

May 28, 2015

This Week

The Lucky Bureaucrat Program Host: Ed Jasnow

This week's speaker is Mendel Hill, a man who has had a long and varied career wandering through the inner workings of the Federal Government, as well as State and City governments.

On the Federal side, he has worked for NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center, the Food & Drug Administration, the Department of Health & Human Services, the General Services Administration, and for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as an employee of Caltech.

On the State and Local side, he has worked in the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and for the Governor of California for the agency responsible for finding housing for residents displaced by the 105 Freeway.

In the private sector, he worked for National Consumer Co-Op Bank.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University, and a Master's in Management from Claremont Graduate School. He graduated Officer's Candidate School in 1961 and served as a 1st Lieutenant

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REFLECTIONS

by Hal Yorke, President

BEEFLECTIONS?

on . . . District 5300 Awards

We just had another District 5300 Conference: May 15-17 in Henderson, Nevada. One of the yearly rituals at the District Conference, besides the Final Four-Way Speech Contest and the Final Dan Stover Music Contest, is the passing out of awards to clubs that have excelled in one or more categories.

The Rotary Club of Altadena did well. We received a Certificate of Appreciation for our work in the International area of Job Creation and Entrepreneurship in Nigeria, accompanied by an Outstanding Award in the area of International Service. Many thanks to International Chair John Frykenberg! We also received Outstanding Awards, in the area of Community Service (great job Craig Cox!) and Youth Services (great job Ray Carlson!).

Of course, many others worked hard for these awards, but your President gets to walk up on stage to receive the awards, and he in turn thanks the Chairs of the appropriate boards, who organized the award-winning accomplishments.

I am particularly proud of the award

that Altadena received for its Newsletter, *Sparks*: Best Newsletter in the District in the category of small clubs! I like to think that District 5300 had to divide the Best Newsletter Award into three categories — small, medium, and large clubs — so that not every club in the district had to compete against us. Many kudos go to our Publication Chair and Editor of *Sparks*, Jacque Foreman.

However, since I write a weekly column in *Sparks* and my column appears on page 1, I would also like to bask in the glory of having the best newsletter in District 5300 for small clubs and quite likely also for larger clubs.

So many thanks go out to all Altadena

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Greeters

May 28

Roger Fennell

June 04

Fred Figueroa

June 11

Jim Gorton

Program Review



On May 21, the Altadena Rotary Club gave a sumptuous buffet luncheon in the Upper Hall of the Altadena Country Club in order to honor deserving high school students from local public schools. Our Club honored students with awards and scholarships of three different types — Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (or RYLA for short) to student leaders in the 11th grade, ROTC scholarships to high school

seniors at Pasadena High Schools who are involved in Junior ROTC programs, and Americanism awards to two students graduating from John Muir High School and two graduating from Elliot Middle School who show leadership qualities.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is a program designed to encourage leadership in youth by recognizing and rewarding promising 11th grade students who are chosen to attend RYLA as an award for their past and present leadership and service activities. The Altadena Rotary Club RYLA award is specifically designed to recognize 11th grade students in the Pasadena public high schools. They



are chosen with the assistance Dr. Nancy Gonzalez Heusser, who is a guidance counselor at John Muir High School. This Spring, each of the RYLA award winners attended a RYLA camp located in the San Bernardino mountains. In our Rotary District, which stretches from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, 250 students are chosen to attend, equally split between boys and girls. The camp is all-expenses-paid. The students meet for


two and a half days and participate in experiential learning activities, including active leadership workshops and team building activities. They are also inspired by a diverse group of exceptional speakers, make friends through group activities, and discuss the various ethical and social issues of the day. The goal is that these students return to their schools and communities motivated to take on additional leadership roles and to find additional ways to serve.

The ROTC and Americanism scholarships are both due to generous grants and gifts from American Legion Post 470 in Altadena, which is no longer in existence. Altadena Rotary carries on their tradition by providing ROTC scholarships of \$1,000 each to two Junior ROTC students from John Muir High School, Pasadena High School, and Blair High School. Also, this endowment allows the Club to provide scholarships of \$1,000 each to two graduating seniors and \$500 each to two graduating students from Elliot Middle School. This scholarship is given to students who exemplify the qualities of courage, honor and leadership.

The event was kicked off by a Junior ROTC color guard representing each of the


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Congratulations



Birthdays


05/05 - Ursula Moore
05/15 - Elsa Smith
05/18 - Craig Cox
05/30 - Susan Applegate





Anniversaries

05/18 - Tony Hill & Ann Rider Hill
05/19 - Roger & Kathleen Anne Fennell



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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. Gary Huang
Dist 5300 Gov. Larry Skaggs

Officers

Hal Yorke, Pres. Bus. 626-577-9800
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Jacque Foreman Sparks/Website
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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

May
No Designation
Program Chair, Ed Jasnow
May 28 - Mendel Hill, author

June
Fellowship Month
Program Chair, Mike Zeller
June 04 - Cindy Yuge - the history and current status of the Altadena Scripps-Kellogg estate, now Waldorf School

An Early Thankyou



I usually wait to thank the *Sparks* crew until the last week in June or around the beginning of July when I hand out small gift certificates from Trader Joes. And they are small because they come from me and not the club. However, each person is rewarded for the number of positions he fills.

If you read President Hal's article, you already know that this newsletter has again won first prize for small clubs. In his article, he alluded to something that is quite true. Before the awards were parsed by club size, we competed with the *big* guys and won — a little more satisfying, but winning is winning.

And now a thank you to those who are on the *Sparks* team. Some have more than one position. It is this team that makes

the Altadena Rotary newsletter different from other club newsletters.

Our program reviewers are: John Casci, Craig Cox, John Frykenberg, Boyd Hudson, Ed Jasnow and Charles Wilson, with the occasional help from Tom McCurry and Steve Kerekes.

Our contributing Committee Chairs are: Community Service - Craig Cox, Foundation - Ed Jasnow, International Service - John Frykenberg, Membership - Craig Cox, Public Awareness - Jacque Foreman, and Youth Services - Mike Zoeller and Tony Hill.

And then we have two sometime columnists: Don Applegate writes *Hilarious History* and Steve Kerekes writes *Legal Literacy*.

More columns would be very nice. I'd like to have one to four members volunteer to review their favorite articles that

appear in the *Rotarian* magazine. A financial column of some kind would be a great addition to *Sparks*. The way Linda Wilkes handled her column was to make sure that I received the short, informative articles that her company sent to their mortgage lenders. That's a very acceptable way to have a column. If you Travel, we have a column head for you. ○

Reflections

Continued from p. 1

Rotarians for another award-winning year. Keep up the good work, and we will do well in the award category at the next District Conference in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego, May 19-22, 2016. ○

This Week

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in the 101st Airborne Division of the Army, known as the *Screaming Eagles*. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he was assigned as a Forward Observer, preparing for an airborne assault on Cuba. They told him his life expectancy would be about 18 seconds.

Currently, Mendel is engaged in a new undertaking — authoring a book about the life of African-Americans who grew up in the South. This would be an exploratory experience for him, because he's an African-American who grew up in the North.

Come and hear the story of this very interesting life. ○

A Personal Thank You from PHS students at our May 28 Meeting

Thanks to the support from the Rotary Club of Altadena to the Pasadena High School Nuclear Nonproliferation Club, juniors Amadea Tanner and Kyle Espiritu — accompanied by PHS assistant Principal Andrew King — were able to travel to Hiroshima, Japan to attend the Hiroshima Nuclear Nonproliferation Conference in April. In Hiroshima, Kyle and Amadea stayed with local families and were able to interact with students

from across the world. They also visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, met with an atomic bomb survivor (Hibakusha), and presented their research project at the conference.

In a short presentation at the May 28 Rotary meeting, Kyle, Amadea, and Scotty Lousen (another PHSNNC member) will talk about their experience of a lifetime and the projects they built (www.phsnnc.com). ○

Program

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branches of the military. President Hal Yorke



emceed the event. Tony Hill congratulated each of the RYLA award winners. The first student recognized

was Victoria Pulcifer. She shared with us that she thought the best thing about RYLA was the diversity of the students and the fellowship.



Next was Michelle Rios-Alquizar, who thanked our Club for the opportunity to attend the camp, where she learned to be a better leader and a better follower

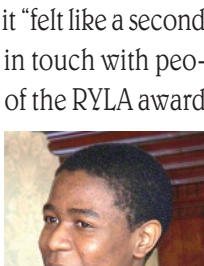


(Congress, please take note). She says that RYLA camp helped both her communication skills as well as her ability to interact with others.

Then Paulo Nieto spoke. She shared some observations on how warm and inviting the students and counselors were at the camp and said that it “felt like a second home.”



She still keeps in touch with people she met there. Last of the RYLA award recipients to speak



was Chase Wyndon, who confided that he was scared at first, but that he soon warmed up to the group, and that it was very helpful in teaching him about patience. As an

example of that, he stated that, when he returned from camp, he took the time to teach his friend about video games, and now the friend is not half bad, which allows them to spend their time together more enjoyably.

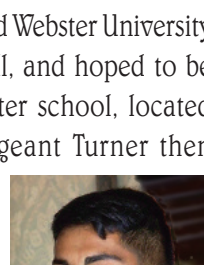
Yorke then turned the meeting over to



Ed Jasnow, who spoke about the award of the ROTC Scholarships. The scholarships are for \$1,000 each and two are given to students in Junior ROTC

in each branch of the military — one for outstanding leadership and one for outstanding academics. Jasnow then introduced Sergeant Ervin

Turner, who runs the Army Junior ROTC program at Blair High School. Sgt. Turner introduced the winners of the scholarships from Blair High School. Lior Rodriguez spoke first. She was the winner of the academic scholarship. She was shy, but indicated that she was planning to attend Webster University in Missouri in the Fall, and hoped to be able to attend its sister school, located in London, UK. Sergeant Turner then introduced Joshua Felix, who received the leadership scholarship. The sergeant pointed out that Felix was an exemplary young cadet “who sets a standard for others to follow.” Felix spoke enthusiastically about his plans to make a career in the Marines. He thanked



his family and Sergeant Tuner for their roles in helping to make this happen. As each student left the podium, Mike Zoeller congratulated him or her and gave the student his/her scholarship check.

The program was then turned over to Air Force Master Sergeant Abbelyn Carey, who runs the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Muir High School. She first introduced Oscar Benn III. He received the scholarship for outstanding leadership and one for outstanding academics. Master Sergeant Carey indicated that she had been tough on Benn when he first came to Muir, having transferred from the Junior ROTC at Blair High School. She had him clean out a very dirty and unkempt basement to see if he were up to the task. However, he soon proved his mettle, and here he was receiving the scholarship. Then Benn took to the podium and thanked his parents and the Club for recognizing his achievements. Benn has spent four years in Junior ROTC. Then Master Sergeant Carey introduced Antonio Munoz, who was the recipient of the leadership award. She indicated that, although Munoz is soft spoken in public, he knew how to “bark out orders” when appropriate. Munoz then spoke, indicating that he planned to join the Navy when he graduates. He thanked his family and the Club for the scholarship.



The program was then handed over

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Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

Program

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to Marcos Solorzano, who is the advisor and instructor for the Naval Cadet Training Corps at Pasadena High School. He discussed the great strides that the program has made in many areas, including marksmanship and orienteering, where the Pasadena High team made it to the national level competition. He introduced the recipient of the scholarship for leadership first, Neftali Duarte. Duarte has been in the Navy Junior ROTC program for four years. He is the present commander of the Pasadena High School unit and says he really enjoys helping to shape the Junior ROTC program at Pasadena High. Next to speak was the recipient of the academic award, Adam McCullough. McCullough is presently the Lieutenant Commander of the unit and is the former commanding officer. He has been in Junior ROTC all four years of high school and transferred from a Junior ROTC unit in Arizona. He helps train the drill team and also plans to go into the Marines. He hopes one day to become an ROTC instructor himself.



students who are not in Junior ROTC but still exemplify the qualities of courage, honor and leadership. He introduced Dr. Nancy Huesser,

counselor at Muir High School, who spoke about the award winners. First was Jasmine Pena, who is a member of the associated student body leadership (ASB) at Muir. She is active in a number of activities at school, including the softball team, solar club, prom organization committee, and is also the class secretary. She plans to attend UC Davis in the Fall and would like to have a career in dentistry. Next was Josh Alcaez, who is an avid photographer and the class historian. He is also involved with ASB. He plans to attend UCLA, where he hopes to double major in Economics and History. Jasnow then introduced Lori Touloumian, the principal of Elliot Middle School. She gave the Americanism awards to graduating middle school students. First up was Lela Theus, who takes many honors classes and still able to maintain a 3.83 grade point average. She has won bronze, silver and gold awards in Math Field Day events, as well as track awards. She also performs in the school talent show and manages the spirit team, which is modern parlance for cheerleading. She is looking forward to attending Muir High School next year. The next student to receive a scholarship was Brandon Lopez. He is the captain of the Math



Field Day team and helped to lead the basketball team to its formidable number two position in the statewide championship competition this year. Touloumian noted that Lopez is very generous in making himself available to help his classmates. He plans to attend Pasadena High School next year.



Mike Zoeller noted that he had run out of checks to hand out and that the awards ceremony would therefore need to be concluded. Jasnow ended the awards portion of the luncheon by asking the parents of each of the award and scholarship recipients to stand and be recognized for their devotion and assistance in helping their children to strive for excellence. He indicated that the parents are the "real reason that they do as well as they do." President Hal then thanked everyone for coming and the luncheon was over.

Steve Kerekes ○

by Jacque Foreman **Playing IN THE Mud** **Old Thyme**

We have what is probably a 10-year old thyme plant. It happens to be Bruce's favorite. We have a couple of others, but this is the one he asked me to plant. It's English Thyme. Earlier this year, it looked like it was dying. I took special care to make sure it was watered, and then I extremely carefully trimmed it back so I could see where its roots were. And now it is coming back, and Bruce has his Old Thyme. ○



Flags go Up for Memorial Day *and will remain up until after July 4*

It's Saturday, May 23 just before 10a when I pulled into the Presbyterian Church parking lot. Tony Hill was already there. Then came Mike Zoeller followed fairly closely by Craig Cox. Then came Steve Cunningham, followed by Steve Kerekes. Cunningham had come to tell us that his schedule had changed, and he wouldn't be able to stay and help.

OK, so we had two teams. Hill had all the flags in the back of his van. He had already divided them up into two piles of 48. Kerekes said that he could take half the flags in his hatchback, so they were

transferred over. Then they split up into teams. Cox and Kerekes would put up the flags up from Woodbury north, and Hill and Zoeller would put up the flags from Altadena Drive south, with a bit of a venture to the west on Mariposa.

As the Hill/Zoeller team pulled out of the parking lot, Theo Clarke, who had just arrived, did a 180 and followed to join the Altadena Drive-South team.

I pulled out behind Clarke, but went to the first light pole that would be flagged by the Cox/Kerekes team. I took pictures of them for a few poles and then switched

to the other side of the street to catch the Hill/Zoeller/Clarke team.

As this 3-man team finished what I think was their last pole, we met Kimmet Haggins walking up the west side of Lake going to his car. He had apparently come late and joined the Cox/Kerekes team putting up the last half or third of their flags. So you won't see any pictures featuring Haggins, I'm sorry to say.

It was about 10:55 when I pulled away from the curb at the last pole for the south-bound team -- basically right on time. The time given by Cox was 10 to 11a. ○

