

April 09, 2015

**This Week**  
**Betsey Magdolano,**  
*Coroner's Investigator,*  
**Los Angeles County**  
**Coroner's Office**  
**Program Host:**  
**David P. Smith**

Betsey Magdolano will be discussing the things we need to know and do when someone dies. Here is a sample question and answer from the Coroner's Department Brochure.

**Why is the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner Involved?**

-- State law requires the Department of Medical Examiner - Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all sudden, violent, or unusual deaths and those deaths where the decedent has not been seen by a physician 20 days prior to death. In such cases the deceased will be taken to the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office and examined by a physician to determine the cause of death. A death certificate is issued after the examination is completed.

Occasionally, more extensive testing is required, in which case an interim or *Deferred* death certificate is issued which will allow the family to make funeral arrangements. An amendment will later be issued to accompany the death certificate following completion of special testing. ○



**REFLECTIONS**  
 by Hal Yorke, President  
**REFLECTIONS?**

**on . . . Cherry Blossoms**

**M**y trip to Japan coincided with the blooming of cherry blossoms. This was not entirely by accident. A careful study of the meteorological conditions in Asia combined with careful scheduling of work tasks and itinerary planning made it possible. Barbara and I arrived in Tokyo on the very day that the *sakura trees* had attained full bloom.

I had always heard of the beauty of the blooming of cherry blossoms and had even experienced it in Washington DC. However, I never realized its importance to the Japanese. Walking through Shinobazu Park in the Ueno district, one gets the impression that all of Tokyo is on the move, converging on the park and its scenic lake. All paths are bordered by the sakuras, lanterns are strung from tree to tree, booths sell their wares, and the density of humanity is close to maximum possible. Overall there is a *folks festival* character. The Japanese custom of these so-called *Hanami* festivals dates back many centuries in Japan. According to an eighth-century source, Hanami festivals have been held as early as the third

century AD.

Earlier during the day, I joined my Japanese colleagues for a picnic lunch under the blooming cherry blossoms. We were not the only ones. It was difficult to even find a spot large enough for our group of eight. Under the sakura trees, many other groups were enjoying their lunch, some with sake in cheerful feasts.

The blooming does not last long. Less than a week after our arrival we have seen the covering of streets and sidewalks with blossom pedals. My Hanami picnic lunch was spiced with a few of the pedals every time the wind picked up. The sakura trees are still full of the blossoms, but in a few days they will have lost all of their pedals.

Please turn to Reflections, p.3

**Greeters**

- April 09  
**George Buehler**
- April 16  
**Ray Carlson**
- April 02  
**John Casci**

# Program Review

## Just who is Steve Kerekes?



**S**teve Kerekes was born and raised in New Jersey just outside of New Brunswick. The town he grew up in

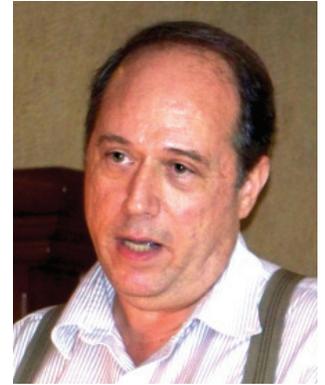
is a very small, rural town that was established in the 1600s. His family lived on an acre of land where he hiked and fished as a youth. His mother was the chairperson for the county democratic party, his father owned a floor coverings store, where he worked as a young man. He learned early

on that construction and hard work was young man's work, which inspired him to stay in school and get good grades.

He attended Duke University in North Carolina since his mother said he had to attend a school within 500 miles from home, Duke was 480 miles away. He majored in economics with a specialty in gaming theory while at Duke. It was then that Kerekes wanted to become a lawyer, so he came to California and attended USC law school. After law school he returned to the east coast and worked for the Chief Justice of New York for a year. While he was clerk, one of his many tasks was running the proof sheets for printing. Some of the notable cases that occurred while he was clerk were the Agent Orange case, the 1983 McCarthy Trials and the Harrison Williams scandal.

He interviewed with law firms in New York, but none fit what he was looking for in an entry level position, so he returned to CA and took the bar in LA during the Reagan recession and settled in West LA just outside of Beverly Hills. He even took a job in international banking for a year since there just were no jobs in law available, but really wanted to return to real estate. Well he got that opportunity when he took a job working in house for a real estate developer in Beverly Hills. He worked

on residential parcels taken from the Harold Lloyd estate. Then he did commercial real estate until the 1990 real estate crash. He then opened up his own shingle.



He operates his practice under the following four rules:

1. Learn your client's business.
2. Know excel, how to read financial statements and blueprints.
3. Do all your homework and prepare before you file the case or go into the negotiation. Know everything about the issues and the people involved. Attorneys, witnesses, judges, companies.
4. Keep the client informed. Most problems with clients occur when you don't keep them informed or consult them.

Kerekes was going to share some of his most memorable cases with us, but was only able to share the following case before running out of time.

Terry Howard v. Ray Charles Enterprises. Ray Charles passed away June

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### April Magazine Month

#### Program Chair, David Smith

April 09 - Betsey Magdolano, Coroners Investigator, Los Angeles Coroners Office - The things we need to know and do when some one dies

April 16 - Louise Jandura, JPL - The Mars Rover - Curiosity's sampling system and her current project

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



04/13 - Alice Hudson  
 04/18 - John Frykenberg  
 04/29 - Mike Noll



#### Anniversaries



04/27 - Sterling & Olga Louviere

## Great Spring Hands-On Projects from which to Choose in April & May



There are multiple opportunities to roll up your sleeves and support your local community in April and May.

On April 25, we will be meeting at Dave's Shop to prepare for the Lake Avenue Flag display at the end of May. Team 1 will be preparing the flags and poles. This means regluing finials, adding swivels and attaching flags. This year we will be displaying a total of 48 flags from Woodbury

to Altadena Dr. Team 2 will be installing 12 new sets of hardware on Lake Avenue, moving one of the old displays and doing some minor pruning on a couple of areas. Please mark your calendar.

On May 23, we will meet at Westminster Presbyterian Church to put up the flags. These flags remain on display through July 4th. This covers Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day. Because we will have more flags we want a minimum of 2 teams (would like 4) so make every effort to attend. See Craig Cox

or Tony Hill for additional information.

On May 30, we will participate in the Scout Youth Expo event at the Rose Bowl by members of our club who will be promoting the entrepreneurship merit badge. If you would like to be involved see Ray Carlson.

In addition we will be supporting the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Altadena at Farnsworth Park on May 30th by serving breakfast and lunch to the participants. Planning is taking place now led by Charlie Wilson and Steve Kerekes. Their next meeting will be at 6 pm. April 6, at the Altadena Ale House on Fair Oaks.

We will also be honored for the work we did on the playhouse at a Altadena Christian Children's Center dinner the evening of May 30th. For more information see Mike Noll.

If you plan your time carefully, you just might be able to participate in more than one or two. ○

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## Program

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2005. Terry Howard his producer. At the time of his passing, Ray Charles (RC) left about 81 songs un-mastered. He had told Terry and his European manager, Jean Pierre Grozs, he wanted Terry to master them when he passed away. No time limits. Also would give Terry additional producer's credits. RC only trusted Terry's judgement on how to mix the songs in RC's style. Terry had a bad history with RC's manager, Joe Adams. Terry was the only one who was not an employee of RCEnterprises. In discovery, Joe Adams produced a different contract with a three-year term. In his deposition, he admitted signing RC's name without a power of attorney. This threw into question many of the assignments of RC's music which appear to have been signed by Adams, not RC. RC's former wife called him, Mary Anne Den Bok about it. Followed by Ray

Jr., then by Robert and then by Raenee. They wanted to investigate all the assignment of music rights made ostensibly by RC to a foundation which Adams administered. Kerekes referred them to Marc Toberoff, who specializes in helping artists regain their rights. Toberoff won at the trial court level: the rights to the return of 51 songs to the heirs. But the foundation has appealed it. Appeal is pending. No final decision yet. As to Terry's claim, it was settled out of court on confidential terms. Also many of producer credits were returned to him. Sadly, Terry passed away in a car accident a few years ago. The service was at a local church were RC's son, Robert, presided at the service.

We anticipate a wonderful Craft Talk revisited in the near future to learn more about our newest Rotarian, Steve Kerekes!

Charles Wilson ○

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## Reflections

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The transience of the blossoms, their extreme beauty followed by a quick death, has often been associated with the essence of life and mortality. For this reason, cherry blossoms are richly symbolic to the Japanese, often evoked in Japanese art, manga, anime, film, and at musical performances.

Barbara and I are quite happy that we were able experience the blooming of the cherry blossoms in Japan. If it isn't on your bucket list, perhaps it should be. ○



