



January 08, 2015

This Week

Mid-Year Club Assembly Plans for the next six (6) months Guest Program Host: Hal Yorke

This week the Altadena Rotary Club will be holding it's mid-term Club Assembly. This Club Assembly is intended to take a retrospective look at club accomplishments to date and planned activities to come.

President Hal may take the podium and let us know what events and the upcoming programs he is planning as well as what will be happening within each committee. Or he may be planning on calling each committee/subcommittee chair to the podium to present his/her plans for the second half of the Rotary year.

If you are new to Altadena Rotary or have some time to donate, this is a great time to make plans and talk to Committee and Sub-Committee Chairpersons. Think about your interests and which committee/subcommittee is a best fit for you.

This year our mid-term Club Assembly will be held at our regular meeting place — The Altadena Town and Coun-

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REFLECTIONS

by Hal Yorke, President

REFLECTIONS

Auld Lang Syne

In many countries — especially in the English-speaking world — one either sings or at least hears the strains of *Auld Lang Syne* at the stroke of midnight at the beginning of the New Year.

Wondering where this phrase comes from and what it really means, I turn to our trusty workhorse of modern trivia research: Wikipedia. According to Wikipedia, *Auld Lang Syne* is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788, set to the tune of a traditional folk song. The Scots expression "Auld Lang Syne" translates literally to "old long since" or — in plain English — "long long ago." Therefore, according to Wikipedia, "For auld lang syne," as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for (the sake of) old times."

The first verse of the song poses the question, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?" The question is rhetorical of course, reminding us that we should not forget old friend-

ships — an appropriate reminder as we prepare for the New Year. This is the time of year when my wife and I send or receive Christmas greetings and yearly family news summaries from friends, relatives and acquaintances scattered all over the world. We also have sufficient leisure time to reconnect with a subset of friends by phone.

But then the daily grind of the New Year begins, and we somehow forget to maintain the recent reconnections, until one year later, we again sing or hear the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*. ○

Best wishes for a "Happy New Year!"

Greeters

January 01

New Year's Day -- Dark

January 08

Boyd Hudson

January 15

Ed Jasnow

Program Review



Olu, Yumi, and Taio (abbreviations all ... but pronounceable) were welcomed in style on Thursday evening, December 11 at the home of Rotarian Steve (Quick) Cunningham. The Nigerian Delegation hailing from Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria and Tai Solarin University of Education came to Altadena to walk the

Festive Fe'te for Formidables at Quick's Ranch

walk and talk the talk re: *How to Make a Job* skills pushed by Altadena Rotarians for the past decade.

Following Altadena Rotary's recent sortie (September 2014) into Africa by our Global Grant sponsored team of trainers to both Tai Solarin U and the Federal University of Agriculture in Abeokuta, Nigeria, the Vice Chancellor (Dr. Professor Olu) came with her team of three to seek out *Linkages* with staff and faculty at West Los Angeles College (Distance Learning), Fuller Theological Seminary (Communication Methodologies – Ethnomusicology and Dance in Learning), Mt. Sierra College (Server Technologies and Connectivity in Teaching / Learning) and Huntington Library (Research and Application).

Notably, the team evoked great opportunities for sharing and learning from our respective cultures while implementing models for *Job Success* in future ventures in collaboration between Tai Solarin U. and Altadena Rotary. The prospects seem highly probable for joint future endeavors given the clear commitment of the university and the Vice Chancellor and her staff who took extensive notes on their visit here with the intent of writing up proposals for our consideration upon



their return to Africa.

A wonderful time was had by all, especially given live entertainment provided by recording artist Verretta Heidelberg who recently spoke, played and sang for Altadena Rotarians at a regular meeting of the Club.



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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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Craig Cox Community
John Frykenberg International
Tony Hill 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

January Rotary Family Month

Program Chair, John Frykenberg

Jan 01 - New Years -- Dark
Jan 08 - Club Assembly
Jan 15 - Denise Wadsworth - New Vet Center at PCC
Jan 22 - To be Announced
Jan 29 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



01/03 - Betty Ferris
01/10 - Santosh Srivastava
01/14 - Bill Reader
01/27 - Ann Rider Hill
01/27 - Barbara Yorke



Anniversaries



01/03 - Jim & Karen Gorton
01/04 - Mike & Carol Zoeller
01/22 - John and Joan Frykenberg

Youth Programs Update



As you may know, each year our Rotary District 5300 organizes a program

titled Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (known as RYLA). This is an intensive, two and a half day leadership training program for high school juniors from throughout District 5300, chosen for their leadership potential. Rotary District 5300, which includes Altadena Rotary, extends from Pasadena on the west to Las Vegas on the east. A total of approximately 240 high school juniors from across the District participate in this event, an equal number of girls and boys.

In addition to the development of leadership skills, RYLA is meant to develop an understanding of Rotary among youth participants and to reinforce and provide recognition for their efforts, accomplishments, skills and potential as leaders. Rotarians serve as facilitators to the students' learning and discovery, as well as role models of Rotary ideals of the Four-Way Test and *Service Above Self*.

In the case of our Altadena Rotary Club, we select our candidates from Juniors attending John Muir High School. A committee of Altadena Rotary Club members selects two outstanding girls and two outstanding boys to attend. All of their costs of participation are paid for by the Rotary Club of Altadena. In addition, we select an additional two girls and two boys to attend if any of the primary candidates is unable to go.

We are assisted in this selection pro-

cess by Nancy Gonzalez Heusser, Ed.D, a counselor at Muir High School. Gonzalez has been assisting our Club with this task for at least the last ten years. She does such an excellent job in choosing students with leadership potential for us to interview that choosing the four primary candidates and four alternates is always a very difficult job.

This year the RYLA weekend will take place at the Thousand Pines Camp in Crestline, CA from April 17 to April 19, 2015. If you would like to be part of this

RYLA program as part of the committee to interview the candidates at Muir, or as a facilitator who would attend the camp on the weekend of April 17, please contact Tony Hill.

Sometime after the event, we will invite Nancy Gonzales Heusser and the Muir students whom we have sponsored and who have participated in the event, to attend one of our Thursday meetings. At that time each of the student participants will give us a brief outline of his/her experience at the RYLA camp. ○

Program

Continued from p.2



John Frykenberg ○

This Week

Continued from p. 1

try Club. Those present will be hearing about new ideas and programs. Since the club has been dark for two weeks, Jacque Foreman is likely to email blast the membership as a reminder of the meeting.

Plan to come, ask questions and support your Altadena Rotary Club by being an active participant. ○



MONEY MATTERS

by Linda
Wilkes

Economic Update In The News

Single-family new home sales fell 1.6 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 438,000 units. October's initial reading of 458,000 units was revised to 445,000 units. On a year-over-year basis, new home sales were 1.6 percent lower than November 2013. At the current sales pace, there is a 5.8-month supply of new homes on the market.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending December 19 rose 0.9 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume increased 1 percent. Refinancing applications also rose 1 percent.

Existing home sales fell 6.1 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.93 million units. Compared to a year ago, November existing home sales were up 2.1 percent. The inventory of unsold existing homes on the market fell 6.7 percent to 2.09 million in November, a 5.1-month supply at the current sales pace.

Retail sales rose 3.4 percent for the week ending December 20, according to the ICSC-Goldman Sachs index. On a year-over-year basis, retailers saw sales increase 3.1 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — decreased \$1.7 billion, or 0.7 percent, to \$242.3 billion in November. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, November orders posted a monthly decrease of 0.4 percent.

The Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product

— the total output of goods and services produced in the US — increased at an annual rate of 5 percent in the third quarter of 2014. This is an increase from the revised report of 3.9 percent and follows a 4.6 percent increase in the second quarter of 2014.

Personal income increased \$54.4 billion or 0.4 percent in November. The personal savings rate was 4.4 percent in November, compared with 4.6 percent in October. Compared to a year ago, personal income rose 4.2 percent in November.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending December 20 fell by 9,000 to 280,000. Continuing claims for the week ending December 13 rose by 25,000 to 2.403 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 290,250.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on pending home sales on December 31 and construction spending on January 2.

Knowledge Builder

Quitclaim Deeds

What You Need to Know

A quitclaim deed is the simplest way that one person (the grantor) can transfer property, such as a house, to another person (the grantee). It is often used among family members to remove or change someone's name from the property title. While the concept is simple and straightforward — relinquishing all ownership claims to a particular property — it's also important to note what a quitclaim can't do.

In renouncing the claim, the grantor makes no guarantee of promise that the property is free of debt. Another important

distinction is that the grantor makes no promise that no one else claims to own the property. The quitclaim deed says, in effect, that the grantor is signing over whatever ownership he or she may have in the property. It does not even guarantee that the grantor has any ownership interest at all.

Providing all parties are in agreement, a quitclaim is a convenient way to establish title without the time and expense of litigation. A simple form is filled out, taken to a notary, and signed and stamped, making it legally binding. The document is then photocopied, distributed to all parties, and then filed at the local land records office.

Some title companies are reluctant to insure the title when a quitclaim deed was used to transfer title. They might recommend use of a warranty deed. A warranty deed conveys full title to the property and warrants that title against defects (sometimes referred to as a *cloud*), such as tax liens, legal judgments and unpaid debts. For this reason, warranty deeds are often used between buyers and sellers of property.

Big Idea

Building Referral Relationships

One essential component to growing your business is your referral relationships. Here are some tips for building a successful business referral network:

- **Choose quality over quantity.** Seek out only the most successful people as referral partners, whether they are mortgage lenders, attorneys, financial planners or contractors. Building relationships with stars may take a

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Job Creation & Entrepreneurship

by C. Ray Carlson, District Chair,
Vocational Service

Boy Scout Counseling for Merit Badges

PDG Steve Garrett, San Marino Rotary, offers to counsel Boy Scouts in the acquisition of Merit Badges for Entrepreneurship and for Personal Management. He offers four, one-hour sessions of roundtable discussions at his office in Monrovia to

cover the manuals' requirements for those badges. This model is a wonderful way for other Rotarians with or without Scouting experience to pass on their business savvy and career experience to New Generations of Scouts. For guidance as to

how you might offer Vocational Service in this manner, visit his website <http://www.stevegarrett.com/bsa/events/>

Contact C. Ray Carlson <crayc@mac.com> or Denise Wadsworth <denise.wadsworthslp@gmail.com>

*We apologize for the quality of the following graphic.
It was lifted from Steve Garrett's website
spoken of in the above text.*

Steve Garrett
Merit Badge Counselor

American Business Entrepreneurship Personal Management Salesmanship

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The Play House Project Continues

And so it was on December 20 that several of us reassembled to pour the concrete pad on which the play house would sit and the for the small walkway we had agreed to also provide.

If you recall, the walkway had been made up of uneven stepping stones, cer-

tainly better than dirt that would become mud when it rained, but somewhat difficult for very small feet to navigate. When I arrived, pretty close to 8a exactly, David Smith was already there, and Mike Noll arrived shortly after me. Next, in an order I cannot remember came Craig Cox, Steve

Cunningham, Kimmet Haggins and Tom McCurry. Later, but in time to do a lot of the work, Cunningham's brother Tony and his son Steve Junior showed up. Thank you Steve Senior for bringing your family.

Once again, the Christian Children's Center fed us breakfast and lunch. ○

Money

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little more initiative and imagination on your part, but, in the end, they will create far more value for your business.

- **Build rapport.** Before you meet potential partners, learn all you can about them. Are they passionate about a sport, art, animals or civic events? Once your potential referral partner is talking about a passion, identify what you share in common. The similar interests shared are a great way to build rapport.
- **Ask and listen.** Resist the temptation to talk about yourself. Focus on your potential partners by asking open-ended questions and then listen closely to the reply. This process will uncover numerous opportunities for you and showcase your relationship skills.
- **Learn the plan.** What's important to your potential partners? Growing their staff? Finding new markets? Building affinity relationships? You can't add real value to partnerships unless you understand their goals and game plan.
- **Deliver value.** All successful business relationships are built when both parties perceive value. To expect referrals, you must deliver referrals. You also can create value for partners in other ways, such as providing ideas, introducing them to other referral partners, or co-marketing. ○

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



And it was Christmas . . . Bless You

What follows is a photo essay of our Christmas Party, December 18, 2014.



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Christmas Party

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