

November 11, 2010

This Week

**PCC Veteran
 Scholarships
 And Visitor Day
 Guest Program
 Host: Craig Cox**

In accordance with our endowment from American Legion Post #470, we are proud to honor seven veterans who are attending PCC — Joshua Miller, USMC; Cameron White, USMC; Charles Hu, Navy; Ryan Mills, USMC; Jorge Zamora, USMC; Detrick Hudson, Navy; Felipe Sanchez, USMC. The scholars are picked by the PCC teaching staff. We will be awarding \$1500 scholarships to the best of the best.

By tradition, each recipient tells us a bit about his/her service and plans for the future. These scholarships are our way of thanking each for his/her service.

The other part of our November 11 meeting is the bringing of our guests to help us celebrate the service of our honorees and to demonstrate that Altadena Rotary is active in our community — that Community Service is important to us.

It is hoped that each of us will bring at least one visitor. The more of us who are there to honor the service men and women attending PCC, the more honor we show them. 



**Hayes
 Stack**
 by President Brian Hayes

Soldier On

In the last days of 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Among President Carter's responses to this aggressive act were to withdraw the United States from the 1980 Moscow Olympics and to reinstate registration for the military draft.

Since I was about to turn 18, I was among the first cohort of young men who would have to comply with this new regulation. I expected that it would only be a matter of time before the draft itself was reinstated, my number would be called, and I would soon be risking my life in a foreign field.

And I was terrified.

I'd grown up under the specter of Viet Nam, the first televised war. Images of stretcher-borne soldiers and flag-draped coffins I'd seen on the evening news would haunt my childhood dreams. Although I had re-enacted battle scenes with my *GI Joes*, war was not a game that I wanted to play.

The military and social costs of the USSR's Afghanistan adventure would eventually contribute to the collapse of their empire, so by the time that America troops were sent to that region, I would be too old to serve.

Yet I now wonder how my life might have been different if I had served in the

military.

Compulsory military service had a democratizing effect on the military and on society. Since the draft ended, the Armed Services have attracted largely those from a lower socio-economic status who have few other options. It seems these recruits are seeking to gain something — perhaps employable skills, escape from a hum-drum existence or GI benefits. It seems less common for men and women to join the military for the purpose of simply giving back to their country. It's a shame that someone like football star Pat Tillman, who gave up so much to risk (and lose) his life. Yet his tragic death is an inspiring example of sacrifice and purpose that reminds us of the value — and cost — of freedom.

Happy Veteran's Day. And to everyone in the Rotary family who has worn our country's uniform, I salute you! 

Greeters

November 11

Paul Sirois

November 18

Combo Meeting w/San Marino

November 25

Thanksgiving - Dark



Program Review

Exoplanets: An exciting new Area of Astronomy

One of the great aspects of having Hal Yorke as a member of Altadena Rotary is his access to fascinating individuals through his work at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Yorke is the speaker chair for the month of November 2010, and he did not disappoint us with his selection of the speaker for last week: Mark Swain.

Mark Swain is a scientist at JPL who is working on a new branch of astronomy dealing with the existence of *Exoplanets*.

An Exoplanet — also called a extrasolar planet — is a planet outside our Solar System. As of the presentation date on November 4, 2010, astronomers have announced the detection of 496 such planets, with hundreds more planet candidates waiting to be confirmed, pending more detailed investigations. Most exoplanets have been detected through radial velocity observations and other indirect methods rather than actual imaging. Most exoplanets are thought to be the size of Jupiter, i.e., significantly larger than earth. Massive exoplanets are easier to observe using current technology. Many scientists believe that exoplanets the size of earth are present and that these smaller planets will outnumber the larger ones. Most scientists state that a substantial number of stars have planetary systems, which means that there are literally billions of exoplanets in our galaxy.

The first confirmed detection of an exoplanet was in 1992, with the first con-



firmed detection of an exoplanet orbiting a main-sequence star was made in 1995. The 1995 discovery ushered in the modern exoplanetary detection. The frequency of detections has tended to increase on an annual basis since then. For example, of the 496 detected exoplanets made to date, over 80 were found in 2010.

Technological advances, most notably in high-resolution spectroscopy, have led to the great number of detections. This

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Congratulations




Birthdays

11/08 - Sterling Louviere
11/13 - Ed Jasnow
11/16 - Brent Gibson
11/26 - C. Ray Carlson




Anniversaries

11/01 - Jacque Foreman & Bruce Conroy
11/09 - Art & Betty Ferris
11/24 - Carlton & Julie Gustafson

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

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Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

Altadena Town & Country Club

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Dist 5300 Gov. Roger Schulte

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Tony Hill Administration

Craig Cox Foundation.

TBD Public Awareness

TBD Publicity

Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller Service Projects

Ed Jasnow Community

John Frykenberg International

Regina Bette Youth Contests/Awards

Tony Hill Vocational/Youth Projects

John Guerrini Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

Photography Jacque Foreman

November Programs

Rotary Foundation Month

Program Chair, Hal Yorke

November 11 - Scholarships to Veterans attending PCC - Visitor Day

November 18 - Meet the Rose Queen & court - Combo meeting with San Marino

November 25 - Thanksgiving - Dark

December Programs

Family Month

Program Chair, Susan Applegate

December 02 - Possibly Dark

December 04 - Saturday - Christmas Party

December 09 - To be Announced

December 16 - To be Announced

December 23 - To be Announced

December 30 - Dark

Chairmen's Too Much Knowledge Corner

by Ed Jasnow, Chair, Community Service



I'm not sure if it's a good thing or a bad thing, but because of my involvement with the schools, I'm on the list to get all sorts of communique

from the Pasadena Unified School District, including PUSD bulletins, news flashes, Board of Education meeting minutes, etc. The good part of that is seeing the positive news about the schools, such as higher test scores, individual students winning honors, acknowledgment of the quality of the schools by outside groups who present awards.

The bad part is watching the District struggle and thrash around trying to provide a quality education to its students with less and less money. Over the last two years, PUSD has seen a staggering reduction of nearly \$26,000,000 in its funding. This has had a crippling effect on the District's mission.

The latest effort by the District to recover some of these losses involves the closure of some schools. The original plan was to close four schools, including Burbank Elementary, move Norma Coombs School into Burbank's facilities, and move the District administration out of the building on Hudson Street and into the Norma Coombs facility. This would allow the District to either sell or lease the facility on Hudson, since that is considered prime real estate because of its proximity to the South Lake shopping district.

This remarkable plan was hatched by a committee of concerned citizens and staffers, who ignored a lot of outside data, and presented it to Superintendent Diaz, who gets the opportunity to review it and decide what, if any of it, should be presented to the Board for implementation.

Subsequent to the submission of that plan, the District found another \$4,000,000 in their budget, which reduced the number of schools to be closed from four to two, with one of the two still being Burbank Elementary, and the rest of the plan still intact.

It is clear that an environment of desperation is not the ideal one for coming up with a rational plan. The idea of closing a high-performing school like Burbank that serves its immediate neighborhood makes no sense whatsoever. And the thought of closing it so the PUSD administration can get new offices with sufficient parking makes it even worse.

Program

Continued from p.2

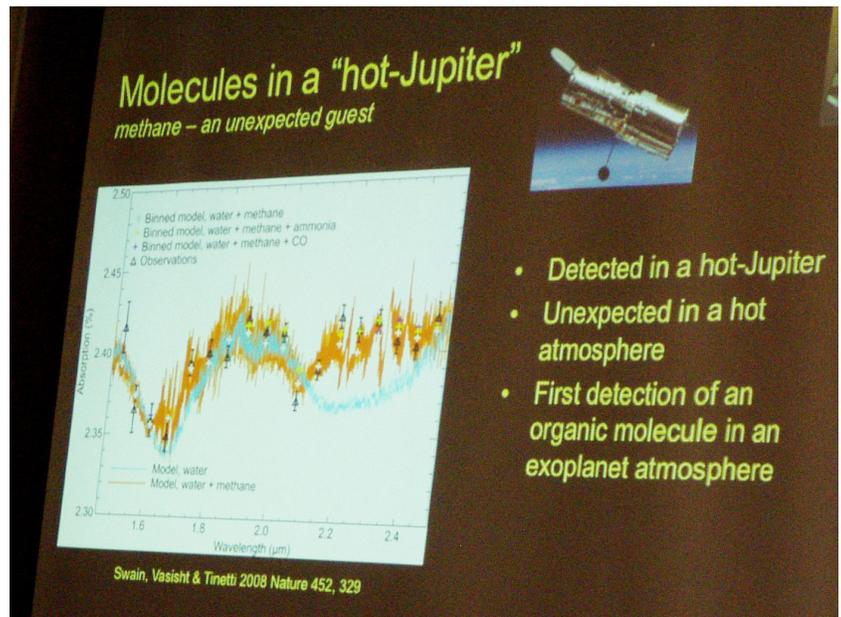
technology allows astronomers to detect new planets indirectly by measuring the gravitational influence of the motion of their parent stars. Additional exoplanets were detected by observing the

variation of a star's luminosity as an orbiting planet passed in front of it. For example, if a planet crosses in front of its parent star, then the observed brightness of the star drops by a small amount. The amount of the drop in the light of the star

The problem is that members of the closure committee clearly had individual axes to grind, making sure that their particular school was not on the closure list. I guess Burbank wasn't adequately represented.

In the final analysis, it probably won't matter. The closures won't take effect until the 2011-12 school year, and by then, some group will probably file suit to get an injunction against whatever plan is adopted. The sad part is that the District has to go through this in the first place. The other sad part is that I have to see it firsthand because I get all those damn bulletins, news flashes, etc.

depends on the size of the star and the size of the planet.



We are so blessed to have scientists in our own backyard of Altadena who are on the cutting edge of astronomy and other disciplines. Their presentations at Rotary are fascinating and insightful.

Boyd Hudson

Quick & Easy Prosciutto and San Marzano Sauce



Anyone can make this in 20 minutes tops. Grab your favorite pasta and start the water. Because when the pasta is ready, so will the sauce be ready. **Ready. Set. Go.**

While the water is heating, get out the Cuisinart. Fill it with six cloves of garlic and about a ¼ cup of olive oil.



Emulsify.

Transfer to a saute pan and crank up the heat.

Add a half teaspoonful of crushed black



pepper and a dash each of oregano, basil, rosemary and thyme.



Heat for a minute or so, stirring or shaking constantly, until the garlic just begins to turn brown.

Add three or four ounces of prosciutto,



sliced or diced.

While the prosciutto is cooking, open up two cans of San Marzano tomatoes:



Move fast! The prosciutto takes about 45 seconds to cook. Don't fry it until it's crisp. There will be no flavor left.



Add the tomatoes.

Note - you don't need to use crushed tomatoes. You can use the whole variety and smash them in your hands. It doesn't really matter because you are going to puree them very soon.



Every kitchen should have a decent immersion blender.

About this time, the water will be ready for your pasta. So get moving on that!

Now after the sauce has heated up, use the immersion blender to emulsify it. It's ok to leave it a bit chunky, but John and Nick like this sauce to be silky smooth.

Boil for about 10 minutes and you get this.

Drain your pasta and toss with the sauce.

Top with freshly grated Parmesan:



Ok, seriously, isn't a great meal worth 20 minutes of time? The only other question is what wine will you pair with this awesome dish? Until next time ... ☺





MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Last Week in the News

Existing home sales rose 10 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.53 million units from a revised 4.12 million units in August. The inventory of unsold homes on the market declined 1.9 percent to 4.04 million, a 10.7-month supply at the current sales pace, down from a 12-month supply in August.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a seasonally adjusted basis — fell 0.3 percent in August after a 0.2 percent decrease in July. On a year-over-year basis, prices rose 1.7 percent compared with August 2009.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending October 22 rose 3.2 percent. Refinancing applications increased 3 percent. Purchase volume rose 3.9 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — rose 3.3 percent in September after decreasing a revised 1 percent in August. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, orders posted a monthly decrease of 0.8 percent.

New home sales rose 6.6 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 307,000 units from a rate of 288,000 units in August. Economists had expected a pace of 300,000 units.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the US — increased at an annual rate of 2 percent in the third quarter of 2010.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 21,000 to 434,000 for the week ending October 23. Continuing claims for the week ending October 16 fell by 122,000 to 4.35 million, the lowest level

since the recovery began.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on construction spending on November 1, factory orders on November 3 and pending home sales on November 5.

What Are Discount Points?

Discount points are fees paid to a lender in order to purchase a lower interest rate. This process is also known as a *rate buydown* and the net result is a lower monthly mortgage payment over the life of the loan.

One point is 1 percent of the loan amount. So the cost — paid at closing — for one point on a loan of \$100,000 is \$1,000. Typically, one point will lower the interest rate .25 percent to .375 percent, depending on the type of loan.

Does it make sense for your clients to consider purchasing discount points? That depends on a number of factors. Usually, it is best to avoid discount points if a client will be in the home less than four years, is applying for an adjustable rate mortgage or plans to refinance within a few years. Discount points are generally a good idea if the homebuyer plans to remain in the home over five years and is not planning on refinancing in the near future.

When considering discount points, it's best to conduct a break-even analysis. This is done by calculating the monthly mortgage payment with no points, then subtracting the monthly mortgage payment with points. The difference is the monthly savings. Then divide the cost of the discount points by the savings. The result is the number of months until the homebuyer breaks even.

Discount points for residential property are tax deductible in the year they are paid. Discount points are available when refinancing, but those are deductible over

the life of the loan. It's best to advise clients to consult with a tax advisor regarding the details of these deductions.

Find Linda Wilkes online: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>



You're Invited
to our
Christmas Party

Saturday, December 04
Cocktails: 5:30p
Dinner: 6:30p

Mike Noll's Home
279 E. Grandview
Sierra Madre 91024

Silent Auction
Chaired by Sterling Louviere

\$55 per person
All proceeds go to
Our Nigeria Project

FIRST EVER ROTARY WINE PAIRING DINNER

Friday, November 19, 2010
Guerrini Residence - 1701 Pepper Drive Altadena

Pane Bianco

(Roasted Crusty Pugliese Bread
Rubbed with Roasted Garlic, Olive Oil, and Sea Salt)

Antipasti Freddi

(Roasted Red Peppers, Roasted Mushrooms, Fresh Mozzarella,
Prosciutto di Parma, Parmigiano, Romano, and Pepperoncini)
Paired with Pio Cesare Barbera d'Alba 2007

Pappardelle e Emulsione di Aglio e Cipolla, Pomodoro Arrosto
(Pappardelle Pasta and Roasted Tomato, Garlic & Onion Sauce)
Paired with Casanova di Neri "Tenuta Nuova"
Brunello di Montalcino 2003

Polpette di Carne e Salsa di Pomodoro
(Beef, Pork and Veal Meatballs
in Chunky San Marzano Tomato Sauce)

*Paired with (1) Lancaster Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander
Valley 2005 & (2) Truchard Cabernet Sauvignon Carneros 2003*

Spumone e Frutti di Bosco Freschi
(Spumone and Fresh Seasonal Berries)
Paired with Fonseca Port Bin. No 27 (nv)

Coffee Service