

Promontory Point & All Charities Weekend



by Rev. Dr. Bob Henley

Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. Generosity is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action, an inclination to give liberally and then, the actual practice of doing so. -The Generosity Project of Notre Dame University

Salt Lake City is the major airline hub of the inter-mountain west in the northern Rockies. My wife and I long ago lost count of the number of times we buckled up on the tarmac of the Sun Valley airport, taking the brief flight into or out of Salt Lake.

Yet, not all of our trips to

this Utah state capital were on a plane. Numerous times we drove. It was just over four hours from our home in the mountains of central Idaho, until you began the descent that drops down into the great Salt Lake Basin.

On each of those road trips, our curiosity was piqued by a large green sign at an exit located an hour or so north of the city. The sign invited you to turn off I-84, and visit an important historical site – a place called, Promontory Point.

On one trip, we were taking two of our grandchildren on an overnight visit to a Salt Lake amusement park. (My assignments are the “up and down” rides – my wife Jane’s, the “round and round” ones.)

On our way there, we ventured off onto the above-mentioned exit! The serpentine road wound past the Morton-Thiokol plant (they manufactured the solid rocket boosters that thrust the Space Shuttle into orbit) going for miles into barren, high desert.

Just as you begin to question the wisdom of your decision, you are relieved to see a sign,

indicating your arrival at Promontory Summit.

There, in the middle of nowhere, two large, antique steam locomotives, each beautifully restored, come into view. They are sitting on a railroad track, facing each other, like boxers in a ring.

It was here, at Promontory Summit, on May 10, 1869, that Leland Stanford pounded a ceremonial, gold ‘final spike,’ into a pre-prepared hole in a railroad tie. That spike, now on display at Stanford University, symbolically marked the occasion of the completion of a major building project.

Ribbons of steel rail now connected the Central Pacific Railroad from Sacramento, with the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha. The Promontory Summit Park recalls and celebrates the completion, on that site, of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

This project qualified in its day as what one contemporary business writer called a “*bhag*” - a “*big, hairy, audacious goal*.”

The visionary builders wanted to facilitate the blessings of prosperity for the people of our expanding nation, by connecting two points on the map – the east and west coasts of these United States.

Joining those points required ingenuity, courage and determination to overcome the hazardous and challenging terrain that separated them.

It required people who were willing to put it all on the line, their lives and their fortunes, because the vision was so

compelling.

So, what’s the connection? It’s this.

Ocean Reef’s All Charities Weekend (**February 11-13**) is a response to a compelling vision of human need. The goal is, as **Sarah Cart** wrote, to enable “the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to distribute grants to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead, and Florida City as well as organizations vital to Ocean Reef.”

“Hats off” to the leadership of *All Charities Weekend*. Their creativity and ingenuity purposefully connect the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community with the human need of our surrounding area. It is a weekend of generosity...and fun!

It is unlikely that anyone from Ocean Reef will be putting their lives and fortunes all on the line to bid on the offerings. The items up for bid during the weekend remind me of the once famous Christmas catalog put out by the Neiman-Marcus department store back in the day. They are a knock out!

But everyone who gives is, to use the metaphor, driving a spike into the ‘tie’ that connects these two points together – our resources and human need.

It is a demonstration of what the Generosity Project of Notre Dame University, described as the inclination to give liberally and then the actual practice of doing so.

Here’s hoping the weekend this year will be the biggest and best ever! The needs are as great as they have ever been.

CHAPEL NEWS

Ocean Reef Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Robert Henley
305-367-2049 • orcchapel.org

Friday, January 28
AA Meeting
7:30 a.m.
Yacht Club Room

Shabbat Candle Lighting
5:44 p.m.

Sunday, January 30
Traditional Worship Service
Dr. Alistair Begg
9 a.m. at Cultural Center

Catholic Mass Online
10 a.m.
facebook.com/sjmkeylargo/

Contemporary Worship Service
Dr. Alistair Begg
10:30 a.m. at Cultural Center

Kids Matter
10:30 a.m.
Heritage Room at Cultural Center

Catholic Mass
12 p.m.
Cultural Center

Monday, January 31
AA Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Carysfort Kitchen

Wednesday, February 2
Intercessory Prayer
8 a.m.
Card & Games Room at the Tennis & Games Center

Episcopal Service
9 a.m. Card & Games Room at the Tennis & Games Center

Community Bible Study Online
10:30 a.m. • orcchapel.org

Message Online
7 p.m. • orcchapel.org

Thursday, February 3
Men’s Book Study
8 a.m. Card & Games Room at the Tennis & Games Center