

## This Week

### Megan Tunnell O'Rourke, President, BTI Appraisal Program Host Dawn Digrius



Megan Tunnell O'Rourke is President of BTI Appraisal, a full service appraisal company started by her father, Ben Tunnell, in 1974.

A Los Angeles native, she attended Marlborough School, earned a BA in English from the University of Southern California and graduated *Magna cum Laude* and *Order of the Coif* from Loyola Law School. Megan started her legal career at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP in their Downtown LA office where she practiced in the real estate and corporate law departments, before joining BTI in 2003.

O'Rourke is a member of the Jonathan Club and very active in her community. She has served on the Board of Governors for Loyola Law School, the Advisory Board for the Neighborhood Academic Initiative at USC and, in 2011, became the youngest President in the history of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, the fifth oldest Rotary club in the world.

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## Hurray for Hollywood

This week, our club meeting will be held at the Smiser Scout Headquarters Building located at 3450 E. Sierra Madre Bl. There is filming scheduled at the Town and Country Club – *Grays Anatomy*.

As many of you know, the Altadena community has had many TV episodes and Movies filmed here over the years. Some of the more famous ones I found while doing an internet search are:

- *Criminal Minds*,
- *Interstellar*,
- *Big Little Lies*,
- *Beverly Hills 90210*,
- *American Pie*, and
- *Catch Me If You Can*.



The TV and Movie Industry is big business, and it is nice to see our local community be a recipient of some of the rental dollars that go along with it. In addition to using the Altadena Town and Country Club this week, the TV production company has also rented Grocery Outlet's parking lot.

I would like to hear from you if you have ever been on a TV show or in a Hollywood production movie. I will tell you that I was on Huell Howser twice:

- Once while he was at the Griffith Observatory and
- Once at the Exposition Rose Garden.

The latter was almost 6 minutes of screen time with him interviewing me.



## On the Mark

*By Mark Mariscal, President*

My father, on the other hand, was a part-time actor for about 12 years. He played:

- Danny the Elevator Boy on 8 episodes of the Burns and Allen,
- Was in West Side Story and many TV shows during the 1950s and 60s.

My father went by different names, but the one he used most often was William Hayden (not *THAT* William Hayden). He was also a radio disk jockey and was the MC at a roller hockey ring in the late 40s and early 50s, and

that is where we believe he met the young girl who would give birth to me many years later. Can we imagine how life in Southern California would be different if this weren't the original home (or Capital) of the TV and Movie Industry.

Oh, and did I tell you I own stock in the Walt Disney Company? That can be written in a whole other article. ○

## Greeter of the Week

October 17  
Sue Applegate

October 24  
David Campbell

October 31  
Theo Clarke

## A Road to Full Nutrition for the World



The program this past week was the craft talk by Sonia Kwon. Starting at the beginning, she told us that she was born in Ohio. She described herself as an *80s baby*. As a child, she lived in several different States as new job opportunities opened up for her father as a research scientist. In the course of his profession in the study of food products,

Kwon's father obtained 13 US patents. Pretty darn impressive. You may recall that her dad, Dr. Steven Kwon, spoke to our Club in June of this year. Sonia's mother is an artist, specializing in large abstract paintings in oil. Her mother is also a professor who has taught fine arts when they lived in Connecticut and in other States, as well as at various colleges in California, including PCC.

Kwon eventually moved with her parents to Pasadena, where she attended La Salle High School for a time. She went on to attend UC Davis for undergraduate studies. Then, after a visit to Afghanistan in 2007, she was inspired to enroll in graduate studies at the School of Public Health at Boston University. Among her earlier jobs, Kwon worked for councilman Jack Weiss in the 5<sup>th</sup> District of LA, where she was the field representative of the Hollywood Hills area.

She later joined the non-profit company that her father had founded in 2003 called – Nutrition and Education International (NEI). The company is headquartered in Pasadena, but also has offices in South Korea and Afghanistan. Kwon was named Director of Programs and Operations for NEI. Her father began visiting Afghanistan – considered to have the most malnourished population in the world – at 54 percent of the total population and with 36.6 percent of the children considered to have chronic malnutrition. Her father set as a goal for



NEI to create a soy food industry run by the Afghans themselves, as a self-sustainable solution to malnutrition in the country and as part of a United Nations' *Sustainable Development Goal #2* to end world hunger by 2030.

Compounding the malnutrition problem, Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous countries in the world, having undergone forty years of war which still continues. To get the job done, NEI has had to acquire and maintain the cooperation of the Afghan

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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

2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA

626-794-7163

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Tony Hill .....Youth Contests/Awards

Mike Zoeller .....Youth Projects

John Frykenberg .....Vocational

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

Photography.....Jacque Foreman

### October

#### Economic & Community Development

#### Program Chair, Dawn Digrius

October 17 - Megal O'Rorke, BTI Appraisal

October 24 - Richard Kurtz - Craft Talk

October 31 - Jim Osterling, Trustee, Pasadena Community College District

**Congratulations**



### Birthdays

07 - Noriko Suzuki Mehringer  
08 - Susan Cox  
10 - Heather Campbell  
20 - Charles Wilson  
24 - Jim Gorton  
27 - Dawn Digrius (Smith)  
30 - Gary Landon (Vega)





### Anniversaries

01 - Freddy & Margarita Figueroa  
19 - David & Elsa Smith



## Public Awareness is all about being Seen and Heard



**I**t's not that we don't work at being seen and heard, it's that sometimes we become so involved in what we're doing that we don't make enough noise about what we do, do, and sometimes we act behind the scenes and forget to pull the curtain aside and wave at the audience – you know – just to let people know that there really is an Altadena Rotary working *back there – behind the scenes*.

Let's all work to remember: if we have information on an event in which Altadena Rotary or one or more of our members is taking part, make sure that the information



We do make a fairly loud noise about our Summer Concerts, but it could probably be a bit more. And, if you are willing to make a spectacle of yourself, David Smith and Charlie Wilson might let you be one of the

gets to  
Dr. David Campbell, our Rotary member in charge of our Facebook Page.

*Lamp-Shade Parade* at the end of each concert. It's not that every person who sees this *parade* loves it. That isn't necessary. Just the conversation about this strange parade that appears out of the dark at the end of each concert is all that's necessary.

Several of us are members of one (or more) of the various *Neighborhoods* in the area. This might be a great place to make announcements and a bit more *noise* about what Altadena Rotary and what you, as one of its members, are doing on one or more of our various sub-communities.

Another thing to remember – and I work to make this happen – if you are taking part in an event, be sure to let me know about it in the form a flyer. And I will include it in *Sparks*. It's best if the flyer is a full page.

And don't wait for Dr. Campbell to pick up your flyer from *Sparks*, send it directly to him; it might be faster that way to get the information about what you are doing – as a member of Altadena Rotary – on our Facebook page. ○

## Program

*Continued from p.2*

government as well as the Taliban, which as you may guess, is quite a challenge. The NEI program in Afghanistan has 4 components:

- Soybean seed selection;
- Soybean farming;
- Soybean food processing; and
- Soybean marketing.

They first select the soybean varieties that will appeal to the pallet of Afghan citizens. Then they have to train the farmers in growing this new crop so there will be a successful harvest – they have determined that 300,000 metric tons of Soybeans will be needed each year to cover the entire country. Then they have to teach the citi-

zens how to incorporate the soybeans into food they are already consuming. Finally, they have to train the appropriate business people in Afghanistan how to market the product so citizens will buy it and cook it.

Although it is challenging, it has been well received by the Afghan government and the people. As Sonia Kwon says, "Although there are many pros and cons, there are more pros than cons. Now other governments e.g., the Philippines, Tanzania and Kenya have shown an interest in adopting the NEI model.

We all wish you the best in this very worthwhile worldwide program. ○

## This Week

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She recently completed her term as Chair of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles Foundation, which oversees the club's more than \$8 million endowment. She also serves as a Director for Lambda Alpha Los Angeles, and as Vice President of the Campbell Hall Parents Association. O'Rourke lives in Sherman Oaks with her husband Stephen and their two sons, Robert and Daniel. ○

# \$5 A Ticket

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
EL PATRON, HOOPLA! EMPORIUM,  
GROCERY OUTLET, AND  
ALTADENA SHERIFF STATION

## Pancake Breakfast



### WHEN:

OCTOBER 19TH, 2019

### WHERE:

GROCERY OUTLET  
2270 LAKE AVE,  
ALTADENA, 91001

### TIME:

8:00 AM–10:30 AM

ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTLY  
BENEFIT THE ALTADENA  
SHERIFF BAKER 2 VEGAS  
TEAM.

SPONSORED BY THE  
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CLUB

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