

May 23, 2013



This Week
JROTC Awards
Guest Host:
Alan Kindrick

During this week's luncheon we will be honoring local students who have shown exemplary service while participating in their school's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) or the Naval Science Program.

These programs are established through the Department of Defense to instill in students of American's secondary institutions the value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

Two students from each school were selected to receive this recognition. The criteria for selection are based on academic achievement and military leadership. The participating schools are Eliot Middle School, Muir High School, Pasadena High School and Blair High School.

The funds for these awards are from the endowment created by the Altadena American Legion Post 470.

From the Conference . . .
May 19, 2013

I am writing this article from the Hospitality Suite at the Rotary District 5300 Conference. I'm looking out the sliding glass doors across the patio deck onto a view of tree tops and palm trees surrounding a beautiful swimming pool. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it! In cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of San Marino, South Pasadena, San Gabriel and Pasadena; we hosted a Hospitality Suite which was a big success. It was a service to all the Rotarians and a guest who dropped by our Suite over the past two nights.

Our RI President Sakuji Tanaka, called for *Peace through Service*. Our Past RI President, Cliff Docherman, was the keynote speaker for the Leadership Seminar on Friday morning. He spoke to us about heroes. During his presentation he related to us the story about Dirk.

Dirk was a little 8-year old, health challenged boy whose father had taken him to the park to watch some other little kids play baseball. Dirk really wanted to get out and be with the other kids. Dirk's father asked if Dirk could play. One of the

kids said, "we are 8 runs behind; it can't get any worse; sure send him out.

They gave Dirk a Team Shirt and put him out in right field. Dirk was so happy and excited to be a part of any team that he could not stop smiling. Much to everyone's surprise,

Dirk's team started to make some runs, and it was eventually Dirk's turn at bat. No one expected him to even hit the ball, especially since he did not know which end of the bat to hold. But the pitcher from the other team left the mound and lobbed the ball to Dirk.

Dirk swung and missed the first pitch. On the second pitch, Dirk hit the ball right

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Creeters

May 23

Tom McCurry

May 30

Dennis Mehringer

June 06

Sterling Louviere



Program Review

Future Businesses?

3rd Annual Rotary District 5300

Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurial Awards

As an official district sponsored event this year, we had participation from the Altadena, Arcadia and San Marino clubs as well as students from John Muir, Arcadia and San Marino High Schools.

Executive Assistant Governor Dennis Franklin spoke briefly about the importance of economics in being able to serve and how pleased he was that the district is helping students develop the skills they need to better themselves and their com-

munities by learning how to be successful business people with these kinds of programs.

Our student award winners gave a brief description of their business plans:

Rogelio Flores from John Muir on *Manantial Recycling* - The main feature of which is that he would be picking up the recyclables, paying top dollar for them and then, in turn, selling them to a larger recycling firm.



Vickie Yue from Arcadia on *Fish for Friends Tea Lounge* - Visitors to her establishment could both relax and enjoy a cup of tea with a confection while watching fresh-water fish swimming in an aquarium and purchase fish and equipment there.



Fion Lam from San Marino on *Eco Outlet* - This outlet has the unique feature of

stopping the flow of electricity when the re-chargable batteries in a piece of equipment, e.g., a cell phone have been completely recharged, thus preventing damage to the battery as a result of over charging it.



Each contestant was introduced by a representative from their school – Rosa Valdez the ROP Supervisor for PUSD, Susan Stallings from Arcadia and Courtney Rushing from San Marino.

Representatives from Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senator Carol Liu, Assemblymen Chris Sheldon and Ed Chau were also present to congratulate the students and to support our efforts.

The winner of the contest, Vickie Yue received a certificate and a check for \$500. As second place winner, Fion Lam received a certificate and a check for \$300, and our third place winner, Rogelio Flores, received a certificate and a check for \$200.

Craig Cox ☉

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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Mike Zoeller Club Projects

Ed Jasnow Community

John Frykenberg International

Gordon Seyffert ... Youth Contests/Awards

Hal Yorke Vocational/Youth Projects

Ray Carlson New Generation

Gordon Seyffert Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

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May

Month not designated

Program Chair, Craig Cox

May 23 - JROTC Awards

May 30 - ClubRunner Training

June

Rotary Fellowship Month

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow

Jun 06 - Teacher Mini-grant Report

Jun 13 - To be Announced

Jun 20 - Theo Clarke - "Earth Encounter"

Jun 27 - Demotion Party - Evening Event

Congratulations



Birthdays

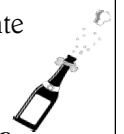
05/05 - Ursula Moore

05/09 - Bill Jennings

05/15 - Elsa Smith

05/18 - Craig Cox

05/30 - Susan Applegate



Anniversaries

05/18 - Tony & Ann Rider Hill

05/19 - Roger & Kathleen Anne Fennell

Chairmen's Corner

by C. Ray Carlson, one of our Youth Services (New Generations) Chairs

A District Conference

Where Altadena made its Mark



Yesterday (May 18) at the Annual District Conference in San Diego, Altadena received high praise for our signature Job Creation program in Nigeria, our outreach to Foster kids, and our Business Plan Competition.

Foundations was the title of the first session, and President Julius Johnson and I got 15 minutes to talk about our program of *Job Creation & Entrepreneurship* in Nigeria. I introduced it with a PowerPoint presentation and covered the rationale for the project, how RI is emphasizing *Job Creation & Entrepreneurship* as a new area of focus, what we have accomplished in three (3) years, and hope to achieve by 2020. President Julius then related his experience in being a part of a *Vocational Training Team (VTT)* (which I have dubbed *Entrepreneurial Training Training (ETT)*). His skilled style for exciting an audience brought laughter and applause from the audience as he encouraged them to become part of such a team. I followed up with a pitch to invest in our coming \$100,000 Global Grant for the next stage in Nigeria in 2013/14, how we are striving to cover the entire nation by 2020 with entrepreneurial training and business plan development in 7 universities in 7 states each year and impacting about 7,000 students each time.

In the International session, our Nigerian project was again mentioned though briefly.

As Chair of *Vocational Service*, I had 20 minutes to promote a variety of activities. I introduced the concept of a **NEW Vocational Service** that dealt with service by Rotarians in areas not covered before by most clubs.

FIRST, Dorothy Leveque, of Ontario

Rotary, presented their new monthly Business Networking focus whereby a local businessperson, not necessarily a Rotarian, is the speaker and the *public is invited* (rather than the traditional requirement that they receive a personal invitation from a Rotarian). Discussions follow about the substance of the talk and how it might improve business activities of Rotarians and visitors, much like the early days of Rotary when it was formed by Paul Harris. Business cards are exchanged. A display table is available. This was conceived by member Briana Lane.

SECOND, Denise Wadsworth, of San Marino Rotary, talked about tiny business projects of the Interact Club at her Huntington Middle School. Organic vegetables are grown in a plot of ground on campus and sold in various marketplaces. The proceeds are then used to replace seeds and bulbs, and remaining profits are donated to worthy causes.

THIRD, President Julius Johnson described Altadena's outreach to Foster kids that are about to be *emancipated* at age 18 and forced out *onto the streets* to fend for themselves without any skills or preparation. The October 27, a day-long class on personal development and how to write business plans was presented as a successful venture by **Get in Gear NOW** of the Mastermind Collective group.

FOURTH, the 3rd Annual District Business Plan Competition on May 16 was described by Dr. Hal Yorke and included the names of three students and their business plans, representing Arcadia, Muir, and San Marino. Then he named the winner — Arcadia HS — for the \$500 cash award. A special appreciation certificate, signed by DG Sylvia Whitlock, was presented to the President of Arcadia Rotary for sponsoring the winning entry. Afterwards, Rob Granger of Arcadia Rotary described how

enthusiastic his club members were when they heard the results at their meeting the next day. "We'll be back next year" he promised.

Among the many that commended our presentations was Richard Reed of Las Vegas Rotary who offered to personally cover the cost of bringing me to his club as soon as possible this summer so that all would hear my concepts and how to get started in the Fall. Also to meet with administrators (some of them Rotarians) of Clark County Unified School District to develop a way of collaborating with Rotary on a large scale. Reed also mentioned that he could easily develop an e-Learning course that could be interacted with by wannabe entrepreneurs everywhere. This had been suggested to me the day before by an executive at Nestle in Glendale, which has such classes for their world-wide training programs; she might be willing to help structure content.

It was an exhausting day for me, but well worth all the effort. Larry Skaggs, DG 2014/15 appointed me as chair of Vocational Service during his term, too, after serving DG Miles Petroff 2013/14. But he urged me to find a co-chair or any one who could take over all the important concepts that I have incorporated into Vocational Service, to which I enthusiastically agreed.



Memorial Day

I have 48 opportunities each year to write for *Sparks*, and each one of them is different save for one. Given the patriotic nature of our club and my experience last year at the Mountain View Cemetery observance, I'll always save back a May column to write about Memorial Day.

Some of you may recall that I volunteered to be July program chair last year. My reason for my doing that was that I wanted a chance to share Nick Smith with you. Nick works for the Pasadena Library, but for several years he's devoted himself to recognizing the valor and service of our Union veterans from the Civil War who are buried at Mountain View. In fact, it's due to his dedication in researching the obit columns in old Pasadena newspapers that we even know that there are over 600 Union vets buried there.

Yes, that's right — Over 600. That makes Mountain View the most common resting place in California for Union veterans that is *not* a part of the National Cemetery system. And to think that we didn't have that statistic until Nick did the research. And research is still ongoing. That's because many of the markers of the dead do not name the deceased as a veteran; that's why obituaries and other sources have to be consulted to know who's a vet.

I was so impressed by the observances there last year — I'd missed the 2011 Memorial Day at Mountain View by two weeks — that I first volunteered to help decorate as many of the still unflagged grave markers as I could find. Nick was trying to do this largely on his own. Then,

at the conclusion, I told him that I'd be back earlier next year so that I could contribute to this task. And, finally, I told myself that Nick's organization, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was one to which I should belong if I were going to do volunteer my service.

Mind you, if we had 600+ veterans of any other war buried in Altadena I'd still want to honor them; it's not that I'm only respectful of the service of the men who fought from 1861 through 1865. But, in a strange way, my genealogical research has given me a special respect for the many service men and women in today's armed forces who are either non-citizens at this time, or else relatively new to American citizenship.

That's because, when I looked at my own *roots*, the three Union veterans in my family tree who were either my direct ancestors (or the brothers of direct ancestors), I found that they were all Germans. One had arrived here in 1852, and the others in 1854. At least two of them were here because their father hadn't wanted them to be conscripted into the service of a German King or Grand Duke — this father having fought against the Saxon government in the Revolution of 1848-49! But in coming here to the freedom offered by our republic, including a freedom from conscription, these sons still chose to take up arms to defend the Union.

And so I *connect the dots*, between those who were new to our shores decades ago and those who are new to our country today. Both groups make me proud to be an American.

In 1990, I was visiting the German town of Augsburg, which will be known to most of you, if at all, because of your high school world history teacher who made sure you memorized a lot of European treaty names. My host was touring me through the town when finally he reached the outskirts along the upstream portion of the city's main river.

I'd been noticing a number of Africans in and around the town, obviously refugees, and with many of them getting around locally on bicycles. When we reached the edge of town it became apparent why they all used bicycles, for they were riding to and from this place at the city's edge for whatever job or errand they had in town.

Now I was confronted by a large structure that had been a linen factory (water-powered) in decades past, but which now was the sole structure capable of accommodating these many refugee families. Immediately I sensed something very haunting about this place — something about which I couldn't quite place initially.

And then it struck me — the architecture! Red brick with white stone corner blocks, the shape and the classic lines! It all reminded me of another place I'd seen, many years before. Ellis Island.

Again, I connect the dots. Some of my ancestors once came to a new land, seeking a new way of life. And while, so long as they remained aliens, they were not subject to the Civil War draft into the Union Army, still many of them volunteered and served. In a different context, that still happens today. "God Bless America!" ☉



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In the News

The CoreLogic home price index rose 1.9 percent in March. On a year-over-year basis, when compared with March 2012, prices rose 10.5 percent. It was the largest annual gain since March 2006 and the 13th consecutive monthly increase in home prices nationally.

Retail sales fell 1 percent for the week ending May 4, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 2.4 percent.

According to the Federal Reserve, monthly consumer credit debt rose \$7.97 billion in March for a total credit debt level

of \$2.807 trillion. Revolving debt, which includes credit cards, decreased \$1.71 billion to \$846.2 billion. Non-revolving debt, including loans for cars, rose \$9.68 billion to \$1.961 trillion.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending May 3 rose 7 percent. Refinancing applications increased 8 percent. Purchase volume rose 2 percent, the highest level since May 2010.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.4 percent to \$503.1 billion in March. Sales at the wholesale level fell 1.6 percent to \$414.7 billion in March. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 1.3 percent

higher than March 2012. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/sales ratio in March was 1.21.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending May 4 fell by 4,000 to 323,000, the lowest level since January 2008. Continuing claims for the week ending April 27 fell by 27,000 to 3.005 million, a new recovery low. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 336,750.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on retail sales on May 13, the housing market index on May 15 and housing starts on May 16.

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

Judgment

Continued from p. 1

to the pitcher, but he started running to first base anyway. The pitcher picked up the ball and threw it toward first base, but far over the first baseman's head. Dirk made it to first, and the line coach yelled for Dirk to run on to second base. Dirk got to second just as the first baseman retrieved the ball and threw it over the second baseman's head.

The crowd started chanting, "Run Dirk Run." The shortstop pointed Dirk toward the third base, and Dirk was on his way. The ball got thrown over the third baseman's head, and Dirk made it into Home.

Doherman, our speaker, asked the question, "Who as the hero that day?" Was it Dirk who hit the winning home run or was it the pitcher on the opposing team who let Dirk hit the ball. Or was it the crowd that cheered Dirk on to his first

ever home run.

The truth is that everyone played the hero role in Dirk's life that day: the father who asked if his son could join the game; the pitcher who was so kind; the other team who recognized what was going on and played their role in Dirks Big Day, and the crowd who cheered Dirk on to victory. And Doherman further argued that everyone who played the hero in Dirk's life exhibited *Service above Self*, and added to a little boy's joy.

He pointed out that Rotary is full of unsung heroes. Even those who don't suit up — though Rotary — support those who do.

During the conference, we got to hear amazing stories about different projects Rotary is involved with all over the world, see some amazing videos of how Rotary is bringing clean water to remote places

all over the world, is helping to perform life-transforming surgeries on children with cleft palates, and is saving lives with needed heart surgery for children in 3rd world countries. District 5300 has provided books for orphanages in Mexico and Job Creation in different parts of the world.

C. Ray Carlson was a featured speaker, and he recruited both Hal York and myself as a part of his speaking contingent.

Hal talked about the Dewey Merrill Business plan competition and I shared the *Get In Gear Now* program.

I encourage each of you to get involved with the many opportunities available to you and fellowship with your fellow Rotarians. It will be good for you and a blessing to others.

Please turn to Judgment, p.6



From Tony Hill, Fellowship Chair

FELLOWSHIP...

The Core of Altadena Rotary

Fellow Altadena Rotarians: As your current fellowship chair, I wanted to let you know about fellowship events that have been scheduled for the rest of Julius' Presidential year.

May 25 (a Saturday) at 4:15p, we will be attending the **Dodgers vs the Cardinals baseball game** at Dodger stadium. Our incoming President, Dennis Mehringer, will be making arrangements for us to see the game from the Stadium Club. Again, feel free to invite family and friends. Ticket and a meal will be provided at a charge of about \$35 per person.

June 1 (a Saturday) **Hike in El Prieto Canyon** ending with a barbecue lunch on the lawn of Theo's mountaintop home with panoramic view of the valley. Details such as meeting place, time and cost to follow (any cost should be minimal).

June 2 (a Sunday) **Lamp Program Luncheon** - This is the main annual fund raising event by Julius' fraternity Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation. It is a luncheon that will take place at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel on So. Los Robles Ave. The money raised will again be used to pay for college scholarships for local foster children. Our goal is to fill a table of 10 to support this very worthwhile project of our President. The cost is \$100.00 per attendee. The program will include good food and interesting speakers.

June 9 (a Sunday) - **Antique Car Show at Lacey Park in San Marino**. Although it will not be a project of our club, this event has been a fund raiser for the San Marino Rotary Club for many years, and is just an interesting program taking place in our area, and, by attending, you will know that the money will be going to support Rotary

projects.

June 27 (a Thursday) - The **Demotion Party** to celebrate the conclusion of Julius' year as Rotary President and the induction of the incoming President, Dennis Mehringer. This is an event you can be sure President Julius is looking for-

ward to with great anticipation at this stage of his Presidential year.

Hope we will have lots of participation in these upcoming events. Remember, friends, family and potential members are **always** welcome at any of our Rotary Fellowship Events.

Details regarding three of the Fellowship events listed on this page

"Details regarding three upcoming Fellowship events:

- **Dodger Game:** Saturday, May 25 at 4:15 PM - Dodgers vs Cardinals. We are getting an amazing deal here through season ticket holder, Dennis Mehringer. These are great seats at only \$35.00 per person. Dennis has pre-purchased these seats to qualify for a substantial discount to our benefit. Please sign up early as at some point Dennis will need to dispose of any unused tickets. Craig has sent everyone an email to facilitate signing up through Club Runner. Be sure to invite family and friends, and bring your kids to this very family friendly event. Look forward to seeing you all there.
- **Hike in El Prieto Canyon & barbeque lunch at Theo's mountain top home:** Saturday, June 1 - We will meet at Theo's at 8:30a. The hike will start at about 9a or shortly thereafter. The Hike is classified by our leader Gordon Seyffert as *moderately strenuous*. Bring a camera and water. Again, very family friendly, so do not hesitate to invite family and friends. Late morning or mid-day we will have barbeque lunch (hamburgers & hot dogs). Maps to Theo's place will be distributed to all attendees. Cost, if any, should be mini-

mal. Musical entertainment is being planned. More details and Club Runner sign-up to follow.

- **Lamp Program Luncheon:** Sunday, June 2 - The luncheon will be at the Hilton Hotel on South Los Robles, Pasadena. A fundraiser sponsored by the Julius' fraternity Gamma Zeta Boule to raise funds for their Foundation, which provides college scholarships for local foster children. Julius is hoping to at least fill a table of 10 from our Rotary Club. Expect good food and thought provoking speakers. Cost will be \$100.00 per attendee.

Further details, including suggested arrival time, to follow.

Judgment

Continued from p. 5

Please sign up for the Lamp Program Mentoring Luncheon which will be held on Sunday June 3, 2013.

You can sign up on club runner and remember our Dodger Baseball outing this Saturday, May 25, 2013. Sign up on ClubRunner for this event also.

You are all invited to my office this Wednesday, May 22 at 1p for our May Boarding meeting I am asking all officers and Directors to be present. In the meantime be Blessed.