

This Week

Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp Participants Regina Bette Program Host: Paul Sirois

Altadena Rotary sponsored four John Muir High School juniors to attend the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp at the AstroCamp in Idyllwild, CA, March 5 through March 7. The participants were Ashleigh Bridges, Destiny Iwuoma, LaQuesha Trejo and Christian Cayetano.

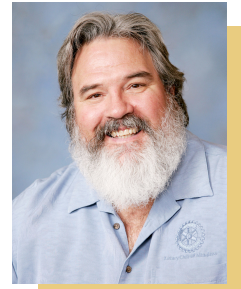
During this intensive, mind-expanding weekend, the high achieving juniors are given exercises to help broaden their personal perspectives and understandings of our ever changing and evolving world.

Rotary District 5300 sponsors this leadership camp as a way of developing leaders of the future and, we hope, future Rotarians.

So, mark your calendars and we'll see you on Thursday!

THE Construction CREW

by Ed Jasnow
 for President David Smith



A Day at the Races

This is a story about the only person I know who came out ahead at the race track. The campus where I went to college was located about ten miles from a race track, and every so often a few of my fraternity brothers and I would ditch our afternoon classes and go to the track to invest our school supply money on the ponies. One afternoon, we were contemplating such a trip, but there was one problem — none of us had a working automobile. As we were wondering what to do, another fraternity brother came into the house. This was Louie Cabinet, a great guy, but extremely nerdy and sheltered. He did, however, have a working car. We surrounded him and persuaded him to come to the track with us. He had never been, and had no idea what to do.

When we got there, we told him we were going to play the daily double. We said to go to the window, tell the man two numbers between 1 and 8, and hand him two dollars. Louie did as he was told. Well, you're not going to believe this, but his double came in and paid \$800. We were jumping up and down and screaming our heads off. Louie just looked surprised and asked why we were so happy. We said, "Louie, you go up to that man at the same window, give him your ticket, and he'll

give you \$800." Louie looked at us like we were crazy. "Right," he said. "That guy is going to give me \$800 for this ticket I paid two dollars for. You guys are just pulling my leg." We convinced him to go to the window. Louie handed the guy the ticket, and, of course, the teller counted out \$800 and handed it to Louie. Louie's eyes got as big as saucers.

"So, Louie," we asked, "Who do you like in the next race?" Louie looked at us with the money still in his hands and said, "I'm going home." We looked at him in amazement. "Louie," we said, "You can't go home yet. There's six more races on the card." Louie responded, "Listen, I have \$800 that I didn't have when I got here, and I'm going home." We said, "But, what about us? How will we get back to campus?" Louie said, "If you want to go back with me, you'll have to leave now."

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Greeters

March 18

Ed Jasnow

March 25

Julius Johnson

April 01

Sterling Louviere



Program Review

The Unknown Lineman ... Al Barry

Maybe it is because I was born with out the *sport spectator gene* or because I was thinking about Theo Clark's offer to subject the club to my banjo's dulcet tones for a program in April (which you will be glad I declined), but I found myself walking into my office after our Thursday Rotary meeting when I remembered that I was writing up this week's program! Jacque even touched base with me right before the lunch!! Here's to human fallibility and the best I can do from memory.

Fellow Rotarian (Pasadena) Al Barry

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.

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shared his experiences playing professional football with the Green Bay Packers and the New York Giants in the 1950s. Barry played football at USC and was drafted in the 30th round of the 1953 NFL draft by the Green Bay Packers. He played as an offensive lineman. Salaries were a little different in the 1950s from today — Barry's starting salary was \$5750 — a number he *negotiated up* a whole \$750 from the initial offer.

In spite of totally committing himself to the game, Green Bay's record was not good in the mid 50s. Fortunately, he was rewarded for his dedication by being traded to the New York Giants in 1958. By this time, the Giants had become a powerhouse in the league having won the



league title in 1956. The offensive coach

was Vince Lombardi. Tom Landry coached defense. From 1958 to 1963, the Giants would play in the NFL championship game five times. Barry played for New York in the 1958 Championship Game that many consider to be the event that captured the public's interest in football. It was a heart-breaking 23-17 loss in *sudden death* overtime to the Colts. The next year they gave up a 16-to-9 fourth quarter lead to again lose to the Colts in the championship 31-16.

Al's book, *The Unknown Lineman/The Lighter Side of the NFL* provides an insiders look to the early days of the modern NFL and the personalities like Frank Gifford, Pat Summerall and others that helped make football as American as apple pie.

Craig Cox ☺

March Programs

Program Chair, Paul Sirois

Mar 18 - Regina Bette - RYLA
 Mar 25 - Jeff Holder - Children's TV Programming

April Programs

Program Chair, Theo Clarke

Apr 01 - To be Announced*
 Apr 08 - Sheriff Steve McLean, new Captain at the Altadena Sheriff Station
 Apr 15 - To be Announced*
 Apr 22 - To be Announced*
 Apr 29 - Stephanie Bettman (country western violinist/singer) and her group
 *Marya Basaraba – soprano student performance will be on April 1, 22 or 29

Congratulations



Birthdays



03/13 - Regina Bette
 03/14 - Emily Aiken (Wilkes)
 3/15 - David Smith
 3/15 Trish Robinson
 3/24 - Ed Soza
 3/26 - Ed Guth
 3/31 - Anne Eskijian



Anniversaries



03/01 - Etta & Tom McCurry
 03/30 - Noriko Suzuki & Dennis Mehninger

Chairmen's Visitor Day coming

John Guerrini, Membership Chair



See
Pictures
from
Kapasa's
Runway
Show on
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Crew

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and he turned and walked out. And, as far as I know, he's never been back to a race track since, making him the only person I know who's still ahead at the track.

The four of us stayed through the rest of the card, lost all our money, and had to hitchhike back to campus. And, don't think the lesson of Louie Cabinet wasn't running through our minds the whole time. Unfortunately, it didn't take, since we still don't know when to walk away with our winnings. Just another lost lesson of my misspent youth.



Invite
your
Friends
to

join us as we
Honor the Students
of the
Junior ROTCs



At our next Visitor Day
Thursday, May 27, 2010



All we ask ...
Each One bring One

Theo's Lemon Roasted Chicken



OK, so it's not really Theo's Chicken — but it might as well be — because, at this last Thursday's lunch, I picked up a Meyer Lemon from his tree and couldn't help myself. I turned it into some really wonderful roasted chicken. *(To be sure, Theo didn't actually give it to me. He was already out of his lemons by the time I got to the meeting, but David Smith let me have a few. Thanks David!)*

So here's the recipe:

- ½ cup good quality olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon peppercorns
- 12 garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large sprig fresh rosemary
- Several dashes Tobasco Sauce
- 1 Meyer lemon, halved and juiced
- 2 pounds large carrots, unpeeled
- 1 whole chicken, cut into parts, skin on, bone in
- 1 good quality gin (for the martini that you will make half way through the baking time)
- 1 good quality Chardonnay (for the wine that you will drink when the chicken is done)

First things first:



Get out the Cuisinart and blend the first two ingredients.

Then add the next five ingredients and puree until smooth — almost a thin paste.



Wash the carrots, trim the ends and then lay out in a cas-



serole or baking dish. Spread the chicken

into a bowl and add the puree mixture.



Toss the chicken and the mixture, making sure to coat all surfaces well. Then place each piece of chicken on top of the carrots.



Cover with foil and bake at 350°F for one hour.

When the

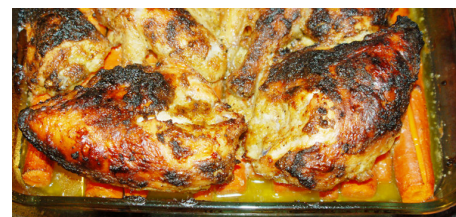
hour is up, the chicken will look like this:



But wait, now you must put it into the oven again — uncovered, at 350°F for 45

minutes.

When the 45 minutes is up, turn up the heat to 450°F (convection) for 10 minutes. Then pull out the dish. This is what it will look like.



Oh yeah. If there's ever a reason to eat chicken skin, this is it.

Let's talk wine. The 2007 Kesner Napa Valley Old Vines Chardonnay



never disappoints, though this particular bottle tasted as if it were ready to drink now and not one minute later. The citrus and pineapple and papaya showed on the nose, but the palate was only tropical fruits and a bit of pepper. The finish was total rust and rubber.

Very odd for a Chardonnay, but this is Kesner, and Jason Kesner (the winemaker and proprietor) makes his wines in a unique style. Long ago, we discovered Kesner by way of a wine blog and have been buying it ever since. He sells primarily to his mailing list. (And ... in case you were wondering, Theo is on the list!)



Until next time ...



Don Applegate's
Hilarious
HISTORY

A Backward Glance At ...
Eccentrics — PART I

A deep probing of history has continued to validate my long-held suspicion that, over the millennia, there has existed on this planet an incalculable quantity of ... **ordinary** people. Yeah ... it's true. Ah, but, even the most basic knowledge of the past emphatically confirms that there has also been an immense number of **extra-ordinary** folks — people who've risen above the status of garden-variety humans. And, we've heard of such **extraordinary** souls for the entirety of our lives. Yes, from Archimedes to Babe Zaharias, this roster of the remarkable is virtually endless. For reasons as varied as the times in which they lived, they stood out from the rest of humanity.

And yet ... because a person is declared to be **extraordinary** in **no way** automatically puts him or her up on the same pedestal alongside Pasteur, Mozart or Catherine the Great. In fact, **countless** men and women have been so declared because of certain things they achieved in life ... but hardly **set out** to attain. No, they garnered a sort of **reverse celebrity** due to their puzzling personalities and bizarre behaviors. And, since their characters were quirky and abounded with idiosyncrasies, they were given less than tasteful titles, like: **crackpot... oddball... weirdo...** and **looney**. Although, in polite society, they are referred to as ... **eccentrics**.

However, **eccentric** and **extraordinary** are by no means mutually exclusive

terms. And, truth be told, history is rife with folks famous, infamous, well-known, unknown, exceptional and everyday, who also happened to be eccentric. In this segment of **Hilarious History** we'll meet up with just a handful of such people and find (perhaps to our discomfort) that we're **all** at least a **bit** eccentric ourselves.

...

Leading this parade of those extraordinary/eccentric persons is a man you've possibly heard, but most certainly you've heard **of**. Rather than revealing his identity up front, however, you'll be given a few clues about his life, and from them be challenged to guess who he was. Most of all though, you'll be regaled with some **little-known** eccentricities of this **well-known** celebrity. And so, are you ready to start guessing? Okay then...here we go!

He was born in Naples, Italy, in a working class neighborhood, the 18th of 21 children in his family. From the outset his life was completely controlled by overblown superstitions, rituals and fears. When he should have been concerned about just being a kid, he instead had an unrelenting childhood dread that Mt. Vesuvius might erupt at any moment. That horrid fear was with him even as an adult when, at 33 in 1906, he visited San Francisco, only to arrive just before the monster earthquake struck. He vowed solemnly **never** to return to such a city where — as he put it — "... disorders such as that are permitted!"

He always received an astrologer's approval before crossing a large body of water — and, traveling was to be avoided on either Tuesday or Friday. Actually, he believed both days were wicked, especially the latter, on which day he would **not** wear a new suit. As a stage performer he was accustomed to frequent costume changes. But, he evidently felt that this must be done where he **resided** as well; because ... every time he entered his apartment, he made a complete change of the garments he was wearing at that moment.

This renowned singer's voice was his fame, fortune and future. Thus, he felt he must protect his throat, which he did by enacting the following: Chewing garlic...spraying his vocal chords with ether...and, of course the time-tested, ever-effective procedure of encircling his neck with strung-together, pickled anchovies. Curiously though, this understandable concern over maintaining a healthy throat and voice did not deter him from smoking four to five **dozen** cigarettes each **day**, an addiction that took his life at only 48 years of age.

Besides superstitions, phobias and the weird rites just described, this performer also had a strange obsession with the precise accounting of his spending habits. He meticulously recorded in small black books **every penny** he spent during each day that he lived. The result was hundreds upon hundreds of these tiny black ledgers detailing a lifetime of expenditures, left behind by him when he died in 1921. And finally, some reporters once asked him what his opinion was of Babe Ruth. Al-

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MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Last Week in the News

Consumer spending rose 0.5 percent to \$52.4 billion in January, slightly more than economists had anticipated. Personal income increased 0.1 percent to \$11.4 billion.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly index of manufacturing activity was 56.5 in February after reaching 58.4 in January. Nevertheless, it was the seventh straight month of expansion. *A reading above 50 signals expansion.*

The Commerce Department reported that total construction spending fell 0.6 percent in January after falling 1.2 percent in December. Economists had expected a decrease of 0.7 percent.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted index of mortgage applications for the week ending February 26 rose 14.6 percent to 629.9. Purchase volume increased 9 percent to 214.5. Refinancing applications jumped 17.2 percent to 3,054.3.

The monthly index of non-manufacturing activity rose to 53 in February from 50.5 in January. *A reading above 50 signals expansion.* Economists had anticipated a reading of 51. The reading was the highest since October 2007.

The National Association of Realtors reported that its pending home sales index, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, fell 7.6 percent in January after a revised 0.8 percent increase in December.

The Labor Department reported productivity rose at an annual rate of 6.9 percent in the fourth quarter. Labor costs fell at an annual rate of 5.9 percent.

Factory orders rose 1.7 percent in January, slightly below the 1.8 percent increase economists had anticipated. It was the fifth

straight gain and follows a 1 percent increase in December.

The unemployment rate held at 9.7 percent in February. Employers cut 36,000 jobs in February, far fewer than expected. The four-week average for continuing jobless claims fell 134,000 to 4.5 million.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on wholesale trade on March 10, international trade on March 11 and retail sales on March 12.

The Best Housing Markets of 2010

Some US housing markets have fared quite well regardless of the economic turmoil of recent years. These markets share a few things in common: modestly appreciating home prices, a high affordability rating, better-than-average economic activity and a low foreclosure rate.

RealtyTrac, an online marketplace of foreclosure listings, estimates that 4.5 million foreclosure filings are expected in 2010, up from 2.8 million in 2009. This weighs heavily on the housing market. Foreclosures supply an excess of inventory that destabilizes home prices. Louisville, Kentucky, is faring well partially because it has a 1.15 percent foreclosure rate, the lowest in the country, and about half the national average. Louisville — as opposed to some coastal cities and vacation destinations — never really encountered the boom, and so it's been less affected by the bust.

Midwestern cities such as Indianapolis, Minneapolis and St. Louis have among the best housing markets largely because they have some of the best housing affordability rates in the country. Indianapolis had the highest affordability with 96 percent of homes affordable to families making the median income.

According to Forbes, Pittsburgh, Penn-

sylvania, has the best housing market in the country for a host of reasons: the second lowest foreclosure rate, a housing affordability rate of 85 percent, home prices anticipated to increase 2.67 percent in 2010, and a diversified and comparatively robust economy. This stable economy is largely due to Pittsburgh transforming itself, over several decades, from a center of manufacturing to one of education and health care.

Stable economic activity is also boosting the real estate markets in Tacoma and Seattle, Washington. The housing market in Memphis has fared well and is expected to improve, largely because the city's largest employer, FedEx, will be one of the first industries to rebound in the economy recovery. ○

History

Continued from p. 5

ways the proper, affable gentleman, he answered that he quite honestly could not give a fair evaluation because — and unfortunately — he had "... never heard her sing."

So then...have you determined the identity of our **mystery eccentric**? Well, if you're thinking he's the operatic super-tenor Enrico Caruso, then you've scored a bull's-eye and ended this account on an appropriately high note! As well, it also brings a conclusion to this installment of **Hilarious History** in your *Sparks* newsletter. And guaranteed, there'll be more of these entries on **eccentrics** in weeks to come, since the past has provided us with an inexhaustible supply of goofy people, things and events. Hope you anticipate reading Part II as much as I will in writing it! See you in the past in the very near future! ○

Kapasa on the Runway

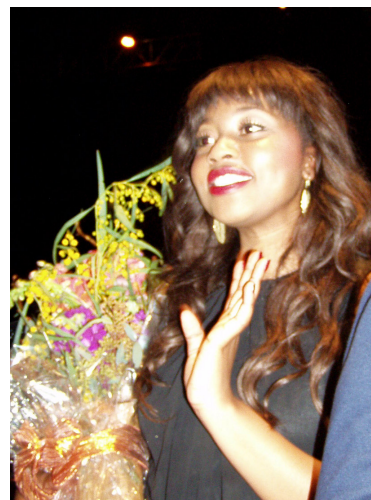
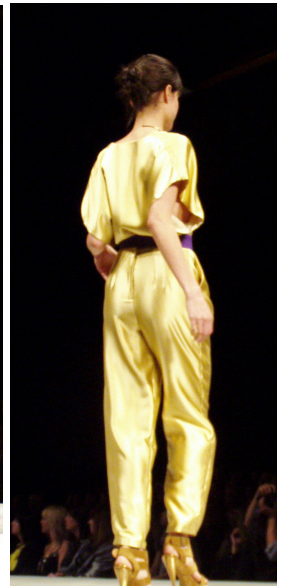
It was a pleasure to see Kapasa debut her third-year fashion collection the evening of Friday, March 12. I took my camera. They asked that we do no flash

photography. Therefore, I did the best I could without flash.

What you see here are the only photos worth sharing. Ray Carlson took

video, and FIDM took video of the whole program, so there will be more shared at a later date. Until then ...

Jacque Foreman 



Congratulations to Kapasa

Make the Pig *fly*

