



'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**

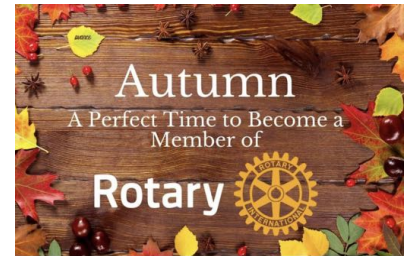
Rotary Club of Altadena - #772

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 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

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Maria Perez-Arton

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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

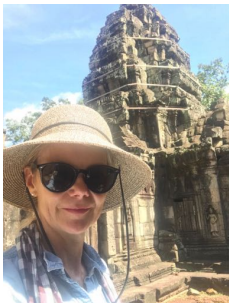
Youth Activities: Tony Hill

International Service: Sarah O'Brien

THIS WEEK: SARAH O'BRIEN ADVENTURES IN CAMBODIA

Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon

Speaker Chair: Doug Colliflower



Standing in this week for a previously-booked speaker, and while summer travels are not far behind us, Past-President Sarah will share some of her adventures in Cambodia. Sarah first visited Cambodia in the late 1990s after reading excerpts of love letters that survived the notorious Killing Fields. A period of research led to her composing and staging Cambodia's

first musical 'Winds of Angkor' and she has returned every year since.

Sarah recently spent five months living in Siem Reap, close to Angkor Wat, one of the largest religious complexes in the world, and a stunning array of 9th to 13th century temples built by the kings of the Khmer Empire. However, what is not seen by most visiting tourists are some of the world's poorest communities, living in tiny villages throughout the area, who struggle to survive in the aftermath of genocide and corruption. Her presentation this week will include the impact of humanitarian aid, linked to Rotary's areas of focus, including our Club's support of landmine clearance, education and more.

LAST WEEK: FELICIA WILLIAMS 'A NEW PLACE TO FLY FROM!'

Speaker Chair: Doug Colliflower

Program Review: Ed Jasnow

That's what our speaker last week talked about. Felicia Williams, President of the Burbank Airport Authority, talked about the history of what is now called the Hollywood Burbank Airport, as well as the exciting new plans for a brand new passenger terminal.



The airport is jointly owned by the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena, under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), formed in 1977 upon the sale of the airport by the Lockheed Corporation. The airport is governed by a nine member board, three from each city. The airport has been voted the best airport in Los Angeles County. It is considered a medium hub, with two terminals and fourteen gates. Southwest Airlines is the airport's largest carrier. Burbank is also the largest cargo airport for Amazon.

An interesting characteristic of the airport is that its two runways are built on bedrock, which would allow them to be used in emergencies by large cargo or military planes. Before the COVID pandemic, the airport served six million passengers through eight airlines. Avelo and Spirit Airlines are the latest to join the airport.

The airport contracts out its operations and maintenance functions. It also has undergone several name changes, from United Airport when it opened in 1930, to Bob Hope Airport, which is still its legal name. However, this name left passengers wondering where the airport was geographically, so it's now called Hollywood Burbank Airport. During the height of the COVID pandemic in April, 2020, the airport's passenger traffic was down 97%. In March, 2021, the recovery began, and they are now almost at pre-pandemic levels. Leisure travel has increased, while business travel still lags behind. Ms. Williams surprised everyone when she revealed that the largest source of the airport's revenue comes from parking. Fiscal Year 2023 parking revenue is \$28.5 million.



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



<https://elevatebur.com/>

The most exciting part of the presentation was about “Elevate Burbank,” the plans for a brand new passenger terminal. It will be a 355,000 square foot facility with 14 gates, with allowance for two planes per gate. The design will be completed this year, with construction starting in 2024, and opening in 2026. It will have a new lounge, and still will be one story. The architectural renderings shown looked beautiful. The existing terminals will be demolished, as the new airport welcomes it’s first passengers. More information is at: <https://elevatebur.com/>



Ed and Mark won prizes in the Airport Quiz! Pictured with Felicia and her associate.

Altadena Rotary Events

- 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



Un Sejour en France - WEEK 2

Par Michel Noll

For six weeks, Wendy and I are 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.

WEEK 2: LYON, PARIS

Last Monday Sep 4 (Labor Day), Wendy and I left Nice-Ville train station at 7am for Lyons. This was to be our first visit to Lyon with several fun activities planned. Upon arrival we decided to make the 30 minute walk to our hotel. As it was late morning, the heat of the day had not yet set in. Good thing, because the heart of France’s heat wave seemed to be in Lyon.

On Tuesday, we joined a food tour in the old town of Lyon where learned a bit of the history of this beautiful city and its food culture. The city is situated where two of France’s largest



Congratulations to Lisa Rickard on her white badge, presented by Mark with President Dawn.

rivers, the Rhone and the Soane flow very close to each other and eventually merge together south of town. The rivers allowed for commerce to develop here, in particular, a very successful silk trade.

We visited the Soierie Saint Georges and were allowed into their “museum workshop” in the back.



The shop had three different looms working on commissioned projects for private chateaus and museums like Versailles. It can take decades to complete a single project. Back in the day, there were countless soieries in Lyon with thousands of silk workers, all of whom needed to be fed. Hearty but inexpensive meals were required, and thus was born Les Bouchons Lyonnais. Utilizing the less expensive cuts of beef, lamb, and pork, plus available fowl,



chefs of les bouchons created a genre of recipes stews, braises, and potages that satisfied. Of course, wine was served as well, but to save a franc, special bottles with more glass on the bottom were employed and refilled from cask barrels. To this day, throughout Lyon, you can order a “pot” of wine, which is 45 centiliters, about 40% less than a normal bottle of wine.

(Above: a machine that weaves gold and silver wires, and various silk threads to make a beautiful golden rope)



Perhaps more important than wine, cheese (“fromage”) is the staple of the French diet. Often an ingredient in French cooking, cheeses are most often enjoyed after the meal. Our food tour took us to a local cheese shop where the proprietor discussed the major cheeses (cow, goat, sheep) and how they were aged and used. Of course, after gawking at his gorgeous case of cheese, we got to sample a variety, with wine, of course. Our favorite was the Saint-Marcellin soft, unpasteurized, mold-ripened cheese made from cow’s milk from the town of the same name southeast of Lyon.

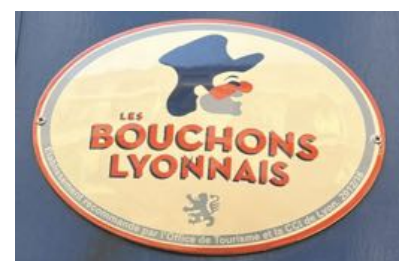


In between food shops, we strolled along the narrow streets of the old city, occasionally taking a surprise shortcut through a few of the hundreds of traboules that connect the streets (only 40 are open to the public nowadays). You enter these secret passageways through doors that look like any other residence doorway. Because the old town is built on a hill rising above the Saone, the traboules often take you up or down a street level. Inside the traboules are often found residential courtyards and entrances to homes.

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Arrival in Lyon!



(official symbol of a bouchon restaurant)

Left: Les Fromages

Fumaison de Brebis and Rigotte de Condrieu
St-Marcellin



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After more wine, cheese and charcuterie in a cave, we finished off the four-hour tour with homemade gelato, followed by our final stop in a tea and coffee house.



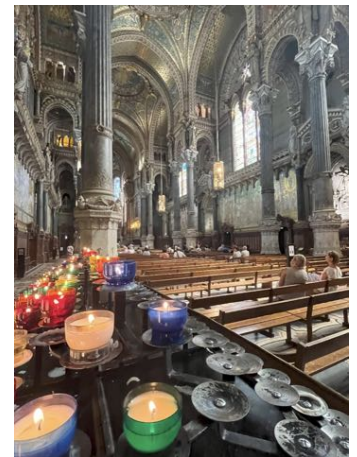
L: charcuterie tasting in a cave

After arising from a food-induced coma, we made our way to the Rhone side of town to meet Nina Dert. You may recall Nina was our daughter Ames' Rotary Youth Exchange "sister" from Nantes, France six years ago. The girls have stayed in touch, and Ames was able to visit Nina during her recent trip to Europe. Following lycée (high school), Nina attended university in Lyon to study physics. Like every student at the time, Covid created a lot of hardships for students, particularly for those in the sciences. In her third year, she moved to Paris to specialize in astro-physics but decided to drop after the first semester. It just wasn't going well for her. Now, she's back in Lyon, in her second year studying graphic design and loving it. We

think of Nina as another daughter and were so happy to reconnect. In Week 5, we are looking forward to having dinner with Nina's parents when we're in Nantes.



Later that same afternoon we decided to take the funicular up to the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, considered a "minor" church in Lyon. The inside was lovely, and I lit a candle for a friend.



On Wednesday morning we were up early and off by train to Annecy to the east near the Swiss border. This gorgeous town is situated on Lake Annecy in a glacier cut valley not far from Geneva and Chamonix. As we approached the lake, we happened along a boat cruise that was about to sail. This turned out to be a great way to stay cool and enjoy the beautiful scenery for an hour.

We returned to Lyon, tired but satisfied for taking in the Annecy experience. I am eager to return for both the hiking and snow skiing in the nearby French Alps! On Thursday, we took in a few more sights (and another meal) in Lyon before boarding our train to Paris. Arriving at Gare-de-Lyon in Paris, we managed to haul our much heavier luggage (3 bottles of Barolo wine and 4 bottles of Noilly Prat Amber) through the metro to Strasbourg-Saint-Dennis station, and up three flights of stairs (no elevator) to our Airbnb apartment. Oh my goodness, Paris was hot!!! Fortunately, our Airbnb had A/C... and a washing machine. We started a load of laundry and hung it all over the apartment to dry and enjoyed freezer cold bottle of Arneis white wine from Barolo (one less to carry, yay!).

This was our first time to the Porte-Saint-Martin neighborhood district in Paris. Full of hip bars, eateries, and street art, Porte-Saint-Martin is home to the Canal Saint-Martin, which is



4.6km long connecting the Canal du L'Ourcq and the River Seine. As we walked along the canal, dozens and dozens of people were sitting along its banks enjoying a picnic and slightly cooler air temperature.

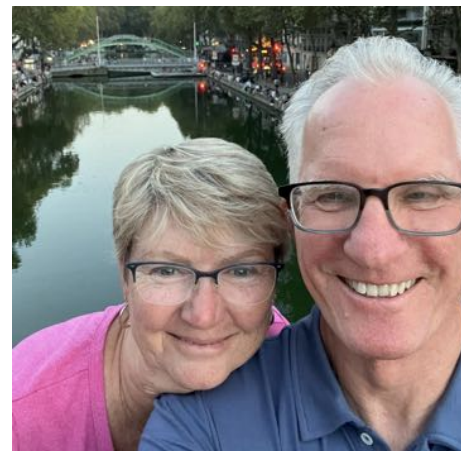
On Friday, we did some sightseeing walking up to Sacré-Cœur on the summit Montmartre (hoards of people); not stopping to wait in the long line we ambled along the streets of Montmartre, going in and out of shops and making small gift purchases.

The rest of the day we went to Opera, gardens of Pallais Royal, the Tuilerie Gardens (shade and a bistro), and then we walked by Place de Concord which is home to World Cup Rugby Village. Unfortunately, they hadn't opened the village yet for us to have a look. However, that evening, after a meal of steak-frites, we heard the cheers coming from local sports bars and pubs. The first match was on: France vs New Zealand. We stopped by a couple of bars live streaming the event, but finally decided to return to our cooler apartment and pack.

Fortunately, our host helped us get connected to watch the second half of the match, which was terribly exciting and unintelligible for non-rugby fans like us. No matter... France Bleus defeated the New Zealand All Blacks 27-13. We heard pandemonium in the streets. Very fun.

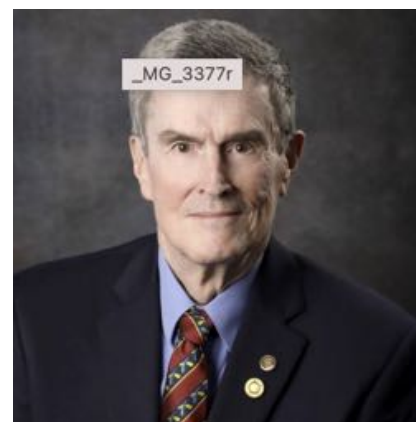
Saturday, we are off to Deauville to meet last year's Provence and Canal du Midi friends on the coast of Normandy, and that is a good stopping place. Wendy and I are looking forward the next three weeks as it is mostly parts of France we've never seen before.

À prochaîn..



All smiles in Lyon and Paris!

SAVE THE DATE!



NEXT WEEK:

**District Governor Michael Soden's visit
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE
MEETING!**

Maui No Ka Oi

August 9, 2023 was a tragic day for our Rotarians, families and friends on the Island of Maui. The fires across the island have changed lives forever. Truly devastating. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted.

As people of action, we can take immediate action. As we come together to recover and rebuild, we need to support each other. We need to Create Hope for Maui.

Through our Rotary District 5000 Foundation, a relief fund has been established. Foundation President Dave Hamil and Treasurer Sharon Amano will handle all donations. A committee will be organized shortly to find the greatest needs for distribution of monies. A single fund will be the most helpful over time to provide the most significant benefits.

Please consider donating to this special fund, Maui Fires Relief Fund.

Mahalo to the Rotary Club of Waikiki for collecting monies at their lunch meeting today. These are the first contributions to the fund.

Please also widely share this opportunity to help.

Stay safe, take care and mahalo for creating hope.

Mark Merriam, District Governor

Rotary District 5000, Hawaii, USA

