



BE THE INSPIRATION

November 08, 2018

**This Week**  
**Steve Nelson**  
**Director,**  
**Ft. McArthur**  
**Military Museum**  
**Program Host:**  
**Mark Mariscal**



Today we will be honoring veterans of the United States Military who served our country. Honorees including

members of our club and members of the Altadena community.

Our speaker will be Mr. Steve Nelson, Director of the Fort MacArthur Military Museum within Angels Gate Park in San Pedro. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Fort MacArthur, a U.S. Military post that guarded the Los Angeles harbor from 1914-1974. The museum is housed in the corridors and galleries of the historic Battery Osgood-Farley. The website is <http://www.ftmac.org> for more information.

Nelson has served as the Director  
*Please turn to This Week p. 4*

## Predicting Famine and New Hope

*“Despite being a slow-moving disaster, famine is notoriously difficult to predict.”*



I am sure we are all horrified by the ongoing atrocities in Yemen, the tragic famine facing numerous families and the loss of life. Especially distressing are images of the helpless children, wasting away before aid can reach them. Yemen is not the only country suffering, of course, and famine is not a new catastrophe, whatever the cause.

I was interested this week to read about a new coalition initiated by the World Bank to use Artificial Intelligence to try to predict famine, which is not necessarily about drought. The following is from Peter Holley’s article in *Innovations* (Sept 23).



“The root cause of famine is extremely complex,” said Franck Bousquet, senior director of the World Bank Fragility, Conflict, and Violence Group (FCV). “Usually, the poorest and most vulnerable are the most affected and the least able to cope with shocks that other populations can absorb. Out of the last 10 major famines, nine have resulted from conflict and war.”

A year after severe food shortages threatened more than 20 million people in countries such as South Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, a coalition of international organizations say they are partnering with tech companies in an effort to prevent future famines using technology.

The coalition – which includes the

World Bank, the United Nations and

the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as companies such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon – is launching a tool called the *Famine Action Mechanism*, a still-evolving algorithm that will use analytics to identify areas that are most likely to experience extreme food shortages.

Modeling such probabilities using AI, officials involved in the effort say, could help international organizations with one of their biggest challenges when it comes to avoiding famine: securing the release of funding to at-risk areas before it’s too late.

Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, said AI could play a significant role in changing that.

“If we can better predict when and where future famines will occur, we can save lives by responding earlier and more effectively,” Smith said. “Artificial intelligence and machine learning hold huge promise for forecasting and detecting early signs of food shortages, like crop failures, droughts, natural disasters and conflicts.”



**In Tune**

by Sarah O'Brien, President

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## Greeter of the Week

November 8  
**John Frykenberg**

November 15  
**Ben Green**

November 22  
**Thanksgiving – Dark**

# Program Review

## Discussion of The Beauty & Wonder of California Wild Flowers

We have Two Reviews this week, the first from Boyd Hudson  
with the second from Roger Fennell



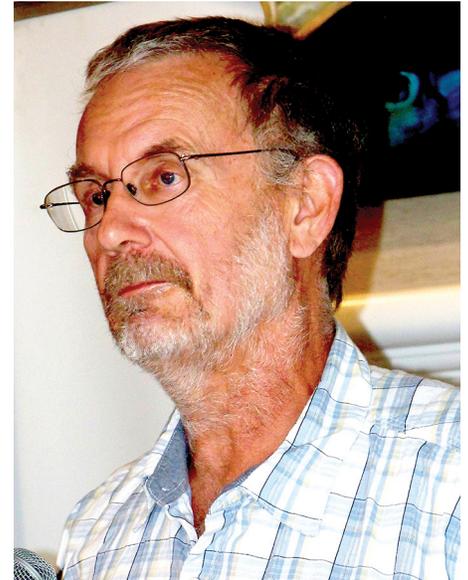
As we all know, before one can turn in his/her red badge and obtain their permanent white badge in Altadena Rotary, it is necessary for a new member to present a craft talk to the entire club. This gives the club an opportunity to learn more about the business, profession or occupation of the

new member. It has been my experience that craft talks are quite informative and educational. Last Thursday [November 01], we had the opportunity to hear from Rene Amy, who spoke about something a bit out of the ordinary.

After Rene's wife passed away about two years ago, Rene took stock of his life and began doing volunteer work in the greater Altadena community. He started by doing planting and landscaping at Triangle Park located at the corner of Lake Avenue and Altadena Drive. This park is much smaller than Farnsworth Park, located several blocks immediately north on Lake Avenue. It was at Triangle Park that Rene discovered California wildflowers and their infinite variety. He was hooked and spent the next year learning all he could about California wildflowers.

Rene became so smitten with his new activity that he decided to turn it into a business. Of course, one can obtain wildflower seeds at various sources, including the *Big Box* stores, such as Home Depot and Lowes. Most nurseries also offer a variety of seeds. But Rene wanted to offer a better product.

Out of this was born the *Altadena Maid* brand. Altadena Maid packages its seeds in compost called *seed bark*. Seed bark is a combination of organic compost, clay and native wildflower seeds. It is not



the most attractive, resembling what your friendly dog deposits in your back yard. The Wildflower Seed Bark brand contains hundreds of California native wildflower seeds in each package. A package will contain some common seeds but also flower seeds of rare, native wild strands. The packages contain mixes of both annual and perennial wildflowers. As such, the resulting flowers will provide overlapping, and longer lasting flowering periods.

The best time to plant wildflowers is in  
*Please turn to Program, p.5*

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

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John Frykenberg • Dennis Mehringer  
David Campbell • Sarah O'Brien • Mike Zoeller

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Jacque Foreman..... Acting Publicity  
Jacque Foreman ..... Sparks/Website  
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Doug Colliflower ..... Community  
David Smith..... International  
To be Announced..... Asst. International  
Tony Hill..... Youth Contests/Awards  
Mike Zoeller..... Youth Projects  
John Frykenberg ..... Vocational  
Editor, Design & Typesetting..... Foreman Graphics  
Photography..... Jacque Foreman

### November Rotary Foundation

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal

08 - Steve Nelson, Director, Ft. MacArthur Military Museum

15 - To be Announced

22 - Thanksgiving - No Meeting--Dark

29 - Sandy Roberts, Math Academy

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



06 - Mindy Klittay  
08 - Sterling Louviere  
09 - David Campbell  
13 - Ed Jasnow  
20 - Steve Kerekes  
26 - Roger Fennell



#### Anniversaries



01 - Jacque Foreman & Bruce Conroy

## Rotary Clubs in Canada invest in PACT Program *An Urban Peace Initiative that aims to break the Cycle of Youth Crime*

By Ryan Hyland

*Akeem Stephenson wanted to go to jail. He believed it was the only way he could free himself from a life of crime – a life he desperately wanted to change.*



◇ ◇ ◇  
**A**fter being arrested for a fourth time more than 10 years

ago, for aggravated robbery, the teenager in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was set to go to prison. But the judge saw something in Stephenson that suggested that he could redeem himself. So he gave Stephenson a choice: participate in an 18-month youth program, or serve the six-month sentence.

For Stephenson, the choice was clear. He decided to transform his life through the PACT Urban Peace Program.

• • •

PACT, which stands for *Participation, Acknowledgement, Commitment, and Transformation*, is a Toronto-based, award-winning charity supported by Rotary clubs in Canada. It works with at-risk young people and those who have committed crimes to change their direction in life. Entrepreneur and Toronto Rotary member David Lockett co-founded the program more than 20 years ago.

The intensive, step-by-step program aims to break the cycle of poverty and criminal behavior. Its goal is to determine what the participants need and develop strategies “to put them on a positive path in their life, so

they can enrich not only their own lives, but their community,” says Lockett, a member of the Rotary E-Club of Social Innovators D7090.

Lockett says PACT builds peace in urban communities. “It’s all about looking at the impact of violence and criminal behavior, and understanding the dynamics of the problem, and creating highly effective solutions to make investments for at-risk youth at an early stage,” he says. “It’s really quite simple. If you want to help at-risk youth, you really have to understand the simple needs they have.”

He acknowledges that young people who commit crimes should be held accountable, and for many of them, that includes serving jail time. But for some, those he says come from *squalid and deplorable backgrounds* with very little parental guidance, PACT is a resource that can change their lives and reduce the likelihood that they will commit more crimes.

The organization works with the judicial system to identify repeat offenders ages 12-19 who may benefit from the program. After a young adult is convicted of a crime, the judge or judicial official refers them to PACT as part of a probation order.

Central to PACT’s success is its *LifePlan Coaching program*, an intense intervention system that pairs a participant with a certified life coach. The two meet each week for 12-18 months to set goals in six key areas: education, employment, health, relationships, contributing to the community, and

staying out of the criminal justice system. Life coaching is a conversational process that provides structure and acknowledgment, builds capacity and self-awareness, and fosters self-directed learning and action. This ultimately helps the young person get from where they are to where they want to be in the future.

PACT’s LifePlan Coaching differs from the traditional model of therapy or counseling in that it does not focus on the person’s past but rather concentrates on the present and future, says Lockett. The innovative program boasts a 65-percent success rate, with success meaning that the young person completes the program without re-offending.

It was the relationship with his life coach that gave Stephenson the insight and confidence to reshape his future. “The PACT program will change your mindset,” he says. “They’ll give you the blueprint, but it’s up to you to run with it.”

Stephenson has since obtained his high school equivalency certificate and has been working at a call center. He also honed his passion for music through PACT’s Life & Job Skills Community Service Programs, in which participants learn through practical exposure to activities like music and film production, cooking, gardening, and entrepreneurship.

### ***Rotary brings compassion***

To date, nearly 30 clubs in the Toronto area have supported PACT, many with

***Please turn to Chairman, p. 4***

# In Tune

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Ed Hsu, senior adviser to the president of the World Bank, said international leaders decided to enlist the help of technologists because of their unique ability to take existing challenges and look at them in new ways. As advancements in connectivity unleash powerful streams of new data, he said, officials wondered how that information might be used to analyze food crises.

“Can we use new information from satellite imagery or social media to analyze this problem of famine and look at it in a new way?” Hsu said. “That’s why we thought to ask the top artificial intelligence experts

in the world to support us in our efforts.”

Famine prediction is already something of a science. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network – a USAID program started in 1985 – keeps an updated list of global areas of highest concern, factoring in variables as diverse as rainfall totals and agricultural prices to terrorism and upcoming political elections.

And yet, forecasters say, there has never been a *qualitative modeling process*, a mathematical formula that would help experts *calculate* food security, according to the Atlantic. They also lack the ability to evaluate hunger levels in a given location in real time, forcing an organization such as FEWS NET to gather much of its data in person through the relentless efforts of hundreds of employees.

The Famine Action Mechanism – which launches next month in a small number of countries – will attempt to digitize those decisions using a suite of analytical models known as *Artemis*, World Bank officials said. The models will create alerts that “trigger prearranged

funding and action plans by donors, humanitarian agencies and governments to generate earlier and more efficient interventions,” the World Bank said in a statement.

World Bank officials said it will take time to tailor the models, which will rely on machine learning, to different regions around the world, each of which has unique vulnerabilities to famine. They claim early interventions reduce humanitarian costs by as much as 30 percent.

“The fact that millions of people – many of them children – still suffer from severe malnutrition and famine in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a global tragedy,” World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement. “We are forming an unprecedented global coalition to say, ‘no more.’ The Famine Action Mechanism is a preventive approach that knits together innovative technology, early financing, and strong partnerships on the ground in an effort to prevent famine.”

We may never face famine in our country – thankfully – but hunger is all around us. We can get involved and support Rotary goals to support conflict resolution, fight hunger and provide disaster relief for those suffering – near and far. As the holiday season approaches, let’s renew our efforts to volunteer, donate at food banks and do all that we can for our community and beyond. As individuals we can make a difference, together we can achieve more. ○



Rotarians at Work assembling food packages with Rise Against Hunger ... (Photo courtesy of <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>)

# Chairmen

Continued from p. 3

annual commitments of \$3,600 or more to fund the program, according to Lockett.

But Rotary clubs are also playing a more in-depth role in PACT. The two organizations created the PACT/Rotary Youth Mentoring Program, which allows members to connect directly with participants. Liz Bosma-Donovan, a social worker and member of the

Rotary Club of Wellington in Ontario, is the first Rotary ambassador to PACT. She works with Rotary clubs to find members who are willing to become mentors. “After learning about PACT and working with David [Lockett] on projects, I saw there was a missing opportunity for Rotary to create a more meaningful connection.” ○

# This Week

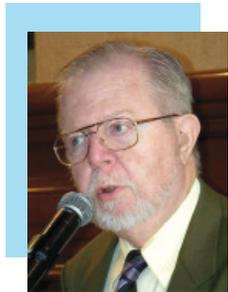
Continued from p. 1

since 1997. Prior to that, he served as a Curator at the Heritage Square Museum just north of Dodger Stadium and on the Battleship Texas in Texas. He holds a Masters Degree in Historic Resource Management. He is also an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University and citrus community college. ○

# Program

Continued from p. 2

the fall just before the winter season when the rains usually come. Occasional watering may be necessary to keep the ground moist while the flowers are sprouting. In the spring, the ground will be covered with *Super Blooms* of California wildflowers, assuming there has been sufficient rainfall.



When entering the meeting venue at the Altadena Town and Country Club, Rotarians wondered about the contents of the bowls that were placed on each table. To their delight they learned from our esteemed speaker, Rene Amy, through the persona of the Altadena Maid, that the bowls held wild flower seed bark that he himself had devised, produced, and now markets.

Altadena Maid was inspired by introspection and reflection after the death of the speaker's beloved wife. He conceived of

Altadena Maid has a second blend of seed bark called Monarch Munch Milkweed Seed Bark. Monarch butterflies need milkweed to survive. But there has been a sharp reduction in milkweed growth. It is the only thing that their caterpillars can eat. The Monarch Munch brand was developed



it as a morally worthwhile response to the loss of species, in particular of native wild flowers in our community and state.

The product that he brings forth is a combination of organic compost, clay, and native wild flower seeds. The products contain respectively: fifteen and twenty-six varieties of seeds of wild flowers native to our coastal areas. The seeds are collected from areas where wild flowers still proliferate, such as the US Marine base at Camp Pendleton. When more than two thousand years ago Horace advised to train for war in time of peace, might he have foreseen the beautiful flowers that would grow on fields that were undisturbed by battle?

The Altadena Maid is particularly con-

cerned about diminished numbers of visiting butterflies. The Altadena Maid, therefore, cautions us against the planting of tropical milk weed that the Monarchs cannot eat. A drab but nourishing variety must replace it instead.

Amy handed out samples of his wildflower seed bark. He encouraged the Rotarians to learn more about his products at his website: <[www.Altadenamaid.com](http://www.Altadenamaid.com)>.

Boyd Hudson ○

cerned about diminished numbers of visiting butterflies. The Altadena Maid, therefore, cautions us against the planting of tropical milk weed that the Monarchs cannot eat. A drab but nourishing variety must replace it instead.

Amy concluded with a profoundly touching anecdote. In her childhood, his departed wife had joined a group of children with chronic, progressively disabling illnesses on a grand tour that included a visit with Queen Elizabeth II. They were told that they had been sponsored by an anonymous philanthropist. After her passing he learned that the sponsor had, in reality, been a Rotary Club.

Roger Fennell ○



Photo courtesy of Sarah O'Brien

*Happy Birthday  
Steve Kerekes*

*Altadena Rotarians  
Their Family,  
Friends,*

*&*

*Hangers On  
Welcome*

*Saturday,  
November 17  
6 to 9pm*

*Gold Hibachi Buffet*

*2223 W. Commonwealth Ave.*

*Alhambra*

*Please  
RSVP by*

*Thursday, November 15  
to your Club Runner Invitation*

# 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 13<sup>th</sup>'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.