

# 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

## **THIS WEEK: Dr Yasmin Zerhouni, M.D** **Dept of Surgery, City of Hope**

**Location: Altadena Town and Country Club**

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Yasmin Zerhouni, M.D., is devoted to helping patients and applying the latest medical advances to deliver the highest quality of care. As a surgeon, she finds significant satisfaction in working with her hands to save lives and preserve well-being. Currently, she is an assistant clinical professor in

Division of Colorectal Surgery, Department of Surgery, at City of Hope. Dr. Zerhouni pursued medical training at Johns Hopkins University, after which she served as a resident in general surgery at the University of California San Francisco, and a fellow in colon and rectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida. She also has been a research fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, conducting studies aiming to expand access to surgical care.



## IMAGINE ROTARY



"We sometimes think that the world's problems are so big that we can do little to help. On our own, we cannot stop wars or fight injustice. But the cumulative impact of small acts of goodness can be bigger than we imagine." ~HM Queen Elizabeth II

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Sept is: 'Basic Education  
and Literacy' 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**

#### 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**

The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons invited her to give a podium presentation on colorectal cancer screening at its 2013 annual scientific meeting. Before City of Hope, she was a member of the clinical faculty at Ross University School of Medicine in Florida. Dr. Zerhouni is fluent in both French and Spanish. When not in the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her friends and her dogs.



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

From Past President Frank:  
*As I recover from my stroke this is my mantra. Love all of you that sent love, best wishes and prayers!* (FB post 9/11/2022)

"AS YOU START TO WALK ON THE WAY, THE WAY APPEARS."  
 - Rumi

**LAST WEEK: René Amy: A Most-Serendipitous Conjunction: Mariposa, RAGs, and People of Action**

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal      Program Review: Sarah O'Brien



Our speaker last week was 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. René admits he gets excited when small ideas grow into something meaningful. He also finds inspiration when interests overlap and passions collide - hence the weaving together of themes for today's presentation!

René is already an Ambassador for Shelterbox, the emergency disaster relief organisation that is a partner organisation with Rotary. More recently he became an Ambassador for Operation Pollination, a global Rotary project lead by Chris Stein of the US National Park Service.

René spoke about how essential the pollinators are to every aspect of our well-being and survival and how bare our grocery shelves would become if pollinators ceased to exist. That's putting it simply! Bees alone, for example, pollinate a third of our food. Pollinators are responsible for pollinating over 85% of the world's plants but numbers have declined by more than 45%



RI President Jennifer Jones

worldwide since 1970. Threats include loss of habitat and the planting of toxic ‘tropical’ milkweed instead of native varieties.

But there is hope through organisations like the Xerces Society for the Conservation of Invertebrate Species (the group that oversees the annual Western Monarch Count), the banning of sales of tropical milkweed and now the efforts of Rotary and RI President Jennifer Jones through **ESRAG: Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group**. After playing a video by Ms Jones, confirming Rotary’s commitment to the environment and sustainability, René proceeded to describe an exciting initiative involving Rotary and railroads... read on!

### Save the Monarch Butterfly 60,000 Tree Challenge North American Boxcar Tour

In 2022, Kansas City Southern (KCS), Canadian Pacific (CP), GATX, Monterrey Metropolitan Rotary Club (Rotary) and NASCO are hosting the Save the Monarch Butterfly 60,000 Tree Challenge North American Boxcar Tour to raise \$100,000 USD. The funds raised will be used to plant 60,000 oyamel trees at El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary in Michoacán, Mexico to help reestablish the monarch population.

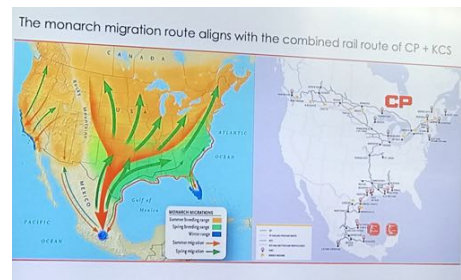
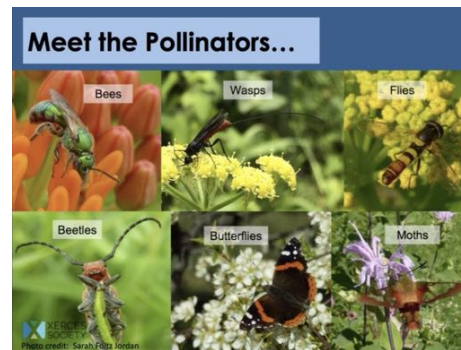


In support of the 60,000 Tree Challenge, a crowd-funding QR code is featured on the side of the boxcar. Starting this fall, the boxcar will stop at events in Windsor, Ont.; Chicago; Kansas City, Mo.; Laredo, Texas; Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.; Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; San Luis Potosi, S.L.P.; Morelia, Michoacán; and end at the El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. In coordination with Rotary, these events will generate awareness and raise funds to help save the butterfly. This innovative environmental project is an example of the commitment of the sponsoring organizations to sustainability.

Although the oyamel forests in Mexico are recognized as important to monarch butterflies, deforestation and climate change over decades have fragmented the habitat. The disappearance of the oyamel forest affects the monarch butterfly and the local communities that rely on the forest for their livelihoods, water, healthy soil and erosion control.

The monarch butterfly represents North American unity. Its migration path closely follows the CP and KCS networks, putting the two companies in a unique position to help.

[https://uat.kcsouthern.com/en-us/media/news/news-feature-monarch-mariposa?language\\_id=1](https://uat.kcsouthern.com/en-us/media/news/news-feature-monarch-mariposa?language_id=1)

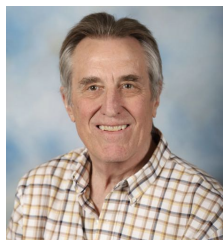


The Monarch migration route aligns with the boxcar routing. Boxcar design (opposite) includes a QR code to raise awareness and funds!



Closer to home, we can all put pressure on LA County to ban the sale of tropical milkweed (as other areas have done) and we can make a special effort to include native plants that will specifically benefit the pollinators in our gardens and at our places of work. Triangle Park already has some of these plants. Re. Operation Pollination, it takes just the filling in of a 'pledge form' for organisations - such as Rotary Clubs - to join others in committing to protect the pollinators, and getting involved in activities (see opposite), thereby ensuring the preservation of our environment for generations to come.

Thank you, René for such an informative and enthusiastic presentation. Also for sharing slides and information from the 60,000 Tree Challenge, Operation Pollination and Xerces Society.



## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

By President Doug Colliflower

### Volunteer Service Award

I am pleased to share that our own Altadena Rotary Club Summer Concert Series Committee & Volunteers were presented with The President's Volunteer Service Award by René Amy at our regular lunch meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. René submitted the application and the required support documentation on the club's behalf. Thank you, René!

Operation Pollination is an inclusive partnership project initiated by announcing a simple POLLINATOR RESOLUTION. The project is achieved by recruiting a diverse array of partners to engage in pollinator habitat restoration or education activities by signing a simple POLLINATOR PLEDGE form. Any organization can get involved in **Operation Pollination** and it doesn't cost anything to join the cause, aside from the time and resources you devote to achieving your pollinator project.

<https://operationpollination.net/>  
<https://xerces.org/>



The President's Volunteer Service Award is a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of volunteer commitment. Established in 2003 by executive order by George W. Bush, the award honors volunteers

that give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The award can be granted to individuals, families and organizations, who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service over the course of 12 months.

Our club was presented the Silver award in recognition for the 300 volunteer hours dedicated to the planning and production of our Annual Summer Concert Series. The Summer Concert Committee (missing David Smith) was on hand to accept the award from René. Pictured L-R are: Mike Zoeller, Craig Cox, Doug Colliflower, René Amy, Mark Mariscal. We had a very successful 25<sup>th</sup> season and I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers for their service. The concerts as we know them would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of those who volunteer.

Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!



The American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. I congratulate you on taking it upon yourself to contribute to the public good, and I'm proud to present you with the President's Silver Volunteer Service award in recognition of your 300 hours of service to this great Nation.

Throughout our country's history, the American story has been strengthened by those who combine an optimism about what can be with the resilience to turn that vision into reality. I know I'm not alone in recognizing that those who are willing to step up and volunteer in service of community and country are essential to the ongoing work of forming our more perfect union.

By sharing your time and passion, you are helping discover and deliver solutions to the challenges we face - solutions that we need now more than ever. We are living in a moment that calls for hope and light and love. Hope for our futures, light to see our way forward, and love for one another. Through your service, you are providing all three.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you for your volunteer leadership, and I encourage you to continue to answer the call to serve. The country is counting on you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. Amy".

## Rotary International Foundation Contributions for Polio Plus Campaign - By Steve Kerekes, Club Foundation Chair

During the Summer Concert Series, our club allocates 25% of the donations from the "Pass The Pitcher" campaign to the RI Foundation to support the Polio Plus Campaign. This summer, we collected \$2,696 that will be forwarded to the RI Foundation. This is just one way our club supports the Rotary Foundation. We should all be proud that our contributions to the Polio Plus (aka End Polio Now) will be matched 2 for 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Recently, a case of Wild Polio was identified in the State of New York. Rotary Clubs around the world took up the theme of eradicating Polio in 1987. Back then, there were more than 50,000 cases worldwide each of the previous 15 years.

November is Rotary Foundation Month. That is the time that clubs focus on having members consider making contributions to the RI Annual Fund Campaign.



*You will hear more in the weeks to follow!*