

Rotary Club of Altadena

Sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



October 05, 2017

This Week

Lawton Gray
Principal,
John Muir HS
Program Host:
Ray Carlson

He's **BACK!** Yes, an alumnus of MUIR HS is now Principal of this important school in the Pasadena Unified School District. Actually, he did return earlier as a math teacher, then moved on to other school districts.

He replaces Tim Sipple who is at Harvard University, in a Doctoral Education Leadership program that admits only 25 students each year.

Gray completed 10 years as principal of Oak Avenue Intermediate School, which led to a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School award which honors for excellent teaching, learning, and building highly successful school climates that support student achievement.

A big help at Muir will come from substantial funds awarded by the Pasadena Education Forward to make Muir a Magnet School, along with Eliot Middle School and Altadena Elementary School.

Our club has donated a lot of scholarship money to Muir's students over the years. Come and hear what we might do to help Gray. Invite friends and associates and neighbors to hear this prominent shaper of our children's and grandchildren's future.



Dialing In

By Steve Kerekes,
President



Friends ... Who needs 'Em?

"But you shall find that the band that seems to tie their friendship together will be the very strangler of their amity."

Shakespeare,
Antony and Cleopatra,
Act II, Scene 6

◊ ◊ ◊

This week's selection, taken from Joseph Epstein's excellent book Friendship - An Exposé (Houghton Mifflin Co., 2006, pps 46-55), continues to explore the nature of friendship. This week's selection discusses whether modern society has made true friendship more difficult to attain, and whether our very survival in society depends on the social context of friendship.

◊ ◊ ◊

"FOR WITHOUT FRIENDS," writes Aristotle, in the *Ethics*, "no one would choose to live." Aristotle goes on from here to run the categories of those who need friends: The prosperous and successful need them to exercise their beneficence, and also to guard and help preserve their wealth. In poverty and misfortune, Aristotle claims, friends are the only refuge. Friends help keep the young from error, and help the older by ministering to

their needs and shoring up their weaknesses as life winds down; and friends lead those in the prime of life to contemplate noble deeds that will win approbation.

These are all rather utilitarian reasons for friendship. Aristotle was, of course, born well before the age of self-regarding psychology, and so was less likely to dive down to the darker waters of hidden motives behind friendship. Do we look to friends, for example, for self-affirmation – that is, to affirm our own best evaluation of ourselves – or, in the can't phrase of the day, to pump up our self-esteem? Is friendship, when stripped down to its essentials, just another playing field for that insatiably greedy and sleepless monster, the human ego? A comic line of our time runs, "It's always about you, isn't it?" Does friendship qualify here, too? Is it, finally, always about "me" or "you" – about, in other words, little more than making me

Please turn to Dialing p. 4

Greeter of the Week

- October 05
Mendel Hill
- October 12
Boyd Hudson
- October 19
Ed Jasnow

Program Review

The Deputy Sheriff said So . . .



Our program last Thursday was presented by Captain Vicki

Stuckey of the Altadena Sheriff's Station. She brought us up to date on policing in Altadena. Stuckey was assisted by Lieutenant Keith Lieberman who told us all about Assembly Bill 109 and its ramifications.

As much as we all worry about crime in our communities, it appears the Altadena Sheriff's Station is doing a great job. We have very little major crime in this area – no homicides so far this year and only one last year. Although there have been three forcible rapes this year, for the most part they represent sexual activity against residents of group homes who are considered incapable of giving consent due to mental or physical disability.

Many of the crimes are considered petty larceny / theft. Stuckey advised women not to go to the parking lot of a store or mall, transfer some of your valuables to a small purse and put the rest to the trunk of your car. You think no one is watching, but the thieves are watching. Her advice was to do such transfers before you leave your house. She further cautioned that putting things under a blanket does not fool car thieves.

Grand theft auto does occur, especially with older model Hondas – specifically the 1991 series. She said, "They are the easiest cars to break into." If you have one, she suggested that you invest in a locking device that goes on your steering wheel. The good news is that such crime is down 30 percent.



Drug use is about the same as it has been, mostly methamphetamines. Regarding the upcoming legalization of marijuana on January 1, 2017, she said the Sheriff's Station is waiting for the legislation to be finalized. She would like stores that sell it to be kept away from schools and parks and other areas where young children congregate.

Please turn to Program, p. 3

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. Ian H.S. Riseley
Dist 5300 Gov. Raghada Khoury

Officers

Steve Kerekes, Pres. Bus. 626-796-5000
Sarah O'Brien, Pres. Elec. Bus. 310-902-6547
Charlie Wilson, V. Pres. Bus. 626-351-8815
Mark Mariscal, Sec. Bus. 323-816-6713
Mike Noll, Treas. Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

Mindy Kittay • Anthony Hill
Charlie Wilson • Dennis Mehringer
James Gorton • Sarah O'Brien • Mark Mariscal

Chairmen

Sarah O'Brien Administration
David Smith Foundation
Steve Cunningham Asst. Foundation
Craig Cox Membership
Jacque Foreman Public Awareness
Jacque Foreman Acting Publicity
Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website
Mike Zoeller Club Projects
Craig Cox Community
Doug Colliflower Asst. Community
John Frykenberg International
Tony Hill Youth Contests/Awards
Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
Ray Carlson Vocational
Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

October

Economic & Community Development

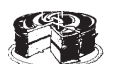
Program Chair, Ray Carlson

Oct. 05 - Lawton Gray, Principal, John Muir High School
Oct. 12 - Kapasa Musonda, Owner Mangishi-Doll, Lusaka, Zambia
Oct. 19 - To be Announced
Oct. 26 - Assemblymember, Chris Holdon, 41st District, California Legislature

Congratulations



Birthdays



10/08 - Susan Cox
10/10 - Heather Campbell
10/17 - Noriko Suzuki Mehringer
10/20 - Charles Wilson
10/24 - Jim Gorton



Anniversaries



10/01 - Freddy & Margarita Figueroa
10/07 - Mendel & Helen Zivkovic Hill
10/19 - David & Elsa Smith

Chairmen's Corner

by Jacque Foreman, Public Awareness Chair

Rotarians at Work Triangle Park, Altadena



On Saturday, September 30, Altadena Rotary members and one guest answered

Other members were also there working – forgive me if I miss someone: Mike Zoeller, Craig Cox, Mike Noll, Tony Hill and recent visitor, Marie were there *playing in the dirt*. Sue Applegate found a unique

the call for help placing selected plants in close to concrete-hard dirt. Think I'm kidding? Mark Mariscal made arrangements to have a power chisel delivered to help dig a hole close to 4-ft by 4-ft by 4-ft deep in which to place a pine tree. He was aided in this effort by Kimmie Haggins, Steve Kerekes, Tom McCurry and a couple of others. To be honest, there were a few places where the dirt was pretty much *easy diggings*. But most of the digging I saw was in very hard, dry, rocky soil.



way to be part of the effort. She spent her time filling buckets with water – a very necessary part of the process. And what was I doing? I brought my camera and a small-blade Klondike shovel, which turned out to be the perfect size for most of the holes we were digging.

McCurry borrowed it for much of the time
Please turn to Chairmen, p. 5

Program

Continued from p.2

She warned that there are thieves who follow UPS and Fed Ex trucks and steal items left on porches. This is particularly a problem around Christmas. To avoid this risk, Captain Stuckey recommended that, if you are not going to be home, have the package delivered to your place of work or to a neighbor who will be home.

Lieberman then spoke to us about the new Assembly Bill 109. In an effort to reduce populations in State prisons, AB 109 transferred responsibility for non-serious, non-violent and non-serious sex offenses to the counties. Murderers, high risk sex offenders, big time dope dealers, three-strike offenders still go straight to State prison.



In this new system for cases now going to the Counties, the parole officer has been replaced by a probation officer. Parole hearings for these individuals are heard by a magistrate. The Sheriff's Department has 5, ten-man teams that work on AB109 cases, mostly looking for absconders (i.e., those who fail to check in and try to disappear). A large proportion of absconders end up in other States – many end up in Las Vegas. We were told there are approximately 17 persons on probation in the Altadena area, and, at this time, only one absconder. If absconders are caught, they can go back to jail for up to an additional 180 days.

Tony Hill

Dialing

Continued from p. 1

or you feel good?

One would like to say – without hesitation – absolutely not to all these questions. But consider. In its broadest lineaments, the argument that friendship is chiefly about self-affirmation holds that none of us exists outside a social context. Our sense of our own value, in this reading, is almost wholly dependent on what others think of us. Obviously, most of us are pleased to count as friends people of whose high opinion of us we can be certain. (No one but a certified masochist could bear a friendship with someone who is always putting down or otherwise deflating him.) If we have noble or generous or impressive achievements in our past, it's pleasing to think that the people with whom we are friendly know about these things. Pleasing, too, even late in life, to be in a group where many people know that one was once a good athlete, physically beautiful, a great student, a solid parent, a fine provider, a splendid person all around. Among friends, one doesn't have to establish afresh one's bona fides about one's real quality.

Do we take our conception of ourselves from outside our selves, the question is, or are we strong enough to know our true value without seeing it reflected in the eyes of friends? Some writers, artists, and composers have known they were good, superior even, without any signs of their quality being registered in criticism, the marketplace, or the estimation of people who love them: Henri Matisse, Stéphane Mallarmé, James Joyce, Arnold Schoenberg come to mind. Of their own quality they were without doubt; and, among a small number of such people – many of them avant-garde geniuses – they required no other valuation than self-knowledge, which informed their unwavering high opinion of themselves. (Exceptions to this exist in the arts, of course: Virginia Woolf, judging

from her diaries, seemed to have been in a state of near-permanent insecurity about the quality of her art and of endless worry about what the people who mattered to her thought about it.) But are there many people outside the arts who have the same confidence?

• • •

When I ask myself what my friends do for me, I find myself retreating into vapidities. With friends I feel the comfort of a common outlook—amused, ironic, not altogether unhappy to be slightly out of it as we grow older together. More than any thing else I find comfort in my close friends: an easiness that allows me to be myself. Not, I hasten to add, that I have several alternative selves available to me to be. I pride myself on having arrived at an age when pretense seems silly, if not comical. (My general style, once perhaps carefully cultivated, but now quite real, is that of being a man reasonably at ease in this world.) Yet with these few friends, I can, so to say, be even more myself: risk wild allusiveness, drop diplomacy, heighten candor. Knowing how their sense of humor works, I can play on my own with a spontaneity and freedom that I can't generally call into play with lesser friends. These close friends and I do not agree on everything—only on important, only on the main, things.

I hope I don't need reinforcement from friends for such ideas as I have, such opinions as I hold, such core beliefs as I expect to die with. Agreement in these and other matters can of course cushion friendship, removing the potholes and bumpy places all friendships of any duration encounter. I have met many people whose opinions were vastly different from my own, and discovered that this deprived them neither of charm nor, when I permitted myself to gaze beyond their mere opinions, of my affection.

On the other side, I've met people many of whose opinions are nearly congruent with my own whom I find entirely objectionable and wouldn't want to be with for the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee.

• • •

Over the years I have had friends connected with specific activities: tennis friends, racquetball friends, poker friends. But when the games were over, so too – until the next session of games – were the friendships. As I have grown older, many of my friendships have come to have distinct limits. I have a friend, from our days in the army together, with whom I went to one Chicago Cubs game a year, until he moved to Virginia. I have another friend whom I meet with for lunch precisely twice a year: once in spring, once in the fall. If I see a friend, even a good friend, on Wednesday, I'm likely to arrange things so that I don't see him or her again on Friday. If this all sounds rather cold and calculating, this is only because it is – or at least it's calculating.

• • •

When I am with certain friends, I am, variously, content, amused, happy, sometimes all these things at once. But I do not mentally crave the pleasures of friendship as once I did. Too often I feel, more than straightforward affection, a corroding sense of obligation; and as the sociologist Ray Pahl puts it: "if we feel obliged to be a friend, then it is no true friendship." Nietzsche said that to live alone, a man must be a god or a beast. I know I am not the first, and hope I'm not turning into the second. Is it that much of my former need for friends is now supplied by my wife, a person many of whose interests and much of whose point of view are so close to my own? Is it that, having grown older, I have come to enjoy solitude more?

• • •

Please turn to Dialing, p. 5

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

Dialing

Continued from p. 4

Friendship, in other words, can come to seem a burden. I want friends, yes, but I want them at my convenience: the right ones at the right time. This is a condition of course that can be met only by what were once known as call girls, and friends quite rightly, won't – and shouldn't – stand for it. Still ... What if, reading the above paragraphs, my friends – many whom are happily without knowledge of one another's existence – were to hold a meeting in which they established an easily arrived at consensus to abandon me? What would my life be like without friends?

Undoubtedly poorer – much poorer. My relationship with my wife, however dear to me, cannot supply all my social needs. Although she is a highly cultured woman, some of my intellectual pursuits are outside her realm of interest. She knows only a minimum about my professional dealings with magazine and book editors, literary agents and publishers. I am more vulgar than she, with a number of small but real passions – for sports, unhealthy food, off-color jokes (not too off-color; roughly turquoise, I'd say) – that I am just as glad she doesn't share. Although she is the only person in the world with whom I can speak freely – not always easily, but freely – about things of the heart, she cannot be all things for me, and I know I cannot be all things for her.

I retain friends for various of these (I wish there were a better word than the one I am about to use) *needs*:

- With some friends of my own age I can talk about how goofy the world has become – and how different from the world in which we grew up.
- With others I can talk in a detailed way about mildly abstract things: politics, the current state of the university, the quality of literary and intellectual life.
- With still others I can talk about brutish things: sports, the comedy of sex, and

use such charming words as mother-grabber and nice boobs.

• • •

Georg Simmel, the always penetrating German sociologist, believed that modern society tended to undermine soulful friendships of the kind that Aristotle espoused, and that, with the twentieth century, new forms of friendship had emerged, which he termed *differentiated friendships*. In *The Secret Society*, Simmel wrote:

These differentiated friendships which connect us with one individual in terms of affection, with another in terms of intellectual aspects, with a third in terms of religious impulses, and with a fourth in terms of common experiences – all these friendships present a very peculiar synthesis in regard to the question of discretion, of reciprocal revelation and concealment.

They require that the friends do not look into those mutual spheres of interest and feeling which, after all, are not included in the relation and which, if touched upon, would make them feel painfully the limits of their mutual understanding.

Simmel is saying that friendship has become specialized and fragmented. Friends have come to resemble nothing so much as wardrobe: one puts on different ones for different occasions. The all-purpose, deep-relationship friend, of the kind Aristotle vaunted and that Montaigne found in Etienne de La Bode, is, Simmel asserts, no longer available to modern men and women; we have “too much to hide to sustain a friendship in the ancient sense” – a friendship that, in Simmel's words, connected “a whole person with another in [his or her] entirety; ... the modern way of feeling tends more heavily toward differentiated feelings.”

Is the problem, then, linked to this new

kind of – these differentiated – friends? Has modern life changed the very nature of friendship, so that many of us feel alternately lonely or else hemmed in by the demands of friends? Or has true friendship always been a tender shoot, a fragile and difficult thing to sustain?

Perhaps La Rochefoucauld, that most thoroughgoing of cynics, was correct when he wrote: “However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship.” ○

Chairmen

Continued from p. 3

we were there. He took a break, and I worked on a hole that he finished when he returned. My main purpose for being there

was to record our effort. I will be



sharing some of the pictures with David Campbell for placement on our Facebook page. ○



Kapasa Musonda

Returns



With the help of
Altadena Rotary
Kapasa attended the
Fashion Institute of
Design & Merchandising
in Los Angeles.



She returns to
Los Angeles
as a featured participant
in *African Fashion Week*
under the name of her
company: *Mangishi Doll*.



She is scheduled to visit
Altadena Rotary
October 12.

Your invited to Altadena Rotary's Fall Fellowship Potluck

Bring your favorite side dish, casserole, or dessert and join us
for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Ribs and Wine will be provided. BYOB if that is what you prefer.

Appetites and family members are welcome!

Home of Carol and Mike Zoeller

2072 Midwick Drive - Altadena, CA, 91001

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 • 6:00PM to 9:00PM

Please register by going to ClubRunner

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/1999/Event/family-fellowship-dinner--potluck>

Or click through to ClubRunner from the website

<http://www.altadenarotary.com>



ALTADENA LIBRARY DISTRICT PRESENTS THE

Second Saturday

2017-18 CONCERT SERIES*

October 14	<i>Upstream*</i>	March 10	<i>DeRumba</i>
November 11	<i>The Tone Brothers</i>	April 14	<i>Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans</i>
December 2	<i>Upbeat Swing Orchestra</i>	May 12	<i>Eli Locke Band</i>
January 13	<i>Kai Clark with special guests John York & Carla Olson</i>	June 9	<i>Crown City Bombers</i>
February 10	<i>Gerry Rothschild Band</i>		



*October 14th's Second Saturday Concert featuring Upstream is sponsored by the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

All other Second Saturday Concerts are supported in part by funds received from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation.

Free live music, delicious food and drink, and good friends... all right around the corner!



MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ALTADENA LIBRARY