

## This Week

**Ian Finty,  
 Oceanographer,  
 JPL  
 The Narwhal or  
 Narwhale  
 Program Host:  
 David Smith**

Dr. Ian Fenty received his PhD in Climate Physics and Chemistry from MIT and now works at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a climate scientist. His research includes reconstructing the past 25 years of the circulation of Earth's oceans and understanding how ocean warming is contributing to the melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet.

In addition, Dr. Fenty is a co-investigator of NASA's "Oceans Melting Greenland" mission.

It is possible that we will hear about Narwhals. They are iconic creatures of the Arctic and have intrigued explorers and scientists for hundreds of years.

They spend long Arctic winters in dark, pack-ice covered waters, and live in vast remote seas that are difficult to get to. That makes them difficult to study, so perhaps it is not surprising that misconceptions abound.

This should be a very interesting program. ○



## Dialing In

By Steve Kerekes,  
 President



### The Power of Non-Sense

"They roused him with muffins – they roused him with ice –

They roused him with mustard and cress–

They roused him with jam and judicious advice–

They set him conundrums to guess."

From *The Hunting of the Snark* (An Agony in Eight Fits), by Lewis Carroll, published in 1876 (taken from *Fit the Third*, entitled: *The Baker's Tale*).



The modern world is an very uncertain place:

- Which brand to choose, which route to drive,
- How to approach a critical negotiation,
- How to receive inconclusive medical results,

are all part of our lives. This ambiguity is driven home every day in my life as a lawyer, where cases can take years to try and there is no indication from the judge, mediator, arbitrator, or anyone else (except

my opposing counsel) whether my client will prevail. To help keep our sanity, we try to limit the ambiguity in our lives and seek to make sense of the various signals around us and turn them into concrete certainty. Our brains try to simplify the input we receive to make sense out of it. We should be thankful that the brain works in this way. We encounter so much information every day, we cannot possibly absorb all the details. We have to generalize.

However, there are certain benefits from sometimes being more subjective, and using the ambiguity of a situation to harness and maximize its benefits - either to find solutions to mystifying problems or to discover new ways to cope with failure, or success. In his book, *Nonsense, the Power of Not Knowing* (Crown Publishing, 2015), Jamie Holmes, argues that, in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world, what matters

**Please turn to Dialing p. 4**

## Greeter of the Week

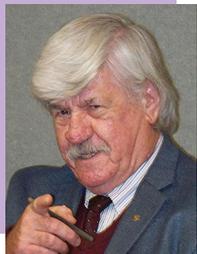
April 12  
**Freddy Figueroa**

April 19  
**John Frykenberg**

April 26  
**Jim Gorton**

# Program Review

## Art and other Projects make Learning Math and Other Concepts Lots More Fun



Our speaker last week is the Executive Director of Pasadena's Sidestreet

Projects, Emily Hopkins. Based upon the information provided by Hopkins, this is

a wonderful, local non-profit that works closely with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) and other area non-profits that provide services to children such as Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts.

Sidestreet Projects' mission is to give artists of all ages the ability and means to support their creative endeavors. Sidestreet's various programs are designed to connect professional artists directly to communities to facilitate creative problem solving within a contemporary arts context.

The program started 25 years ago in Santa Monica, California, then moved to downtown Los Angeles and then to Pasadena. Once here, the program initially was located in the Armory in northwest Pasadena. When the Armory closed down, the tenants were suddenly having to find new facilities in the area to carry on their programs. To avoid having to compete with the friends from the Armory in looking for space, Sidestreet decided to become mobile and operate their programs out of buses and trailers. In 2010, they were recognized as the largest non-profit mobile artist based



service in the nation providing teaching services to students.

Sidestreet offers their services primarily to Pasadena Unified School District students. One of their major programs is woodworking classes for PUSD students age 5 & up. For example, they teach math and science through woodworking. The children learn these often difficult math and science concepts in a fun, hands-on way. As a result, the

*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

### April Mom & Child Health

#### Program Chair, David Smith

April 12 - Ian Finty, PhD - The Narwhal  
April 19 - Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurial  
Awards - Guest Program Host to be  
Announced  
April 26 - PCC Veterans' Scholarships,  
Dennis Mehringer, Guest Program Host

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



04/06 - Candace Colliflower

04/13 - Alice Hudson

04/18 - John Frykenberg

04/24 Frank Cunningham

04/29 - Mike Noll



#### Anniversaries



04/27 - Sterling & Olga Louviere

## Getting the Word Out The Summer Concerts are Coming



The concert committee is in the process of assembling information about the coming *Summer Concert Series* in Farnsworth Park. We now have the schedule of performances and the article by Mike Zoeller about Altadena Rotary presenting the concerts this year and for the foreseeable future.

The article is posted on our DACdb website and has been shared with Monica Hubbard of the *Altadena Women's Network*.

Next is to share the schedule with them

and the article and schedule with *Altadena Now* and *Pasadena Now*. I also have some contact information for one of the people at the *Pasadena Star News* and will be contacting her and see if she is interested in the article and the schedule.

Mike Zoeller is forwarding pictures and information about the scheduled acts. These will be assembled into weekly schedules to be handed out at the concerts. I've been given a couple samples of these leaflets from 2014 and am supposed to be getting more recent examples within the next week or so.

In addition, we have most of the pieces

of the flyer/schedule. The biggest thing we need for that is a high resolution copy of the photograph in the upper center of the flyer, and Bob Klomburg has said that we can expect that also within the next week or so. David Campbell has been able to retrieve the logos of several of the sponsors from a *Publisher* file that was sent to us. It would be nice to have higher resolution logos, but we can use these if we have to.

So, you can see that I will be quite busy this week and the coming weeks working to stay ahead of the inevitable crunch that comes with printing deadlines.. ○

## Program

*Continued from p.2*

concepts sink in rather than going in one ear and out the other. Hopkins told us that, in one year, the math scores of Washington Middle School students who participated in this program went up 30 percent.

One of their programs partnered with the Gamble House in Pasadena and introduced a program for every second grader in PUSD. In another program, in partnership with the City of Pasadena, and with the help of an Arts grant, Sidestreet Projects' students helped create public art pieces for the City. In this program planter boxes were constructed with kinetic pieces. Through this program PUSD students were also taken on field trips to visit some of the art galleries in the Pasadena area. Sidestreet Projects had a project to have the kids find all the lion

statues and representations around the Pasadena City Hall, and they installed speakers to make lion sounds when a person walked by.

In other projects they have had students plant vegetables in planting islands at their schools. They have brought students to meetings of the Northwest Neighborhood Commission meetings so the kids would be exposed to local issues and see community dialogue in action. As you can see, this is a very valuable service to the young people in our community. Sidestreet Projects operates with 2 buses, 2 trailers and 2 containers. Each year they need to raise 30 to 50 percent of their funding from public donations. So keep them in mind when you are considering how best to use your annual charitable donations. Tony Hill ○



**ROTARIANS  
ON THE ROAD**

**Going on a Vacation?  
Share Your  
Adventures  
with your  
Rotarian Friends  
Back Home.**

< > < > < >

**Send us some  
Pictures  
and some Text.  
You'll get a  
By Line**

# Dialing

*Continued from p. 1*

most isn't IQ, willpower, or confidence in what we know. What matters most is how we deal with what we don't understand and can't conclusively determine.

When Einstein was working on this theory of relativity, if he was stumped on a difficult equation or concept, he often found that by playing his violin or going for a long walk, he was able to get his mind off his work, and this helped him find a solution. Allowing the mind to go off course is sometimes the best way to solve a difficult or complicated matter. Why is this? Einstein explained it as follows: "You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it. You must learn to see the world anew."

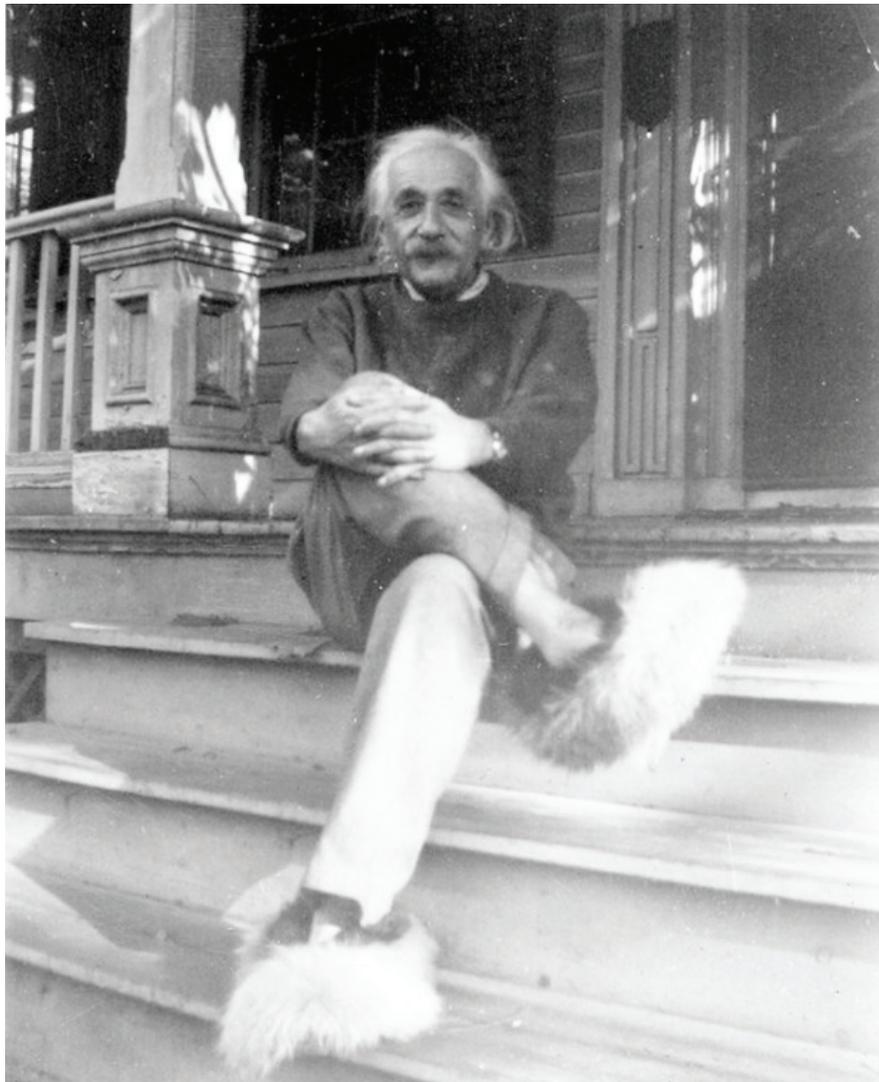
• • •

This is also the key to much humor - the narrator

sets up an expectation in the mind of the listener, and then shatters this expectation when he delivers the punchline. Here are some examples from Jamie Holmes' book, *Nonsense, the Power of Not Knowing*:

"There are only three kinds of people in this world: those who can count, and those who can't."

- > **First:** we expect to hear about three types of people. (If we know it's a joke, we guess that the punch line will involve the third type.)
- > **Second:** we're a little surprised when there's no description for the third kind of person.
- > **Finally:** we discover an alternative rule



*Einstein wearing silly slippers*

that makes sense of the surprise: the joke teller can't count.

• • •

Try to consider each (nonsense) element as you read through these English phrases that tourists found abroad (in non-native English-speaking countries):

- On a Swiss menu: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.
- In a hotel lobby in Bucharest: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.
- In a cocktail lounge in Norway: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

- In an airline ticket office in Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

- ..In French hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.

- In an Athens hotel: Visitors are expected to complaint at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 am daily.

- In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today - no ice cream.

- In a tailor shop in Rhodes: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

- From a hotel air conditioner instruction booklet in Japan: Cool-es and Heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room,

please control yourself.

- > **First:** We imagine what the texts should say. Our wines won't disappoint you; you won't be able to take the elevator because it's broken; please don't bring your children into the bar, and so on.
- > **Second:** there's an odd juxtaposition between what's expected and what is.
- > **Third:** we are able to make appropriately inappropriate sense of them. We picture the cartooned world they animate: despairing wine drinkers, cranky hotel guests, and women impolitely giving birth in cocktail lounges.

The humor here hinges on ambiguous meanings. ○

# Ray Carlson's Quest for Eternal Life

## IN MEMORIAM

Soft strains of *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* broke the deafening solitude of the family gathering gazing woefully at the coffin containing the earthly remains of friend, mentor and visionary Ray Carlson. Still, a eulogy, a farewell, a poem about the finality of death from poetess Maya Angelou seemed a fitting departure from this beautiful yet finite corrupt world for an infinite, incorruptible home with a new address. Well done Ray! You have run the race, you have finished your work on earth. You no longer need the weight of sickness, of sorrow, of war and famine and plague or the myriad inevitabilities that grieve us in the here and now.

Son Glenn sang while daughter Laura was witness to Ray's last and final vision of angels standing by in his brightening before he passed from this world to the next. He intimated; "I see angles, and you are not one of them," speaking to Laura. And so his soul took flight to realms we can only dream of until we are ushered into our Maker's presence.

While he was with us, Ray loved life, he loved his wife, but most of all he loved God. His heart was filled with compassion and love for his children, his fellow man, those without the education, opportunities or blessings we share in this greatest of nations. A heart for Africa, for the Middle East, for American Indians, Blacks, Mexicans and Arabs; Ray saw them in their poverty and knew that, given the needed and essential

skills to create a job, hope can be had, peace can be achieved to become self-sustaining in a competitive world. The necessary skills can be passed

along by those with those skills to succeed ... principally by Rotarians, entrepreneurs and small businessmen and women who make our economy work. And Ray knew this!

*A Visionary:* chemist who built an oil refinery, children's film maker (Treasurers in the Snow), Chairman for Job Creation and Entrepreneurship for Rotary District 5300, who inspired Rotary International's 6<sup>th</sup> Focus of Service Area (Creation of Jobs in a needy world) and film translator of the Jesus film throughout the world. Ray had a mission to spread of the gospel, spread the truth and empower the poor and down-trodden of this world. Or, as Ray might say

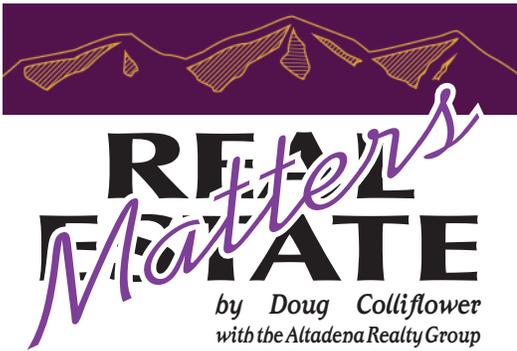


in Swedish, "Sannigen Skall Gora Er Fria" (Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free - John 8:32)

We who are left behind will miss Ray! We will miss his vision, his focus, his dedication and tenacity and his joyful, positive, bubbling spirit. And we will remember with fondness all that he has accomplished on our behalf and for the sake of his fellow man.

Blessings Ray Carlson. We will miss you for the time being, until we walk that inevitable bridge from here to eternity. Welcome home to heaven! ○

*John Frykenberg, Comrade and Friend*



# Don't Sell!

## Stay in Your Home

Do you have concerns about your ability to remain in your home? Have ...

- Financial concerns as the cost of home ownership continues to escalate?
- Reservations about your ability to maintain your home, or simply getting around and functioning independently on your own?
- All of the above?

In this article I will briefly touch on possible solutions to all these challenges.

### 1. Leverage your home

**Reverse mortgages** – which are available only to homeowners age 62 or older – were designed to help cash-strapped seniors tap home equity while staying in their houses. As the name implies, these loans are the opposite of a traditional *forward* mortgage, in which you send the lender cash to pay down debt and increase equity. A reverse mortgage pays out the equity in your home to you as cash, with no payments due to the lender until the homeowner moves, sells the property, or dies. The amount you owe increases over time, while the amount of equity decreases. These mortgages are frequently criticized for their high fees and onerous requirements.

**Home equity lines of credit** – secured against the value of your property, they can also provide standby funds in a pinch. They are typically less useful for older homeowners, because retirees often have a hard time meeting lender qualification requirements unless they have significant sources of regular income, such as Social Security or pensions. And

unlike a reverse loan, the HELOC funds require ongoing monthly payments from the borrower. Also, banks can freeze, reduce, or revoke a home equity line if your equity falls too low – and that's just what happened to many borrowers after the housing bubble burst and home values plummeted.

### 2. Share your home

There are several options in this category  
**Rent un-used rooms** – Ten years ago Jerry Dickerson, 67, was hit with the devastating one-two punch of a job loss and a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. To avoid losing his home in Santa Ana, CA, he turned to home sharing. Today he rents out two rooms in his house, which generates \$1100 apiece in monthly income – enough to cover his mortgage payments.

If you have a child or other family member who can afford to pay rent and needs housing, asking Junior to move back into his childhood bedroom could help both of you make ends meet.

**Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** – On January 1, 2017 California legislation went into effect, removing the most egregious obstacles to building these units. The hope is that it will help to increase the supply of affordable housing and allow more people to stay in the communities they call home. Here are some of the common structural forms of ADUs

- Detached new construction ADUs, also sometimes called backyard cottages, granny flats, or laneway houses
- Garage conversion ADUs

- ADUs above a garage or workshop, or attached to it. In some areas, these may be called garage apartments or carriage houses:

- Addition ADUs or *bump-out ADUs*

*What do ADUs have in common?*

While their structural forms vary, ADUs share some common traits and face common design and development challenges. For one thing, the fact that they're secondary housing units on single family residentially zoned lots places ADUs into a unique category of housing. And ADUs also have some other distinguishing characteristics that help further define, differentiate, and distinguish them from other housing types. ADUs

- > are accessory and adjacent to a primary housing unit.
- > are significantly smaller than the average US house.
- > tend to be one of two units owned/owned by one owner on a single family residential lot.

A large range of municipal land use and zoning regulations differentiate ADU types and styles, and dramatically affect their allowed uses.

Vast numbers of informal ADUs exist compared to permitted ones.

**Airbnb** – Airbnb began in 2008 when two designers who had space to share hosted three travelers looking for a place to stay. Now, millions of hosts and travelers choose to create a free Airbnb

**Please turn to Real Estate, p. 7**

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

# Real Estate

*Continued from p. 6*

account so they can list their space and book unique accommodations anywhere in the world.

Airbnb helps make sharing easy, enjoyable, and safe. We verify personal profiles and listings, maintain a smart messaging system so hosts and guests can communicate with certainty, and manage a trusted platform to collect and transfer payments.

For example, one of the major benefits of renting a room or your entire home via Airbnb is that you control the availability. If you need to supplement your annual income \$10,000 you are able to budget and make plans to reach that goal.

### **3. Modifications to your home**

Home modifications help seniors maintain quality of life. They often prevent injuries that lead to a loss of independence

and early admission to an assisted living or long-term care facility.

The following are examples of commonly recommended modifications:

- Install grab bars for toilets and tubs and install a walk-in tub and/or tub seat
- Replace doorknobs with lever door handles
- Replace standard light switches with rocker-style switches
- Increase the width of doorways and hallways to accommodate wheelchairs and, where possible, lower sinks and countertops
- Move often-used items to lower cabinets to avoid the need for step stools
- Repair or replace loose handrails and install adequate lighting in stairways
- Install an elevator or chair lift
- Install an elevated dishwasher or one

with drawers for easy access

- Replace old stoves with induction cook tops to help prevent burns
- Replace ceramic tile floors with hardwood or vinyl for safe standing

When modifying a home for a senior, remember the importance of good lighting. Seniors need two to three times as much light in order to see as well as younger people. ○

\*\*\*

I hope this brief overview is thought provoking and helpful. Should you wish to explore any of these options further and have questions, please feel free to contact me, and, if I don't have the answer, I know somebody who does.

My Contact Information:

Cell: 626-524-4158

Email: [doug.colliflower@gmail.com](mailto:doug.colliflower@gmail.com)



## Second Saturdays

<b>January 13</b>	Kai Clark with special guests John York & Carla Olson	<b>April 14</b>	Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans
<b>February 10</b>	Gerry Rothschild Band	<b>May 12</b>	The Podunk Poets
<b>March 10</b>	DeRumba	<b>June 9</b>	Crown City Bombers

Ring in the New Year with **music** and **community!**

EVENT DETAILS ONLINE → [ALTADENALIBRARY.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://ALTADENALIBRARY.ORG/PROGRAMS)



# Altadena Libraries