

September 11, 2014

This Week

Marisa Sarian, PhD
Director, College & Career Pathways
Program Host:
Ray Carlson

Dr. Sarian's responsibility for the College & Career Pathways at all four high schools and seven middle schools is strategic to the success of upgrading PUSD enrollment, academic performance and graduation rate.

PUSD currently operates ten multi-year high school programs that feature college preparatory academics organized around career themes or industry sectors — such as engineering, law, the arts, computer apps, business and health careers.

Sarian earlier served six years as principal of McKinley K-8 school, where the academic performance index increased from 778 to 828.

She earned a PhD in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University in May 2012, and a Masters in Educational Administration from Cal State Northridge. She is fluent in French, Armenian and Farsi (Iran).

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REFLECTIONS

by Hal Yorke, President
REFLECTIONS?

On the Good Old Days of Air Travel

Last week I flew to San Francisco on business, allowing me to reminisce on the way things used to be in the *good old days*. In particular, I remember my second flight to Germany, while on a very tight budget. My fiancée was in Wuppertal, eagerly awaiting my arrival. After having completed all the necessary paperwork (that's another column's story), we planned to marry within the week. It was early November 1969.

Negotiating everything from a quarter-hungry telephone booth, I ascertained that the cheapest way to get to Germany was to fly to New York via standby youth-fare, fly to London with Icelandic Airlines — nicknamed the *hippy airline*, and then take a train/ferry/train to Wuppertal. After converting everything I had into travelers' checks and informing my professors that I would be missing their mid-term exams, I set out on my journey. Since Icelandic flew to London once a week on Mondays, I went to LAX on Sunday to make sure that — flying standby — I would arrive in New York in time.

Luckily, I caught an early flight to New York and decided to buy my ticket a day

early. In New York I was informed that the airfare to London and back was \$295, not \$195 as I was told by telephone. I just barely had the \$245 needed for a flight to Luxemburg!

Telling my story about the upcoming wedding (if I made it to Germany on time) and inquiring whether I could get on the Luxemburg flight, the friendly lady at the Icelandic counter called someone and then informed me that the flight had left 5 minutes ago, but if I hurried I could still make it. I quickly signed several traveler's checks, bought the ticket and ran off to the side door she pointed me to. Following her instructions, I ran down the stairs onto the airfield. With my suitcase in hand, I then ran across the tarmac of one of the

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Greeters

September 11
Sue Applegate
 September 18
George Buehler
 September 25
Ray Carlson

Program Review



Scott Phelps has been serving as the Pasadena Unified School District President of

the Board of Education since May 2014. A graduate of Caltech, he was coordinator of the Science, Engineering and Technology Academy at John Muir HS and for 14 years taught 9-12th graders in chemistry, physics, planetary science (astronomy), physical science and math. This package constitutes the STEM program that all

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 Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
 Ray Carlson Vocational
 Tom McCurry Asst. Vocational
 Craig Cox Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
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What's New at PUSD

schools must offer in California. Phelps is currently teaching mathematics and astronomy at the U. of La Verne, Mt. San Antonio College and Chaffey College.

Phelps has served on the Pasadena Unified Board of Trustees since 2005. He chaired the district's strategic plan and outreach committee and the board's policy and finance committee. He is currently pushing an effort to increase Pasadena City College PCC offerings at all district high schools (Collaborate Pasadena).

With the past history and support that the rotary club has given to PUSD through numerous scholarships and grants, it was great to hear an update on the school district and how it is currently performing.

All this information was fresh in Phelps mind since he gave the annual update required by the Pasadena City Charter earlier in the day. His beginning remarks to the club members were in reference to some of the current and past initiatives taking place within the district boundaries.

He began by speaking on Measure TT: (Facility Improvement Funds)

In 2009, PUSD sold the first series of Bonds (Series "A") for 125 Million dollars. On May 10, 2012, the next series of Measure TT Bonds (Series "B") sold for 125 Million dollars. A total of \$250 Million dollars has been sold to date. The final \$100 Million dollars, series "C", is anticipated to be sold in 2014, finalizing the sales of the Measure TT Bond Program.

**September
 New Generations Month**

Program Chair, Ray Carlson

Sep 11 - Dr. Marisa Sarian, Director, Careers & Pathways, PUSD
 Sep 18 - To be Announced
 Sep 25 - To be Announced

Below is a listing of the current projects happening within PUSD:

- Altadena ES - Multi-Purpose Room and Kitchen Modernization
- Eliot MS - Auditorium and Café Modernization
- Hamilton ES - Multi-Purpose Room and Kitchen Modernization
- McKinley K8 - Phase I New Classrooms and Gymnasium
- Sierra Madre MS - New School Campus Buildings
- Willard ES - New Pre-K and Kindergarten Classrooms
- Wilson MS - Gymnasium and Courtyard Modernization

The district is also staying current with upgrades in technology and online testing by striving to have a 1/1 student/tablet ratio. (PUSD uses Chromebook)

Enrollment has decreased every year over the past 14 years in PUSD due to the rising costs of living in our beautiful local cities. Charles Wilson ○



Congratulations



Birthdays

09/13 - Boyd Hudson
 09/17 - Dennis Mehringer
 09/19 - Bob Collinge
 09/22 - Etta McCurry

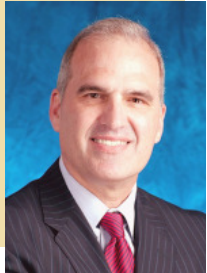




Anniversaries

09/13 - Boyd & Alice Hudson





Projects – The Intersection of Membership Development and Service

Projects – The Intersection of Membership Development and Service

To serve – we must grow; to grow – we must serve was my official motto during my presidential year. (My unofficial motto was “these dog-gone volunteer organizations”...but that is another story). As a service club we exist to do acts of service. The more active members we have – the more acts of service we can accomplish.

Right now the Rotary Club of Altadena has around 30 members. Pound for pound

these 30 members do a lot! Unfortunately, when it comes to doing hands-on projects the number of members who consistently participate shrinks to about 10.

It is clear that if we are to remain a viable organization doing hands-on projects in the community we need to grow our membership. The good news is that projects in the community are a great way to recruit.

For the investment of a few hours and a little sweat prospective members can feel what is like to perform service above self. We have a pretty good time when we do

these projects so it is a good chance for fellowship as well.

Your next opportunity to participate in a hands-on project will be in October. We will be building tent decks at the Camp Trask Scout Reservation. I encourage you to invite one of your adult children, a friend, or a sibling to come with you. You will have a great time. You will be able to make a meaningful contribution to the Boy Scouts. Who knows, you may spark a desire in your guest to join in our work of service to the world by becoming a member. ○

Reflections

Continued from p. 1

busiest airports in the world and climbed a portable ladder-staircase set up for me into the waiting plane. Everyone on board stared at me, wondering about the sweaty young bearded man who had run across New York's runway and stopped a taxiing passenger airplane prior to takeoff.

The noisy turbo-prop flight from New York to Luxemburg took 17½ hours, including a short stopover in Reykjavik for fuel. Because my departure from New York had been so hectic, I hadn't cashed any additional travelers' checks. The banks at Luxemburg airport were closed. The bottom line: I was unable to buy a bus ticket to Wuppertal. Hearing my sob story about the wedding, a fellow traveler offered me a ride to Mannheim in his car. He assured

me that I could easily get a train ticket from there to Wuppertal.

In Mannheim we learned that the Bundesbahn did not accept travelers' checks or even dollars and, moreover, the last train of the day to Wuppertal had departed 10 minutes earlier. Fortunately, my new friend helped me cash a \$20 travelers' check at a local bar and convert to Deutschmarks. I was able to purchase a ticket for a night train to Wuppertal, leaving 4 hours later. My wife and I are indeed indebted to this Good Samaritan, whose name I have regrettably forgotten.

Since the rest of the story starts to get complicated, and *Sparks* has limited space, I will have to continue with it next issue... ○

This Week

Continued from p. 1

We have been in discussions with Sarian about introducing Entrepreneurial Education to middle schools. We started this at Eliot from 1995 – 1997 and 2013. ○

**BE A PART OF
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MONEY MATTERS

by Linda Wilkes

Economic Update In The News

New home sales fell 2.4 percent in July to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 412,000 units. June’s initial reading of 406,000 units was revised to 422,000 units. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales were 12.3 percent higher than July 2013. At the current sales pace, there is a 6-month supply of new homes on the market.

The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — rose 1 percent in June after a 1.2 percent increase in May. On a year-over-year basis, prices have risen 8.1 percent when compared with June 2013.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending August 22 rose 2.8 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume

rose 3 percent. Refinancing applications increased 3 percent. Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, rose 3.3 percent in July, following a revised 1.3 percent decrease in June. On a year-over-year basis, July pending home sales were down 2.1 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — increased \$55.3 billion, or 22.6 percent, to \$300.1 billion in July. The unusual spike was due to a large increase in orders for nondefense aircraft (Boeing). This follows a 2.7 percent increase in June. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, July orders posted a monthly decrease of 0.8 percent.

The consumer confidence index rose to 92.4 in August from a revised 90.3 in July. It was the highest reading since October 2007. The index was benchmarked at 100 in 1985, a year chosen because it was

neither a peak nor a trough in consumer confidence.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the US — increased at a revised annual rate of 4.2 percent in the second quarter of 2014. This follows a 2.1 percent decline in the first quarter of 2014.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending August 23 fell by 1,000 to 298,000. Continuing claims for the week ending August 16 rose by 25,000 to 2.527 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 299,750.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on construction spending on September 2, factory orders on September 3 and international trade on September 4.

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

Two Weeks Ago



Frykenberg and his niece (who arranged for the doctors and supplies through the

Dr. Okey presented a video about his medical clinic in Owerri, Nigeria, in which volunteers from the United States provided medical services and supplies to a very poor group of natives from the area. Included in the video was John

charity for which she volunteers/works). Thousands of people received medical treatments and dental treatments and drugs and medical supplies during the time period of their visit. The charity work that Okey and the volunteers provided has opened the doors to enable entrepreneurship training to a large number of students and young people from the surrounding area. Frykenberg and Julius Johnson were able to travel together two years ago to train these young people at the Federal Polytechnical University, Nekeda. Frykenberg will be returning to Ogun State, Nigeria with a Rotary Volunteer Training

Team (VTT) to teach “How to Make a Job” related skills on a Global Grant next week. This was the third visit to our club by Dr. Okey and his wife Ngozi who is the principal of a private school that helps support the medical clinic.



Tom McCurry ○ John Frykenberg ○