

September 05, 2019

This Week's Program

**Heather Hogelund,
 Captain, LA
 County Fire
 Department,
 Station 19,
 La Cañada
 Program Host
 Ruben Alvarado**

Fire Captain Heather Hogelund has been with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for 18 years. She has served as a Firefighter/Paramedic, an Engineer and now, as a Captain.

Hogelund is currently assigned to Fire Station 19 in La Cañada-Flintridge.

Those who will also be attending are: Fire Chief Mackey, Community Service Liaison Maria Grycan, Aubrey Manahan and one of the Battalion Chiefs. ○

Friends: That's What We Are!

Friends, Family and acquaintances. Which you are depends on the person with whom you are interacting..

The past two meetings and an article in *Sparks* has mentioned the upcoming Memorial Service for our Rotary Member Gary Clark, who passed away on August 16. By the time our next meeting arrives (Thursday, September 05), his service will have passed. Some of those attending may have known him for years and others for just a few months. So, to some, he was family; to others, a friend or an acquaintance.

Rotary is like one big family. We meet Rotarians as acquaintances, and, after some time passes, they become a friend. Our club has a member (Dawn Digrius) who will be getting married on Saturday, September 14 at 4pm. at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Lake Avenue.

At our meeting this Thursday, she will stand up and invite ALL ROTARIANS to witness her wedding vows on Saturday, and, on the following day (Sunday, September 15), to a Brunch at her home. At the end of this *Sparks* issue, there is a flyer that gives



On the Mark

By Mark Mariscal, President

the details of this invitation.

Dawn tells me that she really believes that our club members have become like family to her since she is not native to California. She also tells me that gifts are not expected, but, if you would like to make a donation to the Rotary Foundation via the Altadena Rotary Charities in her name, feel free to do so. My wife and I plan to attend and look forward to seeing some of you there.

The title of this article comes from a song that I would sing while being a Camp Counselor and Camp Director. *Friends, that's what we are. You can tell by far, by our love, we will always be friends.*

• • •

I sure am glad to have become a Rotarian and truly have made some NEAT (gollie gee whiz- Shazam) friends over the years. A reference to Gomer Pyle- USMC. ○

Greeter of the Week

*September 05
 Nick Santangelo*

*September 12
 Mike Thatcher*

Talkin' Trash at Altadena Rotary



Sorry for any of you members who missed last week's trash talk.

We learned everything there is to know about trash from an expert on the subject, John Teal. Teal has been in the trash business since 1996, starting out working for Looney Bins, which was taken over in 2008 by Jjis current employer, Waste Management (WM). His current posi-

tion with WM is Senior Industrial Account Manager, where he deals with such entities as waste haulers, demolition contractors, material recovery facilities, municipalities and large industrial waste producers.

To give us some perspective of the mess (excuse the pun) that the waste industry is currently in, Teal analogized the situation to the predicament the original Woodstock festival was in when all their advanced plans and arrangements to hold the rock concert in Walkkill, New York were dashed after the upstanding citizens of Walkkill decided at the last minute that they did not want all the hippies coming to their community. The



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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

www.altadenarotary.com

Meets: Thursday, 12:10p

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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



In the trash industry, first California Assembly bill 939 came along mandating

event organizers suddenly found themselves in *uncharted territory*. They scrambled to find an alternate site at Yazgur's Farm, and then began organizing the event again from scratch with only days to go before first act.

September Education & Literacy

Program Chair, Ruben Alvarado

September 05 - Captain Hogelund, LA

County Fire Department, La Canada-Flintridge

September 12 - To be Announced

September 17 - To be Announced

Please turn to Program, p. 3

Congratulations



Birthdays



07 - Robert Smith (Dawn)

13 - Jennifer Hall Lee

13 - Boyd Hudson

17 - Dennis Mehringer

18 - Dorothy Brooks

21 - Doug Colliflower

22 - Etta McCurry



Anniversaries



01 - Mark & Paula Mariscal

13 - Boyd & Alice Hudson

One Story behind Why Congress Made Labor Day a Holiday



Since this is Labor Day weekend, and there is usually no newsletter this weekend because Bruce's birthday falls on August 31, I did a small bit of research into how *Labor Day* became a US holiday.



While many in the US think of Labor Day – the holiday which falls on the first Monday in September – as a day for cookouts or shopping deals, its origins date back to two gatherings of another, more politically motivated sort.

One was a *monster labor festival* featuring a parade of unions and an accompanying picnic, which took place on Sept. 5, 1882, in a New York City park. That gathering is thought to have attracted

as many as 10,000 marchers, according to Linda Stinson, a former Department of Labor historian. They listened to speeches in support of workers' rights, and – in light-hearted activities more in the spirit of what goes on today – people drank beer, danced and set off fireworks.

The other event was a darker one. On May 11, 1894, in a company town outside of Chicago, employees of the railway sleeping car mastermind, George Pullman, went on strike when their wages didn't go up (actually were cut 25%) after the economy tanked.

In a show of solidarity, the American Railway Union – said to have boasted 150,000 members at the time and led by famous socialist Eugene Debs – refused to operate Pullman train cars, snarling mail delivery and prompting President Grover Cleveland to send in federal troops to break

up the strike. Rioting and arson broke out, and it became one of the bloodiest episodes in American labor history.

Although President Cleveland signed the 1894 law that made Labor Day a federal holiday, he did so with political motives in mind, as just months before the signing, he had ordered federal troops to Chicago to quell a the Pullman workers' strike. While workers fought against executives who had cut their wages, Cleveland was concerned with the fact that the strike had spread to other states, disrupting mail service and interstate commerce. The government force ended the strike within a week, but at least a dozen people were killed. Mindful of his future re-election campaign, he made appeasement a top priority. Labor legislation was rushed through Congress, and the bill passed six days after the strike's end. ○

Program

Continued from p. 2

through the California Integrated Waste Management Board that 25 percent of all waste had to be recyclable by 1995, then 50 percent recyclable by the year 2000. This mandate continued to increase until now when all trash must be 70 percent recyclable. Waste Management has been exceeding these requirements with 80 percent of its trash currently recyclable. So where is the problem?

Well, we were advised, everything was going smoothly until China, where all of this recyclable waste was being shipped said "**No more!**" We (China) will only accept *clean* recyclable waste from America. That is no food residue left in such household items as

Ketchup and salad dressing bottles. In other words, China said to America, "you clean it before you send it or don't send it at all".

This has created a crisis in the trash business. We were told that it costs \$125 to \$150 per ton to clean the recyclable trash which they can then only sell it for \$45 per ton. In now costs less to bury recyclable trash in the landfill than to process it. Therefore, at this time, recycling is just not a viable business model.

On top of this, Southern California has no plans to open any additional landfills, and the existing landfills are quickly filling up and approaching full capacity. People are producing more waste – not less. To control

the amount of waste coming in, the landfill sites set weekly limits on how much trash a particular company can bring in within a defined time period. WM often has to close early on Saturdays because they have met their weekly quota.

Teal told us that it will take 5 to 10 years for the waste industry to adapt to this new reality. It may mean sending trash out of State by rail, but it will also require cultural change.

Municipalities will have to face new realities. The waste industry will not renew old contracts. Prices will go up, and you know who will have to pay. **PLEASE**, enough trash talk for one day. **Tony Hill** ○



Is Your Prospective Neighborhood SAFE? *Here's how TO FIND OUT!*

There's a lot to think about when buying a house, especially if it's in a neighborhood you don't know well. Even if the area looks nice, you never really know what happens after dark – or sometimes even in broad daylight.

That's why it's vital to find out as much as you can about your potential new community's safety and crime rates: Is the neighborhood OK for kids, and can you park your car outside without risking a break-in?

• • •

Unfortunately, it's not as easy as simply asking your real estate agent for a synopsis of the neighborhood you are considering. In fact, your real estate agent can't help you here. Because of the Fair Housing Act, agents legally can't answer your questions about neighborhood safety – which means you'll have to do the detective work yourself.

The following suggestions, if followed, will give you a pretty good picture of the neighborhood you are interested in:

Do online research ...

But know whom to trust

This first one seems obvious, but I will say it anyway: start your research online. And while you can (and should) explore what pops up after typing "crime rates in [your new neighborhood]" in Google, there are some search results we'd be more inclined to trust than others.

These sites below are of my favorites for wide-ranging information. They are comprehensive and have lots of data available, depending how deep you want to dig.

www.areavibes.com

www.citydata.com

When home buyers ask me about neighborhood safety or crime, one of the online tools I recommend they explore is www.crimereports.com, which features crime location by mapping and includes some details of the actual event.

Besides combing through these sites, you can also consult public records like police reports, which are often listed in local papers or online. If you're specifically concerned about who might be living in the neighborhood, especially as it relates to the safety of your children, you can always do a quick search on the National Sex Offender Public Website www.nsopw.gov, or for California www.meganslaw.ca.gov is a very good resource.

Talk to the locals

With no shortage of online resources, it's easy to forget about the power of local knowledge.

One of the best ways to gauge a neighborhood's safety is to speak with the neighbors themselves. If you see folks outside, stop and ask them directly, "How's the neighborhood?" along with any additional specific questions you may be curious about.

For additional snooping online, forums such as Nextdoor and Reddit can provide some additional insight to neighborhood activities. These sites can provide a glimpse of what the locals are talking about and help you catch on to anything (good or bad) that's happening in the neighborhood.

Walk/Drive the neighborhood

Besides chatting up the neighbors, you

should also plan on visiting your new neighborhood several times as a part of your due diligence. I always suggest that my clients drive through a potential neighborhood at different times, days, nights and weekends. Pay attention to how people take care of the homes and yards. Neighborhoods with pride of ownership are usually a good bet.

Walk several blocks and try to notice as much as you can on these trips. Do the houses have tall gates or security fences? Do the windows have bars? Is broken glass scattered on the pavement? It might mean car break-ins are frequent in the area.

Trust your instincts (seriously)

I know – this seems incredibly obvious as well, but it must be said. Nothing (*and I mean nothing*) can replace a gut feeling. If you visit your new neighborhood and don't feel safe enough to walk around alone, then all the online crime maps in the world really don't mean a thing.

Consider your lifestyle and how it fits into this new place: Will you feel safe on your morning run? Will you be comfortable letting your kids play outside, or parking your friend's car on the street overnight?

If you feel uneasy about the neighborhood, don't move there, trust your instincts. The last thing you want to do is buy a house that you and your family are not comfortable in.

This research is vital in order to complete your proper due diligence prior to committing to your new home. I hope you find these suggestions helpful. If I can be further assistance, it would be my pleasure to hear from you.

Are Your Thoughts worth a Rotary Wooden Nickel?

Over the last eight weeks or so, President Mark has marked each week by handing out a *Rotary Wooden Nickel* to one or two members. He apparently has a horde of these and has decided to share. If you haven't been keeping track, I think these are those who have received them so far.



Dawn Digrius represented Rotary International & Blue Hope Nation at the Ms. America Pageant 2019



Dawn Mooney Digrius, PhD., a member of the Altadena Rotary Club, participated in the Ms. America Pageant, on August 24, 2019, held at the historic Queen Mary. Her platform was Blue Hope Nation, a support group for individuals battling colorectal cancer and their families, as well as an awareness organization promoting early detection and treatment. Dr. Mooney Digrius' father, William Mooney, is a colon cancer survivor, and she participated in his honor this year.

The Ms. America Pageant is open to women 26 and older, who can be single, married, divorced, or widowed. The organization promotes using your *crown for a purpose*, and each contestant has a platform that promotes a philanthropic or charitable cause. Digrius competed this year wearing blue at each appearance and event, in order to show support for Blue Hope Nation and to represent her membership in Rotary International.

This was not her first time competing in a pageant. She has been involved in pageantry on and off since 1983. Her first competition was in the Miss Huntington Beach Pageant in 1983, when it was affiliated with the

Miss America organization. She placed 4th, earning a spot in the coveted Princess Court that year. Her motivation was scholarship funds to support going to college.

Upon moving to New Jersey in 1984, her parents' home state, Digrius focused on work, marriage, and raising her two children, Heather and Andrew. In 1997, she returned to pageantry, winning the title of Mrs. Bedminster International in the Mrs. America International Pageant. Managing two children, college studies, and a household proved too much to handle, and she left pageantry again.

What sparked her interest to return to pageantry? It was the message that the Ms. America Pageant promotes: *Empowering Women*. This is an important task for Digrius; she has been a tireless advocate for women – especially women entering careers in non-traditional roles. Her own experience as an archaeology student – working in the field in Mexico, Belize, and Ecuador – revealed the unequal experiences that women have in contrast to men when they enter disciplines or careers that are not traditionally held by females.

Last year, she competed in the Ms. America Pageant as Ms. Greater California America 2018 and received the *Crown for a Purpose* Award. Her platform was *Educate to Elevate*, focusing on ensuring that every child, no matter where they live, receives a quality and equitable education. She decided to shift her platform to Blue Hope Nation/Rotary in honor of her father, who is ten years cancer free this year.

While she did not take home a national title this year, Digrius remains Ms. California America 2019 for the remainder of the year and will continue to make appearances promoting Rotary International and Blue Hope Nation.

Thirty-nine women competed from across the United States and Puerto Rico this year, each bringing to the competition her message, her platform, her grace, and her spirit of sisterhood.

Let's congratulate Dr. Dawn Digrius for her achievements this year, and, if you have an event that you would like her to attend as Ms. California America 2019, you can reach her at [<mscalifornia2019@gmail.com>](mailto:mscalifornia2019@gmail.com). ○



You are invited to the wedding of

*Dawn Mooney Digrius and
Robert Francis Smith*



4 PM | September 14, 2019

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1757 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, California

CELEBRATION BRUNCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

11:30am-2:30pm

348 PARKMAN ST, ALTADENA, CA

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
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23rd Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2019

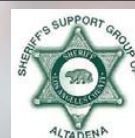
The Answer to Classic Rock (<i>Classic Rock</i>).....	Saturday, July 06
Blue Breeze Band (<i>Motown, Funk, Soul, R&B</i>)	Saturday, July 13
Floyd & the Flyboys (<i>New Orleans R&B, Jump, Swing, Blues, Roots Rock</i>)	Saturday, July 20
ReLoVe (<i>Reggae, Soul</i>)	Saturday, July 27
Live From Earth (<i>Pat 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



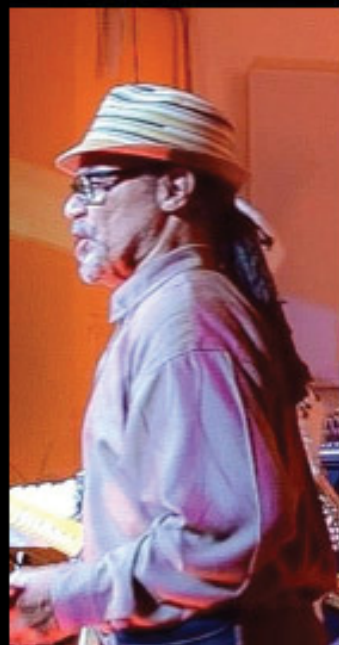
AND Sponsors: Frank Cunningham of Gently Guided, a personalized senior living referral service;
Georgia Rutherford in memory of Don Rutherford, first president of SSGA;



THE *Mixx*

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Come on down for
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music from 8-12.**

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**Booking Info:
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