

February 17, 2011

This Week

**Egypt: Free at Last,
 or ... ?**

**Dr. Hisham Kamel,
 International
 Director, Arabic
 Communications
 Center**

**Guest Host:
 C. Ray Carlson**

With the exciting news of Egypt's freedom from rule by President Hosni Mubarak, we have witnessed the spectacle of a revolution led mainly by New Generation youth 30 and under, and even sparked through Facebook!

Kamel, an Egyptian-American, makes trips each year back *home* and knows quite well the problems that the country faces, especially the 9-million Christians there.

He founded the Arabic Communications Center 20 years ago after receiving his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. The ACC produces TV programs and publishes books in Arabic for global dissemination. A new, fully equipped TV studio was recently completed in the Arcadia Presbyterian Church. Last year he was the coordinating director for a conference in Tokyo that drew 2000 attendees.

Here's your opportunity to hear the latest on what is evolving in Egypt and to ask questions. Bring a friend and potential Rotarian. 



Hayes Stack

by President Brian Hayes

Yearning to be Free

The world is breathlessly watching events on the streets of Egypt unfold. In only a few weeks, a popular uprising that no one thought possible has put the 30-year rule of President Hosni Mubarak on the brink of collapse. It seems that a peaceful transition of power is as likely an outcome as a bloody civil war. As I am writing this, I realize that the situation could rapidly change, making my reflections obsolete.

Many commentators have credited social media for fomenting this uprising. It is apparent that Facebook, Twitter and other internet sites have been valuable tools for organizing the protest strategies, but it seems that something even more basic has been taking place. It is a crack in the Egyptian leadership's oppressive armor that unlocked a long-dormant hope that has been quietly residing in the hearts of many Egyptian people ... especially the young adults.

It brings to mind the words of our Country's Founding Fathers: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Our early leaders recognized that human beings yearn to be free to speak, worship, grow, socialize and create. By

self-evident they meant this state of freedom was an immutable fact, a part of the human condition. Political and military leaders ignore this at their peril.

It seems that every oppressive regime eventually has its downfall. I grew up fearing the Soviet Union and never imagined that it would collapse in my lifetime. The Third Reich rose and fell in a generation. China learned that their human rights abuses could not hold up to global scrutiny and have opened up their economy to their brand of capitalism to counter political unrest. I predict that Cuba will gain greater openness upon the inevitable death of Castro.

Egypt's revolution was inspired by events in Tunisia in which the desperation of a single, hopeless man who set himself on fire sparked a firestorm. It only takes one spark to light the fires of freedom, and, once lit, those flames are hard to extinguish. 

Greeters

February 17
Roger Fennell

February 24
Freddy Figueroa

March 03
Jacque Foreman



Program Review

Speaking from the Heart

Our phantom member, Kevin Moore, appeared once again to host the Four-Way Test, Club level speech contest, and, as usual, he did an outstanding job, setting it up: the program and performing *master of ceremonies* duties. The four young high school students who had the intestinal fortitude to stand up in



front of a group of strangers to make their speeches, were exceptional.

We first heard from Trevor Alderson, a grade 12 student at Blair High School in Pasadena. In addition to speech, Trevor's interests are politics, music, debate, literature and history. Trevor's speech topic was **forgiveness**. He covered this topic, not from his own perspective, admitting he was still growing and learning, but from the perspective of two individuals in the Middle East, Robbie and Ali. Robbie was an Israeli mother and Ali a Palestinian father. Both had lost sons at the hands of the other side. However, instead of letting this tragedy fuel their hatred for the other side, they forgave those responsible for the loss of his and her respective son and formed a group emphasizing peaceful solutions to the conflict: *The Bereaved Family Forum*. Alderson summed up by quoting Gandhi, who preached conquering the enemy



with love.

Next up was Veronica Avorne. Veronica is a sophomore at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena. Veronica enjoys reading, public speaking and playing the flute and piano. Avorne's topic was how Rotary programs are positively impacting the world by building communities and bridging continents. She gave as one example a group of Rotarians who traveled on Rotary's behalf to four countries in East Africa, preaching peace and charity to all and particularly focusing in on issues related to women and children, the most at risk ... one of the motivations being to help these very poor people find alternatives to violence. Avorne also spoke of how Rotarians helped out after the tsunami in Indonesia, providing food, clothing, shelter and funds to purchase necessities. She talked about how Rotary fos-

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949
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 2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA
 626-794-7163
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 Dist 5300 Gov. Roger Schulte

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 Tony Hill Vocational/Youth Projects
 John Guerrini Membership
 Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
 Photography Jacque Foreman

February Programs

World Understanding Month

Program Chair, John Frykenberg
 February 24 - Dan Stover Competition -
 Theo Clarke, Guest Host

March Programs

Literacy Month

Program Chair, Paul Sirois
 March 03 - To be Announced
 March 10 - To be Announced
 March 17 - To be Announced
 March 24 - To be Announced
 March 31 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



01-03 - Betty Ferris
 01-09 - Gloria Hayes
 01-14 - Bill Reeder
 01-27 - Ann Rider (Hill)
 01-27 - Barbara Yorke



Anniversaries

01-03 - Jim & Karen Gorton
 01-04 - Mike & Carol Zoeller
 01-22 - John & Joan Frykenberg

Chairmen's An Overview of Youth Contests Corner and Awards

by Regina Bette, One of our Youth Chairmen



We have earned our title as *The Mightiest Club of the Foothills*. For a small club, we do amazing things ... especially in the area of Youth Contests and Awards. This year we have already had the 4-Way Speech Contest, and, in two weeks, will have the Dan Stover Contest at our regular club meetings. Ray Carlson is preparing for the annual Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurial Awards. As Ray announced, this award is being expanded beyond our own club to District Level this year.

This is a testament to Merrill's inspiring

work in this area; but even more to Carlson's on-going commitment to fighting poverty through the creation of jobs. I know that many of the business plans that have been presented to our club in the past do not result in new businesses — At least not yet. The seeds of this program often do not flourish until much later, but I am sure they do flourish and produce new jobs.

Our club also has the unique opportunity to support awards through Altadena Rotary Charities. A number of these awards support Americanism due to our relationship with the American Legion that provided the seed money for this founda-

tion. These are cash awards to the Junior ROTC for Blair, Pasadena and Muir High Schools and the Pasadena City College (PCC) Veterans Awards. In addition to these awards we also give cash awards to PCC for Vocational students, John Muir High School Seniors for academic excellence and to Elliot Junior High School Eighth Grade students for academic excellence.

Our *Mighty* club makes a huge difference to all the recipients of these awards and give the winners of our contests a chance to compete at the district level for significant cash prizes. This is a club to be proud of being a part of. ☺

Program

Continued from p.2

ters educational programs and communications, pivotal to international understanding and tolerance.

The third speaker was Nancy Mendoza, also a sophomore. Mendoza attends Blair High School and enjoys dancing, acting, modeling and appreciates the importance of leaving time to spend with her family. She spoke of the importance of the separation of church and state as provided in our Constitution. The provision avoids having religion as a barrier. It protects us from discrimination on the basis of religion. She pointed out that it is not an absolute as Congress starts its sessions with a prayer, references to God in the Pledge of Allegiance and some public schools use the Bible as a text book. Mendozé pointed out



that we would be far worse off but for this provision, and the founding fathers realized this when they incorporated it into our Constitution.

Last, but by no means least, was Michelle Ko. Ko is a 9th grade student at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena. She enjoys math and English as well as dance and playing flute and piano. She introduced her topic by saying that man has spent 200 years conquering nature and is now beating it to death. She said we are now realizing the reality of environmental degradation. Throughout the world, we are now finally working together to find a solution to saving the planet. Ko quoted Marshall McLuhan who said, "there are no passengers on spaceship earth, we are all



the crew." In spite of differences in our genus and phylum, we must speak for those who cannot: the birds, animals and insects, she said. Citing two other famous quotes Michelle said that "we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children," and "all it takes is all you've got." Ko believes that education is the key to turning the damaged planet around, and she is certainly a wonderful example of how thoughtful and articulate a well educated child can be at a very young age.

The winner — which had to be a very difficult choice for the judges as all four students were so talented — was Trevor Alderson. He will now go on to compete in at the group level, which will take place at Pasadena Rotary on March 2. If he wins there, he would go on to the Regional level and finally, if he continues to win, he would go to the District competition where the winner receives a \$5,000 first prize. Good luck Trevor. Tony Hill ☺



MONEY MATTERS

by Linda Wilkes

Last Week in the News

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 42,000 to 415,000 for the week ending January 29. Continuing claims for the week ending January 22 fell by 84,000 to 3.9 million.

The unemployment rate fell to 9 percent in January from 9.4 percent in December.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending January 28 rose 11.3 percent. Refinancing applications increased 11.7 percent. Purchase volume rose 9.5 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of manufacturing activity rose to 60.8

in January after reaching a revised 58.5 in December. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 18th straight month of expansion and the highest reading since May 2004.

Factory orders rose 0.2 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted \$426.8 billion, following a revised 1.3 percent increase in November. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, orders rose 1.7 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that the monthly composite index of non-manufacturing activity rose to 59.4 in January from 57.1 in December. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 13th straight month of expansion in the services sector and the fastest pace

since August 2005.

Total construction spending fell 2.5 percent to \$787.9 billion in December, following a 0.4 percent increase in November. Economists had anticipated an increase of 0.2 percent in December.

Retail sales fell 1 percent for the week ending January 29, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 1.6 percent

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on consumer credit on February 7, wholesale trade on February 10 and consumer sentiment on February 11.

To find Linda Wilkes on the web, go to: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5300

16th Annual Peace Conference

"ACHIEVING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN: Challenges and Opportunities"



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The Honorable **Zalmay Khalilzad**, Former United States Ambassador to Afghanistan and the United Nations

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011, 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Rotarians and Rotary Peace Scholars will join the slate of speakers sharing their experiences in Afghanistan

Mudd Theater, Claremont School of Theology
1325 N. College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711
(on Foothill Blvd., just east of Indian Hill Blvd.)



The Honorable **Lee Baca**, Los Angeles County Sheriff, "Peacemaker of the Year" Award Recipient



The Honorable **Abdullah Aimaque**, Consul General of Afghanistan in Los Angeles



Ms. Sonia Nassery Cole, Filmmaker and Philanthropist; Founder and Chairwoman of Afghanistan World Foundation



Ms. Pamela Broussard, Rotary World Peace Fellow (currently working in Afghanistan)



Mr. Sadiq Tawfiq, Afghan AMITY Society; Founder and First President of the Rotary Club of Herat, Afghanistan



Dr. Art Mendoza, Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle



Rotary's Humanitarian Projects in Afghanistan - - Powerpoint Presentation Prepared by **Ms. Fary Moini**, Rotary International Representative to the United Nations and **Mr. Steve Brown**, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation



Rotary International District 5300 Governor: **Mr. Roger Schulte**



Peace Conference Chair: **Dr. Carbis Der-Yeghian**, Past District Governor

ADMISSION:

\$20.00 per person (if registered before March 1, 2011)

\$30.00 per person (if registered after March 1, 2011, or at the door).

Students: \$5.00

For online registration: www.district5300.org (only Visa /MC accepted).

Make your check payable to: Rotary International District 5300 and mail to: 5812 Temple City Boulevard, #801 Temple City, CA 91750-2112. For further information: (818) 523-3353 E-mail: mashdots@aol.com