

This Week Tamir Yardenne Film Internship Program for Students at Muir High School Program Host: Sterling Louviere

Tamirfilms is a local, independent film company of compassionate filmmakers, volunteers, and friends dedicated to creating a platform to improve the mental and spiritual well-being of others around the globe. Tisha Marina, MA (Anti-Bully Specialist) and Tamir Yardenne are working with the students at John Muir High School on an anti-bully campaign, to help put an end to teen suicide.

The launch of *Silencio begins* with its Student Leadership Forum that seeks to immerse young students in an intense 8-week course in film production. The course connects local youth with experienced professionals in the entertainment industry and provides young filmmakers with an opportunity to receive practical, hands-on experience. Interns will be a vital part of the project and assist in the film's production.



View from the Hill

by President
Tony Hill

In Memory of Art Ferris

I was saddened to hear last Thursday that Art Ferris had passed away that morning. Art was a long time member of our Altadena Rotary Club, and I knew him well. Art was truly a *gentle* man. He was always calm, friendly and generous with his time. He was a pleasure to sit with at our weekly meetings because he would keep the conversation going with lots to say about lots of things, but always in a light, good natured way. On a personal level, he would remember that my father-in-law lived in Connecticut and was a Rotarian there, and that he was the one who had introduced me to Altadena Rotary while he was doing a make-up during one of his visits. So when I would sit at his table he would invariably ask "(H)ow is Ann's father doing" or "how is your family in Connecticut."

I also remember very well how proud he was of his own family — of his wife Betty, of his 10 kids, and of his countless grandkids, who seemed to just keep coming. It seemed like once a month Art would stand up and volunteer to make a contribution to the Club because one of his children had given birth to yet another grand-

child — and he was clearly so proud and pleased by the event. At times when there was extra time on the schedule, another indirect approach Art would use to make a contribution to the Club would be to offer to tell a joke. He seemed to have an endless supply. Sometimes they were corny and inevitably someone would say "that's going to cost you Art" and he would make his contribution, which I think was his real intent all the time.

Art was not only Past-President of our Rotary Club of Altadena, but he was one of the few Altadena Rotarians chosen to be District Governor for our District 5300. He was a long-time member of our Club, joining in 1953, just 4 years after our Club had been chartered. He continued to at-

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Greeters

March 08
Boyd Hudson
March 15
Ed Jasnow
March 22
Julius Johnson



Program Review

Student Speakers Shine in 4-Way Test Speech Contest Club-Level Competition

One of the highlights of the Rotary year is the Four-Way Test Speech competition. Every year, students from local high schools prepare and give speeches on some aspect of Rotary and the FourWay Test. This year the speech topic was "Reaching Within to Embrace Humanity" which just happens to be the theme established for the Rotary 2011-2012 by International Rotary President Kalyan Bannerjee.

Jessica Liu — a senior at Maranatha

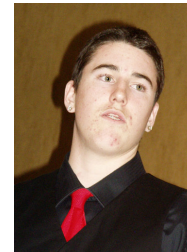
— spoke of using liberation theology to support the struggling people of in Third-World countries. Oppression and subrogation of poor and disadvantaged people is totally unethical and unfair. It completely dehumanizes them and leads to devastating suffering. By adopting some of the principles of liberation theology, people in Third-World countries can find hope and opportunity where none currently exists.



Kelly Nathan — a freshman at Maranatha — spoke of the current obesity crisis in young American children. Young people are not as physically active as in the past and, as a consequence, they are less fit. However youth sports programs are available to fill the need for increased physical activity. Programs such as Little League and AYSO Soccer do so much for the kids. Team



sports such as baseball and soccer embody all facets of the Four-Way Test: Fairness, builds goodwill and friendships, and beneficial to all concerned. Team sports build friendships, social and leadership skills.



Brandan Pomeroy, a junior at Maranatha, spoke about his childhood and the difficulties he faced early in life. Brandan's mother had

many emotional and behavioral problems which led to drug addiction and incarceration. Brendan found hope and guidance at the local Boys Club. He spoke of his admiration for Derrick Rose, a guard for the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team. Rose grew up in a bad area in Chicago with a single mom. He eventually ran into trouble with gangs. His salvation came through this involvement with a Boys & Girls Club. Rose has had a brilliant career with the Bulls and was named the *Most Valuable Player* of the NBA last year.

The final speaker was Jay Mahabel, a senior at Blair High School. He spoke of the polarization of the politics in the country today. The rise of the Tea Party and

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

Altadena Town & Country Club

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Directors

Jim Gorton • Craig Cox • Julius Johnson

Sterling Louviere • Brian Hayes

Linda Wilkes • David Smith

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Julius Johnson Administration

Craig Cox Foundation

Jacque Foreman Public Awareness

Jacque Foreman Acting Publicity

Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller Club Projects

Ed Jasnow Community

John Frykenberg International

Gordon Seyffert ... Youth Contests/Awards

Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects

Craig Cox Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

Photography Jacque Foreman

March Programs

Literacy Month

Program Chair, Sterling Louviere

Mar 08 -Tamir Yardenne- Film Internship

Program for Students at Muir High School

Mar 15 - Craig Cox, Altadena Rotary Charities

Mar 22 - Bill May, CPA - Project Cuddle

Mar 29 - To be Announced

April Programs

Magazine Month

Apr 05 - Craft Talk, Sammy Kayali

Apr 12 - Singer/Students of Maraya Basaraba

Apr 19 - Young and Healthy

Apr 26 - Altadena Historical Society

Congratulations



Birthdays



03/14 - Emily Aiken (Wilkes)

03/15 - David P. Smith

03/24 - Ed Soza



Anniversaries



03/01 - Tom & Etta McCurry

03/30 - Dennis & Noriko Suzuki Mehringer

Chairmen's Corner How do We let Them know what We Do?

by Jacque Foreman, Public Awareness Chair



I guess the old adage is true: *If we don't tell them, they won't know.*

Of course, we must decide at some point that we want the community of Altadena to know what we are doing and that we no longer want to hide our candle under a bushel basket. To set this in motion, I asked Brian Hayes to give me his contacts for sending press releases. I've gone through them and updated a few. Most are still viable as far as I can tell.

Time was — several years ago — when I sent out press releases with some suc-

cess in getting Altadena Rotary publicized.

This past week I sent out my first press release in several years. We'll have to wait and see if anyone picks it up.

To get Altadena Rotary publicized, we need to send out press releases before and after events. I can't do this by myself. I need your help.

1. If you are the person in charge of an event, let me know. And, please remember I don't know everything about everything.
2. As the person in charge, I am depending on you for the information I will be dispensing. Pictures help, so give me facts, a preliminary write-up and a picture or two when you can. ○

Rumors Abound: Ray Carlson to be Named Peacemaker of the Year

It's rumored that Ray Carlson will be named *Peacemaker of the Year* at this year's — 17th Annual — District 5300 Peace Conference:

Saturday March 24, 2012

9:30a - 2:30p

Victorvalley College, Victorville

A flyer for the Peace Conference is included on p. 6 of this issue. In addition, Carlson will host a breakout session. Can you guess the topic?

The organizers of this event would greatly appreciate a fairly large turnout from the Altadena Club. It's a fair distance, so carpooling might be in order. Admission is \$20 and includes a box lunch. ○

Program

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the Occupy movement are evidence of the vast divide in the political arena. The next President must find a way to unite the country around common ideals. The candidates for President would be well advised to adopt the tenets of the Rotary Four-Way Test. The candidates should attempt to appeal to all segments of the population. Our elected officials and representatives should strive to *reach across the aisle* to find consensus and solutions to the pressing issues of the day.

All of the contestants made excellent presentations and the judging was thoughtful and deliberate. Jay Mahabel was found to be the winner of the competition, with Brandan Pomeroy as the runner up. They will continue in the Regional competition later in the month.

Boyd Hudson ○



View

Continued from p.1

tend our meetings until his health started to deteriorate several years ago. I did not know Art in his heyday at Rotary, but I did see him as an elder statesman of our Altadena Rotary Club. I know many of our newer members never had the pleasure of meeting Art. To me he was a great Rotarian role model. He loved Rotary. As age was limiting his participation in many of our hands on activities, he would often still show up and lend his support. He would offer ideas to help the community that had worked in the past. And he was very generous with his time and money in contributing to Rotary causes.

Art had been the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Republic Savings and Loan in Altadena. That was the bank building that sat on the east side of Lake just south of Ralphs. It was a very friendly little bank, where I did my banking when Ann and I first moved to Altadena. Since then and since Art retired, the bank building has been torn down and now it is just an empty

lot waiting for a new developer.

Most of us fortunately have not had to experience the actual combat of war. Art did, but it was not something he would readily talk about, except when he was asked to say a few words to our members around Memorial Day or the Fourth of July. He would tell a story about seeing the American flag on the battle field. Tears would well up in his eyes, his voice would falter. The emotion of the memory would almost overcome him, but then he would compose himself and finish by telling us how important it was to him to realize what our flag represented and how it symbolized what he was fighting for.

For those of you who never had the good fortune to know Art, please know that he was a wonderful, kind, public spirited man who was the personification of what Rotary is all about. He participated in Rotary to give back to his community and having a lot of fun in the process. He is missed. ○

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

I Get It . . .

It all started when I was an infant. My pediatrician had charts for projecting height, based upon current length, growth rates, and — possibly — tea leaves. It predicted I would top out at seven feet, more or less. Of course, I didn't turn out to be the monster that every indication had said would be the case. I'm a little over 6' 6" — or as I like to tell people on certain occasions, *almost two meters!* And, as I delighted in reaching that height, I was pretty well proportioned in contrast to other large young men.

But there was a monster inside me. And it was my heart — or at least a part of it. That monster first showed itself fifty years ago last month. It was February 1962. I was in my first year at the military academy, and had come into the infirmary for flu complaints when the doctors noticed something odd in listening to my chest. I had a heart murmur.

Some authorities now say that mitral valve problems can spring up easily in persons of my body type. At the time, though, there was much mystery attached. I remember being admitted for observation. Suddenly, instead of being like any other plebe, I was to relax, not attempt anything strenuous. I was sent to see a heart specialist some miles away. That required special transportation and a total break from plebe life. The doc thought the mitral problem might have developed out of undiagnosed rheumatic fever.

It's funny how, when life put one on the sidelines in those days, it usually involved spending a lot of time listening to the radio. For me, that was WLS-AM in Chicago, which had a huge signal. *Johnny Angel*

was the song that was then getting the most play, and it's pretty much burned into my brain although I didn't care for it. John Glenn went up in *Friendship 7* on February 20 as the first to orbit the earth. Optimism was everywhere, as we had clearly won the space race. Later that year The Tornados released a song called *Telstar* that made it to the top of the charts....

In 1966, I went for my draft physical. Clearly, at my height and a weight of only 155, and with very thin chest walls on top of that, my murmur stood out as plain as day even while standing. "1-A or 4-F?" the doctor on the line offered. Having taken a kind of test drive of military life and knowing that I didn't fit in, it was not a hard choice to make. Three years later I was first hired and then un-hired by McDonnell Aircraft when a physical revealed the same issue and low insurance rates were a priority for them.

By my Thirties I thought I might be outlasting the monster. My doctors indicated that it had seemed to fade. Probably, in retrospect, I had just added enough weight to mask the strength of the murmur's sound. Still, I was hopeful. I now had a family, and with dependents came a natural tendency to place their issues first.

When I turned 50 or so, I noticed I didn't have the stamina for work that others seemed to have. I went looking for quick solutions. I began taking dietary supplements and became a vegetarian. At some point I noticed that I was short of breath, and that I'd get woozy just in painting a ceiling. The docs now said I had developed *atrial fib*, and put me on blood thin-

ner without so much as explaining the results of my stress test or asking my permission. I was livid. And scared. Soon, I ceased taking the blood thinner and resolved to live my remaining years as well and as fully as I could. But without surrendering my individuality for a patient number. And I felt like a fool for taking those supplements, as clearly that was all that had changed and was the cause of my newest problem.

Somehow, somehow, I managed to get to where I am without heart attack, stroke (even a TIA), or other expected outcome. Which brings me to revisionary history. Tipped off by my cardiologist, I now saw those supplements as — to use his words — "the straw that broke the camel's back." My heart had been slowly fading in its abilities, even as it compensated manfully as best it could to keep me going. Even my workday vulnerability — to coin a phrase — could be explained by what had been developing over time. Like the proverbial frog boiling in the kettle, it had all happened so slowly that I never noticed.

My latest episode involved a dance with heart failure. Preparing for surgery, I lost twenty pounds in three days solely through sloughing off water weight as urine. Then they discovered that I had blockage in one carotid artery of 80-99 percent, which is the tipping point for those who have not suffered heart or brain *incidents*. My mother had severe blockage in both carotids, so this was not totally surprising. Again, my heart had slogged on through thick and thin, doing the best it could. And to think that I'd believed I

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MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update Last Week in the News

Existing home sales rose 4.3 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.57 million units from a downwardly revised 4.38 million units in December. The inventory of unsold homes on the market decreased to 2.31 million, a 6.1-month supply at the current sales pace, down from a 6.4-month supply in December.

Retail sales rose 3 percent for the week ending February 18, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 3.2 percent.

New home sales fell 0.9 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 321,000 units from an upwardly revised rate of 324,000 units in December. The initial December reading was 307,000. The November rate was also revised higher to 318,000 units. At the current sales pace, there's a 5.6-month supply of new homes on the market, the lowest reading in six years.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending February 17 fell 4.5 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 4.8 percent. Purchase volume fell 2.9 percent.

Industrial production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities was unchanged in January after advancing an upwardly revised 1 percent in December. Compared to a year ago, industrial production is up 3.4 percent. Capacity utilization fell slightly to 78.5 percent in January from 78.6 percent in December.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending February 18 were unchanged at 351,000. Continuing claims for the week ending February 11

fell by 52,000 to 3.392 million, the lowest level since August 2008.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on pending home sales on February 27, the housing price index on February 28 and construction spending on March 1.

Industry Insider HARP Changes are Coming This Spring

The Federal Housing Finance Agency recently announced changes to the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) that will allow more borrowers to refinance and take advantage of historically low mortgage rates.

These changes to HARP (often referred to as HARP 2.0) are set to rollout this spring. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are currently updating their automated loan underwriting software. This is due to be completed in March 2012.

Some enhancements to HARP include:

- Removing the 125 percent loan-to-value (LTV) ceiling on fixed-rate mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac when the automated underwriting software is updated eliminates the need for a new property appraisal. Depending on occupancy type, Prospect's current LTV ceiling is between 105 percent and 125 percent with any HARP 2.0 LTV limitations forthcoming.

- Eliminating certain risk-based fees for borrowers who refinance into shorter-term mortgages.

- Extending the end date for HARP until on or before December 31, 2013.

HARP borrowers must meet the following criteria:

1. ..The mortgage must have been owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac on or before May 31, 2009.

- 2.The mortgage cannot have been re-

financed under HARP previously unless it's a Fannie Mae loan that was refinanced under HARP from March 2009 to May 2009.

3.The current LTV ratio must be greater than 80%.

- 4.Borrowers must be current on their mortgage payments with no late payment in the previous 12 months to 24 months, depending on the LTV.

Owner-occupied, secondary residences and investment properties may be considered for HARP refinancing. There are many HARP refinancing scenarios available. This might be a great opportunity for you to lower the cost of your monthly mortgage. If you would like more information, please contact me today. ☺

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

Gordon

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lacked stamina!

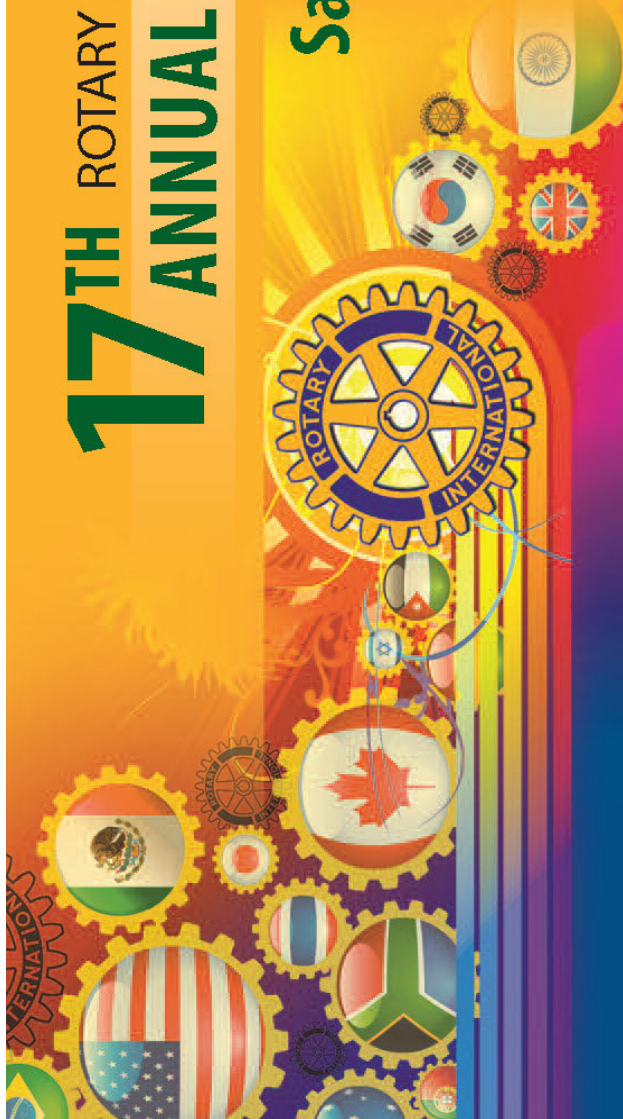
Some of you may remember the day I offered happiness dollars at our pre-Thanksgiving luncheon meeting in honor of having reached the age of Medicare coverage. How little I knew! Now I understand that my heart just pulled me across the finish line, but had no more to give. [A tip of the hat here to Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree" (HarperCollins, 1964).] Upon dismissal there were questions and warnings about depression, about PTS issues. Hey, what's not to like about having had several years added to one's lifespan? As I sit here composing in the wee hours of the morning, I see an arc of life that reaches far beyond my infant years to incorporate many trials my parents never foresaw for me. But now it all begins to add up. I get it. ☺

17TH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5300 ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 24, 2012
9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

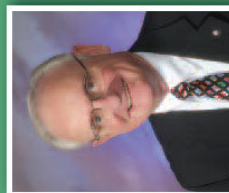
VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE
 18422 Bear Valley Rd.
 Victorville, California 92395

THEME: OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORLD PEACE -- IN ROTARY AND BEYOND ROTARY



SPEAKERS

PHIL SILVERS
 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
 DIRECTOR 2008-2010



DR. NANCY ERBE
 PROFESSOR OF NEGOTIATIONS,
 CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND
 PEACEBUILDING, CALIFORNIA
 STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ
 HILLS, CALIFORNIA



FOCUS GROUP BREAK-OUT SESSIONS



1
Peace As a Process
 PDG Gene Hernandez,
 Facilitator



2
Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Education of the New Generation
 Ray Carlson,
 Facilitator



3
Interfaith Paths to Peace
 Dr. Sylvia Whitlock,
 District Governor - Elect

PRESENTATION OF PEACEBUILDING PROJECTS
 SPEARHEADED BY DISTRICT 5300 CLUBS
 ART FOR PEACE STUDENT CONTEST/EXHIBITION
 WORLD PEACE MEDIA AWARDS
 PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION
 - RAY CARLSON, HONOREE



DISTRICT GOVERNOR
DOUGLAS "DOUG" FOWLER



CONFERENCE CHAIR
DR. GARBIS DER-YEGHIAN, PDG

FOR REGISTRATION, GO TO THE DISTRICT WEBSITE:
www.district5300.org or CONTACT RAGHADA KHOURY,
 16640 Tao Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307
 E-mail: raghada@khouryent.net
 Call: (760) 559-3244
 Home (760) 242-2103

Admission: \$20.00 per person, (\$10.00 for students)
 - Includes box lunch

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5300 FOUNDATION