



Rotary Club of Altadena

Sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



October 26, 2017

This Week

**Chris Holden,
Assembly
Member, 41st
District, California
Legislature
Program Host:
Ray Carlson**

Assembly member Chris Holden brings to the legislature a lifetime of experience in public service and business garnered during



his many years on the Pasadena City Council and the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. He was first elected to the California State Assembly in 2012, and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2014 and 2016 from a district that stretches from Pasadena in the West to Upland in the East and includes the communities of Altadena, Claremont, La Verne, Monrovia, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena.

Last year, several of Assemblymember Holden's bills were signed by Governor Jerry Brown, including a bill that increases affordable housing options for foster youth, disabled veterans, or formerly homeless individuals. Another bill that

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Dialing In

By Steve Kerekes,
President



Is It the Truth?

- But what is truth?
- Is truth a changing law?
- We both have truths.
- Are mine the same as yours?

Statement by Pontius Pilate to Jesus Christ in the rock opera *Jesus Christ, Superstar*

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We have spent the last several weeks looking at the nature of friendship and one of its recurring themes is that it requires truth and honesty in order to establish trust. The 4-Way Test exhorts us to determine "Is it the Truth?," but what is The Truth and how can we determine it? This week's selection is an expurgated version of Peter Nathan's article, The Eternal Quest: What Is Truth? published in the Spring 2011 online issue of Vision.org, which can be found in its pristine form at <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/philosophical-issues/what-is-truth/44342.aspx>.

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Philosophers have long sought to understand and define truth. For most people today, however, truth is simply the opposite of falsehood. This idea

is well entrenched in our societies, which commonly use true-or-false questions to test students all the way up to the university level. It's a purely rational and logical way of looking at things, and it is at the heart of the belief that human beings can ultimately know all there is to know through reason. We may not have the answer today, but given time, it will be discovered.

We have not arrived here by accident. In Europe – during the medieval and early modern period – three estates helped shape the ideas by which societies were governed. The make-up of these estates varied from country to country and from time to time, but they represented layers of citizenry under the monarch, often expressed as clergy, nobility and common people. At any given time, the monarch – or one of these three entities – held sway; so power as to steer the masses (and thus dictate truth)

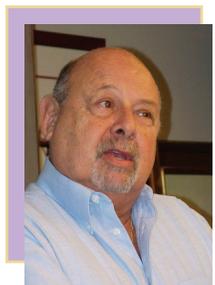
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Greeter of the Week

October 26
Julius Johnson
November 02
Mindy Kittay
November 09
Sterling Louviere

Program Review

Rotary as an International Force



Last week, we were privileged to have as our speaker Dr. Prakash N. Shrivastava. Shrivastava is currently serving as the Chair of International Service for District 5300. In that capacity, he is encouraging all clubs in the District to take a more proactive role in international service. He congratulated our Club on receiving a Rotary Global Grant in the amount of \$56,000, in support of

our entrepreneurial teaching activities in Nigeria. He stated that he was proud that our Club is spearheading the job creation activities in Nigeria. We must expand this effort to other countries around the world, and he will help in his capacity as District Chair of International Service.

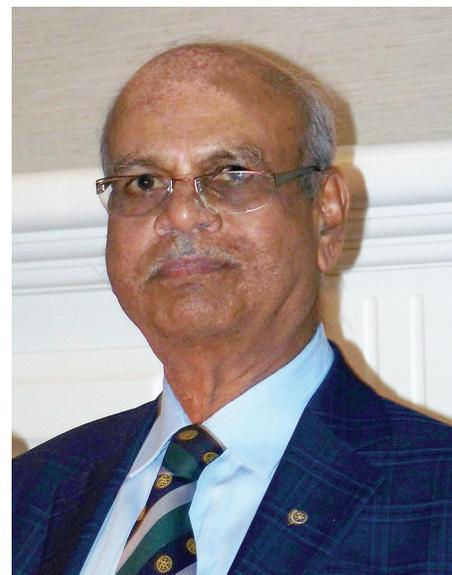
Our Club is the first club he has visited as District Chair of International Service. We are very fortunate to have some very generous Rotarians in the District who donate substantial amounts of money to support the job creation programs.

He described the four areas of Rotary Service, but he stated that there is an extra one. Rotarians must consider themselves as global citizens. This is why we are called Rotary International, and how we will accomplish this year's motto of *Making a Difference*.

He mentioned that this year's Peace Conference will be held on Saturday, October 21, at the Huntington Library and Gardens. This conference was started by Past District Governor Garbis DerYeghian 28 years ago.

The District is encouraging the performance of Rotary International Service, which occurs when two international clubs collaborate on international projects. The District would also like help in organizing multi-cultural events as fund raisers.

The last objective for the District is to organize a peace mission to Cuba. There are currently no Rotary clubs in Cuba, and



Shrivastava would like for a contingent of Rotarians to go to Cuba to see if they could start some Rotary Clubs.

He also mentioned other international projects in which clubs in the District are involved, such as Rotaplast – cosmetic surgery in underprivileged countries, Corazon – building homes in Mexico, and several international water projects.

Shrivastava clearly emphasized the *international* part of Rotary International, and it was good to hear that our Club is in the forefront of those activities.

Ed Jasnow

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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 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. 26 - Assemblymember, Chris Holden,
 41st District, California Legislature

Congratulations

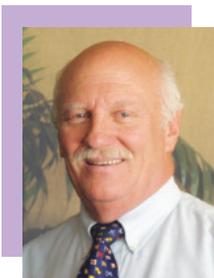
Birthdays

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

Thoughts on Africa



Grateful we are for the approval on Global Grant GG1755217 in amount of \$56,000+

to take a Volunteer Training Team (VTT) to Nigeria in November 2017 for the 10th time; this foray to train teachers to provide requisite skills to *Make a Job* for students all over Nigeria. Our strategic plan to provide training to create and carry through on *new business start-ups* by learning the fundamentals of writing a business plan is expected to reach the 12,000 student training mark for which we are most grateful!

Seminar training has now been provided to university students in Imo State, Niger State, Kaduna State, Nassarawa State and Abuja with strategic planning trips into Plateau State, Cross River State, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Abia State, Oyo State and Bauchi State.

Nigeria, a country approximately twice the size of California but with a population of 175 million people is the giant of Africa; one out of five people living in Africa are Nigerians. Nigeria also boasts the continent's largest economy ... composed of oil, telecom, movies and television and agricultural food production and transportation.

Primary through college educational institutions offer a wide range of degrees and opportunities for the self-starter. While unemployment is high (14% last year), opportunities to make money are tangible and promising for the entrepreneurially minded.

And that's where we come into play.

Service/product idea generation, market identification and analysis, budgeting and cost analysis, marketing and distribution, basics in accounting, cost-containment, start-up capital and acquisition and the writing of a basic business plan are our mantra utilizing the very best teaching materials we can lay our hands on (Kaufman Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, UCLA – Professor Marilyn Kourilsky for basic curriculum for our certificated seminars in *Making a Job*).

The bottom line? Can we make a difference? We think we can ... by showing that we care and that we are willing to do more than offer complacency and good will. Rotarians at work are willing to roll up their sleeves to offer *hands-on* training, not as a *white man's burden*, but as a team of professionals bringing knowledge, technology, a message of hope and ideas critical to success for new venture start-ups. Team members include African / Nigerian Diaspora, Philipppineos, US Citizens with vital skills in project management, branding, advertising, media savvy, production, building and construction, banking, accounting and marketing ... to share!

Students graduating from our 4-day seminars will carry with them the essential skills to becoming self-sustaining ... if they so desire. Perhaps only one in five will ultimately start their own business, but that one – that individual – with the foresight, perseverance and will, will go on to employ an average of 4 other people in the decade which follows. And that is something!

The Rotary Club of Altadena can take rightful pride in its initiative, vision and willingness to enable and bring to fruition the needed skills to *Make a Job* for those who want one.

And that is saying quite a lot! ○

This Week

Continued from p. 1

provides additional financial support for relative caregivers of foster youth was adopted into our state budget and implemented immediately. In the community he partnered with The Education Trust-West to host an informational briefing, *Black Minds Matter*, to discuss educational disparities facing California's nearly one million black youth. The briefing brought elected leaders, educators, stakeholders and community leaders together in order to better implement policies that close the opportunity and achievement gap for California's Black Youth.

In 2015, 11 of Holden's proposed measures were signed into law. On education, he passed a bill to remove limits on concurrent enrollment to increase access to higher education for high school students. To help small business owners, he passed a bill to protect the investment and well-being of franchisees from unfair tactics used by franchisors in termination agreements. He also passed a bill to expand the statute of limitations for filing human rights claims from two to ten years for cases of torture, war crimes, genocide and human trafficking. During this year he also served as Assembly Majority Floor Leader. ○

Dialing

Continued from p. 1

might lie at different times with the king, or with the church, the wealthy, or eventually, the commoners themselves.

In the early 19th century, some in Britain noted the rise of a fourth estate – namely the media; they began to see the newspapers of their time as a powerful additional force in shaping ideas and establishing *truth*. But that wasn't the final word, of course. Knowledge increased, and by the early 20th century science had come to be viewed by some as a fifth estate. In fact, scientific methods and proofs have become much more rigorous over the past century, and, in the minds of many, have fully replaced all earlier approaches – in particular, philosophy and religion – as the way to *truth*. Exact results can be established, after all, by a process of repeated experimentation. This is *empirical truth* – that which is based on observation and experience.

By whatever means people seek truth, however, they often have difficulty distinguishing it from the seeming reality of their

own perceptions. Society – by its standards and approaches – feeds this misconception. Our law courts claim to operate on the basis of truth, but they allow it to be shaped by the perceptions of the plaintiff, the defendant and the witnesses. The incidence of false convictions undermines such notions of truth. Journalism is also supposed to be based on a pursuit of truth, but that too depends largely on the perceived reality of the reporter or the editor.

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The concept of truth remains largely defined by opposites: something is either true or it is false. We feel comfortable with this because it enables us to label and neatly organize everything around us in logical, black-and-white terms. And that helps us to feel that we have a measure of control. Human society has not always thought this way, however. It is a product of humanistic thinking, and it owes its status to French philosopher René Descartes (1596-1650) and what we know today as Cartesian logic,

or dualism.

Descartes is celebrated as the father of modern philosophical inquiry. His ideas were a starting point for those who in the next century brought about the Enlightenment – the Age of Reason.

English writer John Milton was contemporary with Descartes but not influenced by his approach. We know him best through his poetry, especially his epics *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained* – not just poems but theological treatises.

• • •

Milton believed that truth was historical, that it changed and developed along with human society. He viewed history as a narrative, a continuously evolving revelation of truth.

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Which of these things is correct? Or can they both be correct? And can Truth be reconciled with Fairness to All Concerned? We will look at these topics in future weeks. ○

REAL ESTATE
Matters
by Doug Colliflower
Taken from: Daily Real Estate News / Thursday, October 12, 2017*

Buyers aren't Spooked by Haunted Houses

With inventories so tight, many consumers say they're even willing to live in a haunted house.

Thirty-three percent of more than 1,000 consumers recently surveyed say they're willing to live in a haunted house, and another 25 percent said they'd consider it, according to a newly released survey by realtor.com®.

"Haunted houses are a popular attraction this time of year, but we wanted to see how many people would actually live in one," says Sarah Staley, a housing expert

who commented on the study's findings. "What we found may be a sign of today's tight housing market, or for many living in a haunted house doesn't have to be a deal breaker."

Further, 47 percent of respondents said they'd live in a home where someone has died, and 27 percent additional respondents said they'd at least consider it, according to the survey.

Still, 40 percent of consumers said they'd need a price reduction in order to choose a haunted home over a non-haunted home. Also, a good neighborhood, extra square footage, and more bedrooms would con-

vince them too, according to the survey. On the other hand, 42 percent of respondents insist they aren't open to the idea of buying a haunted home, even for those extra perks.

For some consumers, living in a haunted house may not be considered a stretch because they claim they've already lived in one. For example, 28 percent of respondents said they have lived in a haunted house, and another 14 percent think they may have. They say their house was haunted because of strange noises, odd feelings in certain rooms, and even some reports of objects moving or disappearing. ○

*Source: realtor.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!



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