

August 29, 2013

## This Week

### Dr. Neal Turner *Exoplanets: The Search for Earth's Twin in the Goldilocks Zone* Program Host: Hal Yorke

This Thursday Dr. Neal Turner will talk about an exciting new field of astrophysics and planetary science: finding and characterizing the planets that circle stars other than the Sun. How do we find planets around other stars? How do we learn what they are made of? What can lay people do to contribute? Turner will introduce the basic ideas that enable finding and characterizing exoplanets, briefly describe some current and proposed space missions aiming to reach these goals, and show how amateur astronomers and other interested lay people can help.

Neal Turner is a scientist at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he supervises the Space and Astrophysical Plasmas Group. His main research goal is to uncover the story of the origins of the planets in our own Solar System and other planetary systems. He earned a PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a BSc from the University of Sydney in Australia.



## Dollar & Sense

by President  
 Dennis Mehriinger

### Dennis' History of Farnsworth Park

While sitting at the Rotary Table listening to the wonderful Irish folk music on Saturday Night, a young lady came up to me and ask "What is the history of this Place." I sheepishly admitted that I did not know but promised her that I would find out in time for the "Neil Diamond" imitation concert at 7p on September 7. This article is a summary of my research.

First, the Park itself. The full name is the General Charles S. Farnsworth County Park. The land was originally purchased by Los Angeles County in 1921 for use as a nursery. When the county built new, larger nurseries in the 1930s, a movement to turn the land into a county park was spearheaded by retired General Charles S. Farnsworth and William O. Davies. Farnsworth designed the park and supervised its grading and landscaping. Davies began planning for a community center and amphitheater. Funds for the community center came from grants from FDR's Public Works Administration. The park was completed in 1934. It was originally named Altadena Park.

The park project included the two-story arts and crafts American craftsman-style building that was later christened the William D. Davies Memorial Building. The park itself was renamed in honor of

Farnsworth in 1939. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 for its significance as a recreation and architecture site.

Second, who was General Charles S. Farnsworth? Farnsworth was born in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania on October 29, 1862. He worked for Western Union and Bell Telephone before being appointed to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York in 1883.

After graduating in 1887, Farnsworth was sent to several Forts in the Great Plains to fight the Sioux nation in Indian Wars. He was stationed at Fort Sisseton, South Dakota, Fort Shaw in Montana, and Fort Buford in North Dakota. In 1893 he became Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of North Dakota. Farnsworth was also the head football coach of the North Dakota fighting Sioux football team in 1895 and 1896.

During the Spanish American War he  
*Please turn to Dollars & Sense, p. 3*

## Greeters

August 29  
**Susan Applegate**  
 September 05  
**George Buehler**  
 September 12  
**Ray Carlson**

# Program Review



## Meet Charles Wilson

**B**orn and raised in the small farming town of Pleasant View, Colorado; our new member, Charlie Wilson, learned the meaning of honest hard work at an early age. He started off as a cub scout and continued in scouting through his school years. He attended college on a basketball scholarship in Durango Colo-

rado, where he received a degree in Exercise Science. His dream was to coach high school basketball, but things do not always work out like we plan, and he ended up moving to California and working in retail at the Pasadena Big-5 Sporting Goods store where he learned a lot about sales techniques and marketing.

In 2006, Charlie took time off work to care for his new born daughter, but shortly returned to the workforce in banking at Bank of America, where he worked his way from teller at the Arcadia Branch to personal banking for high-end clients in downtown Los Angeles. In 2011, he took his current position as a District Executive at the San Gabriel Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He focuses on membership, fundraising, and volunteering. He has goals of 3700 new members and \$150,000 in fund raising for this year and he appears well on his way in achiev-



ing these goals. He is a champion of the Entrepreneurship Merit Badge and plans to help the Rotary Club members in getting involved as councilors to help and guide kids.

Sammy Kayali

**Sparks** is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949

P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

Altadena Town & Country Club

2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA

626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres. .... Ron Burton

Dist 5300 Gov. .... Miles Petroff

### Officers

Dennis Mehringer, Pres. .... Bus. 626-577-9800

Hal Yorke, Pres. Elec. .... Bus. 818-354-5515

Julius Johnson, V. Pres. .... Bus. 626-797-1186

Gordon Seyffert, Sec. .... Bus. 626-345-0658

Mike Noll, Treas. .... Bus. 626-683-0515

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Gordon Seyffert • Sterling Louviere

Julius Johnson • Mike Zoeller • Hal Yorke

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Jacque Foreman ..... Acting Publicity

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Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects

Craig Cox ..... Community

John Frykenberg ..... International

Tom McCurry ..... Youth Contests/Awards

Mike Zoeller ..... Youth Projects

Ray Carlson ..... Vocational

Steve Cunningham ..... Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting ..... Foreman Graphics

Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

## August

### Membership & Extension Month

#### Program Chair, Hal Yorke

Aug 29 - Dr. Neal Turner, Exoplanets: The Search for Earth's Twin in the Goldilocks Zone

## September

### New Generations Month

#### Program Chair, Ray Carlson

Sep 05 - Congresswoman Judy Chu - An up-to-the-minute report on Current Issues and Progress in Congress

Sep 12 - To be Announced

Sep 19 - To be Announced

Sep 26 - To be Announced

## Congratulations



### Birthdays



08/02 - Phyllis Merrill

08/05 - Kevin Moore

08/08 - Joseph McMullin

08/10 - Don Applegate

08/11 - Joy Carlson

08/14 - Marsha Seyffert

08/24 - Hal Yorke

08/27 - Elaine Klock

08/31 - Bruce Conroy (J. Foreman)



### Anniversaries

08/01 - Ed & Phyllis Soza

08/23 - Gary & Dotty Clark



Youth Services has always had a significant emphasis at the Altadena Rotary Club. The list of projects is impressive:

- Interact,
- RYLA,
- TLC
- Get in Gear Now!,
- 4-Way Speech Contest,
- Dan Stover Music Contest,

## Investing in Youth is an Investment in our Future

### Where do You see Yourself fitting in?

- Dewey Merrill Entrepreneurship/Business Plan Contest,
- Hensel Essay Contest,
- Junior ROTC/Americanism awards,
- PCC Vocational Awards, and the
- PCC Veteran Awards.

These activities definitely keep us busy during the Rotary year. However, they tend to be *back-loaded* toward the second half of our year. I will be assisting with the Interact Clubs, RYLA, and 4-Way

Speech Contest, while Mike Zoeller oversees the rest. We are still looking for a chair for the Interact Club.

If you are like I am, the ability to interact with and watch these young people grow in character, perspective, ability and confidence is very inspiring and invigorating. I really appreciate our heritage in investing so much time and energy in the youth of Altadena and the surrounding area.

## Next Week

### US Congresswoman Judy Chu

#### Current Issues and Progress in Congress

Program Host:  
C. Ray Carlson

We are greatly honored to be having Congresswoman Chu as our speaker. She replaced Congressman Adam Schiff in representing Altadena when the districts were recently shuffled.

**Listening to her constituents** is her **greatest priority**, she says, and encourages us to bring issues that matter to us. So here's a great opportunity for us to ask why our stalemated Congress seems so hopeless and what she sees as possible progress.

Of course, an up-to-the-minute report on the desperate situation in Syria and Egypt and what President Obama has decided, should be of considerable



interest to us.

**This is an unparalleled opportunity for inviting guests that ought to become members of our club. So let's start asking them now.**

## Dollars & Sense

*Continued from p. 1*

served as a quartermaster in Cuba and was an aide to Adna Chaffee. After this war he was sent to Alaska where he founded and constructed Fort Gibbon. He was then sent to the Philippines where he founded and built Fort William McKinley.

In 1909, he attended the Command and Staff College. He graduated from the Army War College in 1916.

Farnsworth was the commander of the Infantry Training School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma at the beginning of World War I. He then commanded the 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade at Camp Lee, Virginia.

In 1918, Farnsworth was promoted to major general and placed in command of the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the Ohio National Guard. He brought this division to France where it participated in World War I. It participated in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel the Meuse-Argonne offensive, one of the deadliest campaigns of the war.

For his service in World War I he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal

*Please turn to Dollars & Sense, p. 5*



## American Colonial History and America's Default Assumption of Growth

This week I'm dishing out a heavier dose of history than you're accustomed to seeing here. I can't help it; it's who I am. That explains my chosen classification of genealogical research over university administration.

My dear spouse is prone — even now — to worry about our adult children when they're out at night, worried as mothers *always* are about the safety of *the kids*. It's a variation on the theme of: "It's ten o'clock; do you know where your children are?" I'm more prone to ponder *different* questions in the wee hours. This week the question went something along the lines of: "It's 1700; do you know where your families are?"

That's a bit of an exaggeration, I hope you know. But I *did* find myself reading a book about German and Swiss immigration to America when I encountered a table that estimated the population of the various British colonies in the year 1700. The figures were as follows:

*Massachusetts Bay, 80,000; Virginia, 55,000; Maryland, 32,000; New York, 30,000; Connecticut, 30,000; Pennsylvania/Delaware, 20,000; South Carolina, 12,000; New Hampshire, 10,000; Rhode Island, 10,000; and North Carolina, 5,000.*

*Total = 284,000.*

And, of course, I took the bait. I went at once to my records of Marsha's and my British Isles ancestry — Germans didn't start arriving here in significant numbers until the 18th century — and began to list those families by name who would have been living here then. With each family I also listed the county in which they would have lived, so that I could gain a better

sense of their geographic distribution.

Now I don't have someone famous to claim. That's Gary Clark's department. And neither Marsha nor I have any claim to either New England or to the more Southern settlements. Given that one of my grandfathers had exclusive Virginia Colonial heritage, I knew before I began how this was going to turn out. Yet the exercise was still instructive for what it showed about the nature of our kids' collective ancestry.

Here were the rough figures: Virginia, a combined 33 families, by surname only in seven instances, but with full name of the head-of-household for 26 of them. Maryland, another seven families. New York, three of Marsha's Dutch or Franco-Dutch families — one of these having lived earlier in what is now Delaware. Pennsylvania, two of Marsha's families in Philadelphia and Chester Counties. And North Carolina, with two of my families (who were descendents of the state's first settlers).

This was all very interesting, as I had never taken the time to work this out before. It's kind of mind-boggling to know that my three children can claim 47 separate families living in America in 1700, knowing that the Germans had yet to arrive and that many families who would probably have been here can't be traced back in records that far.

But the really interesting insight occurred when I began to play with the geography a bit. It began when I chose to group the Virginia families by settlement area. North-to-South, early Virginia was divided into these Tidewater areas, all closely tied to the ocean: The Northern

Neck, The Middle Peninsula, The Peninsula (close to and including Jamestown), and The South Side. Then I went further. I tied the North Carolina families to The South Side Virginia region from whence they'd come. And I tied the Maryland Eastern Shore families to the Pennsylvania families residing just above Delaware.

The data began to take on the dimensions of a kind of bell curve distribution, as follows:

- New York ("NYC" & Hudson River), 3 families;
- "DelMarVa" peninsula, 4 families;
- Maryland's Western Shore (W. of Chesapeake Bay), 5 families;
- Virginia's Northern Neck, 8 families; Virginia's Middle Peninsula (Rappahannock to York Rivers), 13 families;
- Virginia's Peninsula (York to James Rivers), 9 families; VA/NC South Side, 5 families.

What does it all mean? Like most Americans of the British Colonies, *our* roots were overwhelmingly from farming families. Once Kentucky and Ohio lands were opened up, these families' descendants were among the thousands who moved West. But consider, too, the implications of an America with only some 284,000 of European-stock residents. Then look at where we were in 1800, 1900, and in 2000.

It's no matter of happenstance that we Americans look upon growth as something of a birthright. Or that we become confused and disenchanted when growth stops. By now, I'd argue, growth is in our genes. It's what we grew up with, what we expect, and what we tend at times to demand.





# MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

## ***Economic Update In the News***

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo monthly housing market index rose three points in August to 59, the strongest reading since November 2005. An index reading above 50 indicates positive sentiment about the housing market.

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in July rose 5.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 896,000 units. Single-family starts decreased 2.2 percent. Volatile multifamily starts rose 26 percent. Compared to the previous year, housing starts were up 20.9 percent in July. Applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, rose 2.7

percent to an annual rate of 943,000 units.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending August 9 fell 4.7 percent. Purchase volume fell 5 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 4 percent.

Retail sales rose 0.2 percent to \$424.5 billion in July. This follows a 0.6 percent increase in June. Compared to July 2012, retail sales have increased 5.4 percent.

Total business sales increased 0.2 percent to \$1.285 trillion in June, up 4.9 percent from a year ago. Total business inventories were unchanged in June at \$1.655 trillion, up 3.5 percent from a year ago. The total business inventories/sales ratio in June was 1.29.

Consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in

July, following a 0.5 percent increase in June. Compared to July 2012, consumer prices have risen 2 percent. Consumer prices at the core rate — excluding volatile food and energy prices — were up 0.2 percent in July.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending August 10 fell by 15,000 to 320,000, the lowest level since November 2007. Continuing claims for the week ending August 3 fell by 54,000 to 2.969 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 332,000.

Coming on the economic calendar are reports on existing home sales on August 21 and new home sales on August 23. ☉

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

## **Green Valley, Nevada Club asks that We Help Them Celebrate**

Our members have been invited to go to Las Vegas to help celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Rotary Club of Green Valley. The festivities start on Friday evening, September 13 with a *Southern Nevada Luau* in honor of District Governor Miles Petroff and his lovely wife Teresa. The Luau will be held at the

- Wild Horse Golf Club
- 2100 West Warm Springs Road
- Henderson, Nevada 89014
- 5:30 to 9:30p, and will cost
- \$20 per person

The next event is Saturday morning, September 14: A Rotary Basics (Rotary Foundation/Membership/International) PR Seminar to be held at

- Foothill High School
- 800 College Drive
- Henderson, Nevada 89002

- 9a to 12n, and will cost
- \$20 per person

The final event is the *real* birthday party, also on September 14. It is being held at

- Riva Center at the Montelago Village at Lake Las Vegas
- 30 Strada di Villaggio
- Henderson, Nevada 89011
- 5:30 to 8:30p, and will cost
- \$20 per person

According to the email that was sent to President Dennis and he forwarded to the *Sparks* editor, each event has its own registration. If you plan on going, ask and the email will be forwarded to you.

In case you get tired after all that revelry, they have a special rate at the Hilton (formerly Ravella). Overnight — with the Rotary discount — is \$99 per night. ☉

## **Dollars & Sense**

*Continued from p. 3*

and the Silver Star. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre and Legion d'honneur from France. He was also appointed part of the Order of Leopold of Belgium.

Farnsworth traveled around the USA inspecting reserve units and ROTC programs. As Chief of Infantry, Farnsworth reviewed reports by junior officers. His papers — stored at the University of Alaska — reveal his review of reports by George S. Patton and Dwight D. Eisenhower. He dismissed both reports.

He retired March 27, 1925 to Altadena, California to be near his son. He died in 1955 at the Naval Hospital in Norco, California and is buried at the Presidio in San Francisco.

Now, if someone asks you about the history of Farnsworth Park, you'll know, but maybe more than wanted. ☉

## JOB CREATION through ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP YOUTH - MAYBE YOU?

Your business and professional skills can make a huge difference in the lives of our youth and young adults. Training in how to write Business Plans based on their own ideas is the first step in a process that can lead them to eventually start a business that will create jobs for others, too. That's our goal - the creation of JOBS.

Members of the Rotary Club of Altadena have been doing this since 1990 abroad and since 1995 in the Pasadena Unified School District. We're expanding into new areas and we need volunteers to do so.

1. **Veterans** are having difficulty in finding jobs. There are about 600 men and 200 women studying at Pasadena City College. But 20,000 are coming home to the US each month from Iraq and Afghanistan. And 100s of thousands are already back in the USA. In collaboration with American Legion Post 13 in Pasadena, we plan to start a program in the Fall at PCC and at the Post, training them to write Business Plans.

*Will you volunteer to help the Vets? We'll train you.*

2. **Boy Scouts of America** has a **Merit Badge for Entrepreneurship** that we'd like to encourage more Scouts to work towards. Only five did so last year within the San Gabriel Valley Council because of a lack of counselors. The booklet is quite easy for adults to understand and teach from. It has a good template for a Business Plan.

*Will you volunteer to be a Merit Badge Counselor? We'll train you.*

3. **9th Grade students in Pasadena Unified School District** will greatly benefit from an understanding of how to write a Business Plan because they may develop an **entrepreneurial mindset**. This can motivate them to **stay in school** because they have a goal of being **their own Boss**. Earning a diploma should help them,

*Will you volunteer to be part of a training team. We'll train you.*

4. **University students** in Africa, Asia, Mexico and the US need jobs because unemployment is very high. We send Vocational Training Teams to Nigeria and have trained more than 7,000 there, with more teams on the way. As a member of our Rotary Club of Altadena, you could become part of a team to Africa or you could become leader of a team to Mexico, Philippines, India or a place where you have immigrated from or your parents did, and you know the culture and language. All travel expenses are covered for team members..

*Are you interested in joining Altadena Rotary to become involved in projects locally or abroad? You are welcome to visit the club at Noon some Thursday at the Altadena Town & Country Club as our guest.*

**For details**, contact John Frykenberg <[fryky@earthlink.net](mailto:fryky@earthlink.net)>, (323) 810-0661;  
Gary Clark <[gkclark7@aol.com](mailto:gkclark7@aol.com)>, (626) 797-4073, or  
C Ray Carlson <[crayc@me.com](mailto:crayc@me.com)> 1-800-448-3456



## LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

**The Los Angeles County Superior Court is currently seeking qualified citizens who are interested in applying for the LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY.**

***Applicant must possess each of the following qualifications:***

- ***citizen of the United States;***
- ***at least 18 years of age;***
- ***a resident of Los Angeles County for at least one year;***
- ***of ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, fair character;***
- ***working knowledge of the English language.***

***Primary functions of the Civil Grand Jury:***

- ***investigates county, city and joint-power agencies;***
- ***acts as "watch dog" by examining carefully and completely the operations of various government agencies within Los Angeles County.***

**Willing to volunteer 30-40 hours per week and earn \$60.00 for each full day of service?**

**2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury is now open for recruitment.**

***Deadline to submit an application is November 25, 2013.***

***For an application packet, please contact:***

***Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury***

***Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center Building***

***210 W. Temple Street, 11th Floor Room 11-506***

***Los Angeles, CA 90012***

***Telephone No. (213) 893-1047***

***Fax No. (213)229-2595***

***For forms online: <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us>***

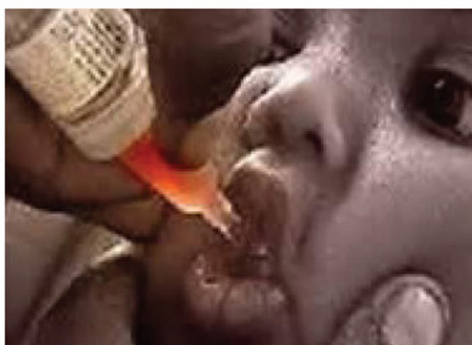




# ROTARY'S MARCH TO **END** POLIO

Saturday & Sunday October 26 & 27

**Western Regional Little League Park**  
**6707 Little League Drive**  
**San Bernardino, California 92407**



- ☺ Each club is challenged to walk 100 miles in an effort to raise \$2500.00 You can start anytime, but we hope you will do your final laps at the event
- ☺ You can involve your family and friends.
- ☺ You can involve your RYLA students.
- ☺ You can involve your Interact club.
- ☺ Each club will raise its own money and they will donate it directly to their District.

- ☺ Get people to support "so much a mile".
- ☺ District Website will be available to make donations.
- ☺ Special parking for RV's. Spend the night and enjoy the fellowship.
- ☺ Reserved areas for your clubs Pop-Up's.
- ☺ Food, Entertainment, Tee Shirts.
- ☺ Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast.
- ☺ Polio Survivors Lap

**FOR INFORMATION CALL:**

**Cal Magro - Polio Chair (626) 827-2611**





## March to End Polio



24 hour walk-a-thon

October 26 & 27, 2013

Rotary Districts 5300-San Gabriel Valley-Foothill, and 5330-Inland Empire, in partnership with The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are holding a multi-district fundraiser to help stamp out Polio forever. ROTARY, together with UNICEF and THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION have been partners in the effort and are proud to say that there are only three endemic countries left. The Gates foundation has generously agreed to triple our fundraising efforts. Together with your help, we will soon see the end of this disease.

All Sponsors will be recognized with logo on tee-shirts. **Art work must be submitted by 10-1-13**

Major Corporate Sponsors will be highlighted as Corporate Sponsors in most printed and electronic advertising and press releases.

Major Corporate Sponsors will be recognized on the web-site. [www.marchtoendpolio.com](http://www.marchtoendpolio.com)

Corporate Sponsors will have banners (you provide) displayed around the park as well as advertising on Jumbo-Tron in the center of the park.

During the event, the announcer will call attention to Corporate Sponsors and thank them all for their participation in this event.

Corporate Sponsors will receive corporate recognition in Souvenir Program:

Sponsor		\$ 500.00
Bronze Sponsor	(Major)	\$ 1,000.00
Silver Sponsor	(Major)	\$ 2,000.00
Gold Sponsor	(Major)	\$ 3,000.00
Platinum Sponsor	(Major)	\$ 5,000.00

Cal Magro (626) 827-2611  
Polio Chair District 5300

Terry Thompson (951) 538-4996  
Polio Chair District 5330



All **FREE** Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.

568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335

Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

### 17th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2013

Downbeat Express (Big Band with Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 6th
Law & Disorder (Classic Rock 'n Roll)	Saturday, July 13th
The Blue Breeze Band (R & B, Soul, Blues & More)	Saturday, July 20th
Louis van Taylor Quintet (Cool Jazz)	Saturday, July 27th
Guitarist Brian Hughes Band (Contemporary Latin-Jazz)	Saturday, August 3rd
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 10th
The Groove (Oldies but Goodies)	Saturday, August 17th
Those Manning Boys & Friends (Music from Ireland)	Saturday August 24th

**And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 7th**  
**Back by Popular Demand, Hot August Night Staring Dean Colley in a Tribute to Neil Diamond**

**Presented By: Community Events & SSGA**

*Thank You to our generous sponsors*



MonteCedro  
The art of life in harmony



Rotary Club  
Of Altadena



*Georgia Rutherford  
In memory of  
Don Rutherford*

