

Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF ALTADENA



'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



IMAGINE ROTARY



**THIS WEEK: René Amy: A Most-Serendipitous
Conjunction: Mariposa, RAGs, and People of Action
Location: Altadena Town and Country Club**

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Our speaker this week is Mr. René Amy. He is a grass-roots community activist, a writer, a licensed general contractor, a building-code expert, an entrepreneur, an attorney and a Rotarian. He's also a member of the International Brotherhood of Real Beard Santas and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Rotary opened many doors in terms of volunteerism, and René has pursued several such avenues, including becoming an "ambassador" for ShelterBox, Rotary's "Disaster Response" partner, and more recently, as an "ambassador" for Operation Pollination, a global Rotary project lead by Chris Stein of the US National Park Service. He became a volunteer Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a child in LA County's huge dependency-court system shortly after hearing a speaker from CASALA.org at the Altadena club's meeting.

SEPTEMBER 08, 2022

Sept is: 'Basic Education
and Literacy Month

Officers

President: Doug Colliflower
626-524-4158

Vice President: TBC

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

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

René talks with thousands of folks yearly to explain just how easy and fun it can be to plant California native wildflowers. He's also passionate about community, having set the wheels in motion for two recently completed Altadena landmarks: The "Fourteen Decades of Altadena History" display at the Altadena Community Center that is centered on a four-foot-diameter tree "cookie" he rescued, preserved, finished, and installed; and the hard-to-miss "Greetings From Altadena" mural on the side of Altadena Grocery outlet (where the devil truly is in the details).

When not disseminating information to community members on Nextdoor.com, or getting down-'n'-dirty in his research garden or making small batches of his seedbark, René interacts with research biologists from the Xerces Society for the Conservation of Invertebrate Species (the group that oversees the annual Western Monarch Count), government officials, and members of the public in an effort to preserve our natural heritage now and into the future.

René's talk with us this week is part of the outreach that the Rotary International President - Jennifer Jones - is asking volunteers to do throughout clubs. She has specifically called out the Area of Focus - Environment (Saving Monarch Butterflies) as one she hopes clubs will focus on.

LAST WEEK: Dora E. Zúñiga, Donor Guidance Director, Project Amigo

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal

Program Review: Mike Zoeller



Our speaker last week was Dora Zúñiga, Donor Guidance Director for Project Amigo. In existence since 1984, and a U.S. 501 (c) (3) non-profit charity since 1996, Project Amigo provides educational scholarships, material support, enrichment activities and preventive and remedial health care to disadvantaged children and youth in the State of Colima, Mexico.

The non-profit Project Amigo has an impressive mission statement:



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

Happy Birthday to Bruce Foreman!



Last week, club members Mark Mariscal, David Smith, Doug Colliflower and Steve Kerekes joined Bruce Conroy's niece and nephew to celebrate a special occasion. Bruce turned 82 on August 31st. He is the spouse of Jacque Foreman Conroy, a long-time Rotary member who died in 2020. In her honor, Bruce helped fund a scholarship in her name at the Pasadena Community Foundation. Our club is the recipient of those funds each year and works with staff at Pasadena City College to award it to a student studying either graphic arts or photography. We have awarded it twice so far and the next award will be presented in May 2023.

DONATE OR SPONSOR A CHILD:



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

1) **ACCESS:** To help disadvantaged and marginalized children of west-central Mexico achieve their highest potential by enabling education, and by providing material support, enrichment activities and healthcare services not otherwise available to them.

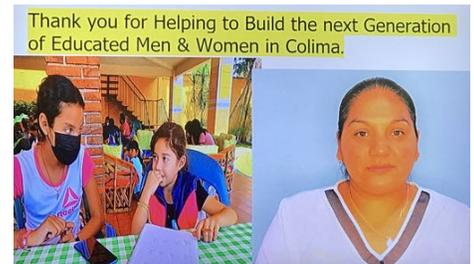
2) **SERVICE:** To provide opportunities for volunteers from developed countries to render valuable humanitarian service, and to become friends with disadvantaged children and youth in Mexico.

3) **FRIENDSHIP:** To create and foster friendship and understanding between children and adults from developed countries and their peers in Colima, Mexico.

Dora discussed the history of the organization and the services they provide. She described how Project Amigo owes both its beginnings and its longevity to the “service above self” contributions of thousands of Rotarians and Rotary clubs and was the official international service “project” of the Rotary Club of Novato, CA between 1996 and 2002. Today they are an independent public charity and ‘*asociacion civil*’ recognized in United States, Canada, and Mexico, and they continue to thank Rotarians and Rotary clubs for their deep, generous, and continued support.

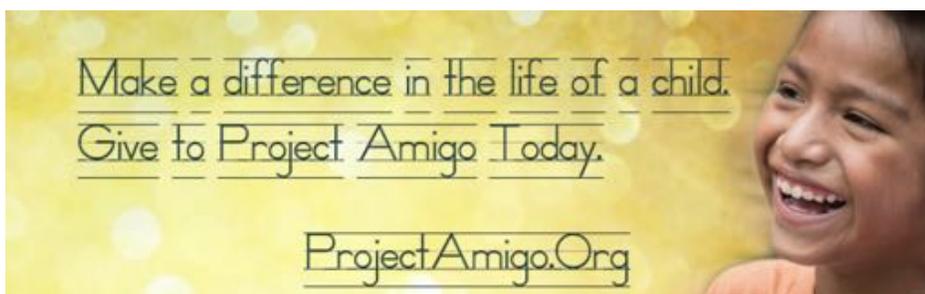
PA has developed a school program for students in the Mexican State of Colima that wish to continue their education past the 6th grade, the last grade funded by Mexican school systems. High school students are served in the Project Amigo school building and college students are provided scholarships to attend universities. The project currently provides services for up to 200 students per year. The scholarships cover the cost of a high School education, \$600 per student per year and \$4,000 for college scholarships. The project has so far resulted in 910 High School and 110 College grads. The project seeks to augment its staff with volunteers like Boy’s and Girl’s Clubs members and other supporters, including an impressive list of US, Canadian and Mexican Rotary Clubs.

Project Amigo has changed the lives of both students and their families by providing the reality of an extended schooling to children and young adults striving to build a better life through education and the Rotary Club of Altadena salutes their efforts.



SAVE THE DATE: The next Altadena Rotary-hosted “Community Pancake Breakfast” is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st in the parking lot of Grocery Outlet from 8 am. - 10:30 am. The suggested contribution for tickets is \$5.00 each. All monies raised will be contributed to local non-profit organizations. More to follow..!

Opportunities to volunteer - check DacDb!





PRESIDENT'S PIECE: Rotary & Memories

By President Doug Colliflower

Some babies are born with lots of hair, and others not so much. Many of us are fixated about our hair and the hair of others. Others couldn't care less, while the rest of us are just indifferent!

This past weekend I saw the musical "Hair"* performed at the amphitheater at Farnsworth Park by Altadena Music Theatre. <https://www.altadenamusictheatre.com/>

It was a fantastic show and I hope you didn't miss it! Our Rotary club was an early supporter of the event that took place over the Labor Day weekend, making good use of the amphitheater during our break from the 2022 Summer Concert Series

Our own Sparks editor, Sarah O'Brien, attended the opening night and brought her friend and special guest, Michael Butler (now 95!). Michael was the original producer of the musical when he brought it from the Public Theatre to Broadway in 1968. He was known as the "Hippie Millionaire". After the show, Michael told the cast, "You captured the essence of the show". And I don't think it gets better than that.

These kinds of events certainly trigger memories for me, and I am sure for you as well. This article is to encourage you to share your memories with others and remind you that Rotary is a great vehicle to use in making some new memories.

Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!

* *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical* is a rock musical with a book and lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado and music by Galt MacDermot. The work reflects the creators' observations of the hippie counterculture and sexual revolution of the late 1960s, and several of its songs became anthems of the anti-Vietnam War peace movement. The work broke new ground in musical theatre by defining the genre of "rock musical", using a racially integrated cast, and inviting the audience onstage for a "Be-In" finale. In 2008, *Time* wrote, "Today *Hair* seems, if anything, more daring than ever." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hair_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hair_(musical))



Legendary Theatre Producer, Michael Butler visits Altadena for the first time to attend the opening night of HAIR!



Sarah and Michael have been friends since Michael offered to produce her musical 'Winds of Angkor' - a work in progress! <https://www.youtube.com/windsofangkor>

Concerts in the Park

25TH ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2022

All concerts are FREE and start at 7:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays at the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park, (568 East Mt. Curve Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001)

Saturday, July 9 CASH UP FRONT	Saturday, July 30 LIGHTNIN' WILLIE	Saturday, August 20 PAST ACTION HEROES
Saturday, July 16 THE TRIBE BAND	Saturday, August 6 BLUE BREEZE BAND	Saturday, August 27 BOYS OF SUMMER
Saturday, July 23 MARIACHI DIVAS	Saturday, August 13 UPSTREAM	Saturday, Sept. 10 THE WHO EXPERIENCE

Last Concert presented by the Sheriff's Support Group of Altadena

To learn more about the Concerts in the Park, go to <http://www.altadenarotary.org>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SAT: Concessions: 2 people Security: 3 people

If you can help please login to DacDB, select the "My Club" tab, go to September 10 on the Calendar and register. Or, let me know what team you would like to serve on and I will register you. Craig Cox



HAPPY 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, MARK & PAULA MARISCAL!