

Rotary Club of Altadena

# Sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL  
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



August 29, 2019

## This Week's Program

### John Teal Waste Management, Program Host Tom McCurry

John Teal had his start in the waste and recycling industry in 1996 when he worked for Looney Bins – a leader in recycling construction and demolition (C&D) debris, as well as studio set debris.

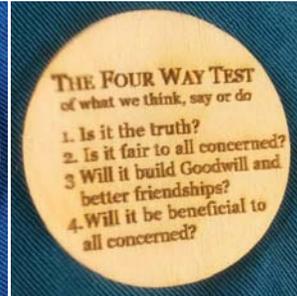
Looney Bins owned and operated two C&D processing facilities and a waste hauling division that served Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

The company was acquired by Waste Management (WM) in 2008. Teal is currently a Senior Industrial Account Manager for Waste Management, covering Southern California. His client base consists of waste haulers, demolition contractors, transfer stations, material recovery facilities (MRF), municipalities, and large industrial waste producers that deliver waste and recycling material to WM landfills and facilities.

## A Wooden Nickel for Your Thoughts

Since the first meeting of this Rotary year, I have been handing out Wooden Nickels during the meeting to 1 or 2 people. What is a wooden nickel? In the United States, a wooden nickel is a wooden token coin usually issued by a merchant or bank as a promotion, sometimes redeemable for a specific item such as a drink. In more recent times, wooden nickel trading has become more popular. Individuals can have their own personalized token made and then trade with others who also have had their own made. This is especially popular in geocaching.

An American saying is "Don't take any wooden nickels" and is considered a lighthearted reminder to be cautious in one's dealings. This adage precedes the use of wooden nickels as a replacement currency, suggesting that its origins lie not in the genuine monetary value of nickels but rather in their purely commemorative nature. The Wooden Nickels I am handing out have the Rotary International Wheel on the front and the Four Way Test on the back. My wife found them on line for me and gave them to me as a gift for becoming President of our club.



## On the Mark

By Mark Mariscal, President

I recently watched the documentary film "Woodstock - 50 years". The film describes many of the challenges with pulling off the incredible 3-day concert that was held in upper New York from August 15-17, 1969. Well, we just completed the last of the 8 concerts as part of the Summer Concert Series at Farnsworth Park that our club is responsible for producing. We should be proud that our club provided musical talent on that stage each Saturday evening that helped the audience forget or set aside their struggles, challenges and opportunities in their own lives during each of the 2 hour shows in July and August. We still have one concert on September 7 where we will provide the security and snack stand. The concert that evening will be produced by our friends from the Sheriff Support Group of Altadena.

## Greeter of the Week

August 29  
Maria Perrez-Arton  
September 05  
Nick Santangelo

## He Writes, He Sings & He Composes Music



**N**ew member Mike Thatcher, who is co-publisher of *Altadena*

*Neighbors Magazine* shared about his life at last week's meeting. Raised with four siblings by two musician parents, Thatcher has fond memories of watching movies with a special emphasis on the musical score. His father plays French horn and has

played on movie sound tracks, including Indian Jones. In 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade, he moved to La Canada against the hills, where he and his siblings could explore and run around. These produced a love for film, music, acting, and sports.

At age 15 or 16, Thatcher had a lot of angst about his future: Would he make his big impact on the world as an actor or athlete? He was a very good miler, with a best time just seven seconds off the four-minute mile. At age 19, after deciding to serve a two-year mission for his church (in Japan), he found some peace. Even though he refrained from dating at this time, he found himself praying for the woman he would ultimately marry. He met his wife seven years later and discovered that, at precisely that time in her life, she was going through some very tough times. This gave him an understanding that God knows what we need even when we don't. Thatcher's worries about his future were replaced with an understanding about the importance of family and being a good man.

He remembers the anticipation he had about reconnecting with his family when he was leaving Japan with a great appreciation of the connections he made in Osaka. After arriving home, he studied music, language and theatre. He pursued acting and singing – getting his union card.

As he and his wife began their life



together, he began to pray for 2 things: a steady job and a place to live where they could raise a family. This prayer was answered when he and his wife got a job managing an apartment building in Glendale. He also got a job doing sales for a small construction company with a niche in restoring failed septic systems.

Three years ago, a good friend with whom Mike had coached, started a conversation about them coaching together at Burbank High School. One year ago, this same friend invited Mike to be part of the

*Please turn to Program, p. 4*

**Congratulations**



**Birthdays**



02 - Phyllis Merrill  
10 - Don Applegate  
30 - Paula Mariscal  
31 - Bruce Conroy (J. Foreman)



**Anniversaries**



23 - Garry & Dotty Clark

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

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www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

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Jacque Foreman.....Acting Publicity

Jacque Foreman.....Sparks/Website

Mike Zoeller ..... Club Projects

Doug Colliflower ..... Community

David Smith.....International

Mark Mariscal.....Asst. International

Tony Hill..... Youth Contests/Awards

Mike Zoeller.....Youth Projects

John Frykenberg ..... Vocational

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

Photography.....Jacque Foreman

**August**

**Membership & Club Development**

**Program Chair, Tom McCurry**

August 29 - John Teal, Waste Management,  
Status of the Trash Industry

## Business class: Microloan Project boosts Entrepreneurs in bankruptcy era Detroit by Sallyanne Price



**L**evi Johnson Jr. makes a mean barbecue sauce. Born in western Tennessee and raised in Detroit, he developed a taste for Southern cooking during childhood vacations in his mother's hometown. She was the first in

her family to pack up and head north in search of work, so he was the odd one out on those trips as the only city boy. But he felt at home in the kitchen, where he would watch his grandfather cook and savor the distinctive twang of his signature sauce.

Johnson has lived in Detroit ever since. He raised a family of his own here and worked for years as a mechanic servicing school buses for the Board of Education. He's kept busy the rest of the time by playing music with local bands, helping out at church, and cooking up batches of Mr. Levi's My-T-Fine Soul Sauce for family and friends. In 2010, amid the economic crisis, a quarter of the city's public schools closed, and Johnson was laid off from his job with the school board.

He eventually found another opportunity to do the same work for a private company, but he's not making what he used to, and the benefits aren't as good. "Nineteen years on the job and I was faced with being out of work," he says. "I'm not old enough to retire. So I said, 'Well, I'm going to have to dig deep within myself and see what I can do.' That's how I wound up getting serious about this sauce business."

Johnson is one of 13 entrepreneurs working with Launch Detroit, a project of Rotary District 6400 (parts of Michigan and Ontario) that provides microloans and free business education to small-business

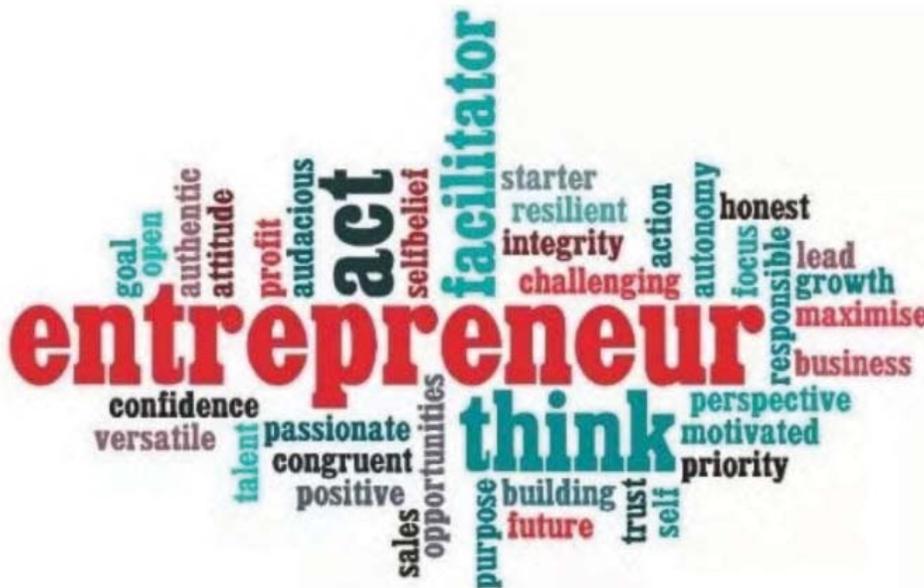
owners and pairs them with Rotarian mentors. He heard about the program through a community kitchen for food entrepreneurs at Eastern Market, one of the largest historic shopping districts in the country. "I was talking with someone there about what steps I would have to take to start manufacturing larger quantities of my sauce," Johnson recalls. "Then I got an email the day before the first Launch Detroit information session." He'd looked into other small-business development programs, but many had steep entry fees or required attendance at classes during his workday. "When I heard what Rotarians were talking about doing, it sounded like it was tailored to where I was trying to go. It was that spark that I needed." The Launch Detroit planning committee accepted Johnson's application and granted him a \$1,000 loan in January. He used it to sign on with a local packaging

business that manufactures and distributes small batches of craft condiments in the Great Lakes region. The company is working with Johnson to adjust the recipe for wider distribution, redesign the labels, and test the sauce for USDA approval, aiming to get his product on shelves in 60 stores. In the

meantime, Johnson's Rotarian mentor is helping him bring his Soul Sauce into high-end suburban delis.

"I've still got a lot to learn, but I'm closer to my goal than I've ever been," Johnson

*Please turn to Chairmen, p. 4*



purpose building future trust self priority perspective motivated business maximise growth lead responsible focus honest action autonomy challenging integrity resilient starter selfbelief audacious profit attitude authentic open goal

# Program

*Continued from p. 2*

*Neighbors* magazines for La Canada, Altadena and Northwest Pasadena.

All these experiences reinforced what he learned in language school – the value of family and community. Fame and fortune is great, but what is most important happens in the 4 walls of the home. His presentation ended with the recitation of the following lyrics:

## Love is Spoken Here

I see my mother kneeling with our family  
each day.  
I hear the words she whispers as she bows  
her head to pray.  
Her plea to the Father quiets all my fears,  
And I am thankful love is spoken here.  
•  
Mine is a home where ev'ry hour is blessed

by the strength of priesthood pow'r,  
With father and mother leading the way,  
Teaching me how to trust and obey;  
And the things they teach are crystal clear,  
love is spoken here.

•  
I can often feel the Savior near  
When love is spoken here.

Words and Music by Janice Kapp Perry



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# Chairmen

*Continued from p. 3*

says. "When you have somebody who's willing to get behind you, somebody who believes in what you're doing, there's no reason not to succeed."



ROTARY CLUBS have played a large role in promoting microfinance programs in the United States. Based on the premise that smallscale private loans paired with education and support services can have an outsize impact on troubled communities. The concept has flourished in developing countries and gained popularity stateside in the wake of the Great Recession. And it's a natural fit for Rotarians, who represent a cross-section of business and community leaders with a wealth of experience and connections.

In 2012, Marilyn Fitzgerald, a member of the Rotary Club of Traverse City, brought the idea for a microloan project in Detroit to leaders of District 6400, which encompasses Detroit; Windsor, Ont.; and the suburbs along both sides of the Detroit River. She'd implemented similar projects in the developing world and had adapted that model to help rural farmers in northern Michigan.

"If we can do microloan projects abroad, why can't we do them in Detroit?" Fitzgerald asks. "People are starting to recognize that the economy isn't ever going to be what it was, but it can become something

different – even something better." Larry Wright, chair of the Launch Detroit planning committee, knows that it doesn't take a lot of money to get a business up and running. In the late 1970s, he and his wife, Sarah, started a landscaping company out of their home with a \$2,500 bank loan, which helped them buy equipment. Like many small-business owners, the Wrights encountered some setbacks, but they repaid the loan and have since developed a successful operation, thriving despite the region's lagging economy.

"We're all pained by what we see happening in our metro area, and we know it can be better," says Wright, a member of the Rotary Club of Taylor, a suburb downriver from Detroit. "The timing was right for this type of project. We felt we had an opportunity to step in and do something positive, to try to help rebuild in our small way." Conceived as a pilot for up to six businesses, the program first targeted female entrepreneurs in Southwest Detroit, which has a large Mexican population. But extensive outreach efforts drew applications from all over the city, and the planners accepted twice as many as expected. The final mix of 13 entrepreneurs ranged from urban farmers to computer repair technicians, running start-ups from kitchens and basements to century-old storefronts, all aiming

to grow, to move up, to build a business worth investing in.

Fitzgerald helped Wright and his team configure a multipronged approach. In addition to loans of \$1,000 to \$2,500, to be repaid with 5 percent interest over one year, the program would provide education, one-on-one mentorship, and networking opportunities. "Networking as we know it in Rotary is so valuable," Wright says. "We can bring a lot of those resources from our own networks to our entrepreneurs. That's vocational service at its core."



THE FIRST STEP was fundraising. A dozen clubs in the district contributed, and Baker College of Allen Park, whose president is a Rotarian, gave \$30,000. These donations helped pay instructors for business classes, which participants were required to complete before receiving their loans. The group gathered at the Baker College campus for a series of five sessions in the fall of 2013. Each one focused on a different aspect of business management, such as accounting and legal issues, and the series culminated in a businessplan workshop. Prospective mentors came to the classes to observe and mingle, and, after a few sessions, they were bonding with the borrowers.

Irma Fuentes, a hardware store owner

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# Chairmen

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from Southwest Detroit, tended to hang back at these gatherings. She and her husband settled in Detroit after the Mexico City earthquake in 1985 and raised their two sons here, but she's still self-conscious about her English. She was nervous about going back into the classroom, but with an ailing business, she knew she couldn't afford to pass up the opportunity.

"Education is not cheap, and when you go back to school at my age it's not easy," Fuentes says. "But if you have somebody like a mentor to encourage you, then you can do it. And if you can do it, maybe your neighbor can do it, and maybe people from other cities can do it."

A yellowed page from an old magazine under the glass countertop in her hardware store traces the building's history to 1897, when the area was mostly Polish. The economic downturn of the late 2000s hit the neighborhood hard. And though you wouldn't guess it from Fuentes' easy smile, it's been a hard road for her too. She's run the store by herself since her husband died in 2005, and she battled breast cancer in 2009. But Fuentes has found solace and inspiration in her two sons, her three grandchildren, and the tight-knit community her store serves. "I always remind my kids, if I can walk one step, they can walk two," she says. "And I love to be the first in my community to start something new."

Fuentes completed the business courses and graduated alongside the 12 other entrepreneurs in January. She used her loan to stock up on inventory, and she's been working with her mentor, Roberto Sanchez, a Spanish-speaking former chief financial officer and past district governor, since the classes ended. He drops by the store occasionally to see how things are going, and this summer he led a volunteer project with local Rotary clubs to freshen up its appearance and draw in some new

business.

Sanchez and Wright are among several Launch Detroit board members serving as mentors, and their experience will help shape future stages of the project. "We went in with some initial training for the mentors, but we're going to put more energy into developing that relationship in the next cycle," Wright says. "It'll be easier now that we have been mentors in this program."

◊ ◊ ◊

THE WRIGHTS have been working with Brianna Bridelle Williams, 26, the youngest entrepreneur in the Launch Detroit program. For three years, she has run D'Created, an online baby boutique she started in her mother's basement while working concessions at the Detroit Zoo and raising her daughter.

"When we started out, it was just a laptop, a sewing machine, and me and my mom," Williams recalls. "Today we're shipping orders to New Zealand and Brazil." Yolanda, her seamstress mother, does the sewing and pattern-making while Williams handles the business side. She shops for fabric, processes orders, promotes the boutique on social media, and responds to late-night emails from expectant mothers who have questions about her products, which include handmade baby clothes, booties, blankets, diaper bags, and accessories.

"I know there are things I don't know. I'm learning as I go along," Williams says, though she projects the passion and self-discipline of a seasoned professional. "Larry and Sarah have more experience than I do, so if I find myself in a situation that I'm not sure about, I know I have someone I can call and ask for advice. That's tremendous."

The Launch Detroit loan helped bring a long-held dream to life for Williams: She used it toward a down payment on a bricks-and-mortar storefront on a stretch of Livernois, nicknamed the Avenue of Fash-

ion for its history of upscale retail. Mother and daughter have worked seven days a week to keep up with demand since they opened their doors in March, and business picks up even more in the summer, when they sell their wares in sidewalk sales and craft fairs across the metro area.

Williams also has found her own path to vocational service, partnering with the Wrights' Rotary club to support a longstanding maternal health project in Nicaragua. Her business provided 1,800 cloth diapers for layettes bound for new mothers in Chinandega. "We've tried to share that Rotary ethos with the entrepreneurs," Wright explains. "To say, 'This is what Rotarians do, and we hope that you do the same thing as you grow and become more successful in business – that you'll be able to give back to the community.'"

◊ ◊ ◊

Launch Detroit board members hope to begin another cycle of business classes with the next group of entrepreneurs this fall. Wright's team has visited other Rotary clubs in the meantime, aiming to model an adaptable approach to microfinance and inspire engagement with local business. And the group is far from finished with the first class of entrepreneurs, offering monthly workshops on topics such as advanced accounting and grassroots marketing. They're also raising funds and exploring partnerships with other business development organizations so that borrowers who pay back their first loans and show success can qualify for bigger loans and keep growing.

This is an especially exciting prospect for a young entrepreneur like Williams. While many Detroiters of her generation have fled the Motor City in search of sunnier career prospects elsewhere, she's committed to keeping her business local. "I definitely want to keep D'Created here in town," she says. "The future for Detroit is bright." ◉

# *In Memory of Rev. Gary Clark*

*June 17, 1936 - August 16, 2019*

Most of us who knew Reverend Gary Clark were not members during his first years as a member, before he left to do missionary work in his church.

We new him on his return to membership in the club and were witness to his several-year struggle after he received an accidental massive over-dose of radiation.

Please keep his wife Dotty and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

• • •

A memorial service is planned for Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Sunrise Chapel on the grounds of Mountain View Cemetery-Mortuary, 2400 North Fair Oaks Ave., Altadena, CA. Parking is available near the building.

We ask that those members who knew Gary please keep Gary's wife, Dotty Clark, and all their family in your thoughts and prayers for comfort and encouragement.

• • •

***From Dotty Clark  
come words and thoughts  
from those who knew Gary  
better than most of us.***

Reverend Gary Clark started the Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries to bring a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit into the lives and the American Baptist family throughout the country and in their mission work around the world.

Dr. Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister Emeritus reflected upon Gary's life and ministry:

“Dr. Gary Clark, was a Blessing to many who have labored in the Kingdom of God. He cherished the

American Baptist family of believers, and tilled the ground for establishing the impact of Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries among our churches. His steadfast commitment to thriving healthy congregations has blessed many of our churches. In the early days of my appointment to Executive position at ABCLA, and continuing for the next 22 yrs, he was a faithful prayer warrior for me. His prayers and encouragement lifted my spirit during some dark days of stress in the life of our region and denomination. Carolyn and I shall miss our talks, and while we grieve, we thank God for granting Dr. Clark to us. We pray for comfort and Peace for his wife, Mrs. Dotty Clark and family. He is now in the presence of our Victorious Christ, Hallelujah!”

• • •

Our beloved brother and partner in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Dr. Gary Clark, who led Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries for 25 years (1981-2006) went to be with Jesus on August 16, 2019. Gary has been a mentor and friend for many of us who have sought to bring Holy Spirit renewal in the American Baptist family of churches and beyond. His excellent and inspiring leadership impacted numerous pastors and missionaries, churches and regions all across the United States and in many other countries. Truly, our current leadership of Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries stands on his shoulders, and the shoulders



of many others who partnered with him in the early years of HSRM. He will be deeply missed!

• • •

*To Dotty  
and the rest  
of the family:*

*May the memories  
of Special Occasions  
and Gary's  
most common expressions  
and quirky smiles  
bring smiles to your faces  
when they are least  
expected and  
most needed.*

• • •

Thanks to John Frykenberg for providing the information which Gary's wife, Dotty, gave to him and from which this article has been created.

Please forgive this short venture into religious thought. We knew of no better way to remember our friend and fellow member of Altadena Rotary than to allow those who knew him best to speak about him.

*Sparks Staff*

*Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter*

# *Not Everyone hears the Music*

*As we started our new Rotary year, Steve Kerekes was still front and center on our website. He received some correspondence about our concerts. He asked that I include them in Sparks. Here they are.*

To the President of Your Club -

It has come to my attention as a resident of Altadena that Summer is upon us, as is the noisome night time notes that emanate from the Summer Concert Series, all thanks to the Altadena Rotary Club. It is not the music itself that I find offensive inasmuch as it is the disgusting display of its disciples who dress in lampshades and dance their way to the front of the stage at the end of each performance. Although where I grew up in the world, Rotary Clubs were mostly outlawed (along with Masonic worship), my understanding is that Rotarians are supposed to act as leaders for the community. What kind of leadership can be provided by grown men who cavort across an outdoor amphitheater in such a manner? This is a most unmanly activity and should be stopped immediately.

Yours truly,

Directorate for Dignity in Altadena

Haberdashers Consortium of the Greater San Gabriel Valley

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the Altadena Rotary Club for sponsoring the summer concerts. I come up to Altadena twice a year from my village near Mexico City to help take care of my sister, who does not travel easily because of an old hip injury she received many years ago as a student. Her apartment is near the park and she likes to listen to the music that comes through her window. She says it is uplifting and inspires her to paint.

Best regards,

Wilhelm "Billy" Kahlo

The Rotary Club of Altadena Presents

# Concerts in the Park

In Cooperation with LA County Parks & Recreation



PEOPLE OF ACTION

All concerts are FREE and start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park  
568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 • Visit: Our *Concerts in the Park* FaceBook Page

## 23rd Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2019

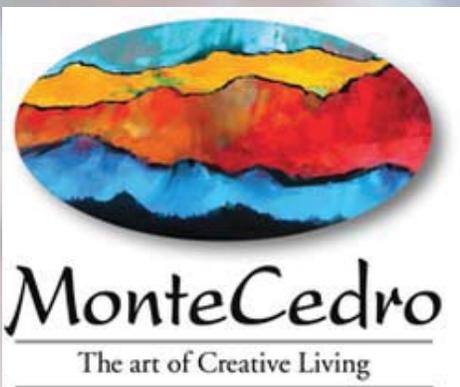
The Answer to Classic Rock ( <i>Classic Rock</i> ).....	Saturday, July 06
Blue Breeze Band ( <i>Motown, Funk, Soul, R&amp;B</i> ) .....	Saturday, July 13
Floyd & the Flyboys ( <i>New Orleans R&amp;B, Jump, Swing, Blues, Roots Rock</i> )	Saturday, July 20
ReLoVe ( <i>Reggae, Soul</i> ) .....	Saturday, July 27
Live From Earth ( <i>Pat Benatar Tribute</i> ).....	Saturday, August 03
Upstream ( <i>Reggae, Soca, Caribbean Tunes</i> ) .....	Saturday, August 10
My Generation ( <i>British Invasion Genre Rock</i> ).....	Saturday, August 17
Dog N Butterfly ( <i>Heart Tribute</i> ).....	Saturday, August 24



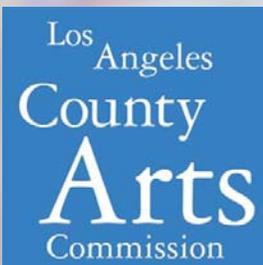
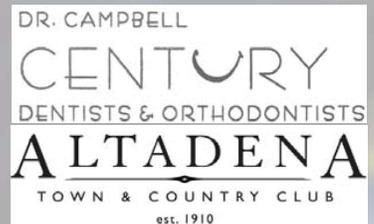
And ... For The Grand Finale ... Saturday, September 07  
Tribute to **THE WHO**

### THE WHO EXPERIENCE

Presented by the Sheriff's Support Group of Altadena



## Altadena Rotary

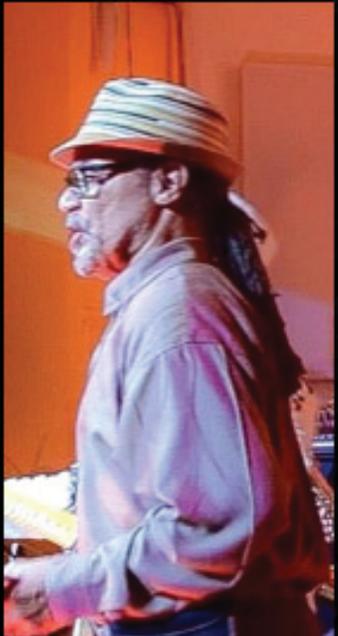


AND Sponsors: Frank Cunningham of Gently Guided, a personalized senior living referral service;  
Georgia Rutherford in memory of Don Rutherford, first president of SSGA;



# THE *Mixx*

**On September 3,  
BLUES CHANNEL  
hosts the Tuesday  
jam at The Mixx.  
Come on down for  
dinner, drinks and  
music from 8-12.**



**443 E Colorado  
(@ Los Robles)  
Pasadena 91101**



**Booking Info:  
213 804-9714**

