



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL

An Award-Winning Newsletter

**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon
at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

Rotary Club of Altadena - #772

Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

RI Pres: Gordon R. McNally, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael L. Soden



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



D. Vance Graphics

THIS WEEK: FELICIA WILLIAMS

Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Felicia Williams was born and raised in Pasadena and elected to the City Council in 2020. She currently represents the City as the President of the Burbank Airport Authority and on the Executive Board of Foothill Transit. Prior to joining the Council, Felicia served on several City

Commissions, including Chair of the Planning Commission, and on multiple non-profit boards, including Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley and Pasadena Educational Foundation.

Felicia has a long career in public policy and finance, including investment banking, Southern California Edison corporate finance, real estate, and financial advisory. Currently, Felicia owns a consulting firm working with municipal clients, mainly in Los Angeles County and San Gabriel Valley, on financing infrastructure projects and economic/business development.

Felicia attended Polytechnic School in Pasadena and received her B.A. from Stanford University in Public Policy, M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA, and M.B.A. from The University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

SEPTEMBER 07, 2023

**SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY MONTH**

Officers

President: Dr Dawn Digrius Smith
Vice President: Doug Colliflower
President Elect: Maricela Viramontes

Treasurer: Mike Noll
Bus: 626-657-2287
Secretary: James Gorton
Bus: 626-793-6215

Directors

Craig Cox
Maria Perez-Arton
Mark Mariscal
Sarah O'Brien
Maricela Viramontes
Doug Colliflower
Dawn Digrius Smith

Chairs

Club Executive Secretary: Mark Mariscal
Membership: Maria Perez-Arton
& Brad Roeber
Foundation: Steve Kerekes
Projects: Mike Zoeller

Subcommittees

Community Service: Craig Cox
Vocational Service: Steve Kerekes
Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller
Youth Activities: Tony Hill
International Service: Sarah O'Brien

LAST WEEK: ANNE LEE VP OF DEVELOPMENT, BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PASADENA

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal

Program Review: Elizabeth Schreib



This week we had the pleasure of hearing from Anne Lee, Vice President of Development at the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena. The Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena provides impactful, low-cost after-school and summer programming to more than 2,000 children and youth in the Pasadena area annually. Ranging from ages 6-18, their mission is to enable children and youth to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Each Club member receives over 320 hours of homework assistance each year, resulting in 95% of Club kids expected to graduate high school.

As VP of Development, a role she has filled since 2020, Anne oversees all aspects of fundraising within the Club, including corporate partnerships, individual giving, and fundraising events to name a few. In addition to support through financial giving, Anne shared that the Club's greatest need are volunteers. Opportunities to volunteer and serve can include academic and athletic coaching, mentoring at-risk teens, and providing administrative and special event support.

This year the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena celebrated its 85th anniversary in the community, and through financial, community, and individual support, it is the hope and goal of the Club to be able carry on their invaluable work in the lives of young people for many more years to come. Many thanks to Anne for her informative presentation and sharing with us the amazing service the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena is providing in our community!



<https://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro/>



History

Since 1937, we have been at the forefront of youth development, actively seeking to enrich the lives of boys and girls who other youth agencies have had difficulty reaching. We remain dedicated to ensuring that our community's at-risk youngsters have greater access to the types of programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures.



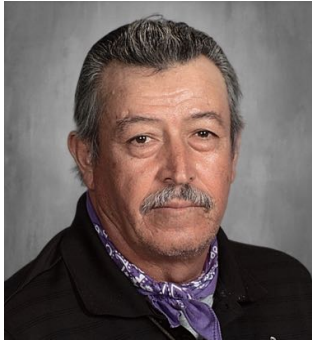
<https://www.bgcpasadena.org/>



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REMEMBERING JAIME BANUELOS

By Summer Concert Series Committee



Following the concert on Saturday, August 19th, our 12-14 Rotary volunteers cleaned up the park and concession area, before leaving for home. The staff of JCL Productions, who handle the lighting and sound for the concerts remained at the park to finish packing up their equipment until just after 10:15 pm. They then left in different vehicles to drive to their respective homes.

According to Juan Carlos and his wife Mishelle, one of their employees was no more than 6 minutes from his home in the Antelope Valley when his car was broadsided by another vehicle. Mr. Jaime Banuelos, a good friend and employee of the Lara family died as a result of the accident. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help with funeral and living expenses for his immediate family.

<https://gofund.me/aaec0833>

Jamie was a beloved father, husband, brother, son, uncle and friend to many. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and a son. He worked for more than 40 years at Heritage Christian School. He enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved the Los Angeles Dodgers (the photos we have of him at the concerts show him usually wearing one of his LA Dodger caps). All donations will go directly to his wife and children. Much of it will be used to pay for funeral expenses. According to Juan Carlos, "*Jaime touched the lives of so many people*".

Your generosity and kindness during this difficult time will be greatly appreciated by our club's Summer Concert Committee, JCL Productions and of course, the family that Jaime has left behind.

Additional volunteers are needed for this week's FINAL concert at Farnsworth Park

By Craig Cox

We need: Security (5 - 9 PM): **Need 2 more**

Pass the Pitchers/Audience Donations (7:45 - 8:15 PM): **Need 2 more**

Lost and Found/Rotary Table (6:30 - 8:30 PM): **Need 1**

If you are available please go to DacDB, Login, select the My Club tab, go to the Calendar icon, go to September 9 and register. Or, let Craig know and he will register you for the event.

Altadena Rotary Events

September 9 - Final Summer Concert

October 7 - Community Pancake

Breakfast at Grocery Outlet

November 4 - Put up flags for

Veterans Day & Thanksgiving

November 11 - Pack Boxes for

Santa's Pantry Event (details coming)

November 18 - Santa's Pantry Food

Giveaway (details coming)

December 2 - Take down flags for

Veterans Day & Thanksgiving

Community Service Opportunities

September 23 - Book Sale by Friends of the Altadena Library (8 - 11 2 - 5)

September 30 - Celebration: Altadena Community Garden (12 - 5 PM)

December 8 - Community Holiday Party /Toy Distribution at Farnsworth Park (4 - 7 PM)

December 9 - Christmas Tree Lane Association Lighting Ceremony



Tony Hill leads the Pledge of Allegiance at last week's meeting.



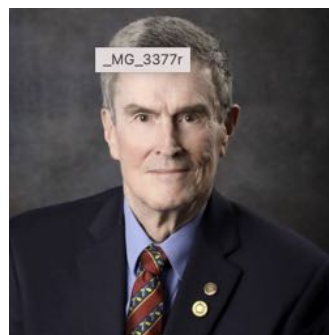
Un Sejour en France

Par Michel Noll

For the next six weeks, Wendy and I will be traveling to parts of France both familiar and new to us. As each week passes, I hope to share our recent exploits with you in Sparks.

Here is our itinerary:

- Week 1 Barcelona, Nice, somewhere in Italy nearby
- Week 2 Lyon, Paris
- Week 3 Deauville
- Week 4 Carnac
- Week 5 Vitré, Nantes, Cognac, Arachon, Saint-Jean-de-Luz
- Week 6 Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Wexford (Ireland)



SAVE THE DATE:

District Governor Michael Soden's visit is scheduled for Sept. 21

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING!



More Club News and Photos!

Elizabeth

donates to

Happy Bucks' after enjoying serving as the MC during last week's Concert!

Nikki's
Inspirational
Moment!



Melodia Mariposa's Brass Brilliance sponsored by Altadena Rotary Club

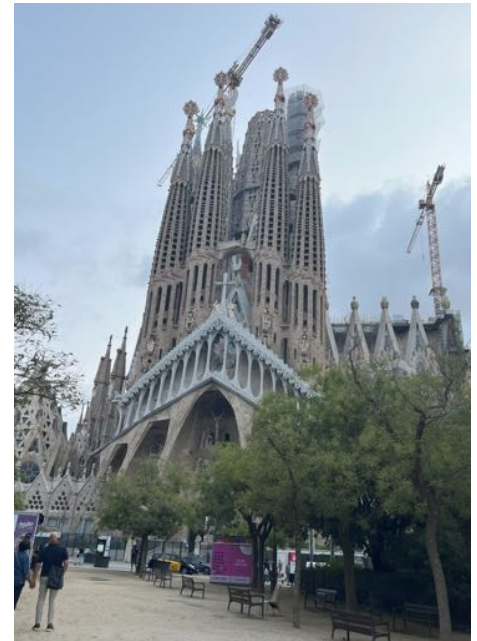
WEEK 1

Wendy and I departed from LAX Monday night (28-Aug) and arrived in Barcelona Tuesday afternoon (9 hour time change). After checking in at Yurbban Ramblas Boutique Hotel, we took a stroll on La Rambla, a beautiful plane tree (sycamore family) boulevard down to the waterfront, and later that evening enjoyed a traditional tapas dinner.



Wednesday morning we visited La Sagrada Família, a famous Basilica in Barcelona. Originally designed in the neo-Gothic style but never got underway, in 1883, the church was recommissioned to Antoni Gaudí, a renowned architect at the time. Gaudí completely redesigned the structure, employing innovative architectural and engineering techniques, in which he devoted 43 years of his life until

his untimely death in 1926. Construction continues to this day, and the final towers are expected to be completed in 2026, 100 years after Gaudí's death. This extraordinary Basilica conveys the essence of the message of Christianity through constructive language well ahead of its time.



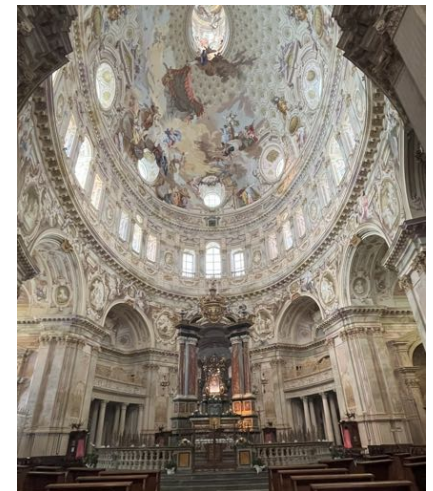
La Rambla (top) and La Sagrada (above)



Wednesday night we flew to Nice where we were picked up by friends Brigitte Garavagno and Anne Vernola and taken to Le Saint Paul hotel overlooking the Nice harbor. On Thursday morning, the four of us drove off to the Piedmont region of Italy, enjoying a picnic in the the town of Vicoforte where we admired il Santuario Regina Montis Regalis. We also took a stroll through the old village of Mondovì, which is known for its ceramics, in particular, the rooster.



On Friday, we visited the beautiful village of Barolo (yes, famous for its wine) and took a tour of the castle.



Il Santuario Regina Montis Regalis

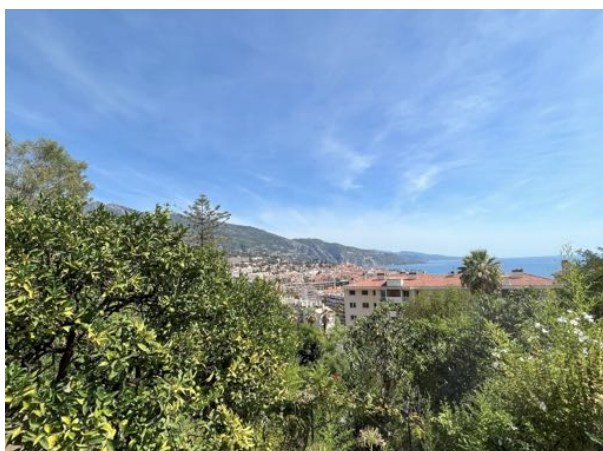
Though Barolo is the namesake for the famous wines of this region, the village of Grinzane Cavour is home where it became known as “the king of wines.” The small town of Grinzane Cavour is one of eleven small towns of the Langhe region where the celebrated Barolo wine may be produced according to specifications. Its name is a tribute to Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour, who served as its mayor for 17 years (1832-1849) and who later became the first prime minister of a united Italy. Before and during his tenure as mayor, Count Cavour, devoted himself to producing Barolo grape varieties and wine that would become famous around the world.



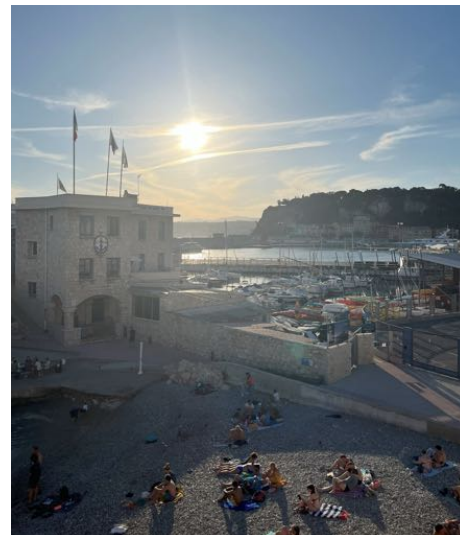
Back together with Brigitte and Paulette

Our first week ended by our having lunch with Anne, Brigitte, and Brigitte’s mom Paulette (94) at Paulette’s home in Menton. This is the family and home I lived with in 1979 while studying French during a semester abroad. It was a lovely reunion and a great way to end our first week.

R: The view from my former bedroom. It was a tough stay abroad, to be sure!



We returned to Nice on Saturday and had a delicious sunset dinner at Le Club Nautique across the street from our hotel.



Anne and Brigitte, L to R