

This Week Jervey Tervalon Author & Poet

Author Jervey Tervalon was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, but moved to the Jefferson Park/Crenshaw area of Los Angeles, California with his family as a young boy.



He sold his first poem to Scholastic magazine while he was still in junior high school. "My God," he remembers thinking, "I can make money at this. And I've been deluded ever since."

He attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he graduated with a BA in Literature. After graduation, Tervalon taught at Locke High School in Los Angeles before entering the MFA program at UC Irvine. His thesis project became the novel *Understand This*, for which he won the 1994 *New Voices Award* from Quality Paper Books. This bestselling book was based on his experiences teaching underprivileged students. He's had six novels and a collection of stories and two anthologies and numerous short stories, essays and articles published.

"Most publishers," he says, "feel like they can't lose money underestimating the intelligence of the black reader, and

Please turn to This Week p. 3

Peace: A Rotary Theme and Goal

Pace is an important theme – and goal – of Rotary International and Rotarians throughout the world. "Rotary Connects the World" is the theme of Rotary 2019 - 2020. Not long now, as the new Rotary year begins in summer. When ideas are shared, and people connect, tolerance and understanding can form a firm foundation for peace in what can be otherwise a turbulent time. Close to home, our District recently hosted a Peace Conference, and I look forward to hearing all about it on my return as several of our Members were involved or attended. Our Club was one of the sponsors. I'm sure it was an inspiring event, enjoyed by many.

As March approaches, one Anniversary that may be of interest is JFK's founding of the Peace Corps. During the course of his campaign for the presidency in 1960, Kennedy floated the idea that a new *army* should be created by the United States. This force would be made up of civilians who would volunteer their time and skills to travel to underdeveloped nations to assist them in any way they could.

To fulfill this plan, Kennedy issued an executive order on March 1, 1961 establishing the *Peace Corps* as a trial program. Kennedy sent a message to Congress asking for its support and made clear the significance of underdeveloped nations to the United

States. The people of these nations were "struggling for economic and social progress." "Our own freedom," Kennedy continued, "and the future of freedom around the world, depend, in a very real sense, on their ability to build growing and independent nations where men can live in dignity, liberated from the bonds of hunger,



ignorance, and poverty." Many in Congress, and the US public, were skeptical about the program's costs and the effectiveness of American aid to what were perceived to be *backward* nations, but Kennedy's warning about the dangers in the underdeveloped world could not be ignored. Revolutions were breaking out around the globe, and many of these conflicts – such as in Laos, the Congo, and elsewhere – were in danger of becoming Cold War battlefields. Several months later, Congress voted to make the Corps permanent.

During the 1960s and 1970s, thousands

Please turn to In Tune p. 4

Greeter of the Week

February 28
 Charles Wilson
 March 07
 Mike Zoeller
 March 14
 Ruben Alvarado



Program Review

District Governor visits Altadena Rotary



Governor John Chase is a member of the Boulder, Nevada Rotary Club. He is married to Elizabeth and has two children Ashley and Meghan.

Chase encouraged us to stop and think

about the service we do in the community and consider the difference we are making in the lives of people. As an example, the Governor had us think about the number of people impacted by the late Ray Carlson as he strived to teach entrepreneurship. Rotary performs *Service Above Self - NOT Service About Self*. Although counter cultural, this philosophy leads to greater fulfillment.

We were congratulated on continuing to grow our membership. We continue to grow in women members. The Governor encouraged us to figure out ways to be relevant to potential members under 50 years of age (we currently have 1 member).

He provided an update on Polio Plus. Thirty years ago there were over 350 thousand cases of polio each year. Last year there were 31! There have been 6 cases so far in 2019. Our goal is to get to zero. To help in this effort, Rotarians can do three practical things:

- Make a Donation (the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation matches \$2 for every \$1 donated);
- Talk and Promote our Efforts - we have stories - tell them!;



- Attend the *End Polio Now Event* on March 16 in Las Vegas.

The Governor congratulated the club on having three members recognized as major donor status by the Rotary Foundation. The Foundation has six (6) areas of focus:

- Peace and Conflict Resolution;
- Maternal Health;

Please turn to Program, p.4

Congratulations



Birthdays



- 07 - Freddy Figueroa
- 08 - Mike Zoeller
- 10 - Julius Johnson
- 16 - Sunny Wu Kerekes
- 16 - Joan Frykenberg
- 27 - Mark Mariscal
- 28 - Wendy Davis Noll



Anniversaries



- 03 - Sue & Don Applegate
- 17 - Ed & Mona Jasnow
- 21 - Frank & Judy Cunningham

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..... Ian H.S. Riseley
Dist 5300 Gov..... John Chase

Officers

Sarah O'Brien, Pres.....Bus. 626-796-5000
Mark Mariscal, Pres. Elec.....Bus. 310-902-6547
Steve Kerekes, V. Pres.....Bus. 626-351-8815
Jim Gorton, Sec.....Bus. 323-816-6713
Mike Noll, Treas.....Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

Mark Mariscal • Ed Jasnow
John Frykenberg • Dennis Mehringer
David Campbell • Sarah O'Brien • Mike Zoeller

Chairmen

Mark Mariscal.....Administration
David Smith.....Foundation
Charlie Wilson.....Asst. Foundation
Frank Cunningham.....Membership
Jacque Foreman.....Public Awareness
Jacque Foreman.....Acting Publicity
Jacque Foreman.....Sparks/Website
Mike Zoeller.....Club Projects
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

February

Conflict Prevention & Reduction

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal

07 - Danny Gott, Danny's Farm

14 - Richard Frank, CEO Lawry's Restaurant

21 - John Chase - District Governor & Honoring of Captain Vicki Stuckey

28 - Jervey Tervalon - Altadena Writer, Poet & Author

Suggestions for Recruiting New Members

Asides are in Bold Italic



District Governor John Chase spoke to us last week about adding new, younger members to our club: To that end, read on for 16 suggestions for increasing our membership

- Create a list of all the great things about your club. **Mark Mariscal has already started this.**

The point is not just growing our club, but boosting our capacity to make a difference within our community and around the world.

- List our star members, the advantages of our meeting location, how many members we have, the kinds of projects and events we host, and so on.

The list can serve as a template when sending an email or letter to a potential member. Make sure we tailor any correspondence so it addresses the specific interests and wants of any potential member. For instance, if someone is interested in international work, your email or letter should focus on that.

- Keep a list of potential members – invite them to meetings and events we sponsor.

It doesn't matter if it's a paper list or if it's kept on the desktop of your computer. Either way, it makes you think about those people who might be a fit for our club. Discuss the list at board meetings – not just the concept of bringing in new members, but the specific names and

who's going to contact them and when. And don't overlook some obvious suspects, such as members' spouses, Youth Exchange host parents – they already have a taste of what Rotary is about – and even former members.

- Know our club's strengths. **Altadena Rotary does very well at this!**
- Make membership growth our club's top priority, and make sure we each understand that.

New members bring new energy to our club and mean more people to serve on committees, work on projects and events, and raise money for the Foundation.

- Look to young Rotarians for fresh perspectives.
- Appeal to local volunteers – discuss the Rotary Vision and Mission.
- We need to talk about Rotary wherever we go. Talk about Rotary at work, family gatherings, neighborhood get-togethers, parties. – **You will be amazed how easy this is after you practice a while.**

- Make a list of club members' responsibilities

It's important to engage with potential members beforehand. They will want to know how they can fit in with your club and what opportunities there are for serving. The list should also include information about dues, attendance guidelines, and other club expectations – and it should emphasize the many

benefits that come with being an Altadena Rotary member.

- Realize there is no finish line
 - Even if our club is the optimum size, it's no reason to stop recruiting. There are always reasons people leave.
- Emphasize service
- Celebrate when we get a new member
- Be persistent
- Be vibrant – **Altadena Rotary Club is vibrant, its what drew me to join this club.**
- Embrace diversity – Altadena Rotary has a real opportunity here,
 - We need to be open and affirming to everyone. If we're interested in bringing peace to the world, that peace has to start with us.
- Get them in the door ○

This Week

Continued from p. 1

there's no one out there to balance their preconceptions, and prove they're wrong. It's especially hard coming from Los Angeles."

Tervalon is the Executive Director of *Literature for Life*, an educational advocacy organization, and Creative Director of The Pasadena LitFest. His latest novel is *Monster's Chef*.

An Altadena resident, Tervalon can regularly be found occupying a table for hours at a time at a popular Pasadena coffee shop. He's allowed to do so because he has included a shoutout to staff in a novel. ○

In Tune

Continued from p. 1

of Americans – especially young people – flocked to serve in dozens of nations, particularly in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Working side by side with the people of these nations, Peace Corps volunteers helped build sewer and water systems; constructed and taught in schools; assisted in developing new crops and agricultural methods to increase productivity; and participated in numerous other projects. Volunteers often faced privation and sometimes danger, and they were not always welcomed by foreign people suspicious of American motives. Overall, however, the program was judged a success



in terms of helping to *win the hearts and minds* of people in the underdeveloped world. The program continues to function,

and thousands of Americans each year are drawn to the humanitarian mission and sense of adventure that characterizes the Peace Corps.

Source: JFK Presidential Library and Museum

◇ ◇ ◇

... and before February draws to a close a very Happy Birthday to any of our members who are *Leaplings* (born on Feb 29); a day where *this time last year* and *this time next year* does not apply.”

– Anonymous

While 2019 isn't a Leap Year, we'll be happy to celebrate with you this week! ○

Program

Continued from p. 2

- Disease Prevention;
- Economic and Community Development;
- Education and Literacy; and
- Clean Water.

These areas are important to consider when thinking through our projects because that can mean extra dollars from the District through Global Grants and Reverse Global Grants. (See last week's *Sparks* for a more in-depth explanation of these six areas of focus.)

Chase encouraged us to engage our children and grandchildren in our projects. When his daughter, Ashley, was working on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she became interested in Rotary's polio efforts. She educated her Interact Club on the impact of polio and was able to accompany her dad on a trip to India to help with immunizations. She was able to meet people from different cultures and religions and developed an appreciation for her freedoms (like choosing her own spouse). Ashley is now a nurse. His other daughter, Meghan, became interested in clean water projects.

She also raised over \$4,000 for a water storage project in the Yucatan and got to spend time doing the construction. Community members now have time to get an education or a job because they can walk a couple of blocks instead of miles to get their daily water.

The Governor spoke of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) that will be happening in a month. This week-end-long leadership and team building symposium for 10th and 11th graders is a wonderful program that is paying some interesting dividends. John spoke about a new member of the Chino Rotary Club who attended RYLA as a student. She is now a Rotarian who started an Interact Club so that a new generation of kids can have the same experience.

Governor Chase awarded Mark Mariscal his *People of Action* award (nominated by President Sarah) for his work in Rotary and the community (including fund raising for dozens of charities, his work at the library, Union Station, and with St. Elizabeth Church). ○



Before the program began, Captain Vicki Stuckey was presented with a photo from our Christmas Party – which she attended – and a check in honor of her service.

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.

2 N D A N N U A L

WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION

ESSAY READING

ART EXHIBIT

Keynote by Congresswomen Judy Chu!

SATURDAY
MARCH 2ND, 2019
1PM

A PUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE EVENT
HONORING THE
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
& WOMEN'S LIBERATION

with

SPECIAL

GUEST PANEL:

CONGRESSWOMAN *JUDY CHU*

SENATOR *ANTHONY PORTANTINO*

SUPERVISOR *KATHRYN BARGER*

ASSEMBLYMAN *CHRIS HOLDEN*

SUPERINTENDENT *DR. BRIAN McDONALD*

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT *DR. MARISA SARIAN*



ELIOT
ARTS
magnet

ELIOT ARTS MAGNET ACADEMY 2184 N. LAKE AVENUE, ALTADENA, CA



**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.*