



The Rotoscope

of the San Marino, California, Rotary Club



Events

February 2018

02/15 - Luncheon Meeting:
FRIENDS OF SAN GABRIEL
MISSION PLAYHOUSE
02/22 - Luncheon Meeting:
AMAROK SOCIETY

March 2018

03/01 - Luncheon Meeting:
SCOUTING IN THE SAN
GABRIEL VALLEY

February 15th, 2018

RENOVATING SAN GABRIEL'S PLAYHOUSE

Club Leaders



Denise Wadsworth
Youth Service
Chair, President



Fang Fang Ho
President-Elect



Gregory F. Johansing
Administration
Chair, President Nominee
Elect, Club Director



Gilda Moshir
iPast President



Paul Brassard
Secretary



Dennis B. Kneier
Treasurer



Lucille F. Norberg
Sergeant-at-Arms



Kenneth Veronda
Bulletin Editor



William H. Bortz
Club Director, Rotary
Foundation Chair



Deborah A. Herbert
Club Director



**J. Leland Mothershead
III**
Club Director



Fary Yassamy
Club Director



Leonard Therrien
Club Director, Community
Service Chair

THE 89 YEAR OLD MISSION PLAYHOUSE in San Gabriel needs help in restoring its façade, and Bill Payne will introduce three visitors to describe their efforts to save the beautiful entryway. Built in 1922 to move the Mission Play indoors, the Playhouse's Iberian design brought about a Spanish Revival architecture so common in San Marino and our area. Kelly Salloum, development director of the Friends of Mission Playhouse; Anna Cross, director of the Playhouse operations the past eleven years; and play director and actor Jonathan Salisbury from the Playhouse will tell of the building's heritage and current needs.

JOHN STEVEN McGROARTY'S MISSION PLAY, along with the Ramona Pageant in Riverside, brought about a romantic view of the Spanish padres coming to convert California's indigenous peoples to a new faith and lifestyle. Early 20th Century brought flows of Americans westward to sunny Southern California, with many of the newcomers taking Pacific Electric's Big Red Cars to San Gabriel for the three hour McGroarty production. Starting in 1912, the Mission Play was held outdoors, facing the famous bell tower of the San Gabriel Mission, until the play moved indoors from 1922 until the Depression caused its failure in 1932. Over those twenty years, 2,500,000 saw the presentation, with scores of Tongva men and women from San Gabriel's Indian reservation playing roles along with actors representing Fray Junipero Serra and the Spanish brothers and soldiers. (Southwestern's five Tongva groundsmen would leave work early on performance days to strip off their jeans and denim shirts and don buckskin and wigs to greet the arriving Spanish, and to cheer when a support ship came to save Serra's little group just as the Franciscans hike from Mexico to round up and convert the Tongva was about to fail).

THE MISSION INN OF RIVERSIDE and the Mission Playhouse of San Gabriel were a result of these romantic stories of Ramona and Serra. The playhouse holds marvelous tapestries and an elegantly painted ceiling, with the famous façade facing west into the bright sun that has caused its deterioration. Going through several owners after the demise of the Mission Play, the City of San Gabriel bought the Playhouse right after it had been used for World War II housing in the dressing rooms. A few years ago, a magnificent Wurlitzer theater organ of the same 1922 vintage was installed. And now our three speakers will tell of the ongoing needs to fund repairs of the weather-damaged entry and other Playhouse projects.

JOINING US AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING will be representatives from the San Marino Chinese Club who celebrated Christmas with Rotary to raise funds for the Rise Against Hunger. Our president Denise and the Chinese Club will present a check for more than \$10,000 to Megan Wolf of the global food project, along with our commitment to purchase and pack 6000 bags – that's 36,000 meals – for Rise Against Hunger to ship to a needy area. The big pack day will be Thursday, April 24th, at Denise's Huntington School, and many hands will be needed to prepare the bags of food for shipment.

OUR "RED BADGE" NEWER MEMBERS are invited to Isaac Hung's beautiful patio this Thursday after work to meet-and-greet our club officers and other members. Celia and Isaac's home is at 1057 Old Mill Road, just one speed bump west of the actual Old Mill, on the north side a half-block (and three speed bumps) east of Oak Knoll. The Hungs straddle the old



John Donovan
Club Director



Molly W Woodford
Club Director, Membership
Chair



Shody Chow
International Service Chair



William L. Payne
Public Image Chair



Tony Chou
Vocational Service
Chair, Youth Service Chair



Steve Garrett
Programs Chair

streetcar tracks, partly in Pasadena but with a San Marino 91108 postal address. You know you're in Pasadena because of those speed bumps, but cross the city limits and enjoy the Hung Hospitality.

CELIA HUNG MISSED dinner at Malbec's last week, and may miss this week's "Red Badge" reception at her home, but Celia has a fine reason for being away. She was named the business person of the year along the Oregon Coastline, recognized not only for her entrepreneurial enterprises but also for her civic and charitable projects. We join Isaac and their sons in feeling great pride for Celia's well-deserved recognitions.

SPEAKING OF MALBEC: Several glasses of the Argentine wine were well-enjoyed by several members and guests at last week's "Night Out", a splendid evening with thanks to Grace and her social committee that put it all together. The new branch of Santa Monica's award-winning restaurant met its critical standards by offering choices of succulent filet of sole with capers, flavorful grilled chicken, or Argentine flank steak, with a large appetizer salad and with their version of flan. The wines were delicious, and inspired some of our members to reminisce at length about their romances with their Valentines. Denise presented awards to many, though Judy and Wayne Carter cheated by saying they were the longest-wed couple present, which counting back must mean they married in elementary school as they're still young lovers.

THANK YOU, GRACE'S SOCIAL TEAM, for a fine dinner party last week, especially by having Dapper Driebe as our greeter at the door. Mike is heading to India with our district's GCE - "Group Cultural Exchange" - while a GCE from the northeast of the subcontinent will be visiting district 5300 including a few days we'll be hosting them in San Marino. Mike will need our help in providing some guest rooms and family dinners when the Indian Rotarians are here, and a few weeks later when we host a few with a Rotary group from Australia. We'll be sending more details when the dates are certain, and please consider if you can help.

HONORARY MEMBER DEBBIE LOWREY FOGARTY found and forwarded a color photo of all San Marino Rotarians under the oak tree of the old Woman's Clubhouse, now San Marino Center. Our former president and third-generation-member Debbie is packing to move, as reported last week, and found the undated and unidentified picture. From the longer hair and sideburns, the all-male assembly, the broad lapels of polyester suits, the group photo must date from the mid-1970s. Debbie had mailed it to Gilda Moshir and it came back a month later (have you moved, Gilda?). So it was sent on to me, and I can identify maybe half the males shown. Are there any other of us old guys around who want to see if they recognize more in the group photo? Please let me know. Always amazing to see how much male fashion and hair styling has changed, though Paul Crowley looks as he always did in his 1950s camelhair jacket.

DAVID ZEIDBERG IS CLOSING his distinguished career of managing major research libraries including the impressive expansion of facilities and collections at The Huntington, and thus David is closing his near-22-years as a faithful Rotarian. David will continue work in research and writing, but we will miss his gentle wisdom and humor around our club and town. We raise a toast in Lake Vineyard wine to our good friend and fellow member David, and wish him many more productive years ahead. Please, come visit for a free lunch any old time you're around our club's meeting day, and know of our admiration for your work.

APRIL 24th IS ALSO A DAY for San Marino Rotary to meet with our sponsoring Alhambra Rotarians, the club that birthed not only our Rotary but several others in the area. Our lunch meeting that week will be at Alhambra's Almanson Court. Plan to join Denise in helping pack meals that morning, then hurrying across the tracks to Alhambra Rotary, then hurrying back to complete the afternoon by packing meals - or at least give some of your time that day to the packing and to the Alhambra meeting.

BOB TWIST PHONED ME a few days ago, after Chris Norgaard and Lois Derry had both given me calls that they'd see Bob around town. Bob has appreciated good wishes from many, and reports they're working along with Bob's and Nancy's strong wills. He is having treatment at, but not admitted to, City of Hope, and doing very well, thank you. And thank you Bob for so many contributions you've given our community. We're with you.

February 15th – San Gabriel’s Mission Playhouse restoration at noon
(Evening mixer for “Red Badge” members at Isaac’s)

February 22nd – Gathering support for teachers and students who need it

March 1st – About a third worthy cause, the local Boy Scout council