

July 10, 2014

This Week

June Davidson
President,
American Seminar
Leaders Association
Child Trafficking
in the US
Program Host:
Steve Cunningham

An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country for sexual servitude and forced labor. Contrary to a common assumption, human trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and the U.S. territories. Victims of human trafficking can be children or adults, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, male or female.

Trafficking can involve school-age youth, particularly those made vulnerable by challenging family situations, and can take a variety of forms including forced labor, domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation. ○



REFLECTIONS
 by Hal Yorke, President
REFLECTIONS?

On Volunteerism . . .

According to the Merriam-Webster website, *volunteerism* is the act or practice of doing volunteer work in community service, and a *volunteer* is a person who does work without getting paid to do it. So, if a volunteer works for free, does this mean that what he/she does is without value? No, actually this simply means that his/her volunteer accomplishments are priceless.

As Rotarians we realize that there are so many things that need to get done, even though there is no one willing to pay for the work. One could easily get discouraged, throw up his/her hands in despair and simply exclaim, "There is simply too much to do; there is no way for me to make a difference." However, history has taught us again and again, the only way to institute change is through the dedicated efforts of a passionate group of people. In this sense *volunteering* is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year — yes, this is important — but every time you volunteer, you are

voting about the kind of community you want to live in.

I am proud of the volunteer work of Rotarians in general and of the Altadena Rotary Club in particular, but I wish we could do more. The only way this can happen is to increase our membership.

My goal is to double the membership of our club within a year. A pipe dream? Maybe.

But another way of looking at this is to realize that we only need to average one new member per existing member. And who knows, maybe the new members will be better at convincing their friends to volunteer. ○

Greeters

July 10

Sterling Louviere

July 17

Tom McCurry

July 24

Dennis Mehringer

Program Review



That's what we heard about at the Club Assembly marking the initial meeting of President Hal's administration. Each chairperson of our avenues of service stood up and talked about their plans for the 2024-15 Rotary year.

First up was International Chair John Frykenberg, who spoke about ambitious plans to teach entrepreneurship at two

universities in Tanzania. The goal is to make young citizens self-sustaining. Working with Rotarian Kimmit Haggins, who has connections in Tanzania as a result of his coffee importing business, the project looks to be very exciting.

Next up was Projects Director, Mike Zoeller, who stated that youth projects comprised the largest component of his directorate. It's divided into Youth Activities, Youth Contests, and Youth Awards. Also, the Interact program is being reactivated by Tony Hill, who also handles RYLA for the club. The contests would consist of the 4-Way Test Speech Contest, and the Dan Stover Music Awards Contest.

Next up was Community Service. Since Craig Cox is out of the country, Mike Zoeller stood in for him. He spoke about the four successful projects Craig set up by season. The one completed was the installation of benches on the campus of Eliot Middle School. The fall project is in the planning stages. The current project coming up is the Summer Concert Series in Farnsworth Park. We will be selling beer, wine, and snacks, and providing security for all nine concerts, beginning with Saturday, July 05. Also, we will be taking down the flags on Lake Avenue on Saturday as well. Additionally, the teacher mini-grant

program will continue, with Ed Jasnow continuing as Chair.

Public Relations Chair Jacque Foreman stated that she needs new words from President Hal for the web site, and she needs the names of any media contacts anyone may know.

Vocational Service Co-Chairs Ray Carlson and Tom McCurry spoke about their plans to teach entrepreneurship to as many young people as possible. They are already working with the Boy Scouts, and hope to reach out to the Girl Scouts this year. Additionally, Ray has plans to reach out beyond the District level to the Zone level, which would allow us to reach many districts.

Fellowship Chair Dennis Mehringer handed out a fact sheet of possible fellowship activities, and requested the members to add whatever they liked. Suggestions included Dodger games, Gold Line ride to Olveira Street, Getty Museum tour, Disney Hall tour, the Magic Castle, and many others. It should be an exciting time.

Secretary Gordon Seiffert reported that we have 31 total members, including six *Rule of 85* members. These are

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Sparks is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

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
 2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA
 626-794-7163

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 Dist 5300 Gov. Larry Skaggs

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 Steve Cunningham, Pres. Elec. Bus. 626-786-1937
 Dennis Mehringer, V. Pres. Bus. 626-577-9800
 Gordon Seyffert, Sec. Bus. 626-345-0658
 Mike Noll, Treas. Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

Mike Noll • John Frykenberg
 Steve Cunningham • Dennis Mehringer
 Gordon Seyffert • Mike Zoeller • Ed Jasnow

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Steve Cunningham Administration
 Ed Jasnow Foundation
 Jacque Foreman Public Awareness
 Jacque Foreman Acting Publicity
 Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website
 Mike Zoeller Club Projects
 Craig Cox Community
 John Frykenberg International
 Not Determined Youth Contests/Awards
 Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
 Ray Carlson Vocational
 Tom McCurry Asst. Vocational
 Craig Cox Membership
 Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
 Photography Jacque Foreman

July No Designation

Program Chair, Steve Cunningham
 Jul 10 - June Davidson - Child Trafficking in the US
 Jul 17 - To be Announced
 Jul 24 - District Governor visit
 Jul 31 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays

07/08 - Regina Wilson
 07/27 - Tony Hill



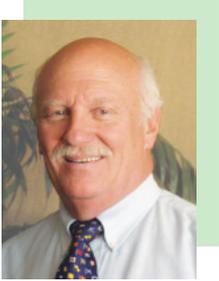


Anniversaries

07/01 - Bill & Ruth Reeder
 07/04 - Linda Wilkes & Emily Aiken
 07/15 - Craig & Susan Cox



What if America Never Existed? *Asks Dinesh D'Souza's new Film*



'Conservative author and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, producer of *2016: Obama's America*, just launched a new film titled, *America*, which opened on July 02. I have not seen the movie, but the title alone is worth our consideration.

"We are now living in the America that we warned our fellow citizens could come to pass ...," says D'Souza. "Like it or not America is now the nation that Barack Obama dreamed of." Are you pleased? Terrified?... Can you see the transformation of America take place before your eyes?

D'Souza asks, "What would the world look like if America never existed?"

"President Obama looks at America as an oppressive force, both against its own citizens and abroad, while I and millions of others around the world have a different view: that America has been a great blessing to its own people and to the world. We intend to provide both serious answers and have some fun as we take Obama's dreams for America to their logical conclusions" ... he continues.

"Obama's goal is to shrink America. He wants to reduce America's footprint in the world because he thinks we are stepping on the world," D'Souza says. "He wants to redistribute money away from the rich and toward the poor. But we are not talking about the rich and the poor in America solely. We are talking about a redistribution of income away from the rich countries — America included — toward

the poor countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Columbia, and so on."

America is directed by John Sullivan. Gerald Molen, who won a best picture Oscar for producing *Schindler's List* with Steven Spielberg in 1993, will be the executive producer.

"We intend to bring the same level of excellence, integrity and honesty to this production and, if we're successful, we'll once again be embraced by the American film going public and ignored by the Oscars," quips Molen.

Movie industry watchers were shocked by D'Souza's *2016* film when it hit the silver screen, earning \$33.5 million on a production budget of \$2.5 million.

Needless to say, *2016* did not go over well with Obama supporters. It is doubtful that *America* will either. What is fairly certain is that the film will generate some discussion, questions, controversy and self-searching by viewers.

Is America an *Exceptional* nation? Are we the *Arsenal of Democracy*? Do people all over the world truly dream about *Coming to America*?

Most Central American nations are bogged down in corruption and ineptitude. The same can be said of the Middle East, Pakistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Nigeria, and Somalia are no better off. Can the United States afford to be just *Another Nation* among nations? And if America is in decline, what can we expect for our children and children's children in a *post-constitutional America*; an America where *executive orders* (overreach) exceed the balance of powers so carefully

crafted by the founding fathers?

The specious targeting of American citizens by agencies of the Federal Government, including the IRS, EPA, NSA, VA and others at the behest of the Administration for the purpose of side-lining and incapacitating any perceived threat of power-speaking-to-power can render the government of the people impotent — merely a facade covering a totalitarian state, a post-constitutional state.

Sound improbable? National Socialists were voted into power. Augusto Pinochet, Juan Perón, Cesar Chavez, Fidel Castro all stood for election. The regimes they led impoverished their people, removed the *voice* of the people, made these nations pariahs in the world community. Do we as Americans want to live in a *Banana Republic*?

Concepts of freedom, social justice, equity in an egalitarian state and the rights we hold to be self-evident are not so clear among competing visions of the *Commonwealth* we share. Capitalism is dead in the minds of social engineers. Communism has failed in its implementation of *from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs*. Utopian experiments in communal living have failed here and elsewhere.

Our experiment in democracy (not bottom up, but top down), founded upon the ideals of a *Republic*, embracing *representative government*, functioning within the framework of Judeo-Christian principles and a carefully crafted *balance of powers* has worked reasonably well for

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MONEY MATTERS

by Linda
Wilkes

Economic Update In The News

Existing home sales rose 4.9 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.89 million units.

Compared to a year ago, May existing home sales were down 5 percent. The inventory of unsold existing homes on the market rose 2.2 percent to 2.28 million in May, a 5.6-month supply at the current sales pace.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — rose 1.1 percent in April after a 0.9 percent increase in March. On a year-over-year basis, prices have risen 10.8 percent when compared with April 2013.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending June 20 fell 1 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume also fell 1 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 1 percent as well.

New home sales rose 18.6 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 504,000 units. April's initial reading of 433,000 units was revised to 425,000 units. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales were 16.9 percent higher than May 2013. At the current sales pace, there is a 4.5-month supply of new homes on the market.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — decreased \$2.4 billion, or 1 percent, to \$238 billion in May. This follows a 0.8 percent increase in April. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, May orders

posted a monthly decrease of 0.1 percent.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the US — decreased at a revised annual rate of 2.9 percent in the first quarter of 2014. This was largely due to severe winter weather.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending June 21 fell by 2,000 to 312,000. Continuing claims for the week ending June 14 rose by 12,000 to 2.571 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 314,250.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on pending home sales on June 30 and construction spending on July 1.

Big Idea 6 Steps to Successful Goal Setting

Goal setting is essential to being successful. Without it, you can miss business-building opportunities and be overwhelmed by the myriad tasks facing you every day. Here are six steps to effective goal setting:

- Write your goal in the form of an affirmation. List your goal as though you've already accomplished it. For example, if your goal is to make 20 calls per day, and you currently make two, consider writing: "I make 20 calls per day." Adopt a positive frame of mind and visualize yourself completing your goal.
- Agree on a date of accomplishment. Be reasonable and realistic. Choose a date you want to have the goal accomplished, but understand that after

fleshing out the goal during the next few steps, you might need to alter your initial projection.

- *List the benefits of completing your goal and obstacles to achieving it.* Visualize completing the goal. What are the newfound benefits? Do other people benefit from this goal? Does it set you up for future benefits? What are the consequences of achieving your goal? What sacrifices will you make? Now, place your benefits and challenges on opposite sides of an imaginary scale. Do the benefits outweigh the challenges? Is this goal truly worth pursuing? If so, move to the next step. If not, reconsider this particular goal.
- *Surround yourself with people who can help.* Recruit the people who will help guide and encourage you. Avoid people who would be jealous of your ability to succeed.
- *List new skills you need to accomplish the goal.* This helps you measure how long it will take you to obtain your goal. It also forces you to contemplate personal weaknesses that you must strengthen to pursue your goal.
- *Write the plan.* By answering the previous questions, you've collected the information you need to start putting together a plan that will become a roadmap to goal setting. People most frequently map their plans chronologically. Use a pencil — it's OK to erase and rearrange the steps in your plan.

Home Line High-Tech Décor Bringing Practicality and

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Money

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Coolness to Your Home

The infusion of technology into everyday devices found in your home has taken home décor to a new level of practicality, efficiency and *coolness*. Remember how awesome it was when Wi-Fi first gave you the freedom to set up your laptop anywhere in your home or stream music to your backyard? Well now you can find Wi-Fi-enabled screens in refrigerator doors, which lets you stream and display photos and recipes.

Here are some high-tech home décor items that can make your life easier, more efficient and even more fun.

- Bluetooth® bathrooms — Bluetooth, a technology that lets electronic devices

communicate wirelessly with each other, is being used to make bath time more enjoyable. Kohler®, a maker of high-end baths and showers, carries bathtubs (starting at \$2,600) and showerheads (starting at \$129) that are Bluetooth enabled so you can stream music and podcasts while washing.

- OLED — Organic light-emitting diode (OLED) displays for televisions and computers work without a backlight, so they are thinner, more flexible, more energy efficient and lighter than popular LED displays. They are so thin, in fact, that OLED is finding its way into newfangled designer lamps, wall-mounted lighting products and

even wearable gear. Click here for more information on OLED products.

- Kitchen talk — With the popularity of Siri®, the voice behind the iPhone® assistant, most people will probably be comfortable telling their coffee maker (\$99) what time to brew. There's also a voice-activated shopping list organizer (\$150) that stores your verbal list and prints it when you're ready to go to the grocery store.

You can find a host of high-tech home décor topics using Pinterest. Simply search Pinterest using keywords *high-tech home décor* and enjoy! ○

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

Program

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members whose combined age and years of service in the club equal 85 or more. The significance of those members is that their absence does not count against our attendance percentage. He stated that our gains and losses in members have just about evened out.

Treasurer Mike Noll reported that our club is nicely solvent, having finished the year with a \$2,200 net profit. The good news is that our receivables are way down thanks to the work and assistance of a few members.

And, although Foundation Chair Ed Jasnow didn't get to speak, a sample of his plans for the year occurred at the beginning of the meeting when John Frykenberg awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to Gordon Seiffert. Ed Jasnow ○



Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

Chairmen

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200 years. There is no guarantee it will continue.

Edging toward the precipice of collapse is nothing new in our history. The very existence of the nation has hung in the winds of change many times; the 1820s, the Civil War, the Depressions of 1873, 1893 and 1929, World War II...

So ... "What if America Never Existed?" The alternatives are frightening: An Aryan, race based superpower? A Godless, dialectical material, communist state which pretends to pay us a fair wage as long as we pretend to work? A politically correct, sensitive, caring elite bureaucratic oligarchy where *big brother is watching you?*

A *Brave New World* or *Fahrenheit 451* anyone? *Eloi or the Morlocks*, *Soylent Green* more to your liking? **Nightmares all!**

Our Constitution is not a sacred document. It never dealt with the evils of slavery until passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments or women's right to vote until the 19th Amendment. Child

labor law, occupational safety and health (OSHA), consumer protection, affordable health care were never considered by the founding fathers. But, they gave us a workable framework within which reform, compassion, civil rights, freedom of speech and a trial by a jury of one's peers has emerged along with equal protections under the law. That framework should not be easily tampered with, subject to one branch's liberal interpretation of that Constitution at the expense of every other branch, which is a real danger to the Republic even as I write this.

Are we so naive to believe the IRS emails from Lois Lerner no longer exist ... anywhere? Do we believe Attorney General Holder enforces the law with equity today? Does our government lie to us? These are important questions for which we must demand answers or the hard fought gains we have made as that *City on the Hill* envied by the whole world will simply fade into darkness — *as if it had never been there.* ○

Flags come Down

Next Stop: Laundering & Pressing

The Plan

The plan was to arrive at the Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9a on Saturday, July 05 — that's right the day after *Independence Day*. The flags had been up since Memorial Day, lighted every night because they are on light poles.

Like always, I was traveling east on Woodbury and turned south on Fiske, only to find that both entrances on that

street had been gated shut — a strange phenomenon. So I continued south on Fiske, turned east on the street below Woodbury and found that that gate was open.

Shortly after I arrived, David Smith drove up in his truck, then came Tony Hill in his van, followed by Mike Zoeller and Tom McCurry, in that order.

It didn't take long to determine that

Hill and Smith had brought ladders in their respective vehicles. Two teams were formed, and off they went to take down flags. Hill and Zoeller going north on Lake on the east side of the street, and Smith and McCurry comprising the other team, starting at Altadena drive and coming south on Lake.

And I was a team unto myself assigned to record the event in pictures.



President Dennis — Demoted

A Photo Essay



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Demoted

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Demoted

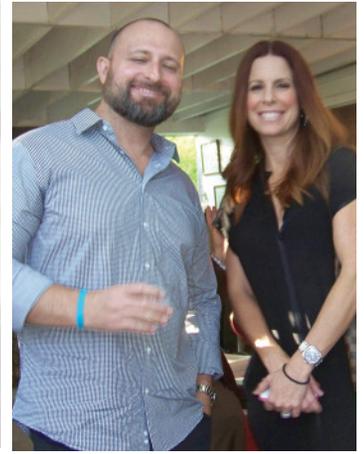
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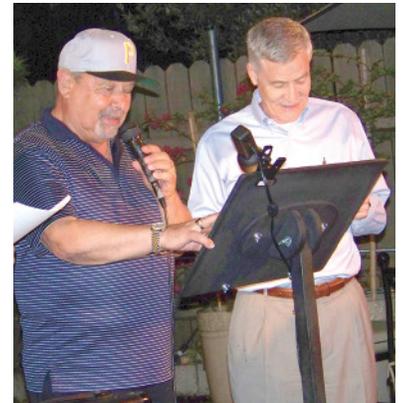
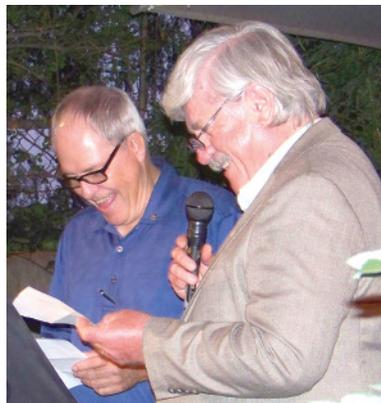
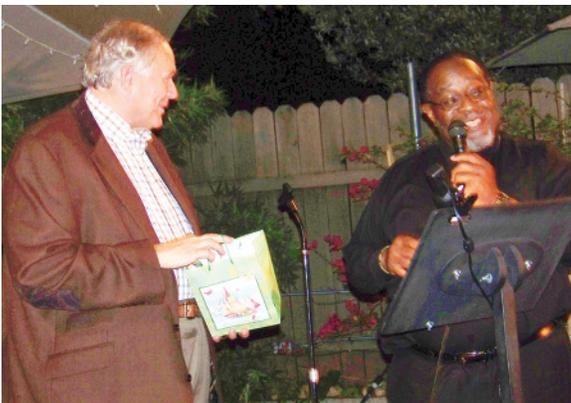
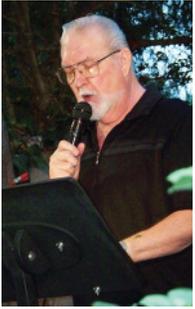
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Demoted

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The Play's the Thing . . .





All **FREE** Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.
 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

18th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2014

Downbeat Express (Big Band with Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 5th
Whiskey Hayride (Country music and much more!)	Saturday, July 12th
Hotsy Totsy Boys (Roarin' 20's)	Saturday, July 19th
Let's Go! (Tribute to the Cars & more)	Saturday, July 26th
Floyd & the Flyboys (R & B, Soul, Funk)	Saturday, August 2nd
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 9th
Delgado Brothers Band (Americana & Blues)	Saturday, August 16th
The MIGHTY Burnt Bacon (Stax Style Soul Band)	Saturday August 23rd

And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 6th
Sgt. Pepper in a tribute to the Beatles!
 Presented By: Community Events & SSGA

Thank You to our generous sponsors



Rotary Club
Of Altadena

MonteCedro
The art of life in harmony



Georgia Rutherford
In Memory of
Don Rutherford

