

## This Week

### Michelle Zack Altadena Heritage Program Host: Jim Gorton

Michele Zack, author of *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City*, last spoke to the Club in 2004 in connection with the publication of her book. Since then she has written about the cities of Sierra Madre and Pasadena, and has been a partner with the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in three federal "Teaching American History" grants, providing professional development for local public school teachers.

Zack will be speaking to the Club in her capacity as the Chair of Altadena Heritage, a cultural, architectural, historical and environmental preservation group focused on our community. Her topic will be the work which Altadena Heritage has done lately in updating a database which the organization originally compiled in the 80s and 90s of Altadena's architectural and historical landmarks. She will illustrate her talk with surprising stories and records from some of the most interesting of these properties. ○



## Quietly Quick

by Steve Cunningham, *President*

### In Defense of Obama by Paul Krugman A Reprint — the First Half

*The Nobel Prize-winning economist [Paul Krugman], once one of the president's most notable critics, on why Obama is an historic success*

**W**hen it comes to Barack Obama, I've always been **Out of Sync**. Back in 2008, when many liberals were wildly enthusiastic about his candidacy and his press was strongly favorable, I was skeptical. I worried that he was naïve, that his talk about transcending the political divide was a dangerous illusion given the unyielding extremism of the modern American right. Furthermore, it seemed clear to me that, far from being the transformational figure his supporters imagined, he was rather conventional-minded. Even before taking office, he showed signs of paying far too much attention to what some of us would later take to calling Very Serious People, people who regarded cutting budget deficits and a willingness to slash Social Security as the very essence of political virtue. And I wasn't wrong. Obama was

indeed naïve: He faced scorched-earth Republican opposition from Day One, and it took him years to start dealing with that opposition realistically. Furthermore, he came perilously close to doing terrible things to the U.S. safety net in pursuit of a budget Grand Bargain; we were saved from significant cuts to Social Security and a rise in Medicare age only by Republican greed, the GOP's unwillingness to make token concessions.

But now the shoe is on the other foot; Obama faces trash talk left, and right and center – literally – and doesn't deserve it.

Please turn to Quietly, p 4

## November Team

Mindy Kittay • Julius Johnson  
 Mike Noll • Gary Clark  
 Jim Gorton

### Meeting Responsibilities

- Setup • Greeter •
- Flag Salute • Song •
- Inspirational Presentation •
- Happy Bucks • 4-Way Test •
- Takedown •

# Program Review

## Down on the Farm with Altadena Rotary



The only thing missing were our bib overalls. Last week, our meeting moved to

the Altadena Library, where we sponsored the appearance of the Danny's Farm Mobile Petting Zoo.

**At 11:00a:** the Danny's Farm trailer pulled

into the library parking lot. Waiting for them were Mike Noll, Sue Applegate, Jim Gorton, Gary Clark, Ed Jasnow, and President Quick. We watched how quickly the Danny's Farm Team put up the fences and set up the farm animals in the enclosures. The animals included a miniature pony, several sheep, a German goat, a pig, and several bunnies.

**At 11:30:** the food from Lee's Hoagie House arrived. It was an hour early, but it all stayed hot and was delicious.

**At 12:00:** Story Time in the Community Room let out, and all the kids rushed over to see and pet the animals. We all

got great pleasure watching the children interact with the animals. Their eyes were wide open and they were squealing with delight.

**At 12:20:** we went into the Community Room to eat lunch and have our regular meeting. In keeping

with the farm theme, Songmaster Julius had us sing four choruses of *Old MacDonald*. Ed Jasnow introduced his



guest, the Reverend Doctor Art Cribbs.

Cribbs is the Executive Director of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, but his purpose in coming to our meeting was to talk about the Peace Heroes Walk Around the World. This movement has been initiated by



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**Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183**

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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

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

Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

### November Foundation

*Program Chair, Jim Gorton*

November 19 - Michele Zack, Altadena Heritage

November 26 - Thanksgiving - Dark

### December Family

*Program Chair, Susan Applegate*

Please turn to Program, p.3

## Congratulations



### Birthdays



11/08 - Sterling Louviere

11/13 - Ed Jasnow

11/20 - Steve Kerekes

11/26 - C. Ray Carlson

11/26 - Roger Fennell



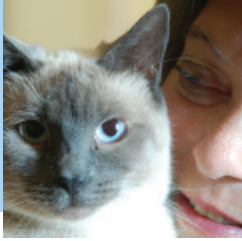
### Anniversaries



11/01 - Jacque Foreman & Bruce Conroy

11/07 - Hal & Barbara Yorke

## Let's Plan to Ask



I know it sounds obvious, but, if we don't ask, we most often receive a "No" answer. We want to increase membership ... Yes? Then let's make it a habit to ask our speakers who are not already a member of another Rotary Club to come back when they are not the

program and seriously consider joining us as we work to make our community, our country, and our world a better place in which to live. Let's just see if we can come up with numbers.

We have approximately 48 meetings a year. Let's say that approximately 2/3 of them are not affiliated with another Rotary Club. That's 32 potential members. Now let's say that about 1/3 of them say

that they are not interested for one reason or another. That leaves about 24 who potentially return to check us out as a kind of ersatz member or, you might say as a guest — you know, when they are in the audience participating in conversation and fellowship.

If only 50 percent of them decide to join us, that's 12 new members a year. Not bad for not doing too much work. ○

## Program

Continued from p.2

the Rotary Club of Dayton, Ohio, a club that is reaching out to other Rotary clubs to join them. In the future, we will have a program to present the full details of this walk.

This was a very fulfilling meeting and a great program. Ed Jasnow ○



# Quietly

*Continued from p. 1*

Despite bitter opposition, despite having come to close to self-inflicted disaster, Obama has emerged as one of the most consequential and, yes, successful presidents in American history. His health reform is imperfect but still a huge step forward – and it's working better than anyone expected. Financial reform fell far short of what should have happened, but it's much more effective than you'd think. Economic management has been half-crippled by Republican obstruction, but has nonetheless been much better than in other advanced countries. And environmental policy is starting to look like it could be a major legacy.

I'll go through those achievements shortly. First, however, let's take a moment to talk about the current wave of Obama-bashing. All Obama-bashing can be divided into three types. One, a constant of his time in office, is the onslaught from the right, which has never stopped portraying him as an Islamic atheist Marxist Kenyan. Nothing has changed on that front, and nothing will.

There's a different story on the left, where you now find a significant number of critics decrying Obama as, to quote Cornel West, someone who "posed as a progressive and turned out to be counterfeit." They're outraged that Wall Street hasn't been punished, that income inequality remains so high, that "neoliberal" economic policies are still in place. All of this seems to rest on the belief that if only Obama had put his eloquence behind a radical economic agenda, he could somehow have gotten that agenda past all the political barriers that have constrained even his much more modest efforts. It's hard to take such claims seriously.

Finally, there's the constant belittling of Obama from mainstream pundits

and talking heads. Turn on cable news (although I wouldn't advise it) and you'll hear endless talk about a rudderless, stalled administration, maybe even about a failed presidency. Such talk is often buttressed by polls showing that Obama does, indeed, have an approval rating that is very low by historical standards.

But this bashing is misguided even in its own terms – and in any case, it's focused on the wrong thing.

Yes, Obama has a low approval rating compared with earlier presidents. But there are a number of reasons to believe that presidential approval doesn't mean the same thing it used to: There is much more party-sorting (in which Republicans never, ever have a good word for a Democratic president, and vice versa), the public is negative on politicians in general, and so on. Obviously the mid-term election hasn't happened yet, but in a year when Republicans have a huge structural advantage – Democrats are defending a disproportional number of seats in deep-red states – most analyses suggest that control of the Senate is in doubt, with Democrats doing considerably better than they were supposed to. This isn't what you'd expect to see if a failed president were dragging his party down.

Obamacare means a huge improvement in the quality of life for tens of millions of Americans. More important, however, polls – or even elections – are not the measure of a president. High office shouldn't be about putting points on the electoral scoreboard, it should be about changing the country for the better. Has Obama done that? Do his achievements look likely to endure? The answer to both questions is yes.

WHEN OBAMA SIGNED THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, an excited Joe Biden

whispered audibly, "This is a big Fing Deal!" he was right.

The enactment and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare, has been a perils-of-Pauline experience. When an upset in the special election to replace Ted Kennedy cost Democrats their 60-vote Senate majority, health reform had to be rescued with fancy legislative footwork. Then it survived a Supreme Court challenge only thanks to a surprise display of conscience by John Roberts, who nonetheless opened a loophole that has allowed Republican-controlled states to deny coverage to millions of Americans.

It's true that the Affordable Care Act will still leave millions of people in America uninsured. For one thing, it was never intended to cover undocumented immigrants, who are counted in standard measures of the uninsured. Furthermore, millions of low-income Americans will slip into the loophole Roberts created: They were supposed to be covered by a federally funded expansion of Medicaid, but some states are blocking that expansion out of sheer spite. Finally, unlike Social Security and Medicare, for which almost everyone is automatically eligible, Obamacare requires beneficiaries to prove their eligibility for Medicaid or choose and then pay for a subsidized private plan. Inevitably some people will fall through the cracks.

Still, Obamacare means a huge improvement in the quality of life for tens of millions of Americans — not just better care, but greater financial security. And even those who were already insured have gained both security and freedom, because they now have a guarantee of coverage if they lose or change jobs.

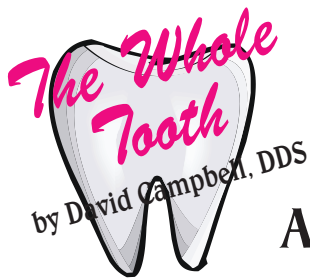
Next Week - The Second Half ○

# Flags for Veterans' Day

On Saturday, November 07, 46 flags went up on Lake in celebration of Veterans' Day. We had two teams: Tony Hill, Mike Zoeller and Craig Cox went north on Lake from Woodbury Road to Altadena Drive, while David Smith, Kimmet Haggins and Mike Noll went south from Altadena Drive to Woodbury Road, taking a turn on Maiposa to put up two flags.

On Saturday, November 14, the flags came down, came off their individual poles and were folded so they could be taken to be cleaned before we display them for Memorial Day through July 4. For take-down, we had one team: Tony Hill, Craig Cox and Mike Zoeller. What about me? On both Saturdays, I left putting up lights on Christmas Tree Lane, took pictures, and went back to the Lane.

Did you notice the flags on both sides of Lake? We now put them on light poles, so they can stay up over night. ○



## An Ounce of Prevention avoids A Pound of Cure

The Rotary Club of Altadena has provided great service for the community for years. The service projects done throughout the community are wonderful examples of wise allocation of the collective efforts of well meaning community leaders. This community has sustained it's excellence as a warm and helpful place to live and work.

As a member of Altadena's healthcare community, it's going to be my pleasure to offer some quaint reminders of healthy habits and advice. With my specific specialty of dental care, the routines are pretty well understood in our world today.

Visiting your dentist, twice a year for professional checkups and cleanings has been our standard of care since the early fifties. These regular check ups and cleanings are the foundation of good preventive dental care. There have not been many changes in the regime recommended in the last 60 years.

Everyone has a dental story about their own experiences with their own dentists. The collegial support for our professional colleagues will always be our first priority for polite conversations.

We as professionals know that your perspectives as patients can only tell part

of any full story. The full story and the in depth opinions are going to be saved for professional visits with a full component of detailed evaluations with in depth x-rays. Even as friendships develop, no amount of cajoling is going to produce any worthy opinions without a full professional examination.

So, thank you for your year's of service to this community. It is a pleasure to join your efforts in any way that I am needed. I look forward to years of friendship and service with you all in the tradition of the Rotary Clubs and in particular the Rotary Club of Altadena. ○