances there are photos of the projects. I will work to do a better job of correlating names to photos next year.

Please turn to Program, p.5

Program

Continued from p.4



**Project
Photos
are on
Page 6**

Thank you all for coming and sharing.



Franklin Elementary School
Kindergarten Playground

