

March 27, 2014

This Week
It's going to be another Surprise ... The Last planned Speaker Surprise for the Month of March Program Host: David Smith

This is the last week in a mysterious succession of programs for March. Our program host is keeping his planned speakers to himself. He insists there is a method to his madness, but only time will tell. It is possible that he will tell you if you ask him, as long as you promise to keep it a secret from everyone else.

Meanwhile invite guests, telling them that you know our program host, and he has never failed to provide an interesting and informative program, but he wishes to keep the theme of his month a secret.

As this is being written for the first week in March, we are experiencing our first *REAL* rain storm of this rainy season. It could be the beginning of another *March Miracle*. The same might be said about the programs that have been planned. As with the weather, we must wait and see. ☺



Dollars & Sense
 by President
 Dennis Mehriinger

Are You Famous?

Before we answer that question, let's define famous. As an arbitrary definition, I will choose to define as famous - those you have their own page on the Wikipedia website. There are about 150,000 such pages for people born in the USA.

However, that includes people from hundreds of years ago when the USA was not fully populated. It also includes criminals like Ted Bundy who is only famous because he killed. So I am going to exclude criminals. Then I am going to limit my search to the baby boomers (those born in the years 1946 through 1964). That reduces my sample down to 36,625 Americans with a page in Wikipedia.

Now, are you famous? If not, why not? The number one reason is determined by where you were born. California overwhelmingly supplies the highest level of famous people with one in 1,209 boomers born in California having a page in Wikipedia. Last in the standings by state is West Virginia with only one famous person out of 4,495 births. The most surprising showing is Texas with only one person out of 2,559 births. Surprising because,

when you talk to many Texans, you get the impression that every single famous person is from Texas. Maybe I would get a different result if I measured just egos.

Second behind California is New York. Then the other states with a high concentration of famous baby boomers are Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Nevada, Washington, Utah and Massachusetts. The states with the lowest production of famous people besides last place West Virginia are North Dakota, New Mexico, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The statistics are also interesting when you identify famous people by county of birth. Number 1 here is Suffolk County, Massachusetts where Boston is located and its 48 universities. The most signifi-

Please turn to Dollars & Sense, p.4

Greeters

- March 27
Susan Applegate
- April 03
Ray Carlson
- April 10
Gary Clark

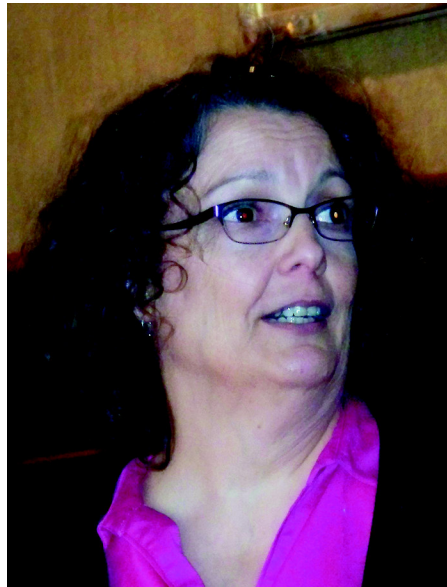
Program Review



A Case for the ME?

We were visited on March 20 by Denise Bertone, RN, who has served as Deputy Coroner Investigator for the County of Los Angeles Medical Examiner/Coroner Office for the past 11 years.

She began her program by providing us with some eye-opening facts, some of which I have mentioned below:



by homicide

Next she explained what the role of the Coroner is. With every case that they are assigned, they must follow these guidelines: Identification, Notification, and then determine Manner, Mode, and Cause of death.

Some of the duties that those instances require are:

- Positively identifying the decedent
- Finding and notifying any living next of kin
- Inquiring into and determining the cause, mode, manner of all violent, sudden or unusual deaths.

What is considered a Coroner's Case? Denise had the answer!

Coroner's cases include all Homicides, Suicides, Accidents, and Natural Deaths that occur in LA County.

The rest of the program was photos from previous cases that she had worked, and the group asked some great questions with regards to those specific cases.

Charles Wilson

Congratulations

Birthdays

03/14 - Emily Aiken (Linda Wilkes)
03/15 - David Smith
03/15 - Trish Robinson

Anniversaries

03/01 - Tom & Etta McCurry
3/30 - Dennis Miller & Noriko Suzuki

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
www.altadenarotary.com
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p
Altadena Town & Country Club
2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA
626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres. Ron Burton
Dist 5300 Gov. Miles Petroff

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Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
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Photography Jacque Foreman

March

Literacy Month

Program Chair, David Smith

March 27 - It's a Surprise

April

Magazine Month

Program Chair, Gordon Seyffert

April 03 - To be Announced
April 10 - Andreas Hessing, Scrub Jay Studios (landscaping with native plants)
April 17 - Judy Alder, Pasadena Family History Center (compiling & preserving family history)
April 24 - Lori Webster, Webster's Fine Stationers ("transitioning" a small business)

Community Service Projects taking Shape



The Rotary Club of Altadena has been divided into three teams to develop, organize and execute service projects in the community. Our goal is to complete a hands-on project three times a year — one in the fall, spring and winter to complement our club wide efforts with the Concerts in the Park during the summer. I am happy to report that two teams are working to bring two projects to the club in the next several weeks.

Mike Noll and Tom McCurry from the Winter Project Team have been looking to move a play house from Mike Noll's home, install it with a local organization that works with children and refurbish it on site. Mike and Tom believe they have found an organization that can use the playhouse. The organization is in the middle of obtaining a grant for improvements that would include the area where we will install the play house. We will keep you posted on details as they become available.

The Spring Project committee completed a site visit to Eliot Middle School on March 20. This project will entail installing six backless benches and two backed benches around trees in the Eliot courtyard. In addition, we will install 5 additional trash receptacles. Tony Hill and new

member Kimmit Haggins will identify the benches/trash cans and anchors from the approved PUSD vendors. They will coordinate with Susan Schwartz at Eliot to receive the school's approval of the hardware. Once this is complete, the hardware will be ordered and shipped to Dave Smith's shop. We will then firm up an installation date (now tentatively May 3). Theo Clarke and Julius Johnson have agreed to recruit our Rotary volunteers. Josh Miller and Gordon Seyffert have

agreed to make arrangements to move everything we need from Dave's shop to the school site. Susan Schwartz and the Eliot parents will also provide volunteers and make us lunch!

If everything comes together, we should complete two great hands-on projects before the end of the Rotary year. Great projects give us an opportunity to meet like-minded people in the community, get our hands dirty, dust off our tools and make a real difference. ☺





MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In The News

Retail sales rose 0.3 percent to \$427.2 billion in February. This follows a revised 0.6 percent decrease in January. Compared to a year ago, February retail sales have increased 1.5 percent.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.6 percent to \$521.2 billion in January. Sales at the wholesale level fell 1.9 percent to \$432.6 billion in January. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 3.9 percent higher than January 2013. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/sales ratio in January 2014 was 1.20.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending March 7 fell 2.1 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume fell 1 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 3 percent.

Import prices rose 0.9 percent in February, following a 0.4 percent increase in January. On a year-over-year basis, import prices were down 1.1 percent in February. Export prices rose 0.6 percent in February, following a 0.2 percent increase in January. Compared to a year ago, export prices were down 1.3 percent in February.

Total business sales decreased 0.9 percent to \$1,302.9 billion in January, up 2.5 percent from a year ago. Total business inventories rose 0.4 percent to \$1,715.1 billion in January, up 3.9 percent from a year ago. The total business inventories/sales ratio in January was 1.32.

According to the Federal Reserve, monthly consumer credit debt rose \$13.7

billion in January for a total credit debt level of \$3,112.3 billion. Revolving debt, which includes credit cards, decreased \$0.2 billion to \$856.2 billion. Non-revolving debt, including loans for cars, rose \$13.9 billion to \$2,256.1 billion. Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending March 8 fell by 9,000 to 315,000. Continuing claims for the week ending

March 1 fell by 48,000 to 2.855 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 330,500.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing market index on March 17, housing starts on March 18 and existing home sales on March 20. ☉

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

Dollars & Sense

Continued from p. 1

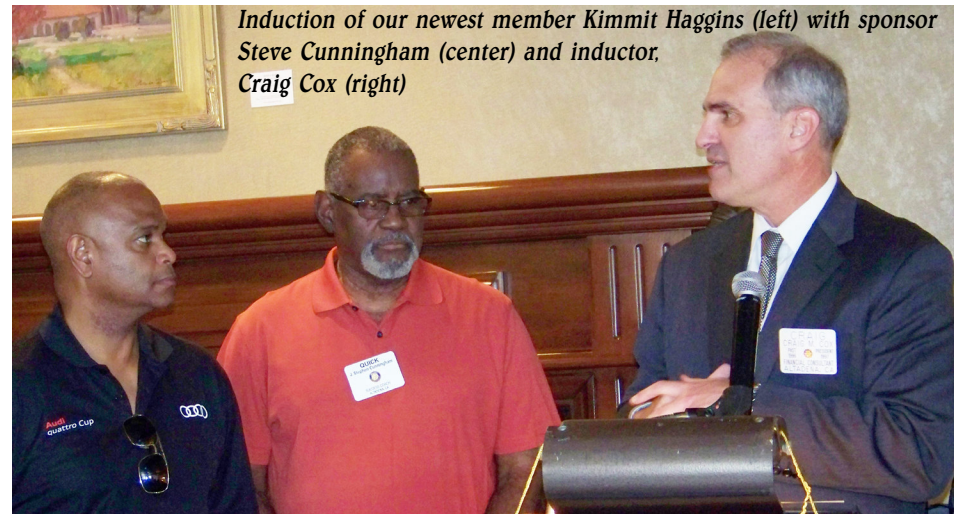
cant correlating factor to becoming famous is birth in a county with a major university. For example, #2 is San Francisco County, #3 is Johnson County, Iowa where the University of Iowa is located, #4 Washtenaw County, Michigan where the University of Michigan is located, #5 is Washington, DC and #6 is our own Los Angeles County.

There is one county which has no famous people - Allegan County, Michigan. Then there are 11 counties which have just one famous person each — three in Kentucky, two in New York, two in Penn-

sylvania, and one each in North Carolina, Missouri, Indiana and Colorado.

So now when my mom gives me grief for not being famous instead of giving my usual excuse that I don't want the world to know about me or else my identity might be stolen, I can tell her that it was her fault for giving birth to me in Dubois County, Indiana (near the bottom of the list) instead of Monroe, Indiana (9th on the list). By the way, New York city is 11th on the list.

Good luck on becoming famous on Wikipedia! ☉



Induction of our newest member Kimmit Haggins (left) with sponsor Steve Cunningham (center) and inductor, Craig Cox (right)

District Assembly
for the
2014-2015 Rotary Year

Saturday, April 5, 2014
Sign-in - 8a <> Event - 9a

Victor Valley College

18422 Bear Valley Road
Victorville, CA 92395

REGISTER NOW
ON LINE

2014 ANNUAL DISTRICT 5300 CONFERENCE

Thursday May 15, 2014 to Sunday May 18, 2014

Event Name: 2014 ANNUAL DISTRICT 5300 CONFERENCE

Description:



The Big Kahuna Miles Petroff invites you to enjoy the "Spirit of Aloha" at the 2014 District Conference! Join us May 15—18 at the Hilton Palm Springs Resort. Ohana means family and we want to see the District 5300 Ohana of Rotary out in full force! The cost is just \$209 for all five meals, with prices for individuals meals also available. **Meal and room prices go up April 24**, so [register now](#).

You'll enjoy golfing, the Palm Springs Street Fair, 4-Way Speech and Dan Stover Music contests, Rotary inspiration and, of course, the Tiki Lounges (hospitality suites)! You need to act now to secure your club's Tiki Lounge or space in the Ohana Hall, where you can show off your community service projects. More details are available on the flyer.

Don't delay! You'd be lolo (crazy) not to come!

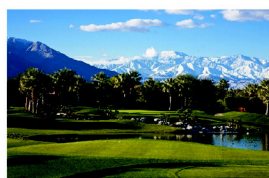
[Conference Flyer](#)



[Hilton Palm Springs](#)

400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, California, 92262-6605

TEL: 1-760-320-6868
FAX: 1-760-320-2126



[Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort](#)

1885 Golf Club Drive
Palm Springs, California 92264

Thursday, May 15, 2014
2:00 pm tee off, be there by 1:30

Meal Cost: Just \$209*/person for ALL five meals! *Individual meal prices also available.* ***\$239 after April 24.**

Rooms: Call now! (760)320-6868 Mention Rotary! \$125 (regular) - \$155 (suites) +tax. **Prices go up after April 24.**

Register: <http://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/index.cfm?EventID=77228040>

Who to call for...

Golf Tournament

Ernie Jensen (626) 359-7154

Hospitality Suites (Call to reserve)

Raghada Khoury (760) 559-3244

Interact Conference

Michael Real (626) 445-3818

Ohana Hall (Display your community service project)

David Mans (626) 449-7379

For additional information, please contact:

Co-Chair: Raghada Khoury (760) 559-3244 or *Email:* raghada@khouryent.net

Co-Chair: Kathie Martin 760-490-3488 or *Email:* rotarykat@gmail.com

Registrar: Michael Soden (702) 637-7380 or *Email:* msoden@harcalfagency.com

Location:

Rotary International District 5300 District Conference

Hilton Pam Springs
400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, California, 92262-6605

[MAP IT](#)

Event Date:

Thursday May 15, 2014 to Sunday May 18, 2014

Start Time:

3:29 PM



2014 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA | 1-4 JUNE 2014

REGISTER NOW



WHY ATTEND

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PROGRAM

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SYDNEY CONVENTION OFFERS FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Join Rotary members from around the world in Sydney, Australia, 1-4 June. The 2014 RI Convention will bring together some of the world's leading experts on water, polio, and social media. You'll find new ideas for service – and perhaps a new partner for creating change – in the House of Friendship.

Plan now to make this convention a memorable family vacation.

REGISTER ONLINE

REGISTER BY FAX OR MAIL

[Learn more about registration and fees.](#)



Preview Sydney's cosmopolitan charm and natural beauty with RI President Ron D. Burton. As the capital of New South Wales, Sydney offers visitors beaches, parks, gardens, and scenic vistas. It also serves as the gateway to the outback.

LATEST NEWS

CALENDAR

HUMAN NATURE TO PERFORM
The Australian quartet Human Nature will be the featured entertainment during the opening plenary session, Sunday, 1 June. Learn more about the [entertainment lineup](#).

BRUCE AYLWARD TO SPEAK IN SYDNEY
Bruce Aylward, assistant director-general at the World Health Organization (WHO), will be a speaker at the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney.

[more >](#)

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Thought-provoking speakers and world-class entertainers await you in Sydney. Get the full schedule of plenary and breakout sessions.

[Learn about volunteer opportunities.](#)

ABOUT THE CITY



Casual yet cosmopolitan, Sydney has a natural beauty that draws visitors to enjoy the outdoors. Explore the city with a [free transit pass](#) courtesy of the New South Wales Government.

SIGN UP FOR CONVENTION UPDATES

Get the latest news, updates, and deadline information about the Sydney convention.

SIGN-UP

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HOST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Looking for more convention news and information? Visit the [Host Organizing Committee website](#) and discover Sydney.



TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

[Sign in for promo codes](#). Learn more about travel to Sydney.



New South Wales Government – Proudly supporting the Rotary International Convention 2014