

**This Week**  
**Sylvia Vega**  
**Craft Talk**  
**Program Host:**  
**Tom McCurry**



One of two local elected officials who are members in our club is set to give her Craft Talk this week. Sylvia Vega, a three-term Altadena Town Council member and new Rotarian, is set to tell us about herself. She joined the Keller Williams real estate team in 2010. In her first year as a realtor, she was awarded Rookie of the Year. Since that time she has consistently been among the top 5 percent of the agents in the Pasadena Market Center. She has a passion for working with seniors and is a senior real estate specialist. Her sponsor was Dorothy Brooks, and Vega has already jumped right in to assist with our Foundation Committee.

She is very active in the community. As a member of Altadena Town Council, Vega is also part of the Land Use Committee. She is extremely involved in the community and has volunteered her time and energy to raise money for disadvantaged children in Altadena.

*Please turn to This Week p. 3*

**We're building a Fence! (not a wall)**



*by Sarah O'Brien, President*

This year our International Committee – led by David Smith – selected projects in Nepal and Cambodia for our support. Both places have a special place in my heart and our funding will transform the lives of some of the poorest communities in the world.

This week Smith and I were in touch with Bill Morse in Siem Reap, Cambodia regarding the transfer of funds from our Club. Morse set up a de-mining organization many years ago – training local workers to clear their villages of



*Children Playing in a Water Hole - Courtesy of Start Some Good*

landmines after partnering with a former child soldier Aki Ra who was attempting to turn things around in the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge regime. Once an area has been cleared of landmines, Morse and his team (of trained Cambodians and volunteers who might be visiting) secure the land and build a school on it. The local children – and their parents – are provided with classrooms, basic furniture, school supplies and teachers. With this comes the chance of gaining an education that is often unheard of in rural Cambodia, where child trafficking and corruption have threatened

families and communities for years. So far 22 schools have been built by the organization, called RSVP - Rural Schools Village Program. It's made a huge difference!

Altadena Rotary Club's International Committee was presented with a request to help repair schools that were falling

apart and unable to withstand some of the severe weather conditions in the area. Unfortunately a fire broke out in a storage facility at the Landmine Museum, and the Cambodian government froze bank accounts while an investigation was conducted, which

took a few months. No one was found at fault, and all operations have now resumed with the land-mine clearance and school projects. So we contacted Morse about how we could help with our allocated funds.

Bill Morse identified a specific need – **Please turn to In Tune p. 4**

**Greeter of the Week**

- March 14  
Ruben Alvarado
- March 21  
Sue Applegate
- March 28  
David Campbell

# Program Review

## Students use the 4-Way Test to test the Validity of their Arguments



Four young people – two girls and two boys – made speeches to gathered Rotarians and guests covering *sources of inspiration, objectification, hate speech* and even *borders* as these topics relate to Rotary's Four-Way Test.

Illustration, experience, passion, planning, organization, and lucidity were all on display as one after another of our participating students reminded Rotarians of applications of **Truth, Fairness, Good Will and Friendship** and **Societal Benefits** of employing the *Test* to life.

Great to hear each participant, each without guile and cynicism, believing the world can be a better place, *if only . . .!* No wonder we believe in the young and the re-awakening of hope in a world that appears to be going south wherever we look today. And wonderful to be a Rotarian looking *to be the Inspiration* today in spite of the firestorms of life.

The solutions may not be as simple as offering inspiration to dealing with the inequity, unfairness, enmity, and injustice we find, but, like these outstanding young scholars, we each can light our candle and spread a bit of light, never knowing whom we can inspire or for whom we can be the difference in their life.

First place in our contest went to Cameron Coolidge (LaSalle HS) speaking on

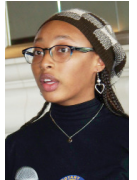
the power of passion and persistence over natural aptitude and intellect.



Second place went to Emily Mora (Maranatha HS), speaking on the evils of prejudice and need to exercise kindness and acceptance of all peoples.



Third place went to Felisha Davis (John Muir HS) speaking on the intrinsic value and beauty of women in a world that objectifies and judges women more by appearance than content of character.



Fourth place went to Joel Turk (Maranatha HS) speaking on finding inspiration in our dreams and willingness to *risk* in our pursuits



Thanks one and all for your *Inspiration* and for who you are. We are grateful to each and everyone of you. Each of our contestants was accompanied by one or both parents. **See photo p. 3.**

John Frykenberg

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### 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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### Directors

Mark Mariscal • Ed Jasnow

John Frykenberg • Dennis Mehringer

David Campbell • Sarah O'Brien • Mike Zoeller

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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

### March Water & Sanitation

Program Chair: Tom McCurry  
March 07 - 4-Way Speech Contest  
March 14 - Sylvia Vega, Craft Talk  
March 21 - Dan Stover Music Contest  
March 28 - Hoppy Price, JPL, Plans for the Mars Sample Return Mission

### April Mom & Child Health

Program Chair: David Smith

## Congratulations



### Birthdays

08 - Jeri Cunningham  
14 - Steve Cunningham  
15 - Trish Robinson  
15 - David P. Smith





### Anniversaries

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



## Rotary's Commitment To Youth



**R**otary considers Youth to be a central element of its mission statement. Indeed, Youth Service – one of only five avenues of Rotary service – is devoted entirely to developing and serving the youth of the world. But far beyond that single avenue, you have probably noticed that most of the activities of the Rotary Club of Altadena – in one way or another – are devoted to youth. For example, here's list of the on-going youth-related projects the club is supporting by allocating a considerable amount of budget and manpower:

- PUSD School Mini-Grants
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Muir High School Interact Program
- PUSD School Scholarships - Muir HS, Marshall HS and Eliot MS
- 4-Way Test Speech Contest
- Dan Stover Music Contest

- PCC Vocational Awards
- Entrepreneurial Training Contest
- JROTC Awards

From Community projects like our school Mini Grants and our work with Eliot School to our long-time involvement with entrepreneurship training to all the youth scholarships and awards, contests and activities we support, our club has developed a huge investment in Youth. We recognize that the youth of the world will soon determine the direction of mankind, and the more effort and time we commit to their development, the more we promote the ideals of Rotary throughout the world.

Rotary International has long been committed to serving youth in their communities. The RI Strategic Plan encourages clubs to balance activities in all five Avenues of Service, and the Youth Avenue of Service acknowledges the exceptional work that Rotarians do with youth and young adults

while encouraging clubs to spread their reach even further. It also encompasses a fundamental idea: that every Rotarian has a responsibility to support the personal and professional success of young people while recognizing the diversity of their needs.

Why do we put so much emphasis on Youth? Well, simply because it's clear that all of the objectives of Rotary will be one day be in the hands of today's youth and, to the extent that Rotary can introduce and positively shape their view of Service to their community and to the world, it can make all of our service objectives happen throughout the world.

We only have a limited time to impact youth, so, our club will continue our support of Youth with our impressive list of projects, and we will look for new projects to add to our involvement. Try to get involved in at least one of our Youth Projects – you'll be glad you did. ○

## This Week

*Continued from p. 1*

Prior to entering real estate, Vega was President of ROI Designs, a graphic design company. Some of her clients included, Huntington Hospital, Providence Tarzana Medical Center, Isuzu Motors and KIA Motors. Prior to ROI Designs, she served for 18 years as vice president of the design firm Creative Source. Vega lives in Altadena, and her daughter Alyssa is earning her master's degree in social work at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. ○

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

## Program

*Continued from p.2*



*Flanked on the left by current President, Sarah O'Brien and the right by President Elect, Mark Mariscal are (l to r) father Joel, contestant Joel and mother Melonie Turk; mother Christina and contestant Emily Mora; contestant Cameron and mother Shelley Coolidge; and father Cap and contestant Felisha Davis*



# In Tune

*Continued from p. 1*

building a fence around a big pond on one of the school sites and will use part of our funds for the materials needed. The local people will provide the labor. It sounds like something simple, and, in California where there are a plethora of home swimming pools and jacuzzis, perhaps no big deal. But in Cambodia, it is reported that six children die from drowning every day. Drowning is the leading cause of child mortality (0-17) with most drowning deaths among children under age 4 occurring within 20 metres of the home, as the result of unsupervised children wandering off and falling into local water hazards.

Following a recent report by UNICEF, the Director of UNICEF's Office of Research,

Gordon Alexander, said "it is clear that there is a serious – and until now, hidden – problem. Affordable interventions exist that can save hundreds of thousands of children's lives. We must now act!" Swimming lessons are low on the priority for families struggling to survive, but it is hoped that water safety and swimming will become part of the curriculum soon. In the meantime, our fence will protect children at school and ensure that they learn in a safe and protected environment for years to come.

Volunteers and visiting Rotarians are welcome to visit Cambodia and see the work for themselves, both in land-mine clearance and the school projects. Morse hopes to visit our Club and speak when he is next

in California. Here are links that might be of interest, and a film about how it started and why our support is vital.

A heartfelt thank you to Altadena Rotary Club, from Bill Morse, the Self-Help Demining Group and the Rural Schools Village Program – saving lives and supporting education in Cambodia across the miles. Do watch the film if you can – and please review it as it helps get more exposure and more may join our efforts!

- Movie: *Until They're Gone* on Amazon Prime videos
- <http://www.cambodialandminemuseum.org/rural-school-village-program/>
- <http://www.cambodianselfhelpdemining.org/>



*Local Family standing beside a Water Hole - Courtesy of Drowning Awareness*





**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*

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