

October 24, 2019

This Week

Eugene Hutchins
Managing Director,
Barak Ballet
Program Host
Dawn Digrius



Eugene Hutchins is the Managing Director of Barak Ballet, supporting the artistic vision of former New York City Ballet dancer Melissa Barak.

He is also leading an effort to install a monument to Tuskegee Airman and civil rights activist, Oliver Goodall, in Altadena. He has held previous arts management positions with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, MUSE/IQUE in Pasadena, New York City Opera and Chautauqua Opera.

Previously, Hutchins was a professional stage director, choreographer, and production stage manager for more than fifty opera, theatre, and dance productions across the United States, including engagements with A Noise Within, Sarasota Opera, Opera North, Opera San Luis Obispo, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Syracuse Opera, Sierra Madre Playhouse, and many more.

He was a Drama and Dance Teaching Artist for Theatre 360 and the Southern California Conservatory of Music. ○

Healthy at 100?

My wife's paternal grandmother lived to be 107. Her grandmother also had some siblings who lived almost to 100. Her maternal grandmother lived past 95. On my side, I did have a great-grandmother who I would visit often who lived to be 103. All of them healthy up until the last couple of years.

By the time my father died in 1995 (I was 35 at the time), my parents and grandparents all left this earth before the age of 72 (my mom had a heart attack at the age of 50 and died immediately). That year of 1995 made me really start thinking of my own mortality. I thought out loud many times if I wanted to continue to live past 70, 80, 90 or even 100 if I was not healthy in both mind and body.

Service Organizations also go through growing pains. This can occur at the 25, 50, 75 and of course the 100-year mark. Rotary International started in February 1905 with the first club in Chicago. Rotary had 100 clubs worldwide by March 1914. When Rotary turned 100 years old, it had over 31,000 clubs.

Last Saturday, some of our club members attended the 100th Anniversary Gala event of the Rotary Club of Pasadena. They were chartered in the Spring of 1920. Representing our club along with me were: David Smith, Steve Kerekes, Maria Perez-Arton, Kelly Barnett, Sonia Kwon and Doug



On the Mark

By Mark Mariscal, President



Colliflower. We were joined by more than 200 people including Rotary District 5300 Governor Luanne Arredondo. The Pasadena Club was the sponsoring club for Altadena back in 1949. For their Centennial Project, they raised more than \$80,000 at this event to renovate the commercial kitchen of Union Station Homeless Services on Raymond Street.

The Human Body does wear down over the years and staying strong after 100 is difficult. Businesses and organizations can continue to grow. Rotary International is an example of doing good throughout the world and still growing its influence. Be proud of being a member. ○

Greeter of the Week

October 24
David Campbell

October 31
Theo Clarke

Appraisals can be Tricky Best to Hire an Expert



Our Rotary Club guest speaker on October 17 was Megan Tunnell O'Rourke.

O'Rourke earned a degree in literature from USC and a law degree – magna cum laude – from Loyola University School of Law. She is a member of Rotary Club LA 5,

where she served as the youngest president and only one of three women to hold that office in the club. Notably, she is a third generation Rotary club president.

After achieving her law degree, she worked for six years in a law firm whose practice involved real estate law and acquisitions. Having married her college sweet heart, she became the mother of two children, aged three years and six months. Desiring to put motherhood and family before her professional life, she left the firm and apprenticed under her father in his business, BTI Appraisals. She has now been married for twenty years and is the president of the firm.

BTI appraisals is now in its forty-fifth year. It handles various kinds of appraisals, including all aspects of real estate, equipment, trade marks, and personal property. The firm does estate tax work and provides expert witness for the IRS. BTI Appraisals does not provide evaluation services for highly valuable items such as jewelry.

As a Rotarian and a true professional, she offered our club members some words to the wise:

- Be sure that your insurance policy provides replacement cost and not depreciated cost indemnity.
- Do not put anything valuable in storage.



- Document what you own. The easiest and most effective way to do this is a smart phone video inventory of all your insured items.
- It takes her and her husband about twenty minutes to do this for the items in their house. Debit or credit card statements are invaluable in proving that you actually purchased the items in the inventory.

Please turn to Program, p. 3

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

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.....Mark Daniel Maloney

Dist 5300 Gov.....Luanne Arredondo

Officers

Mark Mariscal, Pres.....Cell: 323-816-6713

Pres. Elec., David Smith.....Cell: 626-826-2193

Sarah O'Brien, V. Pres.Cell: 310-902-6547

Jim Gorton, Sec.....Bus. 323-816-6713

Mike Noll, Treas.....Bus. 626-683-0515

Directors

David Smith • Ed Jasnow

Maria Perez-Anton • Mike Zoeller

John Frykenberg • Doug Colliflower

Chairmen

David SmithAdministration

David SmithFoundation

Sylvia VegaCo-Foundation

Frank CunninghamMembership

Maria Perez-Anton & Dorothy BrooksAsst. Mmbrshp

Jacque ForemanPublic Awareness

Jacque ForemanActing Publicity

Jacque ForemanSparks/Website

Mike ZoellerClub Projects

Doug ColliflowerCommunity

David SmithInternational

Mark MariscalAsst. International

Tony HillYouth Contests/Awards

Mike ZoellerYouth Projects

John FrykenbergVocational

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

PhotographyJacque Foreman

October

Economic & Community Development

Program Chair, Dawn Digrius

October 24 - Richard Kurtz - Craft Talk

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

November 07 - To be Announced

Proud to be the Sponsors of Muir Interact



The Interact Club at John Muir High School – sponsored by our Rotary Club of Altadena – has reconvened for another year. This begins the fourth year that our Club has sponsored the Interact Club at Muir. For a period of about 12 years prior to that our Club had sponsored an Interact Club at Pasadena High School, and before that, for many many years we had sponsored an Interact Club again at Muir High School. Not all Rotary Clubs sponsor an Interact Club, but our Club has had a long tradition of doing so as we see it as so valuable to the youth in this community.

For our newer members, Interact is a Rotary program in which individual Rotary Clubs choose to sponsor an Interact Club at a local high school. The Interact Club is then run by the student's themselves, organizing and participating in programs that help their local community and the world community. The Interactors choose a President, a secretary, a treasurer and other members of their executive committee. Our Interact Club

at Muir holds a meeting once per month. The Interact members meet in a classroom during their lunch break and eat their lunches while they conduct their meeting. Due to the limitation this presents, the meeting lasts for one-half hour. A teacher volunteers his or her time to act as a liaison between the school, the Interact members and the sponsoring Rotary Club. This teacher also makes his or her classroom available for the Interact members to meet each month, and he or she sacrifices his or her own lunch break to remain at each meeting to be present to assist the Interactors if needed.

Our member who chairs the Interact program for our Club is once again, Steve Kerekes. Kerekes does his best to attend every meeting, and his presence conveys to the students the ongoing support of our Club and its members to these young students. Also this provides him with the opportunity to inform the Interact members of the various other youth programs that the Interactors could apply for, such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program, the 4-way Test Speech competition and the Dan Stover Music competition.

Kerekes is ably assisted by our member Kimmit Haggins. Haggins also does his best to attend the meetings. The unique factor Kimmit can contribute is that, in his youth, he attended Muir High School, so the Interact Members have a role model to look up to and be inspired by who, at an earlier time, was one of them.

In addition to the teacher liaison at the school, we have been very fortunate in having a parent and a Muir alumni, Carina Jacob, who attends each Interact meeting and who is very active in such things as assisting the Interactors running their meeting and getting them involved in their own community activities as well as helping out with our projects from time to time, such as our annual bicycle assembly program, upcoming this year on Saturday, November 9.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Altadena, thank you Steve Kerekes and Kimmit Haggins for your dedication to this wonderful program and the youth of our community. And, of course our sincere appreciation to Carina Jacob, who continues to make the Muir Interact Club an outstanding success year after year. ○

Program

Continued from p.2

She related to our club some extraordinary cases in which BTI Appraisals provided service for their clients:

- The sixty-five million dollar furnished house in Beverly Hills for which they provided an evaluation,
- The extensive collection of forty-two cars BTI appraised, and
- The itemized appraisal of losses in a house in a gated community in San Diego which had been inundated by eight inches of raw sewage.

The last case was the most exhausting. It required hazmat apparel and gas masks.

This was an excellent presentation. The audience was enthusiastically attentive. No one slept. In my expert opinion as an anesthesiologist I can attest to that. ○

Auction Time

It's auction time again in Altadena. And the Eliot Arts Annual Fund annual auction will be held on November 2 at the Altadena Town & Country Club. This is a great night for community members as well as Eliot parents, PUSD district staff, school board members and rotarians!

Eliot Arts Magnet Academy is a junior high school here in Altadena and it was built in 1931 by iconic Pasadena architects Marston & Maybury. It's an Altadena icon. Your auction ticket includes appetizers, wine and beer.

Sneak Peak at our Many Items

- Lunch with State Senator Anthony Portantino
- Lunch with LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

- Lunch with Altadena Sheriff's Captain Marjory Jacobs
 - A trip up to the Eliot Tower!
 - Fine Art by Open Studios artists
 - A trip to San Francisco to stay at The Fairmont
 - Wine tasting in Napa Valley!
 - An Air BnB in Joshua Tree
 - Pedicures and manicures
 - Gift baskets from local merchants
 - A fresh baked pie by the Altadena Pie Lady!
 - A sourdough bread subscription
 - Fresh eggs! an 'eggscription'
- and so much more



The Eliot Arts Annual Fund is in its second year and we are raising 75k this school year. These funds benefit every student

because Eliot is an arts integrated school - the arts are integrated into core subjects. Money raised helps fund our arts integrated curriculum; technology, the Spring musical, the costume shop, art supplies, teacher training and our artists-in-residence who are on the Eliot campus on a full time basis as they work with our math, science, English and history teachers.

The event has both a live auction and a silent auction. It's a fundraiser for a worthy cause and it's a party! November 2 at 7 in the Terrace Room of the Altadena Town & Country Club! ○

See You There!

Photo Below

Jennifer H. Lee (left) and Principal Lori Touloumian at the 2018 auction





REAL ESTATE *Matters*

by Doug Colliflower

Realty and Most Fixer Uppers

Before you try to emulate your favorite home renovation expert on TV, go back, double check and even triple check all your calculations on that *fixer upper*.

That's the message of a new survey, which found that, despite the glamour and the plethora of TV programs devoted to home renovation, most amateur fixer-uppers end up wasting a lot of time and money. Once you factor in all the costs involved, the renovation project often turned out to be no cheaper than just buying a home in move-in condition.

"Even though the majority of fixer-upper homeowners thought they could save money, they actually spent about the same or more than their move-in ready counterparts," reported Porch.com, a home improvement website, which sponsored the survey. Their survey of 1,069 US homeowners found that those who had bought a home that was move-in ready spent an average of \$250,000.

Those who bought a *fixer upper* spent an average of about \$50,000 less. But then they typically spent that amount, or more, on the renovations, the survey found.

OK, so it may not be apples to apples. Buying your own home and renovating it gives you a greater chance to tailor it to your own dreams and needs. But the costs were comparable, nonetheless. And those who just bought a home that was *move-in* ready saved themselves a lot of time and anguish.

The biggest problem with fixer uppers? The danger of running over budget, and trust me, it happens to many of us even with the best of intentions. It's very easy to get carried away looking at all the *latest and greatest* available today.

More than forty percent of those who bought fixer uppers ended up blowing way past their budget. On average they ended up spending about \$76,000 on renovations, or 60 percent more than those who were able to stick to their budget.

Among those who bust the budget, there was no common perpetrator either. For some it was the costs of repairing the roof. For others it was the costs of fixing the basement. New kitchens were about as likely to cause pain as new bathrooms. The same can be said for new flooring, driveways. Upgrades to plumbing and electrical systems can easily run amuck. Installing new HVAC systems proved to be one of the most likely projects to run over budget, but not by a great margin. You never know what's going to turn your dream home into a *money pit* until it does.

About forty percent of those who shattered their budget said they wouldn't buy their current home again!

Professional home restoration programs on TV have become a cultural phenomenon leading many to believe the process is as simple and straightforward as portrayed on your favorite program. Please keep in mind that television tends to distort reality. ○



Pancake Breakfast for the Sheriff > >

A Great Success

A Photo Essay

