



July 17, 2014

**This Week**  
**Ron Cunningham**  
*Personal*  
**Development Coach**  
**The John L.**  
**Maxwell Team**  
**Program Host:**  
**Steve Cunningham**

Ron Cunningham retired from the City of Los Angeles after many years as principal inspector and emergency management coordinator for the Los Angeles Housing Department, and he served as an adjunct assistant professor teaching building at Pasadena City College.

Cunningham followed in the foot steps of his Grandfather Joe L Cunningham, Sr. who served as an ordained Deacon at Friend Baptist Church of Pasadena. In addition, the younger Cunningham also served as an ordained Deacon with the church.

Cunningham is now serving as a certified coach, speaker and teacher on the John L Maxwell Team. John L Maxwell, America's expert on Leadership, is the founder of *The Injoy*

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**REFLECTIONS**  
 by Hal Yorke, President  
**REFLECTIONS?**

**On Polarization . . .**

**P**olarization generally refers to the separation of opposites. In the physical sciences, it can mean a separation of positive and negative charges. In economics, it refers to the disappearance of middle class jobs, leaving a greater disparity of jobs, namely those at the top and those at the bottom. In psychology, it is the process by which a political or social group is divided into opposing sub-groups, and in politics, polarization is the process whereby public opinion divides and goes to the extremes.

The United States' constitution defines a pluralistic, democratic system. Because of its diversity, the US will always have some degree of polarization. Men/women, black/white/brown/other, gay/straight, religious/atheist-agnostic, native-born/foreign-born, young/old, rich/poor, sick/healthy: we are a nation of many opposites that can easily lead to increased polarization. We can nevertheless function as a nation, when we manage to find common ground. The small degree of re-

maining polarization can actually help us to progress as a people. It has often forced us to reconsider our traditional positions and make changes; it has made us more tolerant of those outside our comfort zones. It has enriched our language, our culture, the styles of clothes we wear, and even our culinary choices.

We, however, are all aware of the dangers of increased polarization. At the most extreme, we see even today civil wars and genocide. In the US increased political polarization has led to entrenchment, a refusal to compromise or even discuss pressing issues, and demonization of

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***Greeters***

July 17

**Tom McCurry**

July 24

**Dennis Mehringer**

July 31

**Kevin Moore**

# Program Review



One of the benefits of attending weekly meetings of

the Rotary Club of Altadena is the outstanding programs that are offered to the members and guests. Many of these programs are educational in that they make us aware of issues facing our community or the nation.

Last week, June Davidson — a local Altadena resident and community lead-

## Child Trafficking in the US . . . A Serious Problem

er — spoke to the club about the growing problem of child trafficking in the United States and the world.

Child/Human Trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world. According to the US Department of State, human trafficking is the world's second largest criminal enterprise after drugs. The statistics are very sobering. Over eighty percent of human trafficking victims are women and girls, with over 50 percent being minors. Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are bought and sold across international borders each year. The majority of these victims are forced into the commercial sex trade. Child pornography is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, with a 2500 percent increase in arrests in 10 years.

The predators prey on teens through the internet, Facebook and even right outside their school. Many children run away from home each year. Some are kidnapped and sold into human sex trafficking. This is a very lucrative business. Some investigators have estimated that an average predator can make more than \$200,000 from one female victim. The global marketing of child trafficking is estimated to be between \$12 Billion and \$40 billion per year. The average age of entry for children victimized by the sex trade industry is 12 years old. Tragically,



the average remaining life expectancy for a child who is forced into this life is seven (7) years.

Fortunately, there are people working to combat this problem June is a part of Women Against Child Trafficking [WACT], a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping victims/survivors of human/child trafficking. Headquartered in Riverside County, they work with the FBI, the Riverside County Sheriff's department and the Riverside Police. They support a local safe-house — Operation SafeHouse, a youth shelter that houses rescued chil-

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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**  
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**July  
No Designation**

**Program Chair, Steve Cunningham**  
 Jul 17 - Ron Cunningham - Personal Growth  
 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

## Why Your Contribution to the Rotary Foundation means so Much



Once again, I am drawing on an article about the Foundation to emphasize how important it is.

We are at the end of the year, and I have one last thought to close out our year. While this story is touching in its primary message, I think it also reminds us of the impact we have as Rotarians when we least expect it.

It is a touching story from our Zone 26 Endowment Major Gifts Adviser Brenda Cressey. Cressey got a call from her 9-year old great nephew Micah, recently. He had a school assignment and decided to do a

### Program

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dren. A big part of their work is to educate the public and raise awareness. In addition, WACT provides 72-hour emergency shelter, transportation, victim services, food, clothing, shoes, blankets, toiletries and other basic necessities to teenagers caught up in this cycle of trafficking. Other services include mentoring and transitional living to survivors.

It is encouraging that there are organizations active in addressing this serious problem.

We are grateful to June Davidson for coming to Altadena Rotary to inform the club about this issue and the efforts being done to combat it.

Boyd Hudson ○

report on the eradication of Polio.

He picked this because he had heard her talk about her involvement in Rotary. He studied the Rotary website and found lots of information, including pictures of children that made him sad. He asked her for some ideas and she shared with him the story of *The Purple Pinkie*.

### Reflections

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those who don't share the political views of the particular sub-group. It has made us incapable of dealing with those pressing issues and has led us several times in the last few years to the brink of economic disaster. The bottom line: polarization can be very bad for a group, a nation or the world; it can rip it apart.

As part of an international, non-denominational, non-political service organization, our Rotary club mirrors — to some extent — the diversity in our society. We work together effectively, because we have found common ground. Our common goal must be not to mirror the increased polarization of the world and the nation around us, but to concentrate on this common ground.

Our newsletter, *Sparks*, is a valuable source of information for club members and those outside our club. It is our calling card to attract new members, and it reflects directly on our club and its membership. As soon as we allow *Sparks* to become the mouthpiece of a particular

When I read his report, it brought tears to my eyes. It reminded me of the real reason we do what we do. I hope you will enjoy this report and will be re-inspired to Light Up Rotary in the coming year.

Thank you for a tremendous year in Rotary and I look forward to the new year with great enthusiasm. ○

group that vilifies another group, we are inviting increased polarization within our club and courting disaster. Last week's *Sparks* article expounding the antagonistic, polarizing views of ultraconservative Dinesh D'Souza ("President Obama looks at America as an oppressive force, both against its own citizens and abroad, while I ...") is an unfortunate misstep that should not have happened. ○

### This Week

Continued from p. 1

*Group organization*, which is dedicated to helping people maximize their personal and leadership potential.

He is a member of the *Breakfast with Fred Leadership Institute* and is currently working on his Masters in Biblical and Theological Studies.

Cunningham will be discussing Personal Growth. If you know someone who is working on sitting in the driver's seat of his/her life, think about inviting that person to be your guest. ○



# MONEY MATTERS

by Linda Wilkes

## Economic Update In The News

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, rose 6.1 percent in May, following a 0.4 percent increase in April. On a year-over-year basis, May pending home sales were down 5.2 percent.

Total construction spending rose 0.1 percent to \$956.1 billion in May from the revised April estimate of \$955.1 billion. Compared to May 2013, construction spending has risen 6.6 percent on a year-over-year basis.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending June 27 fell 0.2 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume fell 1 percent. Refinancing applications

increased 0.1 percent.

Manufacturing activity fell to 55.3 in June after a reading of 55.4 in May. A reading above 50 signals expansion. It was the 13th consecutive month of expansion, and the overall economy grew for the 61st consecutive month.

Factory orders fell \$2.6 billion, or 0.5 percent, in May to a seasonally adjusted \$497.7 billion. This follows a 0.8 percent increase in April. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, new orders decreased 0.1 percent in May.

The trade deficit decreased from \$47 billion in April to \$44.4 billion in May. Exports rose \$2 billion to \$195.5 billion. Imports decreased \$0.7 billion to \$239.8 billion.

Non-manufacturing activity fell to 56 in June from 56.3 in May. A reading above 50

signals expansion. It was the 53<sup>rd</sup> straight month of expansion in the services sector.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending June 28 rose by 2,000 to 315,000. Continuing claims for the week ending June 21 rose by 11,000 to 2.579 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was also 315,000.

The unemployment rate fell from 6.3 percent in May to 6.1 percent in June. Employers added 288,000 jobs in June and revised the May figure of jobs gained from 217,000 to 224,000.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on consumer credit on July 8 and wholesale trade on July 10. ○

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

## First Summer Concert July 05, 2014



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# Concert

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BEER	\$6
Wine	\$6
SODAS	\$2
SNACKS	\$1
WATER	\$1





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

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