

Rotary Club of Altadena

Sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



October 19, 2017

This Week's Program

Dr. Prakash N. Shrivastava
Keck School of Medicine, USC
Program Host:
Ray Carlson



We are privileged to have Dr. Shrivastava, eminent professor of radiation oncology and oncology at the Keck School of Medicine, USC. He is a past District Governor and now the Chair of International Service of District 5300.

He is expert in cancer treatment with radiation, hypothermia treatment of cancer, medical imaging technology, radiation in medicine, and radiation safety. He has numerous patents in these fields.

A native of India, he is an excellent consultant on matters of that and other developing countries.



Dialing In

By Steve Kerekes,
President



Friends in Disparate Circumstances

“Ceremony was but devised at first
To set a gloss on faint deeds, hollow welcomes,
Recanting goodness, sorry ere 'tis shown;
But where there is true friendship, there needs none.”

Timon of Athens
Act 1, Scene II, lines 14-17.
◊ ◊ ◊

We are coming to the end of our series of articles about what makes better friendships. But no such review would be complete without an analysis of friends who are in different circumstances which, I believe, accurately describes most friendships. There is little hilarity when providing some clarity about this disparity. This week's excerpt continues to be taken from Joseph Epstein's insightful book, Friendship - An Exposé (Houghton Mifflin Co., 2006, pps. 140-153).

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In most accounts of friendship, equality – as we have seen – is indeed everywhere assumed to be central: the starting point ... the continuing condition ... the sine qua non for maintaining friendship. Aristotle writes that perfect friendship is the “friendship of men who are good and alike in

excellence.” he also writes that “friendship is said to be equality.” Others have said that friends need not be of equal station in life, but that, within the friendship, equality must reign – by which is meant that: within the closed realm of friendship, any advantages of power or prestige enjoyed by one or the other of two friends has to be suspended. “Friendships,” as Graham A. Allan has written, “are relationships of equality in that friends are accepted as being equal within the relationship. There is no hierarchy in friendship, no differentiation.” As usual, in matters to do with friendship, the answer is true and false, yes and no, and, above all: *maybe*.

One might think that the very nature of friendship not only implies but also assumes equality ... Friendship, in essence, confers equality on the person chosen as friend. Part of the honor of being selected as the friend

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Greeter of the Week

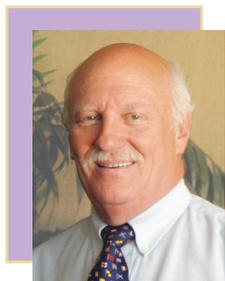
October 19
Ed Jasnow

October 26
Julius Johnson

November 02
Mindy Kittay

Program Review

Kapasa Musonda and High Fashion



Twenty Eight and a boutique high-color designer already, Kapasa Musonda

returns to her American home; the Altadena Rotary. It has been ten years since she travelled to the US from her native Zambia to Washington DC, Los Angeles and Altadena. It has been ten years since she received a full scholarship to the Fashion Institute of

Design and Merchandising (FIDM) where she was selected as a student to showcase her designs in FIDM's Runway in Santa Monica. It has been 10 years since she was adopted by the Rotary Club of Altadena and club host Mike Noll and his wife who very generously provided for Kapasa's room and board during her residency.

Since her graduation, Kapasa has started her own custom fashion house (Mangishi Doll - MD) with her own collections showcased in Los Angeles, Paris, Australia and South African boutiques. She currently employs five tailors who produce upwards of 75 custom dresses/ crepe de chines/ garments monthly that are individually inspected for quality and fit for a custom clientele who rave.

Grading, sizing, and bright colors are characteristic of a typical day in high fashion she states. Hallmarks for Mangishi Doll (MD) are print mixing, ready-to-wear, Afro-Eclectic inspired bold prints and unique styles from Zambia... attested to by clients coveting African print fashions. They give Kapasa 4.5 stars for design and quality. I would say she is on her way!

MD: "I am at a point in my life where I have a better understanding of my heritage and where I come from, which I couldn't confidently state before. Now I find myself wanting to add a touch of my heritage to all my pieces, be it through print, through naming each piece or through styling and accessories. Not only does it inspire me,



but it gives me great Pride." We could not have said it better!

We doff our caps to you Kapasa. We wish you everything bright and shiny, and we are proud to call you our own. Hurrah for your MD enterprise and all the joy and smiles you will bring to your clientele. And we encourage all those who wish a special flair in their ostensibly mundane lives to brighten up and lighten up by checking out her online store: mangishidoll.com.

John Frykenberg

Congratulations



Birthdays



10/08 - Susan Cox
10/10 - Heather Campbell
10/17 - Noriko Suzuki Mehringer
10/20 - Charles Wilson
10/24 - Jim Gorton



Anniversaries



10/01 - Freddy & Margarita Figueroa
10/07 - Mendel & Helen Zivkovic Hill
10/19 - David & Elsa Smith

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

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Photography Jacque Foreman

October

Economic & Community Development

Program Chair, Ray Carlson

Oct. 19 - Prakash N. Shrivastave, PhD

Chairmen's Corner

by Craig Cox, Community Service Chair

Community Service Opportunities



As we move into late fall, we will have multiple opportunities to provide service to our community.

On **November 10**, we will meet at the Westminster Presbyterian Church parking lot at 4p to put up the flag display on Lake Avenue for Veterans' Day. Tony Hill will be leading this effort. We are hoping to have two teams (each with its own ladder).

On **November 18**, we will gather at the PUSD Warehouse at 740 W. Woodbury (off the entrance on Canada Ave.) to serve

breakfast to volunteers and assemble 300 bicycles. The breakfast team will arrive at 7a to set up. Assemblers will arrive at 8a. We hope to have all the bikes assembled and stored by noon. Craig Cox will coordinate the volunteers for this effort.

On **December 2**, we will meet at the Westminster Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9a to take down the flag display on Lake Avenue. Tony Hill will be leading this effort. We are hoping to have two teams (each with its own ladder).

On **December 13**, volunteers will meet at the PUSD Warehouse at 9a to transfer

the assembled bicycles to the Salvation Army. We are looking for trucks (stake bed would be very helpful!). Doug Colliflower will head up our team. We are hoping to be done by noon.

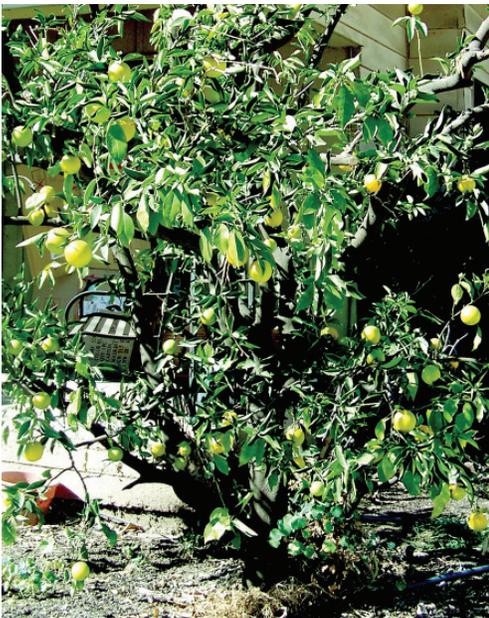
On **December 14**, volunteers will gather at the Salvation Army to distribute bicycles to selected families. We will register the bikes with local law enforcement, provide a helmet and lock, and help load in vehicles. Sarah O'Brien will head up our team.

Please respond to the invitations that come from ClubRunner (accept or decline). It makes planning a lot easier! ○

by *Jacque Foreman*

Playing IN THE Mud

Share your gardening triumphs and tragedies.



Our Orange Tree Survived the Draught

Look at all those oranges. Yes they are small, and they are just beginning to color. I've been misting and watering our orange tree almost every evening during our warm weather. While the oranges are small – snack size, they are beginning to smell like oranges. There's still a lot of sugaring up for them to do, and they won't be ready to eat until after Christmas.

Last year at this time, there were very few leaves on the tree, and our certified arborist thought we might lose it. And then this spring, he couldn't believe all the

new leaves that were coming and all the blossoms – even on new, mini branches.

It's going to take at least one more year before the tree fully recovers, but it is looking quite good. The leaves are almost as green as they should be. Last year many of the few leaves were yellow, and it was obvious that the tree was quite ill.

In January, I'll get some more Job's Stakes for the tree. In case you are unfamiliar with *Job's Stakes*, they are fertilizer stakes that are about six inches long that are pounded into the ground. ○

Dialing

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of someone powerful, famous, or otherwise notable is that it allows one to assume that this person considers you his peer. It is in this sense, I suppose, that people think of friendship as self-affirming. If this or that important person wants me as a friend, then, begorra, I must be a pretty grand fellow in my own right. But not necessarily so; not even usually so.

Going in quite the reverse direction: When Francis Bacon wrote that “there is little friendship in the world, and least of all between equals.” His point was that equality can also breed rivalry. For this reason, it is not uncommon to discover that the two best novelists, painters, composers, or critics working at any one time dislike each other intensely. Equality, then, far from being necessary to friendship, can also – in some cases – be an obstacle to it..

Many friendships exist in which inequality is, if unspoken, nevertheless assumed. There are what I think of as *bold-my-coat* friendships. In such friendships, one person is presumed dominant:

- Achilles over Patroclus,
- Don Quixote over Sancho Panza (though the latter is the smarter, more sensible fellow),
- Wonder Woman over Etta Candy.

Dickens is full of such characters e.g., Herbert Pocket and Tommy Traddles – who are reliable, self-effacing, and devoted, but always the lesser party in their friendships with various Dickensian heroes. If Oscars were given for friendship, all these characters – and many more in real life – would be candidates in the category of **Best Supporting Friend**.

• • •

I have played the supporting friend role more than once in life. When I did so, it was usually when I was the younger person in a friendship. As an adolescent, I was pleased to be in the company of boys a few years

older than I, from whom I could learn things about the world. This sometimes entailed my performing services for them not much above the *water-boy* level. Perhaps I considered it *on-the-job training* for discovering how the world works, but up to a point I didn't mind, as long as I really was learning things unavailable to me outside their company.

Devotion and selfless loyalty are required of a *bold-my-coat* or *best supporting friend*, and I have myself been able to play the role only when something was at stake for me – which immediately eliminates the ideal of Dickensian selfless devotion on my part.

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But accepting inequality in a friendship is not always easy.

I have a friend, of a very sweet and generous nature, born an orphan, who married a young lawyer who became very successful. The things that money can buy she has – elegant clothes, luxury cars, a grand house, first-class travel. They become a problem only when she meets with her old friends from high school days – friends who have not been so lucky in life's lottery as she.

When she meets these friends, she told me, she has to dress with some care – to dress down, in fact. Nor can she mention, say, having last month been in London for a long weekend. She avoids talking about new chic restaurants at which she has recently eaten. She likes her old friends ... likes them a lot ... but feels she mustn't in any way flaunt her good life before them. Such inequalities – even in what might otherwise be long-lasting and solid friendships – can be insidious, she feels, and who is to say that she is wrong to feel as she does?

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Of course, no two people are entirely equal – except perhaps identical twins not

yet gone out into the world, where one is certain in some way to acquire the edge over the other. One person will always have some advantage, however small. Sometimes advantages can be offsetting and balancing: you have more culture than I, but I have more money than you; or you are better-looking than I, but I am healthier than you. But most times they cannot.

Is it possible, for example, for a person of modest means to be the close friend of a person of great wealth? Perhaps. But it is easy to see how often money might get in the way. The person of modest means cannot permit himself to be the guest of his wealthier friend with any frequency, lest he begin to feel himself a sponger. The wealthy friend has to be on guard when making arrangements that include his less well-off friend, lest he ruin his budget.

A very well-off man told me a few years ago about ordering four New York Knicks tickets for himself, his wife, and another couple from a ticket broker for a Tuesday night game against Portland, and even he was surprised to learn that the cost of the (quite good) seats was \$2,000. I, for one, should not have wanted to be the husband of the other couple, on the hook for \$1,000 for two tickets to a basketball game. If there was a large discrepancy in the wealth of two such friends, should the wealthier man – who ordered the tickets – lie about their true price and absorb much of the high cost? Or should he say that he got them for nothing, in return for a favor, so the question of money doesn't come up? Complications set in quickly when disparities in wealth enter into friendships.

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Perhaps more depressing than friendships changed by economic inequality are those having to do with inequality of cultural attainment. This becomes most

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Dialing

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poignant when it strikes at old friendships. The euphemism to cover this division is: "we've grown apart in recent years," when what is really meant is that one friend has developed wider interests, or has become more penetrating about the world, or has become more bookish than the other.

When this occurs, all that old friends seem to have to talk about are former days, which is to say, the paradisiacal times when their interests, far from being divergent, were congruent.

...

Unequal prestige is another item that can alter a friendship, or stand in the way of its ever coming to fruition. The world – in its unending foolishness – will sometimes award a man or woman prestige for his or her achievements in various – and sometimes unworthy – fields. The persons so rewarded are obviously aware of it, and if they are wise they will at all times recall that prestige is a superfluous and often errant thing and that the world – which awards it – is, as Henry James might have said, a great ninny. Still, one's own prestige – however pathetic – can be difficult to set aside. This can be especially troubling when one is with someone in one's own line of work whom the world has overlooked.

...

The barriers thrown up against friendship – often appearing in the guise of inequality – can be at least as various as the reasons for friendship itself. The problems of friendship across cultures can be tragic and, when surmounted, heroic. More often than not, though, they go unsurmounted, as underscored in E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, where East remains East, West remains West, and the twain scarcely ever meet.

...

In a less imperfect world, nothing would matter in friendship but a person's intrinsic

worth. Yet the world does not figure to become perfect soon, and until it does, everyone must find ways around such differences as the world has set up for men and women as barriers against their becoming friends.

The only way that I know to do so is to practice a subtle and persistent reciprocity. Everyone must try to make of friendship his own utopian country in which no inequalities exist ... where the coin of the realm

is imaginative sympathy ... all competition and rivalrous feelings are strictly outlawed ... the oxygen is considerate talk ... and the blood circulates best when stimulated by the constant exercise of thoughtfulness, generous impulse, and kindness.

• • •

The earnest practice of friendship, in short, requires us to be rather better most of the time than we really are. ○

Form & Line by Jacque Foreman, Editor

Another Word that has Changed Its Meaning

I'm bringing you more information from one of my favorite small books: *The Unexpected Evolution of Language* by Justin Cord Hayes.

The word is **Quaint**.

Original Definition: cunning; artfully contrived; meticulous

New Definition: pleasingly old-fashioned

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Quaint harks back to the same Latin word that gave the English language *cognizant*. It's a short jump from cognizance to craftiness. If you're cognizant, you're aware of all the angles, and you can be cunning and crafty. Thus, around the thirteenth century, this was *quaint's* meaning.

About 100 years later, *quaint* grew a new limb and came to mean *cleverly made* or *artfully contrived*, as in a *quaint lie*. The shift is reasonable. If you're cunning, you'll make up stories to get what you want.

By the fifteenth century, *quaint* meant meticulous or fastidious. The semantic shift here is a little more of a stretch, but most likely it comes from the sense of someone being very careful in covering his tracks

after he's told many *artfully contrived* stories. You can't be too careful; someone might catch you in a lie.

By the turn of the nineteenth century, *quaint* put on a new, artfully contrived, definition. It basically picked up bits and pieces of its earlier meanings and fashioned a new denotation out of them: pleasingly old-fashioned.

There is a certain *fussy* quality to the modern version of the word, which calls to mine *fastidiousness*. And there is a sense that today, something *quaint* is clever, distinctive, or unusual – harkening back to its original meaning.

— Chaucer's Quaint —

The most unusual use of *quaint* is by Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. In his bawdy *Miller's Tale*, the word means *cunt*. Since one of *quaint's* lesser meanings, then as now, is *unusual* or *different*, Chaucer seems to have used the word the way he did because a woman's intimate anatomy is so different from that of a man's. ○

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October 14	<i>Upstream*</i>	March 10	<i>DeRumba</i>
November 11	<i>The Tone Brothers</i>	April 14	<i>Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans</i>
December 2	<i>Upbeat Swing Orchestra</i>	May 12	<i>Eli Locke Band</i>
January 13	<i>Kai Clark with special guests John York & Carla Olson</i>	June 9	<i>Crown City Bombers</i>
February 10	<i>Gerry Rothschild Band</i>		



*October 14th's Second Saturday Concert featuring Upstream is sponsored by the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

All other Second Saturday Concerts are supported in part by funds received from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation.

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