



BE THE INSPIRATION

November 01 2018



## This Week

**Rene Amy**  
**General Contractor,**  
**Etcetera**  
**Craft Talk**  
**Program Host:**  
**Mark Mariscal**



Rene Amy is a lot of different things, with a lot of different stories to tell.

Raised by wolves in a barn (with the social

graces to match), Rene received a double-major degree with Honors from Indiana University many years ago at 19, after dropping out of high school at 15.

He's a licensed attorney, a licensed general contractor, and an entrepreneur who has twice been named the Pasadena Weekly's "Editor's Pick Citizen of the Year."

A native to Southern California, he's been self-employed nearly all of his life.

Rene's expertise includes holding International Code Council inspector certifications in all California Building Code classifications, and he has twice served as a member of a California Building Standards Commission Triennial Code

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## Halloween, and the Rememberance of Lives Lost

### Happy Halloween Altadena Rotarians!

**T**his time of year always intrigues me. Halloween is upon us, with more than 175 million Americans planning to partake in festivities this year, according to the National Retail Federation. It was never a big event growing up in England, so that makes it especially fun here! A couple of years ago I was with friends in Mexico for Dia de Los Muertos, and will never forget the touching remembrance of loved ones combined with colourful altar building, and fiestas to celebrate life with those still living.

In other countries around the world, there are some very different celebrations that occur during the last week of October or first days of November.

### *Remembering Ancestors and Lives Lost*

*by Jacqueline Howard, CNN*

"The mid-point between summer – in a general sense – and winter is a time traditionally associated with the remembrance of the dead in many cultures," said Joseph Nagy, a professor in Harvard University's Department of Celtic Languages and Literature in Boston, who has expertise in folklore and mythology.

In medieval England, the festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. The day after All Saints' Day is All Souls' Day on November 2.

These days were designated as a celebration of saints and a time to pray for dead souls.

Pope Gregory III built and dedicated a special chapel in Rome in the 8<sup>th</sup> century in memory of all the saints on November 1, according to the Catholic University of America. Then Pope Gregory IV and Emperor Louis the Pious extended the November 1 feast of All Saints to the Holy Roman Empire in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and from there it spread throughout Europe.

In Irish, this time or, specifically, what we would call November 1, is known as Samhain, which probably means *end of summer*. "This time was, and still to some extent is, treated in the traditional cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany as *liminal* – that is, a time when boundaries both human and metaphysical loosen up," suggests Regina Hansen, a master lecturer at Boston University's College of General Studies.

It remains unclear exactly how ancient Celtic people celebrated Samhain, due to there not being many written records, "but

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## Greeter of the Week

November 01  
**Freddy Figueroa**

November 8  
**John Frykenberg**

November 13  
**Ben Green**

# Program Review

## The Altadena Town & Country Club: A Place with an Interesting and Varied History



Last week our guest speaker was Craig Sloane, General Manager of the Altadena

Town & Country Club, the host location of our club meetings for many, many years. Because Sloane is the General Manager, we were treated to an upgrade in our meeting room, and the food seemed a bit

more special.

Sloane is a native of Santa Monica, and grew up in Culver City. He attended UC Santa Cruz, but wound up completing his degree at UCLA. He has been an employee of the Club for 21 years, the last 14 of those years as the General Manager.

Sloane is a local resident and very happy in his position. He brought many pictures of the clubhouse, including a line drawing of the original building. The club opened in 1911 and cost \$25,000 to build! There were 247 members by 1915. Due to World War I, the club almost shut down in 1917. That same year, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. built a regional airport on part of the golf course, but it only survived two years.

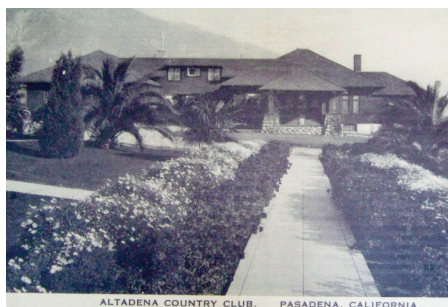
In 1920, the club was renamed the Pasadena Golf Club. In 1927, there were renovations, but there was another crisis in 1929, and, by 1932, foreclosure was looming (no members).

The next big crisis was World War II, and a buyer paid \$200,000 for the club, expect-



ing to get a significant zoning change for the land. This fell through, and half of the club was sold back to ultimately a significant part of east Altadena, and the other half was sold to Los Angeles County to establish a 9-hole public golf course. The clubhouse, tennis courts, and swimming pool were retained and became the club that we love and appreciate today. Sloane shared the names of many famous and important people who have visited the club over the years. We love our meeting location!

Tom McCurry ☉



### November Rotary Foundation

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal

01 - Rene Amy -Craft Talk

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

15 - To be Announced

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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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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

### 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



## Visiting Other Clubs in Other Places



Last week while our newest member was being introduced to the club and pinned for the first time, it was mentioned that there are more than 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 34,000 clubs and in more than 140 countries

around the world. Why is this important? Well, it gives you – a Rotarian from our local Altadena Club – an opportunity to share Rotary while traveling. Let me give you an example.

For the first two weeks of October, my wife and I walked from Sarria Spain to Santiago de Compostela, Spain for a total of 75 miles over 6 days. This walk was part of what is known as *The Road to Compostela* or *The Camino Frances*. When we arrived in Santiago, I specifically timed the arrival date and time in order to attend the local Rotary Club meeting that was scheduled on the evening of Monday, October 8. Their club is relatively small (11 members) and they usually have 5-7 members attend. On this particular evening, I was able to exchange our Club's Rotary Flag with the flag of their club. I will be presenting the flag to our club on November 1.

### *How do you find clubs*

### *while traveling?*

Easy. Just google "Club Locator, Rotary International." The web address will pop up. You will click and follow the easy instructions on how to find a Rotary Club meeting anywhere in the world that Rotary meets. Now, let me warn you, it is not always accurate. So, it is best that you try and reach out via email or phone to the contact person listed for the specific club meeting you might want to attend. My wife and I are spending a few days in November just before Thanksgiving in Paso Robles. I have already investigated and found 2 clubs in the area. Now, I just have to do my homework. My advice to you: **GO FOR IT** and try attending a different Rotary Club meeting and see how others also enjoy what Rotary is all about. ○



## This Week

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Adoption Cycle Advisory Committee. He's also an "Industry Expert" for the California Contractors State License Board, and has served as a member of an English/Reading Language Arts Instructional Materials Advisory Panel for the California State Board of Education.

When he's not stirring up trouble for local government agencies as a gadfly, or volunteering in the community, Rene likes to spend time at the dog park with his three dogs, who ride in comfort in their spacious "Puppymobile" wherever they go. You sure don't want to miss out on learning more about this interesting Rotarian. ○

# In Tune

*Continued from p. 1*

they probably had bonfires ... and made offerings of food and crops and cattle, since research suggests that is typically how they tended to celebrate things.” (Hansen)

“It was when the Irish immigrants came that the holiday really sort of took root in America and they had their practice of going door to door, asking for fruits and nuts and things like that,” she continues, referring to how immigrants from Ireland and Scotland brought Halloween-like traditions to the US in the 1800s.

During this time in France people may go to cemeteries and they wear a flower to honor their departed relatives. Meanwhile, in Guatemala, some families honor their dead by flying large, colorful, hand-painted kites in the sky over the graves of family members. In Haiti, Day of the Dead is sometimes celebrated with various Vodou rituals and cus-

toms. Meanwhile, some families in Nigeria celebrate the Odo masquerade festival, which is a somewhat similar honoring of the dead, during which festival participants

wear masks and perform theatrical acts. Before Halloween, typically in August, some families in China celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival, a month-long ancient tradition that pays respect to the spirits of the dead on the seventh month of the lunar calendar. During the festival, ghosts are believed to return to Earth to haunt the living and people burn paper money, food and incense to pay respect to their ancestors and soothe wandering spirits. Throughout the month, many communities host celebrations, hand out rice to people in need and stage traditional Chinese operas on temporary bamboo stages.

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So Happy Halloween or All Saint's Day to all, however you may celebrate and remember loved ones this time of year.

Remember to send in any fun costume photos to David Campbell and our Club FB page.

There will be a prize!



***A moving moment as Cambodian genocide survivor is invited to participate in building an altar to honour the memory of loved ones, in a family home in Mexico***





## Proposition 5 Overview

What changes would this ballot initiative make to state law?

Beginning on January 1, 2019, Proposition 5 would allow homebuyers who are age 55 or older or severely disabled to transfer the tax-assessed value from their prior home to their new home, no matter

- a) The new home's market value;
- b) The new home's location in the state; or
- c) The number of moves.

As of 2018, homebuyers over 55 years of age were eligible to transfer their tax assessments from their prior home to their new home if the new home's market value is equal to or less than the prior home's value and once in their lifetimes. Furthermore, counties, not the state, decide whether tax assessments can be transferred across county lines.

In 1986, voters approved Proposition 60, which amended Proposition 13 to allow homeowners over the age of 55 to transfer the taxable value of their present home to a replacement home, assuming the replacement home was of equal or lesser value, located within the same county, and purchased within two years of selling the original home. Proposition 13 was again amended in 1988 when voters approved Proposition 90, which allowed qualified homeowners age 55 or older to transfer the current taxable value of their original home to a replacement home in another county, but only if the county in which the replacement home is located agrees to participate in the program.

Proposition 5 would clean up confus-

ing and inconsistent law that varies from county to county throughout California. Proposition 5 would also allow those eligible to move anywhere in California's 58 counties and has also been carefully written to ensure that those homeowners continue to pay their fair share of taxes.

If the new home is a different value than the prior home, the initiative would allow for an adjusted value between the old and new values. If the new home has a higher market value than the prior home, the assessed value would be adjusted upward. If the new home has a lower market value than the prior home, the assessed value would be adjusted downward. The formulas for the adjustments would be as follows:

- **Upward Adjustment:** (assessed value of their prior home) + [(the new home's market value) - (the prior home's market value)]

*Example:* An individual sold her house for \$500,000. The house had a tax-assessed value of \$75,000. She bought a new house for \$800,000. The tax-assessed value of the new house would be  $(\$75,000) + [(\$800,000) - (\$500,000)] = \$375,000$ .

- **Downward adjustment:** (assessed value of their prior home)  $\times$  [(the new home's market value)  $\div$  (the prior home's market value)]

*Example:* An in-

dividual sold his house for \$500,000. The house had a tax-assessed value of \$75,000. He bought a new house for \$300,000. The tax-assessed value of the new house would be  $(\$75,000) \times [(\$300,000) \div (\$500,000)] = \$45,000$ .

In projecting substantial property tax revenue losses for the government, the Legislative Analyst's Office did not accurately examine the broader and more complete picture. More home sales at a higher assessment could more than offset the Proposition 5 senior, disabled and disaster victim benefits. Add in other economic activity associated with sales – such as payment of fees, housing renovation and purchase of new furnishings that generates more sales taxes – and the benefits would be substantial.

California's housing market faces great challenges, which I see in my job every day. Proposition 5 represents a good-faith effort to expand housing opportunities by removing the moving penalty that faces seniors, the disabled and disaster victims. Let's help fix a flawed and unfair system by passing Proposition 5.





# 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.