



## **'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL**

*An Award-Winning Newsletter*

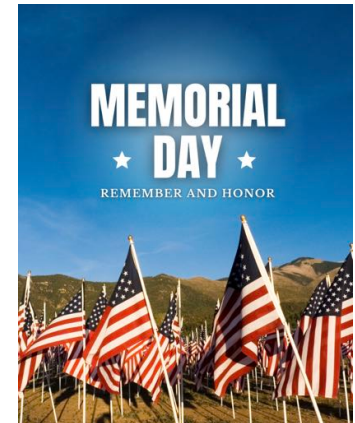
Edited by Sarah O'Brien

**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon  
at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

**Rotary Club of Altadena - #772**

Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

RI Pres: Stephanie Urchick, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael Driebe



**MAY 29, 2025**

**May is: Youth Service Month**

### **Officers**

President: Maricela Viramontes  
Vice President: Dawn Digrius Smith  
President Elect: Brad Roeber

Treasurer: Mike Noll  
Bus: 626-657-2287  
Secretary: James Gorton  
Bus: 626-793-6215

### **Directors**

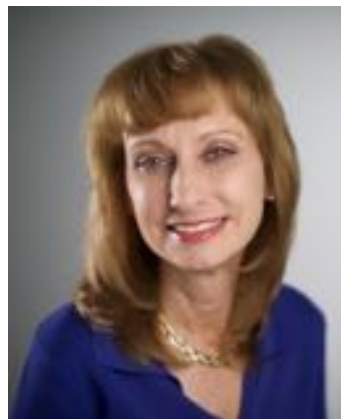
Craig Cox  
Maria Perez-Arton  
Mark Mariscal  
Sarah O'Brien  
Lisa Rickard  
Doug Colliflower  
Brad Roeber

### **Chairs**

Executive Club Secretary: Mark Mariscal  
Membership: Maria Perez-Arton  
& Brad Roeber  
Foundation: Steve Kerekes  
Service Projects: Mike Zoeller

### **Subcommittees**

Community Service: Craig Cox  
Vocational Service: Steve Kerekes  
Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller  
Youth Activities: Tony Hill  
International Service: Sarah O'Brien



Dr. Rosaly M. C. Lopes is Deputy Director for the Planetary Science Directorate at JPL and a Senior Research Scientist. She obtained a B.Sc. in astronomy and Ph.D. in planetary science from University College London, UK. Her research expertise is on planetary geology and volcanology and she has studied Mars, Io, and Titan. She was a member of Galileo's Near-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer team from 1991-2003 and

of the Cassini Titan Radar Mapper (2003-2019). She is the PI of the NASA Astrobiology Institute project "Habitability of Hydrocarbon Worlds: Titan and Beyond". She is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of America, and the American Geophysical Union. She has received several awards including the Carl Sagan Medal from the American Astronomical Society, the Ambassador Award from the American Geophysical Union, and two NASA Exceptional Public Service Medals.

# LAST WEEK: PCC STUDENTS SHINE!

## PASADENA CITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Ed Jasnow

Review by Val Zavala

Last Thursday, our club held our annual Pasadena City College (PCC) Scholarship Program. Since the early 1960's, Altadena Rotary has proudly recognized students who have continued their education - either from entering PCC immediately after high school or, as we witnessed again, adults who have returned to college to update or learn additional skills for the job market. Thanks to Jeannine Bogaard from the Pasadena Community Foundation for attending and sharing some remarks. Additionally, she brought some hand written notes for the students along with a small token of appreciation for their efforts.

We awarded the annual "Jacque Foreman-Conroy Scholarship" named after our former Rotary Club member who was the editor of our SPARKS Newsletter from 1997 - 2020.

The amount was \$1,000. The recipient was Paul Erickson (pictured right), who was nominated by Professor Jerrold Graves from the Photography and Graphic Arts program. Please see Paul's comments on the following page, side column). Paul shared that he did some research on Jacque and how she changed her career by returning to Pasadena City College to study Graphic Design, which became the focus of her professional career during her last 35 years. Like Jacque, Paul too returned to school to study Graphic Design work.



The club provided \$500 scholarships to 14 students as follows:

Dental Hygiene - Instructor Adrine Reganian -

Students- Samuel Aguilar and Stad Kramer

Business/Accounting - Instructor Avo Yousefian -

Students- Anna Young and Charles Black

Paralegal Studies - Instructors Shanon Quinley, Stephanie Marshall and Jeffrey Winter

Students - Enrique Camacho and Alyssa Valenzuela



[www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro](http://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro)



### CLUB MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR HOMES TO THE EATON FIRE:

**Maricela**

**Lisa**

**Dawn**

**Mark**

**Rene**

**Sue**

**Carol**

(Sue's sister and friend of Rotary)

**Linda C.**

**Wendy**

**Lauren**

**Frank**

**Tony**

**Sarah**

**Roger Fennell**

**Dennis McGinley**

Former member

**David Smith** lost his place of business (carpenter shop)

### Fire Relief Resources:

<https://www.altadenalibrary.org/news/emergency-resources>

<https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/eaton-wildfire-resources>

<https://altadenatowncouncil.org/2025/01/information-resources-eaton-fire/>

Radiologic Studies/Health Science - Instructor - Barbara Kissel  
Students - Gabriella Ortiz and Zhu Zhenhua

Restorative Dental - Instructor - Henry Saghians and Elizabeth Constan  
Students - Isaac Ko and Nancy Choi

Television-Radio - Instructors James Patrick and Liesel Reinhart  
Students - Karizma Blackwell and Jessica Shone

Library Tech Science - Instructors Ken Simon, Josh Hughey, Joanna Cham and Mary Wahl  
Students - Brian Sunday and Lisa Wong

We highlight further the Library Tech students since this is our newest scholarship program that started last May after raising funds at our 75th Anniversary Dinner. Below are the comments from their Instructors:

*Lisa Wong is a school library media specialist and PCC student. She regularly demonstrates, with initiative and creativity, an ability to apply classroom learning to the professional environment. When presented with a midterm assignment to observe a library and report back on her findings, Lisa asked if she could do the assignment twice: once per the instructions and once as an assessment of her own workplace. I know I can count on Lisa to be a leader in the class space and that her passion and drive will continue to avail themselves as she becomes a leader in our field.*

*Brian Sunday came to PCC as a returning student in 2024. With a background in photography, he decided to pursue a digitization certificate. Over the course of the program, his interest in photography has been rekindled, and he has come to see how his skills and work experience can be used in the digitization and metadata work in cultural heritage community.*

Lastly, it is important to thank Lisa Velasco from the PCC Foundation who has worked closely with our club leadership to nominate students and coordinate their attendance at our luncheon. Also, a thank you to PCCF Interim Executive Director Frank Cardenas who attended and also shared some words of wisdom for the students, instructors and club members.



<https://pasadena.edu/>



Frank Cardenas- President of  
Pasadena City College Foundation

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The following came from Professor  
Graves who selected Paul  
Erickson for the Jacques Foreman  
Scholarship:

*Hello everyone,*

*First, I would like to thank the Altadena Rotary Club and the Jacques Foreman Conroy Endowment for their generous support of communication arts and design education at Pasadena City College. Your generous investments are helping our creative students achieve their dreams of working in the design industry.*

*I am Jerry Graves. For over 25 years, I have been a professor and the lead instructor of the Graphic Design Program at Pasadena City College. So as you can imagine I have worked with a lot of students.*





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Campfire vs the Camp Fire (2018)

By Maricela Viramontes

*My family and I went camping this weekend. Read on..!*

The **CAMP FIRE** was started on November 8, 2018. It destroyed over 18,000 structures and killed 85 people. The town of Paradise was nearly wiped off the map. The ultimate blame was placed on a public company, Pacific, Gas and Electric. Our Eaton Fire was devastating. Not in as much acreage, numbers of deaths or structures but in the 18,000 displaced residents and another 40,000 or more who were given evacuation notices. The cause of Eaton Fire is still to be determined, but it is possible that another public entity (So Cal Edison) might be the culprit.

It is hard to believe but I went along with the invitation from my sister and brother-in-law to go camping at Lake Piru this weekend. We slept in a travel trailer. It is truly a small world. When arriving there, the family camping in the next spot was one we knew. Their house also burned down. The girl is in Daniela's Girl Scout troop. That made the weekend go by fast; the girls had a sleepover, and enjoyed swimming and biking together. And of course, we all had s'mores. That meant getting smoked out at the campfire circle. Don't worry, we had plenty of water to put it out at the end of the evening!

Our program last Thursday was the last of the big ones (by attendance count). Sharing our dollars with students is something to be proud of. This year, we will have supported students at PCC in the amount of more than \$15,000 and for PUSD teachers and students, another \$35,000. That is worth throwing in a few extra happy bucks for those of you standing up this week.

As mentioned in my remarks at the meeting, Mark and I attended a luncheon in Sacramento where our Rotary Club was honored by 41st District Assembly Member John Harabedian (pictured right and next page). Each State Senator and Assembly Member select one non-profit to highlight for the year. John Harabedian is a former Rotary member of Sierra Madre. He attended our 75th Anniversary Dinner and has been to some of our events. He truly recognises the quality and quantity of the work our club has done and will continue to do.

*Paul is a standout student and has an excellent eye for design.*

*I chose Paul Erickson for this award because it was a tangible way for me to say to him, I believe in you.*

*I believe you have what it takes to be successful in the design industry: mainly, hard work and natural talent.*

*I see his natural artistic talents coming out as he takes on challenging design assignments, and I applaud his hard work and determination in always giving his best to the class and each design assignment.*

*The amount of thought and hard work is evident as he works through each phase of the design process: research, strategy, concept development, design, and production. And, the final result: high-level design projects.*

*I know Paul has a great future in the design industry. Congratulations, Paul, you deserve it!"*

### Altadena Rotary Club is Non-Profit of the Year in the 41st District!





This Saturday is our Pancake Breakfast! A special THANK YOU to the Rotary Clubs of Southborough (in Massachusetts) and Burbank Sunrise. Their financial support has allowed us to offer the breakfast free of charge. If you have not signed up to work a shift, please do so. We expect to serve at least 700 meals on Saturday. Another supporter will be Fair Oaks Burger. They are bringing a grill to help keep the line moving. Even though we are not selling tickets, we will still make a \$1,000 donation to the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team for the work they do in our community.

On June 7th, we will have our Community Give Away and Resource Fair. The event will be held at Loma Alta Park from 10 am - 1:30pm. The work shifts are 7 am - 11 am and 11 - 2:30. I hope to see you there. (Cont'd opposite).



Honored guests with District Assembly Member John Harabedian, President Maricela and Mark Mariscal

Cont'd: Upcoming meetings include: June 5th where the speaker is Judy Matthews, President of the Altadena Chamber of Commerce, June 12th where Michele Zack will talk about the history of Altadena, June 19th will be held at the Loma Alta Park and we will join the Juneteenth Luncheon Celebration. There will not be a daytime meeting on June 26th but instead, the Annual Demotion Party at the home of Mike Zoeller, starting at 5:30 pm.

Our Rotary year is flying by - don't miss a moment of it!

**SEE YOU THURSDAY, STAY STRONG!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AUTOMOTIVE DREAMS**

**JUNE 28, 2025**

Help us raise \$18,000 for Eaton Canyon Fire Relief!

Join us at an exclusive private residence featuring a remarkable collection of classic cars

Tickets \$150 includes light bites, wine, beer, and signature cocktails

**PASADENA ROTARY**

**Save the Date:**  
**Automotive Dreams**  
**June 28, 2025 | 4-7 PM**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of classic cars, delightful drinks, and community spirit—hosted at an exclusive private residence in support of **Eaton Fire Relief**.

Enjoy a remarkable collection of vintage automobiles, light bites, wine, beer, and signature cocktails.

**Tickets: \$150**  
A portion of proceeds will benefit recovery efforts impacted by the Eaton Canyon fire.

**Interested in sponsoring the event? Fuel your dreams!** Email Paul Roach at [paul.roach@hmri.org](mailto:paul.roach@hmri.org)  
**Have something great for the opportunity drawing?** Contact Peggy Kelley at [peggykelley22@gmail.com](mailto:peggykelley22@gmail.com)

*More next week...*



Sarah joins the Village & Commune Chiefs to install Rotary signage in rural Cambodia.



Sunday, May 25, 2025

### Message from ATCC General Manager Craig Sloane

Message from the General Manager  
May 25, 2025

This weekend, we honor the brave men and women of our armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. As we gather with family and friends, let us take a moment to reflect on their legacy.

This is my 28th Memorial Day weekend at ATCC. To put that into perspective, our Member Services Director, Brooke Olson, was six-months old. About half of those weekends had less than perfect weather for a poolside gathering. Occasionally, we'd move indoors for our celebration. Sun or rain, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to plan another elaborate holiday event for the membership. I've got my sights set on Labor Day weekend.

In the meantime, consider joining us for some other great activities:

- ATCC Dining Night at Foothill Restaurant in Pasadena – Thursday, May 29 - 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Enjoy a night of dining with other ATCC members on the patio.
- Pickleball/Tennis Margarita Mixer at Scholl Canyon – Saturday, May 31 - 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – hosted by the Tennis and Pickleball Committee.
- Dive In Dinner at Mayfield High School – Thursday, June 5 - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - food truck, auction, and Coach Steve, what else could you ask for.
- Kick Off to Summer BBQ at Foothill Restaurant, featuring live music from ATCC's own Bryon Miller – Sunday, June 22 - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. A chance to hear great music, and indulge in a traditional summer BBQ.

Back on property, we began the demolition process of the clubhouse on Monday. Tough to say goodbye to our 114-year-old clubhouse that served us so well. But as we close this chapter, I can't help but look forward to the new chapters we will write. Find below some photos of the demolition process.

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