



'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: Jennifer E. Jones, Dist. 5300 Gov: Roger Gutierrez



D. Vance Graphics

**THIS WEEK: Habitat For Humanity
In Our Community**

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon

Speaker Chair for December: Steve Kerekes



**Our Vision:
A San Gabriel Valley and a
world where everyone has
a decent place to live.**

Our speaker this week, Sonia Cruz, is the Donor Care Coordinator for the local San Gabriel Chapter of the National program, Habitat For Humanity. We will hear from her about the different projects in our local community including the new project

that is breaking ground early next year at 2399 Olive Avenue (north of Woodbury) and how we might be able to assist.

Habitat homebuyers help build their homes alongside local volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. All household members over the age of 18 are required to participate in some form of "sweat equity". They complete at least 250 hours per head of household. This helps them build their future home and take homebuyer education courses to help them prepare for success.

sgvhabitat.org | sgvrestore.org

DECEMBER 08, 2022

**December is:
Disease Prevention & Treatment Month**

Officers

**President: Doug Colliflower
626-524-4158**

**Vice President: David Smith
President Elect: Dr. Dawn Digrius Smith**

**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

**Membership: Maria Perez-Arton
International: Sarah O'Brien
Community Service: Craig Cox
Vocational: Steve Kerekes
Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards:
Mike Zoeller
Youth Activities: Tony Hill
Foundation: Steve Kerekes**

LAST WEEK: MIKE NOLL 'VIVE LA FRANCE!'

Speaker Chair: Steve Kerekes Program Review: Ed Jasnow



Independent Living, reimagined

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

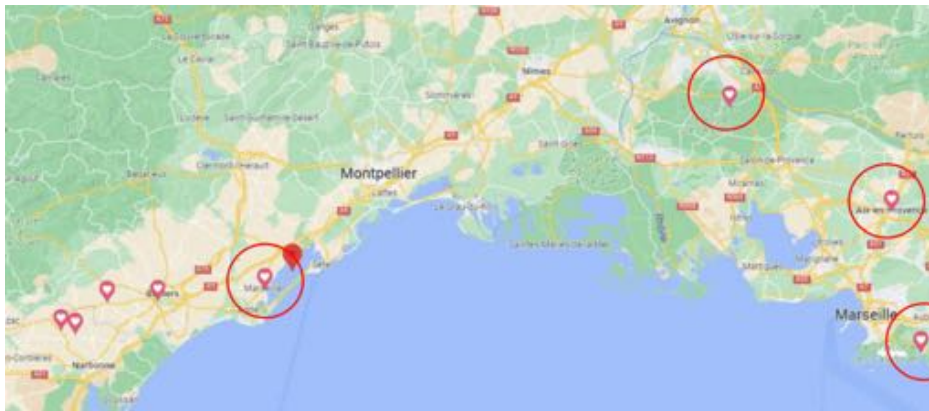


That's what our esteemed member and treasurer, Mike Noll, was saying as he presented an exciting summary of the trip he and his wife Wendy took in September and October while members enjoyed a traditional French meal. They spent a month traveling extensively through the south of France. The enthusiasm that he brought to the presentation was a clear indication of how much they enjoyed this fabulous trip... not to mention the exquisite wine he brought for our enjoyment - a Grand Cru from Saint-Émilion!



Mike and Wendy

The trip began in Nice, a beautiful seaside city with wonderful beaches on the Mediterranean. While there, they met Mike's "family" that he lived with when he was there. They saw beautiful sculptures at a garden, and explored the entire city. They stopped in Cassis and Calanques, which was an inlet carved out of limestone. Their trip then took them westward.



One of their favorite places was Aix-en-Provence and Le Chateau de la Coste. These are typical of the wonderful villages that dot the French countryside. They also had the experience of hunting for truffles with specially trained dogs that smell the truffles and dig them up.

They then transferred to the Hotel Barge Anjodi, a small cruise boat, and cruised the Canal du Midi, a 150 mile canal that runs 450 feet in elevation, terminating in Toulouse. This is accomplished with a series of 7 sophisticated locks. After disembarking from the boat, they continued west to Narbonne, where they visited a large covered market. Continuing west, they stopped in the village of Carcassonne, a medieval village where villagers recreate historical events.



La truffe avec
les chiens
truffiers



Mike recounted the story of the siege of the village by Charlemagne, and how they threw a pig stuffed with hay over the wall. This convinced Charlemagne that the villagers had enough food to outlast the siege, so they left. (L-Carcassonne)

The final stop was Toulouse, where they met friends, and thoroughly explored the city. The presentation made those who have never been to France want to go,

and those who have been to France want to go back. Thanks, Mike, for a great tour of southern France!



Saint-Émilion



Volunteers needed for Friday and Saturday

By Mark Mariscal

Our club will be collecting unwrapped toys (for ages 3-11) this Thursday at our meeting. Immediately following the meeting, we will deliver them to Farnsworth Park staff for their event on Friday. At the event on Friday, our club has traditionally supported the past Holiday Toy Giveaways with a Santa (our own Mr. Smith) and help passing out toys. If anyone is available to help, PLEASE let me know asap. The event is at Farnsworth Park from 3 pm. - 6pm.

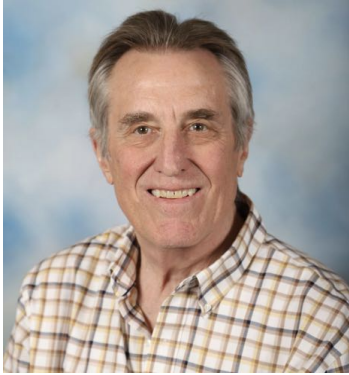
Also, we need some volunteers on Saturday to work a 1- or 2-hour shift during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Program. Volunteers are needed between 2:30 - 8:30. We are sharing a booth to share Rotary information, with club member Dawn Smith (she will be selling her homemade products).



Cont'd from opposite:

This event usually draws more than 7,000 people. Again, please let me know if you have time to volunteer.

We are still going to collect toys at our December 15th Holiday Party. Those toys will be shared with the Altadena Sheriff Station for some of their Holiday Giveaways.



President's Piece

By President Doug Colliflower

Chamber Sip & Shop

On Saturday, December 3rd I had the privilege to represent our club at the Altadena Chamber of Commerce's 2nd Annual Sip & Shop on Mariposa Street. The event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed being outside

enjoying the wonderful weather, vendors, music and food.

I hosted a table and provided information and answered questions about Rotary International and our club. It was really a lot of fun to engage with the community and share the Rotary experience. Among the notable highlights:

- Had a nice conversation with a gentleman from South Pasadena who had come to Altadena to visit the Daisy Thrift Shop, saw all the activity and decided to stop in. He turned out to be a member of South Pasadena Rotary.
- Met an Altadenian who didn't know Altadena had a Rotary Club!
- I met two women who had sincere interest in Rotary and I hope will join us as a "Special Guest" for lunch one day soon.
- I saw some clients, colleagues, and talked a little real estate. Bonus points!



It truly was an enjoyable day, meeting and greeting community members and supporters. Dawn Smith and I will be hosting a table at the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 10th in the Altadena Library parking lot. I invite you to join us, even for just 30 minutes, I promise a rewarding experience.

Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!

President Doug pictured w/Bridget Brewster

Are you following Altadena Rotary Club on Instagram & FB?



@AltadenaRotary

Please 'like' our Club's FB page!

<https://www.facebook.com/AltadenaRotary>



Rotary Sponsored Events:

Early December: Mini Grant Applications Review
(see Ed Jasnow for details)

12/27 Lunches for Shower of Hope

March 2023 Read at Families Forward

Upcoming General Community / Service Opportunities:

12/10 Christmas Tree Lane Lighting
(see Mark for details)

The staff at Loma Alta

Park is looking for 2-3

volunteers on

December 8th, to help

with their Toy

Giveaway and Holiday

Program. (see Mark's article previous page)

Time is from 4-8 pm. (Contact: Mark / Craig)



* NEW *

Native Milkweed Seed Giveaway

January 21, 2023
Altadena Community Garden
10 AM to 3 PM

An international guest from Afghanistan joined us this week!





Invitation from Craig Cox:



Concert Tickets Available at:

SCMasterChorale.org

or call (661) 383-1776

\$35 General Admission

\$28 Students, Seniors (65+), and First Responders

Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons

26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita 91355

December 11th at 4 PM

“Hodie” means ‘today’, and there are numerous works that have been composed over the centuries celebrating the day Christ was born. We will present several of them along with music for Hanukkah, favorite carols and other musical holiday treats. Nothing celebrates the season better than a concert of live music with singers and instrumentalists.



GLOBAL GRANT UPDATE:

From: Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang

PP. Rotary Club of Patan, Dist.3292

Very pleased to inform you that yesterday, 01 Dec., MoHP has approved our application for a duty-free import of an ambulance vehicle for Laligurans Community Hospital, Dolakha. A letter to this effect shall be issued by next week. I have also made full payment of Rs.2,010,050.00 to the vendor that includes all the handling charges. I hope the vehicle will be delivered to us soon. Regards.