

This Week

Jennifer Hall Lee

Craft Talk

Program Host:

Dennis Mehringer

Jennifer Hall Lee is a filmmaker and published essayist. She received a Fulbright in 2018. She has screened her film on the women's liberation movement around the country and as far away as Pakistan.

Lee has been a resident of Altadena since 2005 and she is an Altadena Town Council member. She loves PUSD public schools and has initiated the Women's History Month celebration at Eliot Arts Magnet Academy. She loves being a mom and to relax she likes to cook and watch classic films.

Her Craft Talk will cover these and other points:

- Growing up with a father who was a police officer and a mother who was a social worker
- Mexico in 1972, Georgia in 1973
- Working in film in CA
- Going to Pakistan to screen a film on feminism
- Winning a Fulbright Scholarship
- Public schools in Altadena

Boxing Day!

At this time of year I am often asked about *Boxing Day* – the national Bank Holiday in Britain that falls on December 26. Arguments abound on the origins of this celebration, which has nothing to do with the sport of Boxing!

Traditionally families and friends get together to eat up all the leftovers from Christmas Day, at a relaxed, often buffet-style meal. Baked ham is a popular Boxing Day meat and, of course, mince pies with brandy butter or a slice of Christmas cake or other dessert (such as *trifle*), are almost obligatory. It is also a big day for sports (horse-racing and soccer in particular), and more recently retail sales. However, the origins of *Boxing Day* have long been discussed and the most common explanations are as follows:

Why is it Called Boxing Day?

All the answers below are valid; so maybe it is one, or even all of them.

1. The name is a reference to holiday gifts. A *Christmas Box* in Britain is a name for a Christmas present. Boxing Day was traditionally a day off for servants and the day when they received a *Christmas Box* from the master. The servants would also go home on Boxing Day to give *Christmas Boxes* to their families. The practice of Boxing Day was first mentioned by English Member of Parliament Samuel Pepys' diary entry from December 19, 1663, when he referred to "giving something to the boy' box against Christmas".
2. The name is a reference to charity

drives. A box to collect money for the poor traditionally is placed in

Churches on Christmas day and opened the next day – Boxing Day.

3. The name refers to a nautical tradition. Great sailing ships when setting sail would have a sealed box containing money on board for good luck. Were the voyage a success, the box was given to a priest, opened at Christmas, and the contents then given to the poor.

Activities on Boxing Day

- A time when the British show their eccentricity by taking part in all kinds of silly activities. These include bizarre traditions: including swimming the icy cold English Channel, fun runs, and charity events.
- Until 2004, Boxing Day hunts were a traditional part of the day, but the ban on fox hunting has put an end to this in its usual sense – thankfully in my opinion. Hunters will still gather dressed resplendently in red hunting coats to the sound

Please turn to *In Tune* p. 3

Greeter of the Week

December 13
Mendel Hill

December 20
Christmas Party – Evening Event

December 27
No Meeting Today – Dark



Program Review

Joan of Arc Warrior-Saint



Theo Clarke presented an update of a previous presentation on Joan of Arc: Warrior - Saint. Believe or not, he actually used a slide projector! Theo really showed us his passion and excitement of this fascinating experience.

In 1999, Clarke went to France to retrace the steps of Joan of Arc. As it so happened,

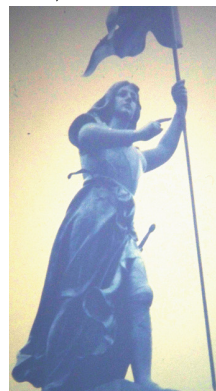
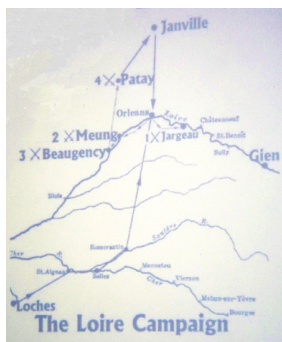
Rotary opened many doors, and Clarke became an expert on Joan of Arc. In 2001, Clarke and his daughter Rachel led an expedition for this purpose. Since Clarke is a consultant on NASA's Juno project, he was able to persuade Rotary Clubs along Joan of Arc's route across France to allow him to present his insights into the Juno Project and to enlist their support for his expedition.

Clarke used slides to show us the expedition and the spiritual journey of the 17-year old warrior-saint who inspired it. We

were fascinated to learn of the voices that she heard, of her leading the army in routing

England (who were occupying France at the time) at Orleans, of leading Charles VII to Reims to be crowned King of France, and of her ultimate betrayal and death at the stake.

Joan of Arc helped to launch the Renaissance. We learned that there are 30,000 statues of Joan of Arc throughout France.



Today all sides of the spiritual spectrum claim her. She is recognized as one of the 100 most in-

fluential people in the world of the last 1,000 years.

Prior to his Joan of Arc presentation, Clarke entertained his audience with a med-



Photo Courtesy of Carol Ann Klimek

Tom McCurry

ley of Christmas Carols and invited them to sing along.

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

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Mike Zoeller..... Youth Projects
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Editor, Design & Typesetting..... Foreman Graphics
Photography..... Jacque Foreman

December

Disease Prevention and Treatment

Program Chair: Dennis Mehringer

13 - Jennifer Hall Lee, Craft Talk

20 - Our Christmas Party — An Evening Event

27 - No Meeting -- Dark

Congratulations



Birthdays



7 - Jim Sanfilippo (Lee)
12 - Karen Gorton
14 - Nick Santangelo
15 - Jacque Foreman
18 - Olga Louviere
26 - Mona Jasnow
26 - Carol Zoeller
29 - Mendel Hill



Anniversaries



No Anniversaries in December

Time to Think Summer Concert Series



I realize we are all very busy preparing for Christmas and ushering in the new year. However,

In January we will begin work on our 2nd Summer Concert Series and the 23rd season for the community. If you are new to our club, this is the single largest community service project that we take on each year and requires support from all our members. The Altadena Rotary Club assumed oversight of the Concert Series in 2018 after 21 years of stewardship by Bob Klomburg and the Sheriff's Support Group of Altadena (SSGA)

There are many opportunities for all our members to participate and below are the established committees along with a brief description of their responsibilities. Please review and consider where your talents could best be used. Each committee varies in size and most committee chair positions have yet to be filled – so opportunity knocks!

- Production – responsible for research and selection of the acts, booking all contracts and all communications with the acts during the season. This committee also retains the sound and lighting company for the concert series.
- Fund Raising – responsible for raising funds to cover all expenses associated with the concerts, including payments to the acts, and payments to our sound and lighting company. The goal for the Fund-Raising Committee this year will be \$25,000 and I am confident that we

can be successful if the entire club will help by supplying leads for sponsorship to the Fund-Raising Committee. We also intend to pursue some grants this year, so please share any thoughts you may have.

- Promotion – responsible for all promotion for the concerts, including all media promotions (Concert Facebook page and internet promotion) as well as promotion material (concert flyers, concert programs).
- Permits and Facilities – responsible for all permits, certificates and communications with the LA County Fire, Parks and Recreation and Public Health Departments

required to put on the concerts.

- Concessions – this committee has been active in the concerts for many years and is responsible for all activities involved in the selling of beer and wine at the concerts, including procuring all supplies, obtaining the ABC beer and wine permits, providing security for the concerts and the logistics of setting up and taking down the concession equipment for each concert.

Craig Cox will Chair this year's concert series, please contact either one of us with any questions you may have and let us know which role you would like to take for our 2019 Summer Concert Series. ○

In Tune

Continued from p. 1

of the hunting horn. But, since it is now forbidden to chase the fox with dogs, they now follow artificially laid trails.

- Whether we celebrate Boxing Day or not, such days that fall after the *main* event are an occasion where one can sit and relax and reflect upon the festivities of the previous day. We all have a reason to smile! ○



\$41 in honor of our 41st President

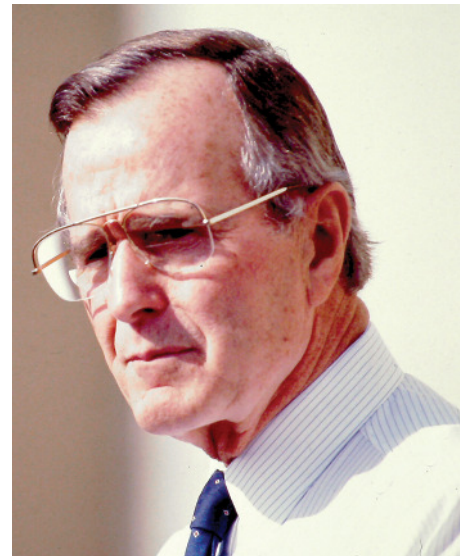
by Sue Applegate

As a long time member and treasurer of our club's foundation known as Altadena Rotary Charities (ARC), it is always nice to receive donations to ARC for various reasons. During the meeting last week, while collecting *Happy Bucks*, Mark Mariscal, in addition to his happy bucks donation, made a commitment to donate 41 dollars in honor of the death of Past US President George H.W. Bush. Mariscal said that, although he did not vote for Bush, it was an honor to donate to a cause that helps make a difference within a community. That is what our club's ARC Foundation does. I

was so moved by the gesture, that I, along with Nick Santangelo, also agreed to donate \$41 to ARC.

Wouldn't it be great if 5, 10 or 15 other club members donated \$41 and we allocate the funds similar to a program that the 1,000 points of light foundation normally funds but within our own community?

So, if any other member wishes to donate to ARC before the end of the calendar year, feel free to write a check payable to Altadena Rotary Charities and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to me at 3567 No. Glenrose Ave. Altadena CA 91001. ○



Form & Line by Jacque Foreman, Editor

Another Word that has Changed Its Meaning

So here I am with some space to fill. And what did I do? I went to one of my favorite books: *The Unexpected Evolution of Language* by Justin Cord Hayes.

The word I have chosen today is: **juggernaut**. Original Definition: *wagon for Hindu god* • New Definition: *unstoppable force or object*



One of the principal Hindu gods is *Vishnu*. Sometimes he is worshipped directly, and at other times, he is worshipped through one of his ten avatars (physical incarnations), the most wellknown (to westerners) being Krishna.

Since at least the twelfth century, the community of Puri has celebrated Vishnu with an unusual annual ceremony. An image of the god is placed in a large, ceremonial wagon and pulled to another location across deep sand. The image of the God is called *Jagannatha*, which English

speakers later transformed into *juggernaut*.

Obviously it's not easy to pull a heavy

cart through deep sand. Vishnu's followers showed their devotion through just such an herculean task. When Westerners first encountered this tradition, they saw that Vishnu's followers often moved large objects out of the way rather than try to re-route the juggernaut. Sometimes Westerners even observed people being crushed under the juggernaut's heavy wheels.

Stories filtered back home. These stories suggested that legions of Vishnu's followers sacrificed themselves (or were sacrificed) to Vishnu under the wheels of the juggernaut. Other tales were told of entire houses being dismantled to make way for the juggernaut.

Thus, a juggernaut became any large, implacable, unstoppable object. The ceremony that gave English the word **juggernaut** continues to this day. ○



Traditional chariot with wooden wheels in the Indian religious temple. Preparation for the Vishnu festival, IndiaTios.



Toys R Us



(l to r) Front Row: Maggie Castro (from El Patron), Mark Mariscal, Kimmie Haggins, Jim Gorton, Nikki Caster (Guest of Steve Kerekes), Mike Noll, Susan Applegate, Carol Ann Klimek (Guest of Theo Clarke), Maria Perez-Arton, and Sarah O'Brien; Second Row: David Smith, Ed Jasnow, Doug Colliflower, Tom McCurry, Nick Santangelo, Frank Cunningham, Dawn Digrius, Theo Clarke, and Jennifer Hall Lee; Third Row: Dennis Mehringer, Steve Kerekes, and John Frykenberg

The **R** in the title stands for **Rotary**. Our club delivered over 60 new, unwrapped toys to Farnsworth Park after our Rotary meeting on Thursday, December 06. The toys, valued at over \$600, were our club's way of assisting the park. The funds came from the tips we collected at the Beer and Wine booth at the Summer Concert Series.

Those of you who did not have an opportunity to volunteer during the Summer

Concert Series should still be proud of the work that our club did. Not only did we raise the funds for the toys, we raised more than \$700 that went to the Rotary International Foundation for the Polio Plus campaign. The proceeds from the actual direct sales of drinks and snacks are used to help offset costs of our weekly program speakers and events.

In addition to the members in the photo

at the Altadena Town and Country Club, the following Rotarians helped delivery the toys to Farnsworth Park after the meeting: Mark Mariscal, Dawn DiGrius, Rene Amy, Susan Applegate and Nick Santangelo.

Lastly, if any member wishes to donate new, unwrapped toys, the Altadena Sheriff's Station would **LOVE** to have you drop some off before Christmas. They will make sure they are distributed to families in need. ○

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to All!

A Letter from Michael

I heard this letter read on Christmas night some time ago and decided to share it with all of you again this year. I don't know about you, but I want the letter to be true because I want to believe in miracles and angels. If you have heard it and wanted a copy, feel free to share this copy that I found on the internet. If you think the letter could not be true and do not and/or do not want to believe, that's ok, too.

Jacque Foreman, Sparks Editor

There's a story about a young Marine named Michael who wrote a letter home to his mother while he was in the hospital after having been wounded in Korea in 1950. A Navy Chaplain named Father Walter Muldy apparently was given the letter, checked the facts and concluded what was in the letter was true. A year later he read the letter in the public for the first time, to a gathering of some 5,000 Marines at the Naval Base in San Diego. Here is the letter:

Dear Mom,

I wouldn't dare write this letter to anyone but you because no one else would believe it. Maybe even you will find it hard but I have got to tell somebody. First off, I am in a hospital. Now don't worry, ya hear me, don't worry. I was wounded but I'm okay you understand. Okay. The doctor says that I will be up and around in a month.

But that's not what I want to tell you.

Remember when I joined the Marines last year; remember when I left, how you told me to say a prayer to St. Michael every day. You really didn't have to tell me that. Ever since I can remember you always told me to pray to St. Michael the Archangel. You even named me after him. Well I always have.

When I got to Korea, I prayed even harder. Remember the prayer that you taught me? "Michael, Michael of the morning, fresh chord of Heaven adorning," you know the rest of it. Well I said it everyday. Sometimes when I was marching or sometimes resting. But always before I went to sleep. I even got some of the other fellas to say it.

Well, one day I was with an advance detail way up over the front lines. We were scouting for the Commies. I was plodding along in the bitter cold, my breath was like cigar smoke.

I thought I knew every guy in the patrol, when along side of me comes another Marine I never met before. He was bigger than any other Marine I'd ever seen. He must have been 6'4" and built in proportion. It gave me a feeling of security to have such a body near.

Anyway, there we were trudging along. The rest of the patrol spread out. Just to start conversation I said, "Cold ain't it." And then I laughed. Here I was with a good chance of getting killed any minute and I am talking about the weather.

My companion seemed to understand. I heard him laugh softly. I looked at him, "I have never seen you before, I thought I knew every man in the outfit."

"I just joined at the last minute", he replied. "The name is Michael."

"Is that so," I said surprised. "That is my name too."

"I know," he said and then went on, "Michael, Michael of the morning ..."

I was too amazed to say anything for a minute. How did he know my name, and a prayer that you had taught me? Then I smiled to myself, every guy in the outfit knew about me. Hadn't I taught the prayer to anybody who would listen. Why now and then, they even referred to me as St. Michael. Neither of us spoke for a time and then he broke the silence.

"We are going to have some trouble up ahead."

He must have been in fine physical shape or he was breathing so lightly I couldn't see his breath. Mine poured out in great clouds. There was no smile on his face now. Trouble ahead, I thought to myself, well with the Commies all around us, that is no great revelation. Snow began to fall in great thick globs. In a brief moment the whole countryside was blotted out. And I was marching in a white fog of sticky particles. My companion disappeared.

"Michael," I shouted in sudden alarm.

A Letter from Michael continues on the next page

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

A Letter from Michael, continued

I felt his hand on my arm, his voice was rich and strong, "This will stop shortly."

His prophecy proved to be correct. In a few minutes the snow stopped as abruptly as it had begun. The sun was a hard shining disc. I looked back for the rest of the patrol, there was no one in sight. We lost them in that heavy fall of snow. I looked ahead as we came over a little rise.

Mom, my heart stopped. There were seven of them. Seven Commies in their padded pants and jackets and their funny hats. Only there wasn't anything funny about them now. Seven rifles were aimed at us.

"Down Michael," I screamed and hit the frozen earth.

I heard those rifles fire almost as one. I heard the bullets. There was Michael still standing. Mom, those guys couldn't have missed, not at that range. I expected to see him literally blown to bits. But there he stood, making no effort to fire himself. He was paralyzed with fear. It happens sometimes, Mom, even to the bravest. He was like a bird fascinated by a snake. At least, that was what I thought then. I jumped up to pull him down and that was when I got mine I felt a sudden flame in my chest. I often wondered what it felt like to be hit, now I know..

I remember feeling strong arms around me, arms that laid me ever so gently on a pillow of snow. I opened my eyes, for one last look. I was dying. Maybe I was even dead, I remember thinking well, this is not so bad. Maybe I was looking into the sun. Maybe I was in shock. But it seemed I saw Michael standing erect again only this time his face was shining with a terrible splendor. As I say, maybe it was the sun in my eyes, but he seemed to change as I watched him. He grew bigger, his arms stretched out wide, maybe it was the snow falling again, but there was a brightness around him like the wings of an angel. In his hands was a sword. A sword that flashed with a million lights. Well, that is the last thing I remember until the rest of the fellas came up and found me. I do not know how much time had passed. Now and then I had but a moment's rest from the pain and fever. I remember telling them of the enemy just ahead.

"Where is Michael," I asked.

I saw them look at one another. "Where's who?" asked one.

"Michael, Michael the big Marine I was walking with just before the snow squall hit us."

"Kid," said the sergeant, "You weren't walking with anyone. I had my eyes on you the whole time. You were getting too far out. I was just going to call you in when you disappeared in the snow."

He looked at me, curiously. "How did you do it kid?"

"How'd I do what?" I asked half angry despite my wound. "This marine named Michael and I were just ..."

"Son," said the sergeant kindly, "I picked out this outfit myself and there just ain't another Michael in it. You are the only Mike in it."

He paused for a minute, "Just how did you do it kid? We heard shots. There hasn't been a shot fired from your rifle. And there isn't a bit of lead in them seven bodies over the hill there."

I didn't say anything, what could I say. I could only look open-mouthed with amazement.

It was then the sergeant spoke again, "Kid," he said gently, "every one of those seven Commies was killed by a sword stroke."

That is all I can tell you Mom. As I say, it may have been the sun in my eyes, it may have been the cold or the pain. But that is what happened.

Love, Michael

*This may be the prayer referred to in the letter**

Michael, Michael, of the morning,
Fresh chord of Heaven adorning,
Keep me safe today
And in time of temptation,
Drive the devil away.

**It is said that this prayer must be prayed upon rising every morning.*



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AND THE

**CRESCENTA
VALLEY
CHAPTER**

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Wednes-
day,
December
12,
7:15 am to
8:45 am
at Dish
Restau-
rant in La
Canada
734 Foot-
hill.*



*You are cordially invited
to our
Christmas Party*

*Thursday Evening
December 20, 2018*

6:00 to 9:00pm



Monte Cedro

2212 El Molino Avenue

Altadena



Members & 1 Guest: No Charge

Register on Club Runner

*Plan to join your fellow Rotarians with
your Significant Other
for an evening of Fellowship and Merry Making
as we Celebrate the Holidays*





**Altadena
Libraries**

**Second Saturdays, 6:30pm
at the Altadena Main Library
600 E. Mariposa Avenue**

Second Saturdays



October 13*

Upstream
Reggae, Soca, Caribbean

November 10

Past Action Heroes
80s & 90s Covers

January 12

Pasadena Playboys
Country

February 9

JazzZone
Smooth Jazz, R&B

March 9

**The Allan Wasserman
Jazz Ensemble**
Jazz

April 13

Sangre Nueva
Salsa

May 11

The Leapin' Lizards
Rockabilly, Blues, Swing

June 8

Harbor Groove
Latin Rock

MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ALTADENA LIBRARY

**October 13th's Second Saturday Concert is sponsored by the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.*

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reserve Deputy Program

Back in the 1800s, the Sheriff would look to the community to form a posse and deputize citizens to assist him in the apprehension of horse thieves, murderers, or other criminals. Thankfully, we have thousands of full-time deputies to perform those duties today, but, in 2018, just like the 1800s, the Sheriff is looking to the community to find citizens to volunteer and help by becoming reserve deputy sheriffs.

Reserve deputies undergo the same training and background checks that full-time deputies receive. It's a year-long process, but, after graduation, reserve deputies can perform a wide array of duties and service to the community.

The *Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reserve Program* is one of the largest in the country, with over 600 all-volunteer sworn reserve deputy sheriffs. Last year they worked 182,000 hours keeping the citizens of Los Angeles County safe. Those 182,000 hours represent millions of dollars in savings to taxpayers.

Patrolling our communities is only one of many functions performed by reserve deputies. Lifesaving search and rescue missions are performed every week by reserves as part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Search and Rescue Program. Last year reserve deputy sheriffs performed 684 missions throughout the county, saving countless lives.

Another opportunity for reserve deputy sheriffs to serve is by becoming a member of the Sheriff's Department's Posse. Posse members work patrolling trails and various community events on horseback.

Reserve deputies also help solve crimes by working in many of the Sheriff's Department's detective units, such as Homicide Bureau, Narcotics Bureau, Fraud and Cyber Crime Bureau, and Special Victims Bureau. We also have reserves who ride street and off-road motorcycles for the Department.

Reserve deputies come from all walks of life and from a wide variety of professions. The common thread of all is a burning desire to give back to their community and assist their fellow citizens.

If you are interested in signing up – just like citizens did over a 150 years ago – there is a reserve deputy academy scheduled to start in February 2019. Please contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reserve Forces Detail at 323-526-5100 and ask for Assistant Director Mike Leum to get started.