

## This Week

### Dan Stover Competition Club-Level Guest Program

Hosts:  
 Sarah O'Brien and  
 Tom McCurry



This week we are hosting the first round of the 2017 Dan Stover Music Contest for high school instrumentalists. Our contestants will be judged by acclaimed musicians Marya Basaraba, Clyde Mitchell and Aline Sardao. The winner will have the chance to compete against other Club winners in future rounds at regional and district levels for a Grand Prize of \$5000 to support his/her continuing musical studies.

A buffet lunch will be provided, and additional music will be provided by guest pianist Gregory Walczak. Tom McCurry will interview the contestants after their performances and Sue Applegate will give us a bit of background on Dan Stover, his involvement with Rotary, and his love for music and education. And it is likely that she will tell us about how the contest came into being and when. In the past, Applegate has been the timekeeper for the event and may be again this week. ○



## Helping Children do their Best on Group Projects

*Taken from an article by Kris Imherr, Scouting Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2006*

Adults can actively assist in raising the comfort level and performance abilities of their kids and other group members.

The Cartiers of Dallas, Texas, long ago established a homework routine. While it doesn't work perfectly, the three kids, Christina, 16; T. J., 13; and Kevin, 12, usually manage their after-school duty of doing math problems, studying spelling, reviewing vocabulary, and working on such other individual assignments as essays and reports in order to practice what they learned in classes.

One point at which the routine is liable to break down, though, is when her kids are assigned group projects, says mom Rebecca.

Children learn best with supervision, so while a parent shouldn't do any of the group's work, an adult can be present to lend valuable, indirect assistance and guidance.

"I dread group projects," she explains. "Science projects are the worst. The various parts – hypothesis, purpose, procedures,

etc. – depend and build on one another. Therefore, it is difficult to divide the projects by parts among several team members. And since the observations in any science project usually require daily attention and record keeping, the logistics of getting multiple children together day after day are crazy.

"With different family schedules and routines, trying to coordinate efforts among several children never seems to result in all team members participating equally" in any group project, Rebecca says, "and usually one or two children end up doing most of the work."

When a group project succeeds "it brings out the best in a team," observes social stud-

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## Greeters

March 02

**Freddy Figueroa**

March 09

**Jim Gorton**

March 16

**Kimmie Haggins**

# Program Review

## STEAM CODERS Bringing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math to Under-Educated Youth



On February 23, the Rotary Club of Altadena hosted Raymond Ealy of STEAM Coders. His is an organization that, since 2014, has provided minority students,

students living in poverty, and students from families that are homeless an on-going enrichment experience in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics.

Ironically, these students may live within a mile or two of such institutions as the California Institute of Technology, JPL/NASA, or the Norton Simon Museum but have absolutely no knowledge of them.

Moreover, their schools may have limited or no computer capability, limiting the students' ability to connect even virtually to the educational opportunities that these institutions provide. Partnering institutions such as Pasadena City College will make under-utilized blocks of time – such as Saturday morning – available for these students to develop their computer literacy. JPL and Warner Brothers Studios have sponsored similar programs. Warner Brothers has even provided lap top computers to the students after they completion of their programs.

We live in an historic age. The world



is experiencing a rapid technological advancement unseen since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Through the efforts of STEAM Coders and its partnering institutions, the 2400 students that Ealy has reached so far will be able to keep pace with that advancement. They are to be congratulated. They merit our support. ○

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

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Dist 5300 Gov.....Luciano "Lu" de Sylva

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Mike Zoeller.....Youth Projects  
Ray Carlson .....Vocational  
Tom McCurry .....Asst. Vocational

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

### March

#### Water & Sanitation

#### Program Chair, Theo Clarke

March 02 - Dan Stover - Club-Level Contest  
- Guest Host, Sarah O'Brien  
March 09 - 4-Way Speech Contest - Guest  
Host, Mark Mariscal  
March 16 - Bob Hayward, General Manager,  
and John Clairdon, President of the Lincoln  
Avenue Water Company -Innovation  
in Water Management in the Foothills of  
the San Gabriels

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



03/08 - Jeri Cunningham  
03/14 - Steve Cunningham  
03/15 - Trish Robinson  
03/15 - David Smith

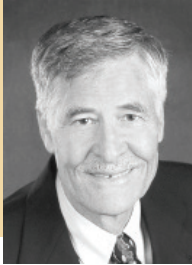


#### Anniversaries



03/01 - Tom & Etta McCurry  
03/13 - Steve & Sunny Wu Kerekes  
Dennis & Noriko Suzuki Mehringer

## Lots on the Youth Agenda For the Next Three Months



As we head into the next three months of our Rotary year, the club program schedule is going to be crowded with presentations highlighting our club's Youth projects. All of these programs involve Altadena/Pasadena-area students and are some of the best that the club offers because we get a chance to see exactly how our efforts impact the youth in our community. Here's a preview of what's coming in the months ahead:

- **PCC Veterans' Awards** - In April, our PCC Veterans' Awards program will be bringing a number of PCC students who have already served our country to the club to be recognized and presented with cash awards totaling \$6,000 this year. Craig Cox makes this project happen for the club each year, and it's our way of thanking those who have served their country in the armed forces.
- **JROTC Awards** - During this period, the club will host the JROTC students and instructors from Pasadena Blair High School as they receive cash awards and recognition for their efforts during the year. This year, three JROTC students will receive \$2,000 awards, and the club will continue to support the Blair program with direct contributions for uniforms, equipment and supplies. Our thanks to Tom McCurry for making this program a success each year.
- **PCC Vocational Awards** - We will also be celebrating another segment of PCC

students as the club presents awards for our PCC Vocational Awards program, headed by Dennis Mehringer. These awards recognize PCC students who have been selected by their teachers to have excelled in academic excellence and leadership in their fields of study.

- **Business Plan Competition** - Ray Carlson will again be bringing the Dewey Merrill Business Plan contest to a program in April when we get a chance to see how the students have thought through and formulated their plans for beginning a new business. In addition to the business concept, the plans include analysis of the market, the competition and the financial analysis required to launch a successful business.
- \* **RYLA Students Visit** - In May, we will be hearing from our selected Muir high school juniors who attended this year's

RYLA program at Thousand Pines Camp in Crestline, California in April. The kids will tell the club how the experience contributed to their leadership skills and other fun details of the event. This is a great program that has been headed by Tony Hill for many years and a highlight of our program season.

- **Teacher Mini-Grant Reports** - We will be having a large contingent of teachers from local PUSD schools visiting the club in May to describe how they spent the money from the clubs Mini-Grant program, headed by Ed Jasnow. This year we have provided \$400 to each of 35 teachers from the PUSD system. The mileage that these dedicated teachers can get from \$400 is remarkable, and the return that the club members get from hearing about the benefits that students get from the grants is priceless. ○

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## Read Across America Celebration To be Held at Franklin Elementary School

Jason Green, the Instructional Coach at Franklin Elementary School, extends an invitation to read to some of the fabulous Franklin students on Friday, March 3. Next week marks an ongoing commitment to *the love of reading* at Franklin School with the celebration of *Read Across America*. The week-long extravaganza ends with readers – hopefully you – going to their campus (527 W. Ventura St.) on Friday, March 3 to read to the students. The schedule for the day is:

8:20a - Arrive at Franklin Elementary. (Ample parking in the parking area adjacent

to the school).

8:20 to 8:40a - Convene in the library to peruse books and have snacks

8:45 to ~ 9:10a - Flag salute in the auditorium, and a school-wide read aloud by Mr. Green.

9:15 - 9:20a - Guest readers go back to the library before heading to classrooms.

9:20 - 10:00a - Guest readers read to the students!

10:00-10:20a - Guests are invited back to the library for photos, snacks, and tokens of appreciation. ○

# Scout's

*Continued from p. 1*

ies and economics teacher Saundra Sillaway of Frisco (Tex.) High School, and members achieve “something larger” than they could have accomplished individually.

However, group projects present potential pitfalls, says Sillaway, whose decades of teaching experience began in a classroom of 48 third-graders. These range from difficulties in finding a topic to finding time to meet, from getting organized to getting along, from dividing the work to doing it right.

But rising to the challenges that projects create “is part of growing up, part of life,” says Becky Leshner, who teaches a mixed-grade class of fifth- and sixth-graders at Moss Haven Elementary School in Dallas.

Leshner, Sillaway, and National PTA President Anna Marie Weselak of Lombard, Ill., say parents can use the following strategies to help their children work smarter and better in groups:

## ***Quiz Teachers about Project Particulars***

“I would hope there would be an open communication between the teacher and the parent at all times,” begins Weselak, noting the National PTA offers tips on creating and maintaining parent-teacher partnerships. (View the advice online at [www.pta.org/parent\\_resources.html](http://www.pta.org/parent_resources.html).)

An ideal time to begin such a partnership, Sillaway says, is at back-to-school open houses. But it is O.K. to talk to the teacher, even if those or other meet-the-teacher events already have passed, she advises. “Teachers really do not mind.”

Ask if group projects are part of the class learning experience. Will there be team bug collecting for the biology unit in science, an original skit to write and perform with others in Spanish class, a multimedia computer presentation as well as a group oral report to prepare on the Civil War? If so, discuss specifics, Sillaway says, such as what will students be expected to do, how much

time will they have, what is the teacher’s plan for “putting kids into a group so that they all have an opportunity to shine – and not get stuck with doing” all the work, how will they be graded, and more.

If getting everyone in a group together appears to be an obstacle, Sillaway says, then ask: “Would it be possible to have projects done on campus because of the problems that we have with getting together?”

## ***Offer useful Encouragement from the Sidelines***

While parents shouldn’t do either the group’s work or their child’s portion of it, adults can lend valuable indirect assistance, the educators agree. For example, “it never hurts,” Saundra Sillaway says, “to teach your child how to research” by taking him or her to a library and saying: “This is where you find the books. This is how you go about it.”

“Children learn on their own,” Anna Marie Weselak, a onetime teacher, says. “But they learn best with supervision.” She thinks some of the issues that arise when kids work in groups “can possibly be cured when there is an adult there,” again, not to participate in their efforts, but to give them guidance.

Teenager Christina Cartier recently reluctantly acknowledged that working with others at home was easier if Mom was around.

“I asked her why,” mom Rebecca recounted. “She said: ‘Because you are not going to let us get distracted. When you are there, I know I won’t be able to use the computer, television, or phone until I get my work done.’”

## ***Listen and Respond at Their Level***

Parents find that, more than occasionally, it is not the group project, per se, but the people involved and the resulting new social situations that are causing their offspring anxiety.

“Think how big a kid’s world is,” says Becky Leshner. “You stick your hands out,

and that’s the radius of your world.” Kids are “very protective,” she adds, “about who they let come into that circle.” In an assigned group project, they may suddenly find themselves forced to work with children they had never before permitted to enter their circle. If they feel the urge to try to block someone’s entrance to it, they may come to mom and dad to vent their fear, frustration, or other reactions.

The social dynamics of group projects can create serious obstacles, according to Becky Leshner’s colleague, Jan Lowe, Moss Haven Elementary School’s counselor. Lowe views a child’s venting of frustrations to parents as an “opportunity to learn life lessons in the safe place of home ... and then problem-solve if changes need to be made,” Leshner says.

Adults should listen, then, summarizing by using the child’s vocabulary, repeat what he or she has just said. “Like, ‘You are feeling impatient with Nan because she is not speaking up,’” says Leshner, or, “You’re embarrassed to work with a girl because she has freckles.”

Keep repeating the essence of those phrases, Leshner says. “Just having those words said back to the kid kind of lessens the severity of the situation.”

If that isn’t the case, then ask your child how he or she would picture the problem being solved. “Encourage the words to be theirs, that they make the plan,” says Leshner.

## ***Intervene when Necessary;***

### ***Stay in the***

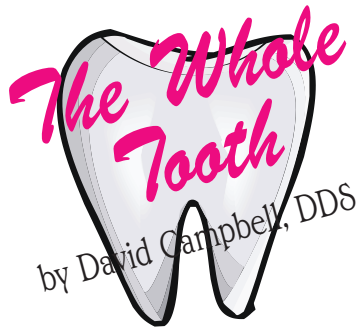
### ***Background Otherwise***

If group project complaints continue unabated, or escalate, or your child sends other signals, the situation may be an emotionally abusive one, and you should step in, Leshner says.

How do you know? Very likely, Leshner says, your child will develop headaches,

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*Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter*



## Dental Scars Around

In the good old days, a mouth full of silver was a sign of prosperity. Only the very best in the community were brave enough and well off enough to endure the blessing of those huge silver fillings. Of course, they weren't silver at all. As we placed these monstrous silver crustaceans, they really didn't have the luster of a polished silver. It was more of a dull flat grey that eventually took the look of a black crater. In fact, they looked just a little bit more healthy than the craters of decay that they were supposed to be treating.

There are a couple of secrets about this 19<sup>th</sup>-century wonder cure. In 1840, the largest dental association banned the service. Then, in 1860, another association swore to it's blessings. The later association came to dominate dentistry and became today's largest dental association, known as the American Dental Association. Yet, the controversy loomed. The discussions around whether these silver fillings were a curse or a blessing continue to day.

Today, we all know that these silver fillings were never purely silver. The reason silver fillings have always been controversial is the inclusion of mercury in the fillings. Now, the results of all the studies are mixed. They are still very good, and truly the very best studies show that silver fillings are safe, but it doesn't take a study to conclude that silver fillings are ugly.

Now, today, we have the very best of filling materials that comes, not just in white, but in forty shades of white: smoky white, greyish white, hazy white, willow white, pine white, egg shell white, etc.

Not only do we have every white that you could ever imagine, but these are bonded fillings. While the old silver fillings used to contract and expand with every hot or cold drink, leaving a soft zinc bond at the edges, the white bonded composite fillings are chemically bonded to an etched surface of the tooth. The bond is so strong that the composite can be added to a flat surface without detachment.

The silver fillings were literally just rock fill in the craters of the tooth. Once that silver filling set, if there are no undercuts in the walls, that filling would just slide right out, with the first Jelly Belly. Bonded fillings are not only beautiful, but they are slender. In fact, old silver fillings had to be nearly 1/4 inch wide to have any strength. These slender white composite beauties are stronger when they are thinner. The white fillings allow greater preservation of the natural *God given* tooth structure, so

that the fillings can retain the strength of the tooth. The only drawback in the white fillings is a slight contraction while they are curing. So, again, the thinner the filling the better, to reduce any contraction.

Oh, this ode to the new trophy wife of dentistry, is alas not availed for all. If you have a disgusting scar of a black old silver filling. Prudence dictates that we stick with our childhood bride, until death or recurrent decay sets upon us. The silver fillings are just adequate enough to last most of us a lifetime of embarrassing sufficiency. Most of the benefits of these new young white fillings are only really going to improve the dental condition upon virgin placement in a untouched tooth. Once a tooth has been scarred with application of a silver filling – unless recurrent decay befalls the filling – it is best to let the silver suffice. Like the good healthy brides of old, they truly will outlive us in usefulness. ○

### Scout's

*Continued from p. 4*

stomachaches, or other physical ailments that prompt absences or trips to the clinic during group work time.

By just knowing your child, you will be able to read the cues readily, and, if they appear, you shouldn't hesitate to schedule a private meeting – minus the child – with the teacher.

But "99 percent of the time," Leshar adds, students are reacting to new interpersonal



relationships, and "the shock of the social problem has to wear off before the academics can take place." That is why adults usually

should not speed to intercede.

"There's a fine line that parents have to walk," Leshar says. "This is Kid-dom, and our feet are too big.

We've got to be very careful when we start treading back into that world." ○

# Second Saturday CONCERTS



**SECOND SATURDAYS**  
*[mostly]*  
FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 PM  
AT THE  
**ALTADENA  
LIBRARY**

Listen to great music as you sip craft beer and fine wine from The Ale House; savor wonderful dishes from El Patron and Guerrilla Chef Mateo; and sample delectable desserts from Sweeter Than Honey



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Todd Washington Trio**

Blues, Folk, Rock, Soul and Gospel  
January 14, 2017

### **Splish Splash Band**

Rock, Jazz and Blues  
February 11

### **DeRumba**

Spanish Guitar to the beat  
of the Gypsy Rumba  
March 11

### **Louis Van Taylor Quintet**

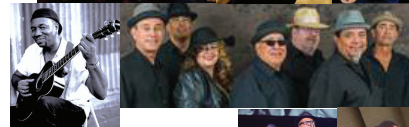
Jazz  
April 8

### **Michael Haggins Band**

Funk and Smooth Jazz  
May 13

### **The Satisfaction Band**

Dance music Top 40, Latin Rock,  
R&B, Cumbias and Oldies  
June 10



**Altadena  
Libraries**

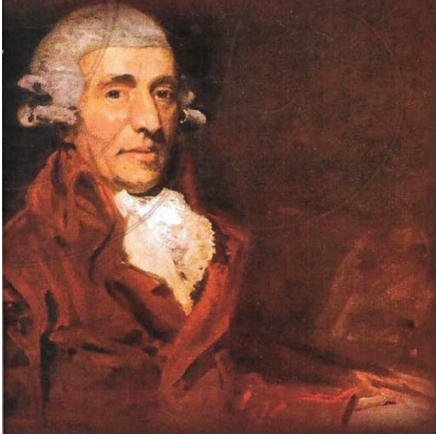
600 East Mariposa  
Altadena | 626 798 0833  
[www.AltadenaLibrary.org](http://www.AltadenaLibrary.org)

THE SANTA CLARITA MASTER CHORALE PRESENTS

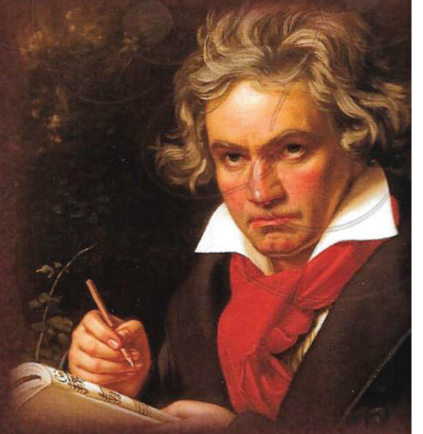
# Classical Masterpieces



2016-2017  
CONCERT SEASON  
ALLAN ROBERT PETKER,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



A close friend of Mozart and one of Beethoven's teachers, Franz Josef "Papa" Haydn was back in Vienna for his *Harmoniemesse* and this popular work from the end of Josef Haydn's life is painted with every color of the musical rainbow. Also a delight, the Santa Clarita Master Chorale will feature Beethoven's "A Choral Fantasie," a moving musical lark and a haunting precursor to his famous Ninth Symphony.



**Sunday, March 12 - 4:00 pm**

**\$29/22/15 - Adults**

**\$24/17/11 - Seniors(60+)/Students**

Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons,  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road

Tickets available at [www.scmasterchorale.org](http://www.scmasterchorale.org)  
call (661)362-5304 info (661)254-8886

These concerts are made possible, in part, by grants from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the City of Santa Clarita, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

