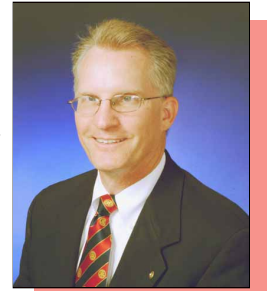




December 21, 2006



MAKING
Sence!
 by President Mike Noll

This Week

Gyongyver Sovago
The Phil Simon Clinic
Swimmer, Coach and
Filmmaker
Program Host:
Sue Applegate

"To accomplish great things, you must not only act but also dream, not only dream but also believe." -Anatole France

Born in Cluj, Romania, Gyongyver (pronounced "Yong-vare") Sovago started swimming at age 11. By age 13, she was a National Champion in the 100 meter freestyle. For the next 6 years she held the Junior and Senior National Champion titles and several national records. Sovago had qualifying times for the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, but, because of the politics of Romania at that time, athletes of Hungarian origins were left out of national teams, and she did not have a chance to experience the Olympics and compete in Munich.

Sovago graduated from the Sports Institute in Bucharest with a degree in Sports Sciences and Physical Education. In her two years of coaching in Romania before immigrating to the

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Family Heritage

Since last Thursday's meeting featuring Sweden and our fellow Rotarians who hail from there, many members have commented how great a program that was. It's amazing how we can be around each other every week and not really know one another. I was fascinated and entertained by the histories and traditions shared by Ray Carlson, Carlton Gustafson and John Frykenberg. This being Family of Rotary Month, I will share with you some of my background and traditions.

My mother's father was Edwin "Ed" C. Tapfer and her mother was Florence "Floppsie" Allen, quite a pair of party animals from what I understand. They met in the state of Washington where their parents had settled. On the Tapfer side my great grandmother was a Wolff who came from Alsace-Lorraine. While in France my brother and I searched for and found a distant cousin Jeanne Wolff who lived in a 15 century house in Bleinschwiler. The Allen side traces back to the Dr. Allen who came across on the Mayflower.

My father's mother was Nelle Becker, whose ancestors came from Germany. My grandfather's lineage, however, goes

back to England. His family name was Nutt and his first name was Harold but people called him Harry (no kidding). My parents, however, decided to change the name in order so their children would not have to endure endless teasing as my father had. Like John Frykenberg, I wish the queen of England had granted us a new name after a lake in the Highlands, but that was not the case. While searching for a four letter surname starting with "N" they heard of a game show contestant whose last name was Noll and thus adopted the name. My brothers and I weren't teased for being a bunch of Nutts, but my grandfather never forgave my father for having changed his name.

For as long as I can remember, my parents have always thrown a Christmas Eve cocktail party followed by a dinner

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Greeters

December 21

Ron Morris

December 28

Don Robinson

January 4

David Smith



Program Review Sweden ... Burrrr!

A nice place in summer, but who would ever want to live there? Go to Northern Sweden in mid winter, and there is no sun at all! Aurora Borealis maybe, but no sun! NASA has photographs of all of Sweden, Norway and Finland covered in a single enormous sheet of ice. Not one spec of green to be seen!

We are talking about the icy character of Sweden and its people... a place where ice water runs in the veins of every man, woman and child. And not by choice.

No wonder those Vikings and Varangians wanted to get away from home in the winter. They would go anywhere on their Viking cruise ships... all the way to the New World in the West and the Caspian Sea in the East and Africa in the South... just to avoid those Scandinavian winters. And they sailed out for a good time too. Rape, pillage and burn! And of course to *bring home the bacon*.

Meanwhile those Norse women; strong like horse, able to plow field with single bound, tended the home fires, minded the purse and the government. Viking women were likely the world's first true feminists ...the quintessential self-sufficient, self-confident, homemaker, administrator, huntress, and warrior epitomized by Grunhilda in Wagner's Ring Cycle.

Garrison Keeler has it about right when he characterizes the citizens of mythical Lake Woebegon (an all Scandinavian community) when he says..."A community where the women are strong, the men are good looking and all the children are above average."

And check out those national pastimes; ice fishing on 95,000 frozen lakes, dog sledging on bits of land between the lakes, cross country skiing across the land-o-lakes, and yes, making butter. And doing things like "Orienteering" (finding your way by running from one remote obscure place to another with only the use of a hand held compass). (*This is actually an Olympic sport?*)

Other national pastimes like stubborn-



ness, signing-in-the-shower and playing chess or whittling just really give you an idea of whom the Swedes really are.

A typical Swedish boy dating a typical Swedish girl might dawn snow shoes with his date, hike to the top of the nearest mountain ten miles way admiring the wolf packs on the way and returning in time for a tankard of Glug while hardly conversing at all.

Less is more when it comes to talking just for the sake of talking among Swedes. Talk when you must, otherwise there is no point wasting words. Makes for good relationships.

And check out Swedish edible delicacies, Lutefisk (lye soaked fish), Hard Tack (bread you can break your teeth on) and
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Sparks is published weekly 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 91008

www.altadenarotary.com

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Photography Jacque Foreman

December Programs

Program Chair, Susan Applegate

Dec 21 - Gyongyver Sovago, The Phil Simon Clinic

Dec 28 - Joan Fauver, Executive Director - Pasadena Education Dept.

January Programs

Program Chair, Charles Tyner

Jan 04 - Jerry T. Cohen, Reverse Mortgage Consultant - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Jan 11 - Galen F. Griep, Certified Specialist Estate Planning - Trust & Probate Law

Jan 18 - Rick Robinett, Financial Consultant - Salomon Smith Barney

Jan 26 - Aaron T. Williams, DC

Congratulations



Birthdays

12/3 - Patty Fallahee

12/5 - Linda Wilkes

12/6 - Carlton Gustafson

12/8 Mike Amerio

12/12 - Karen Gorton

12/15 - Jacque Foreman

12/17 - Cynthia Amerio

12/18 - Olga Louviere

12/25 - Art Ferris

12/26 - Mona Jasnow

12/26 - Carol Zoeller



Anniversaries

12/10 - Kevin & Ursula Moore

12/25 - Dale & Dixie Wehmeyer

12/29 - Ray & Joy Carlson

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary or the date is wrong, please let us know.

by Jacque Foreman for Brian Hayes, Director, Club Service II



Club Service II has a new director: Brian Hayes. Hayes will be serving out the remaining term left by Ron Morris who resigned from the board due to increased workload.

Most of our work recently has been with the website — adding rotating photographs to the page for an application for an invitation to one of our meetings. Now I want to add rotating testimonials to our home page. To do this, I need to know what brought you to Rotary, to

Altadena Rotary, and why you stay. Just give me 80 words or less.

I am sure that many of you have reasons you can articulate. If you are afraid of your spelling or grammar, don't be. I can spell most of the words I believe you will be using, and I know grammar. And I'll make it sound as close to the way you speak as I can.

If you are worried about your name being on what you say, I'll only be using initials. It's only after people get to know you from coming to the meetings that they will be able to associate you with what attracted you to Rotary and Altadena Rotary in particular. Your anonymity will be protected from the only curi-

ous.

Your reason for becoming a Rotarian could spur others to take a first step and ask for an invitation to come and meet us.

To continue to do all we do in the community and around the world, we need to attract new members — new hands. This is but one way to attract potential members to Altadena Rotary. Remember what the Masons say: *Many hands make heavy burdens light*. It is true in Rotary also.

I am looking forward to a *regular/irregular* column on history to be written by Dennis Mehringer. I spoke to him at the Christmas party, and I believe he will be writing a bimonthly article for *Sparks*. Some of you may remember Mehringer's fascination with history from his president's articles that appeared weekly in *Sparks* during his 1999-2000 term of office. I hope his willingness to do this and the weekly articles we have been carrying chronicling the redesign of Mike Noll's home will encourage more of you to write irregular columns about your passions and interests. I can create a column head for you if you wish.

Just as a minor note of interest, our program this week by our three members of Swedish ancestry reminded me that one of my English teachers in college who had a penchant for Old English and could both read and speak it, told us that our letter "Y" came from the Scandinavian countries. It comes from a pairing of "I" and "J." Look at those two lowercase letters together: *ij* and picture them in cursive writing. The combination was used to signify one of the sounds we now associate with the letter "Y." Think of it going from *ij* to *y* with a dieresis or umlaut (two dots) over it and then gradually losing the dieresis and becoming the "Y" we use today. Anybody here know more about these things? If so, I'd like that person to write an irregular column for *Sparks*.i

Sence

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with close friends and family. The dinner is cracked crab (purchased live, cooked, cleaned and cracked by my dad to this day), fresh spinach salad and garlic bread. Christmas dinner follows our English roots with prime rib, yorkshire pudding and lots of other scrumptious foods. They only varied this tradition for two years in the 70s when we went to Mammoth and had fondue instead.

So there's a bit of myself you might not have expected. And as Grandma used to say, "I may be a Nutt, but I'm not crazy!"

**Bud Railsback is back at
Country Villa Park Marino
Corner of Hill &
Washington
626-463-4105
2585 E. Washington Bl.
Pasadena, CA 91107**

Program

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pickled herring and lingonberries (*cranberry folk might identify*).

Incidentally, there are lots of water-power and forests in Sweden...and a good thing too. Swedes need power to heat their homes and factories and food and girl friend's hearts. And chopping wood is good exercise. Builds character!

Swedes also use their power and resources to build furniture (*50% of all land covered by trees...the land that isn't taken up by lakes*). IKEA Furniture Co. maybe the biggest in the world. (*Swedes love to move furniture around in the winter*). Yea, and they build cars (Volvo & Saab) and Jets (Saab) and defense and armaments (Bofors) and cameras (Hasselblad -*chosen by NASA to go to the moon*) and clothes (H&M and Nordstrom) and wireless telecom (Ericsson)... A need to stay warm. You get the idea.

Out of the cold, frozen North there blows a fresh wind of freedom (Fria), self-reliance, adventure, ingenuity and cre-

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Nostra Villa

by Mike Noll

Week 24

At Week 24, apparently the Noll home is so close to being finished that the most exciting thing going on this

week is watching paint dry. Next week we may get pictures of areas that are now finished. ○

This Week

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United States, she produced age group National Champions and finalists in different events and strokes.

Shortly after her arrival in the US, she pursued her lifelong dream to attend an American university. Sovago started coaching right away, teaching swimming at UCLA and then enrolled in UCLA's Education Abroad Program. She spent a year in Paris, France studying film semiotics and Art History and later graduated from UCLA with a degree in Art History/Film & TV.

After several years of working in the film industry Gyongyver returned to coaching in 1993 for the San Marino Tsunami Swim Team and Westridge. Yet she still finds time to run SovagoMedia, which has created numerous projects, including a feature film, documentaries, biographies for MTV2 and commercials. Sovago's most recent work is the Tanzania Project involving the work of The Phil Simon Clinic, which is a program of Huntington Hospital. ○

SAVE THIS DATE

District 5300

Foundation Dinner

Jan 27, 2007

Mike Zoeller &

Craig Cox

Coordinators

Program

Continued from p. 3

ativity. Along with ice and snow, Fria or Freedom flows in the veins of Swedes everywhere. Fierce independency, democracy, thoughtful expression and inventive spirits. And while Swedes are not known for their many words, they are known for beautiful blondes (Ingrid Bergman), beautiful legs (Greta Garbo), beautiful eyes (Liv Ullman), beautiful candle-lit hair-dos (Santa Lucia), kooky movie makers (Ingmar Bergman), screwy propeller inventors (John Ericsson), crazy-wild airplane designers (Kelly Johnson – SR71).

What to say about this Popsicle state? A little Valhalla! Cold to be sure...but like ice cream...definitely worth a taste. ○

Make Ups

- Tues.** 7:00a - **Sierra Madre** - Sierra Madre Memorial Park Sr. Ctr., 292 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
- Tues.** 12:10p - **South Pasadena** - YMCA, 1605 Garfield Av. (Corner of Oak & Garfield)
- Tues.** 12:10p - **Monrovia** - Monrovia Restaurant, 534 S. Myrtle, Monrovia
- Tues.** 12:15p - **Alhambra** - Almansor Court, 700 S. Almansor St.
- Wed.** 7:10a - **Arcadia Sunrise** - Santa Anita Bar & Grille
- Wed.** 7:30a - **Duarte** - Denny's, 1060 Huntington Dr.
- Wed.** 12:00n - **Pasadena** - Hilton Hotel, 150 S. Los Robles
- Wed.** 7:00p - **La Cañada-Flintridge** - LCF Country Club - 5500 Godbey Dr.
- Thur.** 7:00a - **Pasadena Sunrise** - Pasadena University Club, 175 N. Oakland Av.
- Thur.** 7:00a - **Foothills Sunrise** - Hunt, East Valley Hospital, Medical Building Assembly room, 150 W. Alosta Av., Glendora
- Thur.** 12:00n - **Glendale** - YWCA (northwest corner of Glendale Av. and Lexington)
- Fri.** 7:15a - **Glendale Sunrise** - The Hilton Glendale, 100 W. Glenoaks (Corner of Brand)
- Fri.** 12:10p - **Arcadia** - Embassy Suites, 211 E. Huntington Dr. ○



*Merry Christmas to All
and to All a Good Night*