

January 17, 2013

This Week

Alan Kindrick

Craft Talk

Program Host:

Dennis Mehringer

As we add new members, we have the pleasure of hearing what we call *Craft Talks*. This is where our new members are given approximately 20 minutes to tell us a bit about themselves, their dreams, their passions and what they do to make a living.

If our new member is self-employed, this is a great chance to expound on what he/she does and how we can let others know.

This week we have the privilege of hearing about Alan Kindrick from Alan Kindrick. All your editor knows is that he has come out and helped put up the lights on Christmas Tree Lane. And she is looking forward to seeing him again when the lights are taken down this year, starting in March.

It is possible that we will hear about the family in which he grew up and/or his current family. We might find out what he does in his spare time: his hobbies and his passions.

Come and hear about one of our new members. 



Johnson's Judgments

by President Julius Johnson

Biggest Loser Contest starts This Week

At my church today (Sunday, January 13), the Sunday school lesson and the main message both came from the book of Philippians. In this letter, which Paul wrote to the church at Philippi while he was in prison, he was encouraging the people to be of one mind and into submission one to another. In chapter 2 beginning at verse 3 he says:

3. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition of conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4. Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interests of others.

It appears to me that Paul has captured the spirit of Rotary and is using it to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How ironic!

This weekend is the Rotary President's Advance. One of the featured events is what they are calling the Tall Tale session. During this time, each president is encouraged to share a tale from the first six months of his/her presidency which was funny or inspiring. I am really looking forward to **hearing** how this Rotary spirit has been manifested throughout other clubs in our district. I look forward to sharing

with you the results of the Tall Tale session.

This Thursday will be the Weigh-in for our **Biggest Loser** Competition, to see which of our contestants will loose the most pounds over the 90-day period of the competition. Each contestant will put in \$100.00 each, with 50 percent of the total going to the winner and the other 50 percent going to the Club.

As a side bar, each member is asked to make a pledge of X dollars per pound that his/her champion loses. With 100 percent of that money going to the club. The over all biggest loser gets to name the beneficiary of the funds raised.

This should be fun and good for the Club with periodic weigh-ins. Be there this week for the start of this event. Lets have some fun together! 

Greeters

January 17

Mike Zoeller

January 24

Susan Applegate

January 31

George Buehler



Program Review

Proven Results

A college graduation rate exceeding that of USC, UCLA and many other national schools is a prime example of how the United Friends of the Children (UFC) helps prepare foster children to become productive members of our society.

United Friends of the Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to bettering the lives of foster children and to supporting former foster youth in their journey to become successful, independent adults.

Through programs, advocacy efforts, and direct involvement with youth, they seek to be a catalyst for change.

Founded in 1979 by Nancy M. Daly to help foster children housed at MacLaren Children's Center in Los Angeles. Since that time, UFC has been instrumental in affecting change in the Los Angeles County foster care system, providing foster youth with the opportunity to graduate from high school, attend college, live in an apartment, find a job and have a support system that moves them gradually towards independence. At the core of each UFC program is the belief that the best way to make a difference in the lives of foster youth is to provide reliable relationships over time. Thus, all of UFC's programs focus on consistency and commitment.

The Pathways Transitional Living Program provides former foster youth with 18 months of housing in their own apartments. The Program requires increasing levels of responsibility and challenges youth to maintain employment and develop money management skills, while at the same time allowing them a grace-period to build these skills and habits. With



36 percent of all foster youth becoming homeless within 18 months of leaving care, this program is essential to giving former foster youth a chance to stand on their own feet.

The UFC Education Programs start with young foster children and extends over a six-year period. The college readiness program follows students through home and school placement changes over this

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Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects
Ray Carlson New Generation
Gordon Seyffert Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

January

Rotary Awareness Month

Program Chair, Dennis Mehringer

Jan 17 - Craft Talk - Alan Kindrick
Jan 24 - Dion Neutra, Architect
Jan 31 - To be Announced

February

Family Month

Program Chair, Tom McCurry

Feb 07 - To be Announced
Feb 14 - To be Announced
Feb 21 - To be Announced
Feb 28 - To be Announced

Congratulations



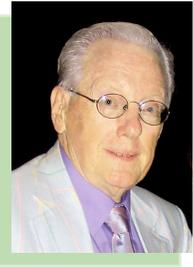
Birthdays

01/03 - Betty Ferris
01/10 - Santosh Srivastava
01/14 - Bill Reeder
01/27 - Ann Rider Hill
01/27 - Barbara Yorke



Anniversaries

01/13 - Jim & Karen Gorton
01/04 - Mike & Carol Zoeller
01/22 - John & Joan Frykenberg



In Los Angeles County:

- 65% emancipate without a place to live
- Less than 3% go to college
- 51% are unemployed
- Emancipated females are four (4) times more likely to receive public assistance than the general population
- In any given year, foster children comprise less than 0.3% of the state's population, and yet 40% of persons living in homeless shelters are former foster children.
- A similarly disproportionate percentage of the nation's prison population is composed of former foster youth. Our recent speaker cited an alarming statistic: "Foster Youth make up 70% of our prison population".

Altadena Rotary has several programs that provide **service to the children and youth of our community**, which has a population of about 80,000 for Altadena/Northwest Pasadena (Altadena alone has 42,000).

The census indicates that 243 foster children live in family households and 74 foster children are in non-family households in Altadena and Northwest Pasadena. An additional 255 foster children live in non-institutionalized group homes. The number in institutions like Five Acres adds more to the total. This large number of foster youth is often cited as a determining factor for the low Academic Performance Index (API) and high drop out rate of John Muir HS.

What can we do to improve their lives?

A community *needs assessment* pointed out the lack of youth involvement

in civic activities and issues, the need for programs that strengthen families, and the need for preventive programs and *educational enrichment services tailored to youth and young adults*.

Educational enrichment is something to which our club members could give personal attention. Our Business Plan program has been in operation since 1995, with sporadic classes at Eliot Middle School, Muir HS and Marshall Fundamental School.

How might it be funded?

Much more could be done with the generous funds provided to the club



through Altadena Rotary Charities (ARC) and its rich endowment from the former American Legion Post 470, if matching grants were sought from other foundations and charities dedicated to Northwest Pasadena/Altadena. We received \$1,500 from Rotary District 5300's District Designated Funds (DSG) to match our \$1,500 for the successful **Get In Gear NOW** event on October 27, 2012, for assisting minority youth and foster youth in gaining a livelihood for themselves after high

Foster Youth emancipate (age-out) at Age 18 *What happens to them Then?*



school or college. If we could find clubs abroad that would be interested in helping in this — just as we have done in Nigeria recently — an international *Matching Grant* from the *Rotary Foundation* might even be developed. This was considered when we were working with American Indian youth a few years back, teaching them how to write business plans.

How to get started?

A member of our club (or even a non-member) should be appointed to head up a volunteer task force to explore all the parameters that would be involved to determine what — if anything — we might do. Research is needed first as to what is the need and what specifically we might do. Working together with United Friends of the Children, we could quickly scope out the details of a new outreach to our community. We might be able to draw in new members who are looking for a way they could become involved in community needs. Interested? Contact me at crayc@me.com, or 626-797-5462. ☺



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

Retail sales rose 0.6 percent for the week ending December 29, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 2.7 percent.

Manufacturing activity rose to 50.7 in December after a reading of 49.5 in November. A reading above 50 signals expansion.

Total construction spending fell 0.3 percent to \$866 billion in November, following a downwardly revised 0.7 percent increase in October. Compared to November 2011, construction spending has risen 7.7 percent.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending December 28 fell 21.6 percent. Purchase volume fell 14.8 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 23.3 percent.

Factory orders rose \$200 million in November to a seasonally adjusted \$477.6 billion. This follows a 0.8 percent increase in October. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, orders increased 0.2 percent in November.

Non-manufacturing activity rose to 56.1 in December from 54.7 in November. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 36th straight month of expansion in the services sector.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending December 29 rose by 10,000 to 372,000. Continuing claims for the week ending December 22 rose by 44,000 to 3.245 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 360,000. The un-

employment rate remained unchanged at 7.8 percent in December. Employers added 155,000 jobs in December.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on wholesale trade on January 10 and international trade on January 11.

Mind Your Money Get a Head Start and Maximize College Financial Aid Now

The gates opened for high school seniors filing federal financial aid forms on January 1, 2013.

If you have children who are preparing for college, you need to execute this process as quickly as possible because these funds are highly coveted.

These sought-after federal funds are distributed between January 1, 2013, and April 30, 2013, on a first-come, first-served basis, so act now before money runs out.

to learn more about the best way to fill out the forms necessary to maximize your chances of receiving aid.

- This FREE online workshop is part of the Smart Track™ Toolkit.
- This Toolkit is ideal for parents of senior students applying now, or for those who will be applying anytime in the future.
- The Smart Track™ Toolkit is for all parents, regardless of their income level. DO NOT assume you can't get financial aid.

The cost of college has risen 104 percent over the last decade and total student debt is now almost \$1 trillion, exceeding credit card debt for the first time in history.* Make the most of the resources and financial aid available.

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

Program

Continued from p.2

period. Students receive *College-in-a-Binder* kits that serve as an academic resource along with one-on-one college counseling and advice. UFC's College Sponsorship Program provides financial support, internships, and preparation for college life to former foster youth and gives them a chance at attaining a higher educational degree and enriching their lives.

The success rate of these programs is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the volunteers and staff members of UCF, and is an example of how a community can work together for the betterment of it's members.

Sammy Kayali

Your Hat???



This hat was left at Gordon Seyffert's home at Tony Hill's Demotion. Claim it by contacting Seyffert.

The hat is a 7¼ M. It is a product of Ireland, made by Millars and is 100 percent virgin new wool. If it is not claimed by its owner, your editor will find it a new home.

Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

Reaching Out

A Rotarian newsletter I receive by email from New Zealand often has worthwhile historical insights. Sent by Rotarians-on-the-Internet (ROTI) Fellowship member Norm Winterbottom, it contains his regular column drawing upon a great wealth of stories about Rotary's early years. The 21 December 2012 issue was particularly rewarding for the piece about several early critics of Rotary. Among these were H.L. Mencken, G.K. Chesterton, Sinclair Lewis, George Bernard Shaw and Clarence Darrow.

While I know these *Norm's Rotary Corner* columns have to come from other sources, it's Norm's circulation of them that manages to keep them in the public eye.

Well, alright, in MY eye, at least. Anyway, here's the story that set me to thinking again about Rotary membership and what promotes it (reprint quote marks omitted):

In 1934, Leland Case, the editor of *The Rotarian*, became so concerned at the comments of Sinclair Lewis that, one Saturday in August, he took the train to Lewis' holiday home in Vermont. Dressed in pajamas and dressing gown, Lewis opened his front door, demanding, "Who the hell are you and what do you want?" Case introduced himself and explained the reason for his visit. "First, we'll have breakfast, and then we'll talk," responded Lewis. After the meal, Lewis stated his first objection: "I don't like their singing!"

"Neither do I," Case agreed. "What else?" "Calling strangers by their first names," Lewis continued.

"I visited a Rotary club near here and right away they were calling me 'Sinclair,' something I hadn't heard since I last saw my mother."

Case knew that Lewis came from the tiny town of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, and told him the story of Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, another young man from a small village, who felt lonely in a big city, his formation of the Chicago Rotary club and how using the nicknames and first names of his new friends enhanced their friendship. Their discussion was friendly and it lasted all morning. When Case returned to his office in Chicago, there was a telegram from Lewis saying that "Our discussion has made me approve of Rotary."

Case later persuaded Lewis, Mencken, Shaw and Clarence Darrow, to write articles for *The Rotarian*, ending their hostility for all time.

What's interesting to me about this story is the part about two prominent Americans of the time moving from places of inconsequential population to

the *Big City*. Today, I suspect, many more Rotarians in metropolitan areas are from those same or similar-sized areas than from *tiny towns* or *small villages*.

But I'd argue that there's usually still an element of insecurity present in anyone who changes their residence after a long association with a prior home place. In such circumstances we tend at times to recall familiar faces and familiar places, and may find ourselves casting about for ways to reconnect. I know I did.

And it's that quick camaraderie that comes of the use of nicknames and first names that can smooth the way forward. That, and the knowledge that at least once a week there's a place where one may go for good fellowship.

So when I hear of one-minute *elevator speeches* about Rotary, or when I think about the *Rotary Minute* we created for the Concerts-in-the-Park series, I'll be the first to praise their value. But my hat is off to the fellow who, like Leland Case, can take a stranger aside and speak to them in unhurried, face-to-face conversation about the importance of fellowship, and of how Rotary is so well suited to its promotion. ○



Josh Miller Induction: (l to r) Craig Cox, Josh Miller, Gordon Seyffert, and President Julius Johnson