

This Week
Van Snyder
Scientist at JPL
Program Host:
David Smith

Van Snyder may be talking to us about what he calls the *Five Myths about Nuclear Power*. In his paper of the same name, he writes that all we have been told about nuclear power by the popular media is *Flat Out* false. He states that nuclear power is the safest-ever way to make electricity by a very wide margin, pointing out that there have only been 46 deaths in its entire six-decade worldwide history – all at Chernobyl, where they had a nutty design that nobody in his right mind would repeat. [This may have to be amended since the Japanese nuclear power incident.]

He continues that we have known how to destroy nuclear waste for fifty years and just refuse to do it. And says that nuclear energy is the lowest-cost electricity, costing less than one sixth the cost of unsubsidized Solar PV [Photo-voltaic].

Snyder is emphatic that the right kind of nuclear power *DOES NOT* lead to weapons proliferation, adding that there's plenty of plenty of uranium if we use it right. He admits that nothing but solar can do the whole job, however, solar, wind, waves, tides, and hydro cannot destroy nuclear waste, but the right kind of inherently-safe nuclear reactor can. ○



Dialing In

By Steve Kerekes,
 President



Making Sense out of the Chaos

“What’s the good of Mercator’s North Poles and Equators, Tropics, Zones, and Meridian Lines? So the Bellman would cry: and the crew would reply
 “They are merely conventional signs!”

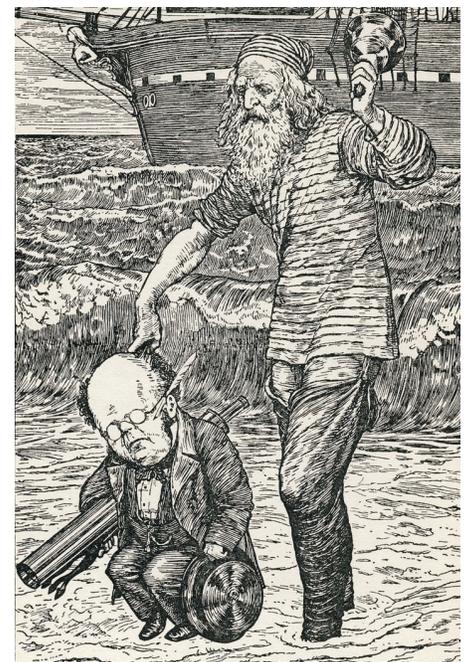
“Other maps are such shapes, with their islands and capes!
 But we’ve got our brave Captain to thank (So the crew would protest) ‘that he’s bought us the best ...
 A perfect and absolute blank!”

(From *The Hunting of the Snark* (an Agony in Eight Fits), by Lewis Carroll (published 1876) Taken from *Fit the Second*, entitled “The Bellman’s Speech”)

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We continue our discussion of non-sense by looking at how the human mind deals with chaos, taken from Jamie Holmes’ book, *Nonsense, The Power of Not Knowing* (Crown Publishers, 2015, Kindle Edition, pages 65-69).

In the days after the April 18, 1906, San Francisco earthquake – one of the worst natural disasters in US history – a number



The Bellman and the Banker

of unusual events occurred. Rumors spread of a newly formed Matrimonial Bureau, a

Please turn to Dialing p. 4

Greeter of the Week

April 19
 John Frykenberg

April 26
 Jim Gorton

May 03
 Ben Green

Program Review

>> The Norwhal << Science tells us that that Horn Structure is . . . a Tooth



Ian Finty, an oceanographer with the JPL, delighted the members of the Altadena Rotary Club with a presentation on ocean warming, glacial melting, and narwhals.

Greenland has a glacial ice sheet that varies between one to two miles in depth

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

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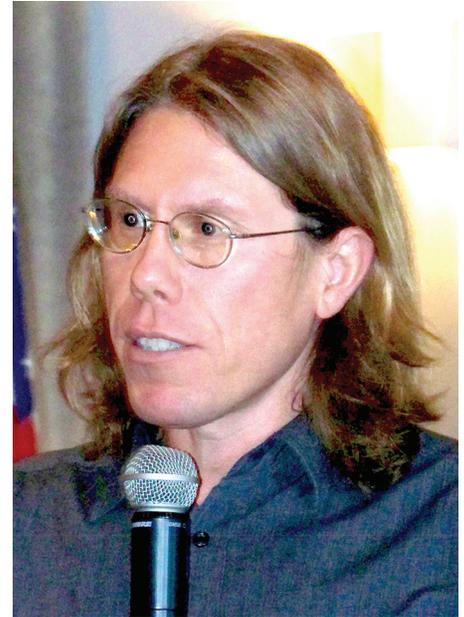
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John Frykenberg International
Tony Hill Youth Contests/Awards
Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
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and contains 684,000 cubic miles of ice. It covers an area 660,000 square miles. Were all of it to melt, global sea levels would rise twenty-three feet. Contributing to such an event would be the volume of water in the ice and the thermal expansion of the ice/water as both atmosphere and water warm simultaneously. Temperature increases in both sea water and atmosphere bring about the melting of the glaciers. Two thirds of the present glaciers are anticipated to end up in the ocean.

The JPL program employs delivery of parachute-dropped probes that are positioned both at the ocean surface as well as on the sea floor in order to measure temperature gradients between ocean surface and ocean depths. This will aid in understanding how much of the melting of the ice bergs happens in the

deep and the how much is happening at the same time at the surface as a result of atmospheric warming.



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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

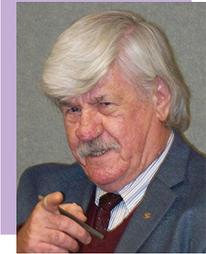
April

Mom & Child Health

Program Chair, David Smith

April 19 - It's a Mystery
April 26 - Veteran's Awards - Dennis Mehringer, Guest Program Host

RYLEA Students to Report on Their Adventures at our Thursday, April 26 Meeting



On March 16, 2018 seven students from John Muir High School boarded a bus at the parking lot of the Alhambra Golf Course to travel with students from other area high schools to Camp Cedar Crest in Running Springs, California. These were students sponsored by our Rotary Club of Altadena to attend for the weekend – at no cost to the student's family – the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (i.e., RYLEA) leadership camp. This is an outstanding program developed by our Rotary District to provide selected high school Sophomores and Juniors – who are attending high schools throughout our District 5300, which extends from here to Las Vegas – who have shown a potential for leadership, an opportunity to experience training intended to enhance their leadership skills.

In past years Altadena Rotary has sponsored four students each year to attend the RYLEA program, 2 girls and 2 boys. This year, through the inspiration and persistence of Mark Mariscal, we decided to sponsor a total of seven students, 5 girls and 2 boys. These students are: Natalie Casal, Felisha Davis, Ashley Hackett, David Kenebrew, Cooper Salomon, Daniela Trujillo and Makana Woods. On February 16, 2018, these students were selected by a panel of interviewers from our Club – Sarah

O'Brien, Mike Zoeller and Tony Hill – from a group of approximately 16 candidates. Each of these interviewers will attest to the fact that this was a challenging process because of the many excellent students who were seeking an opportunity to attend this great program. The bad news is that we could not sponsor all of those who applied; the good news is that this year our Club was able to send an additional three students.

Our Club's participation in RYLEA each year is made so much easier through the assistance of Dr. Nancy Gonzalez Heusser, student counselor at Muir High School. Heusser knows the students very well. With this knowledge, she is able to encourage those students who have demonstrated leadership qualities to apply for RYLEA. It is her careful selection of the high achieving students who make up the pool of interviewees that makes the job of the interviewers so challenging.

The RYLEA program allows students who have already exhibited leadership potential to mix over the course of three days and two nights with other similar high-potential high school students. Each student is assigned to one of five groups named after the five continents, and then assigned to subgroups within the larger groups. They compete in very creative individual challenges, group challenges and *inter-continental* competitions; they listen to outstanding motivational speakers; they are given random assigned

seating at breakfast, lunch and dinner to ensure they are constantly meeting and interacting with new kids their own age. The students are kept busy from 8 in the morning to 8 at night. They go to bed exhausted but happy and fulfilled.

You will get to meet these seven students when they attend our meeting on Thursday April 26. Each of the students will speak briefly about his/her experience at RYLEA. When you hear their reviews, I believe that it will be clear to you that your money has been well spent. ○



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Adventures
with your
Rotarian Friends
Back Home.**

< > < > < >

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

Dialing

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cooperative of single women who were now homeless after the quake and looking for husbands. Hearing the news, a man named William Perkins hurried over to Harbor Hospital, where he believed the bureau was located, and immediately proposed to the young matron on duty.

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Eyewitness descriptions of the quake portrayed it “as a violent to-and-fro interspersed with sudden jolts and terrifying circular swings.” During the forty-five or so seconds of the main quake, one former reporter wrote, “... there were no human sounds to be heard, no screams. It was as if every man, woman, and child was stunned into silence.” Roads split open, streetcar tracks were bent upward ‘into hideous shapes ... revealing gaping chasms beneath. Loosened cobblestones danced about like popcorn in a pan. Power cables snapped and fell to the ground, ‘writhing and hissing like reptiles,’ in the words of one eyewitness. At an animal exhibit on Haight Street, lions trembled like kittens. Monkeys huddled in a corner.

Then it was over, in less than a minute.

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As deliberately as the newly homeless recovered their keepsakes, suitors wandered amid the rubble. In the days following the disaster, more couples were married than in any similar period in San Francisco’s history up to that time. From April 18 to May 18 – according to the county clerk’s office – 418 couples married, breaking (by 18) the high-water mark for any calendar month on record. San Francisco’s marriage clerk, Grant *Cupid* Munson, estimated that, if you included couples married without a license by ministers in public parks, the true figure was over 700. (Munson, it was noted, had been ‘besieged by several ministers who officiated at these weddings for requisite papers.’) April 28, ten days after the quake,

marked the single busiest day in the history of Alameda County’s marriage bureau. In those ten days in San Francisco and Alameda, 180 couples married – over four times the normal rate. The Louisville Courier-Journal remarked on the strange phenomenon of couples ‘earthquaked into marriage.’

The Oakland Tribune recounted the ‘amusing sights at the ruined City Hall in San Francisco,’ where ‘young couples [were] scrambling about among the ruins trying to find where marriage licenses were issued. As they usually refused to tell anyone what they were looking for they were considerably hampered in their search.’ Some couples had moved up long-planned weddings. Others who had previously split were reuniting. Some met for the first time in refugee camps, having lost everything.

One couple met on a train fleeing the city, fell in love, and were engaged before they had disembarked in Seattle. Another pair rushed into marriage so quickly that the groom, Murty Sullivan, hadn’t even asked the bride’s first name. Three weeks after the quake, this minor detail came to light in a conversation with a county clerk:

‘What’s the lady’s name?’ asked the clerk.

‘It’s on the paper,’ replied Sullivan.

‘But her first name?’ persisted the clerk.

‘It’s on the paper,’ Sullivan said.



San Francisco City Hall after the Earthquake

‘That’s all I know.’

‘What did you call her when you proposed?’ the clerk insisted.

‘That’s my business,’ Sullivan snapped. The clerk relented, issuing the marriage license to Murty Sullivan and *Mrs. Waler*.

These were not normal times.

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Roughly 15 percent of Americans will experience a natural or human-made disaster in their lifetimes. If you include personal traumas like the untimely death of a loved one or a serious car crash, the figure rises to over two-thirds. After a sudden catastrophe, people experience what psychologist Ronnie Janoff-Bulman called a “double dose of anxiety.”

- The first dose reflects longer-term fear for our well-being: suddenly, the world doesn’t feel as safe.
- The second dose of uncertainty comes from the challenge to our working models of the world, from the threat to our *conceptual system, which is in a state of upheaval*. The world feels less safe, but the assumptions that provided us with a sense of coherence are also often challenged.

After a trauma, many people have to face

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Dialing

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the reality that, in Janoff-Bulman's words, "the known, comforting old assumptive world is gone, and a new one must be constructed."

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We don't say to ourselves, "It's time to reconstruct my worldview." Janoff-Bulman compared this struggle to cope with post-

traumatic instability to the frustrations and anxieties that scientists face when confronting ambiguous new evidence that doesn't fit their theories. We somehow have to manage these *powerful data*. The psychology of how we resolve these discrepancies — particularly when they're accompanied by feelings of physical vulnerability — helps

explain what happened in San Francisco over a hundred years ago.

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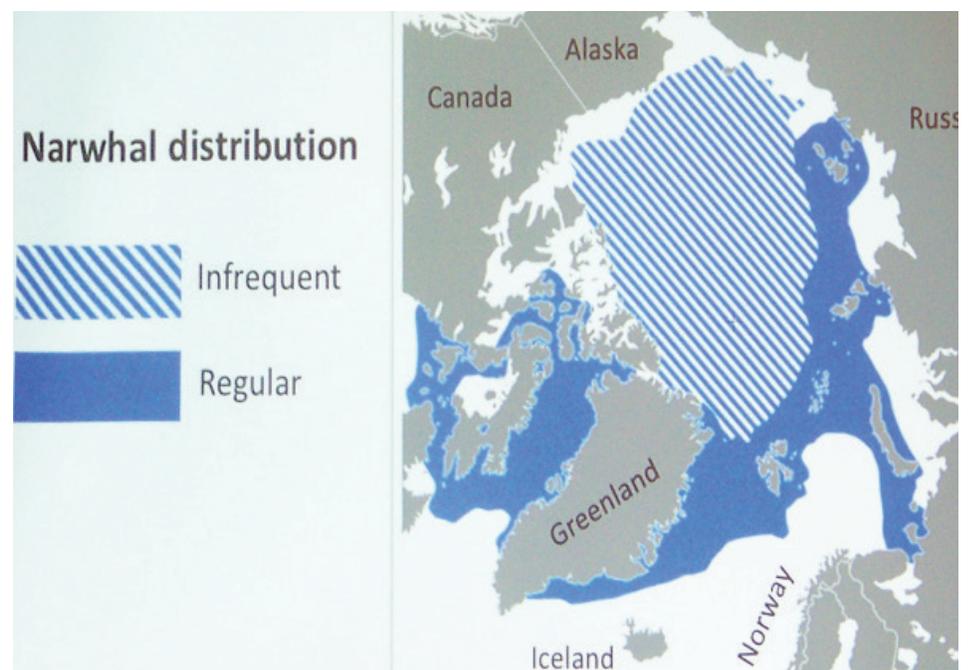
But our craving for certainty doesn't have to be triggered by anything so dire. An event doesn't have to be dangerous to increase our need for closure. It merely has to challenge how we see the world. ○

Program

Continued from p.2

The second law of thermodynamics dictates that energy and molecules flow down their partial pressure gradients. Therefore, if water temperature in the tropics is approximately twelve degrees centigrade and four to six degrees centigrade at southern Greenland at sixty degrees north latitude, the current of water is directed north. We experience this as the Gulf Stream. People in Nottingham and London experience this as a milder winter compared to what their shivering fellows in Moscow must endure. Of course, this begs the question of whether a warmer northern ocean will retard the flow of the Gulf Stream. Will Nottingham and London then become colder in December and January? Or will a warmer tropical atmosphere produce a warmer tropical ocean and warmer winds that will accelerate the Gulf Stream and preserve it? In the year 2118 JPL can send us a learned lecturer to bring us the answer that will take a century to find out.

In the northern ocean east of Greenland is the preserve of a wondrous whale with a lengthy tooth that is a wonder of the animal world. Although male and females were these narwhals created, the female narwhal is not so mightily dentally endowed, since only two to three percent of the females have that gigantic tooth. Both genders of these fifteen-foot leviathans have but a single, much smaller tooth. The purpose of



these dental anomalies is not well understood. The great tooth may be used by the males for combat with their competitors to enlarge their harems. Or it can be used to stun fish with a side stroke before aspirating their prey whole. Remarkably, the prey is not chewed, just swallowed. The reason for the small tooth has yet to be discovered.

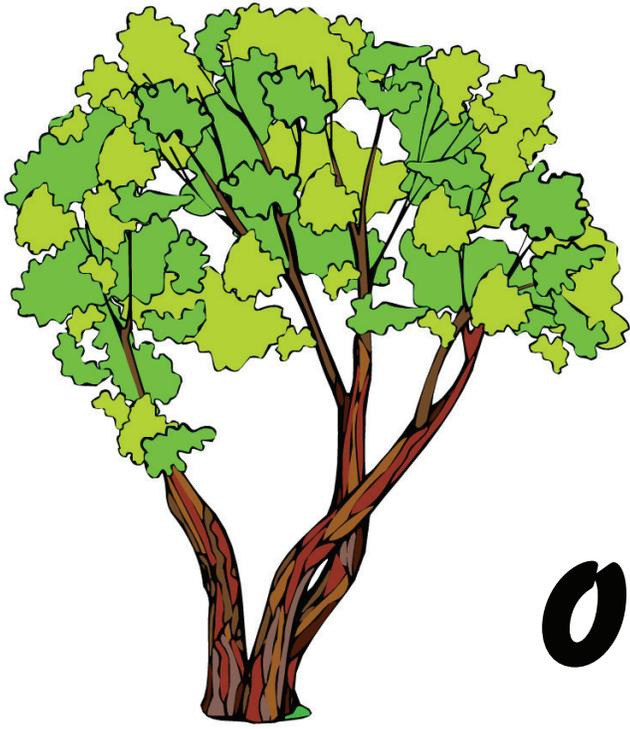
Narwhals live in pods of about twenty or massive herds of at least a thousand. In the dark deep to which they can dive, they navigate like their cetacean comrades ... by echo location. Their great tooth directs their high frequency chirps and tweets much as an ultrasound probe directs a beam to define the anatomy of a child in its mother's

womb. Over the centuries narwhals have been taken and their great tooth has been used to cure human afflictions such as the plague and male impotence. (This writer believes such medicinal endeavors were not effective.)

The narwhals have their challenges. Killer whales attack them. Polar bears like to eat them. Men snare them to take their tusks. Sea ice can entrap them or impede their rising to the surface to breathe.

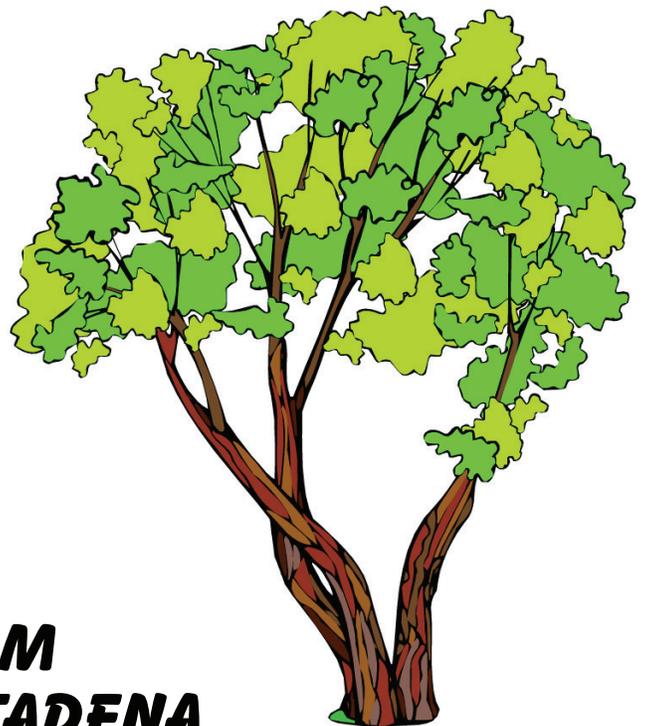
Reclusive though they might be, JPL pursues them and tags them electronically to study them. And we await another wonderful presentation about them.

Roger Fennell ○



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Proper Usage is What?

Here I am again, looking for something interesting to share. I happened to look at one of the book shelves that populate the area around my computer and spied a book that I had not looked at in quite some time, *A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage* by Bergen Evans and Cornelia Evans and published by Random House, New York.

The word I found today is *happening*. So let's get on with it.

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happening; event; episode; incident; occurrence.

The use of *happening* as a verbal noun is unexceptionable (*Its happening when it did served to establish the man as a prophet*). But its use as a synonym for event or occurrence (*These are common happenings*) has been strongly condemned. Fowler calls it a "journalistic affectation" and

others have echoed his stricture. But it has been so used for four centuries and must be accepted as standard, especially for things that just happen as against more important occurrences which are more likely to be described as *events*.

Events can be happenings of any kind (*All the events that make up an invalid's trivial day*) but the word usually means an important happening, especially one that is connected with and comes out of previous happenings (*The event was eagerly awaited. The publication of a new book by Sinclair Lewis was always an event*). An *episode* is one of a progressive series of happenings, frequently distinct from the main course of events and having a continuity and interest of its own (*Franklin's visit to France was a remarkable episode in a remarkable career*). An *incident* is a minor happening in connection with an

event or series of events of greater importance (*There was a delightful incident at Mrs. Preston's Christmas party*). An *occurrence* is simply something that happens, having no connection with or causation by antecedent happenings (*His being ill at the very time Alexander died was an occurrence for which Cesare had made no preparation*).

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It seems that I've fallen a bit short. So let's take a look at the word *happen*.

happen

This verb may be followed by an infinitive, as in we happen to like her, or by a clause when used impersonally, as in it happens we like her. *Happen* is sometimes used as the equivalent of *perhaps*, as in *happen you'll like her*, but this is not standard now.

I hope you enjoyed our adventure. ○



Second Saturdays

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

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