

## This Week

### Dan Stover Music Contest Club Level Competition Guest Program Host: Sarah O'Brien

This week we are hosting the first round of the 2018 Dan Stover Music Contest for high school instrumentalists. The judging panel will be led by acclaimed violinist and composer Benedikt Brydern of Hollywood Rotary Club. The winner will have the chance to compete against other Club winners in future rounds at regional and district levels for a Grand Prize of \$5000 to support his/her continuing musical studies.

This year will feature entries on guitar, clarinet and violin. All contestants live or study in Altadena. During the judges' deliberation Theo Clarke will interview the students and we shall have the opportunity to get to know them better and learn about their musical interests.

A buffet lunch will be provided - starting promptly at noon upstairs in the Mendocino room, and additional music will be provided by guest pianist Gregory Walczak who works at Pasadena Conservatory of Music.

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## Dialing In

*By Steve Kerekes,  
 President*



## Is it more Important to be Fair than Beneficial to All Concerned?

Last week we talked about two aspects of the Four Way Test in the context of the law: is it beneficial to all concerned and is it fair. The two do not always overlap, and are sometimes at odds. This week we talk about these two concepts in another context - your pocketbook (or wallet, if you prefer). This excerpt is taken from an article by Paul Bloom in The Atlantic magazine, October 22nd, 2015 issue, entitled "People Don't Actually Want Equality, They Want Fairness."



In his just-published book, *On Inequality*, the philosopher Harry Frankfurt argues that economic equality has no intrinsic value. This is a moral claim, but it's also a psychological one: Frankfurt suggests that if people take the time to reflect, they'll realize that inequality isn't really what's bothering them.

People might be troubled by what they see as unjust causes of economic inequality, a perfectly reasonable concern given how much your income and wealth are determined by accidents of birth, including how much money your parents had, your sex, and the color of your skin. We are

troubled as well by potential consequences of economic inequality. We may think it corrodes democracy, or increases crime, or diminishes overall happiness. Most of all, people worry about poverty - not that some have less, but rather "that those with less have too little."

Frankfurt argues, though, that we aren't really bothered by inequality for its own sake. He points out that few worry about inequalities between the very rich and the very well off, even though these might be greater - both absolutely and proportionately - than inequalities between the moderately well-off and the poor. A world in which everyone suffered from horrible poverty would be a perfectly equal one, he says, but few would prefer that to the world in which we now live. Therefore,

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## Greeter of the Week

March 29  
 Frank Cunningham

April 05  
 Roger Fennell

April 12  
 Freddy Figueroa

# Program Review

## Frank Cunningham describes A Long Career in Business



**A** *Craft Talk* is a great opportunity for the members of the Rotary Club of Alta-

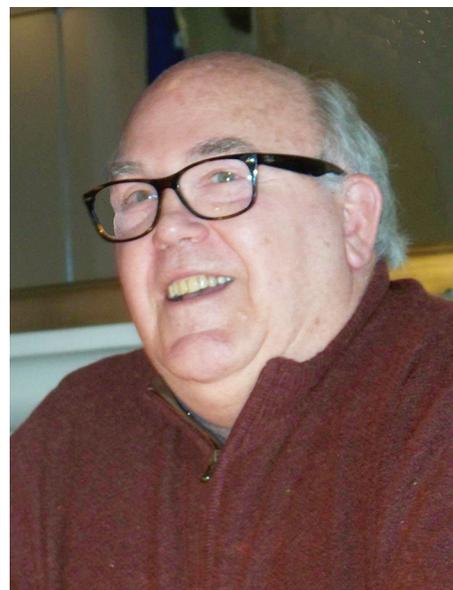
dena to learn more about new members. Normally, members are discouraged from speaking about their business activities in the normal course of a meeting. The craft

talk is the chance to profile one's business and personal background to the club as a whole.

Last week we heard from new member Frank Cunningham who gave us a thoughtful and honest presentation of his life and business career. He was born in Oakland, California in April 1948 and raised in Lafayette as an only child to parents who suffered from alcoholism. In high school he was social and outgoing. He had a passion for athletics, and is proud of the fact that he still holds his high school's record for the long jump [23 feet 3<sup>3/4</sup> inches]. He matriculated to Napa Valley College, then the University of Arizona in Tucson, and finally Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

His mother was one of the first female credit officers at Wells Fargo Bank. And, although she advised Frank not to go into banking, his first job out of college was with Wells Fargo Bank in Contra Costa County. Soon he was married and had three kids.

After 12 years at Wells Fargo in northern California, he relocated with his family to Everett Washington. He liked being in the Pacific northwest, but, because his



wife was Hispanic, they experienced racial discrimination there. They found this to be intolerable, and they relocated to Lake Oswego. Frank stayed in banking

They moved to Los Angeles in 1989; but the moves and the job changes had an effect on his marriage, and he and his wife divorced in 1990. At the time, he was working for the California Credit Union Association, the trade association for credit unions. An opportunity came up to be-

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### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

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Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

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

### March

#### Water & Sanitation

*Program Chair, Tom McCurry*

March 29 - Dan Stover Music Contst - Club-  
Level Competition - Sarah O'Brien Guest  
Program Host

### April

#### Mom & Child Health

*Program Chair, David Smith*

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



03/08 - Jeri Cunningham

03/14 - Steve Cunningham

03/15 - Trish Robinson

03/15 - David P. Smith



#### Anniversaries



03/01 - Tim & Etta McCurry

03/13 - Steve Kerekes & Sunny Wu

03/30 Dennis Mehringer & Noriko Suzuki

## Pakistan & Nigeria replace Paper-based Reporting with Fast, Accurate Cellphone Messaging

Article by Ryan Hyland

Reprinted from Rotary Foundation News



**M**obile phones and simple text messaging may be the keys to victory in the world's largest public health initiative: the eradication of polio. As the disease retreats from the global stage, thriving in only a few remote areas in three countries, it's up to health workers to deliver vaccines and share information with speed and accuracy. Health workers in Pakistan are receiving cellphone and e-monitoring training at the Rotary Resource Center in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are strengthening the lines of communication by giving cellphones to health workers in Pakistan and Nigeria, where a single text message could save a life.

In Pakistan, Rotary has been working to replace traditional paper-based reporting of maternal and child health information – including polio immunization data – with mobile phone and e-monitoring technology.

Community health workers across the nation have received more than 800 phones through a partnership with Rotary, the Pakistani government; Telenor, the country's second-largest telecommunications provider; and Eycon, a data monitoring and evaluation specialist. Organizers

plan to distribute a total of 5,000 cellphones by the end of 2018.

Health workers can use the phones to send data via text message to a central server. If they see a potential polio case, they can immediately alert officials at Pakistan's National Emergency Operations Center. They also can note any children who didn't receive the vaccine or parental refusals – and record successful immunizations. In Pakistan, the polio eradication effort aims to reach the nation's 35 million children under age five.

The result is a collection of real-time information that officials can easily monitor and assess, says Michel Thieren, regional emergency director of the World Health Organization's Health Emergency Program.

Pakistan health workers are replacing traditional paper-reporting with accurate and timely cellphone-based reporting.

"Cellphone technology signals tremendous progress in the polio eradication program," says Thieren, who has directed polio-related initiatives for WHO in Pakistan. "The data we collect needs to have such a granular level of detail. With real-time information that can be recorded and transcribed immediately, you can increase accuracy and validity.

"This gives governments and polio eradication leaders an advantage in the decisions we need to make operationally and

tactically to eliminate polio," Thieren says.

### *Beyond polio*

Health workers also are using mobile phones to monitor a multitude of maternal and child health factors.

Pakistan's child mortality rate ranks among the highest in the world, according to UNICEF, with 81 deaths under age five per 1,000 live births.

But mobile technology can help reduce those deaths, says Asher Ali, project manager for Rotary's Pakistan PolioPlus Committee.

"Our health workers – including community midwives – are tracking pregnant mothers," Ali says. "When a child is born, they can input and maintain complete health records, not just for polio, but for other vaccines and basic health care and hygiene needs."

They also can monitor infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and influenza-like illnesses, as well as child malnutrition and maternal health concerns.

"If there is a problem with the baby or the mother, we can send information to the government health departments immediately, so they can solve the issue quickly and adjust their strategies," Ali says.

Cellphones also facilitate follow-up visits with families, because health workers can send appointment reminders over text message.

# Dialing

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equality can't be what we really value.

Some of Frankfurt's arguments get technical, but it's not hard to think of cases where a mistaken focus on equality makes the world worse. My favorite example here is from the comedian Louis C.K., where he describes how his five-year-old's toy broke and she demanded that he break her sister's toy, which would make things equal. "And I did. I was like crying. And I look at her. She's got this creepy smile on her face."

Can Frankfurt really be right that people don't value economic equality for its own sake? Many scholars believe otherwise. The primatologist Frans de Waal sums up a popular view when he writes: "Robin Hood had it right. Humanity's deepest wish is to spread the wealth."

In support of de Waal, researchers have found that, if you ask children to distribute items to strangers, they are strongly biased towards equal divisions, even in extreme situations. The psychologists Alex Shaw and Kristina Olson told children between the ages of six and eight about two boys, Dan and Mark, who had cleaned up their room and were to be rewarded with erasers – but there were five of them, so an even split was impossible. Children overwhelmingly reported that the experimenter should throw away the fifth eraser rather than establish an unequal division. They did so even if they could have given the eraser to Dan or Mark without the other one knowing, so they couldn't have been worrying about eliciting anger or envy.

It might seem as though these responses reflect a burning desire for equality, but more likely they reflect a wish for fairness. It is only because Dan and Mark did the same work that they should get the same reward. And so, when Shaw and Olson told the children, "Dan did more work than Mark," they were quite comfortable

giving three to Dan and two to Mark. In other words, they were fine with inequality, so long as it was fair.

• • •

Behavioral economists Michael Norton and Dan Ariely recently showed sample distributions of wealth to Americans, in which the people in the bottom fifth have X percentage of the wealth, those in the next fifth have Y percentage of the wealth, and so on. They found that Americans are very wrong about just how unequal their country is – they think that the bottom 40 percent has 9 percent of the wealth and the top 20 percent has 59 percent, while the actual proportions are 0.3 percent and 84 percent, respectfully.

They also find that, when asked about what distribution would be ideal, Americans – regardless of political party – want a far more equal society than they actually live in or believe that they live in. In an article published in *The Atlantic*, Ariely writes, "the vast majority of Americans

prefer a distribution of wealth more equal than what exists in Sweden, which is often placed rhetorically at the extreme far left in terms of political ideology – embraced by liberals as an ideal society and disparaged by conservatives as an overreaching socialist nanny state."

These are important findings, however, Frankfurt's analysis motivates us to question what Americans really mean. Ariely emphasizes that they want a far more equal society than they have. But it's worth noting that they don't actually want equality. The study finds that, when asked to create a perfect society, respondents choose one in which those in the top fifth have about three times more wealth than those in the bottom fifth. This hardly settles the issue, but it should motivate us to take seriously Frankfurt's skepticism about what we really want and his concern that we worry too much about relative differences, and not enough about fairness and – above all – the suffering of the poor. ○

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## Program

*Continued from p.2*

come the chief operating officer for a local credit union in Apple Valley – the high desert east of Los Angeles. While living in the high desert, Frank joined the Victor Valley Sunrise Rotary Club, and eventually rose to become president of the club.

He lost his job at the credit union when the economy soured in 2008. Many of their clients and customers were construction companies who could not repay their loans. The National Credit Union Association [NCUA] took over the credit union, and Frank had the unfortunate task of terminating the employment of a large number of employees at the credit union. That was his last job in banking and finance.

Today, Frank is in a very different posi-

tion. He advises seniors and their families for options on senior living and assisted living. He loves that his work and he are providing a valuable service to the community.

He met a woman on *Match.com* and that woman is now his wife. She is an adjunct professor at Cal State University, Los Angeles. His children – now in the forties – are all reasonably successful. He has eight grandchildren, ranging from 22 years old down to three.

His life has been filled with challenges and setbacks, but through it all he has carried on. He looks forward to being a contributing member of Altadena Rotary in the years ahead. Boyd Hudson ○

# This Week

Continued from p. 1

Last year's Altadena Club winner Coleman (drummer) went on to be runner up in the regional final. We wish all our contestants the very best of luck this year!

## A Brief History of the Dan Stover Memorial Music Contest



In the year following Dan Stover's death, the Alhambra Rotary Club established a Music Scholarship Program in his name. The program was proposed, organized and championed by a new Rotarian, Christine Montan, who was Alhambra's first woman Rotarian. Montan recognized and appreciated the contribution that Dan Stover had made as a Rotarian, musician and person. From these beginnings, the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship program graduated into a District program. ○

# Mendel Hill receives His First Paul Harris



**Mendel Hill (l) receives his first Paul Harris from David Smith, Foundation Chair**

At our last meeting (March 22), Mendel Hill was requested to come forward and receive his first Paul Harris. ○

Foundation Chair, David Smith is hoping to have each member have at least his/her first Paul Harris.

To this end he is working to have matching funds available so that a Paul Harris is within the reach of most of our new members and those longer time members who have not as yet been able to acquire a Paul Harris. ○

If you do not as yet have your first Paul Harris, talk to Smith about possible matching funds. ○

## Second Saturdays



**January 13** | Kai Clark with special guests John York & Carla Olson

**February 10** | Gerry Rothschild Band

**March 10** | DeRumba

**April 14** | Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans

**May 12** | The Podunk Poets

**June 9** | Crown City Bombers

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



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