



## **'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 08, 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

## **THIS WEEK: SPEAKER/PROGRAM TBA!**

**We meet Thursdays at:**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church 12.00 - 1:30 pm**

**1757 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104**

**THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT... SHOW UP AND ENJOY THE  
FELLOWSHIP...AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER  
AHEAD!**

*For example:*

🎵 Get Ready for a Rockin' Summer in Altadena! 🎵

The 28th Annual FREE Summer Concert Series is back — and better than ever! *Read on for the band line-up announcement!*



# LAST WEEK: MINI-GRANTS!

Ed Jasnow

This week we heard from the teachers who are the recipients of Altadena Rotary's Mini-Grants. This is one of our Club's well-respected programs that Ed Jasnow has organised for many years. It allows us to show our support for the incredible work that goes on in our local schools and to recognise the teachers who work tirelessly to provide high quality education, in a dynamic and creative environment for the students. Thank you to all who attended to honor the Awardees.

This year, \$400 Mini-Grants were awarded to 31 teachers from seven schools! The process is very competitive and numerous applications are received each year. The grants were even more meaningful this year, as many teachers and their students lost their homes in the Eaton Canyon Wildfire. Additionally, many teachers were laid off as PUSD struggles with the financial impact of the fires.

The teachers shared the many creative ways that these funds get used in the classroom which was inspiring to say the least! A full list of grant recipients will be posted in next week's Sparks.

## Congratulations to all!



Staff of Marshall Fundamental pictured with Jennifer Hall Lee and Ed Jasnow.



[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/>





**The Rotary Club of Altadena is pleased to announce the following Restore Altadena Grant Awards for the quarter ending 3/31/2025:**

CityBoyz Givebacks (@cityboyzgivebacks) Community & Disaster Recovery

Funds used to create a space on April 26, 2025 to provide essentials (shoes, athletic wear, gear, etc.) to the community.

Door of Hope (@doorofhope) Community & Disaster Recovery Funds to support the Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program for current and former Altadena Residents.

Living Beauty Cancer Foundation Community & Disaster Recovery

Will provide essentials to women with cancer affected by the Eaton Fire.

Mills Korner (@millskorner) Community & Disaster Recovery To provide food, clothing, housing assistance to 60+ families impacted by Eaton Fire. Also work with landlords and shelters to assist with re-housing.

Reach Out Worldwide (@reachoutww) Community & Disaster Recovery

Funds will be used to provide curated care packages and furniture to those affected by Eaton Fire.

Sheriffs Support Group of Altadena Community & Disaster Recovery

To purchase mattresses damaged in the Eaton fire that provide space for deputies to sleep when they are on call, and equipment damaged during the fire.

Altadena Mountain Rescue Team (@altadenamountainrescue) Community & Disaster Recovery

To replace uniforms for team in response to Fire.

Altadena Music Theatre (@altadenamusictheatre) Community & Disaster Recovery Supplemental scholarships for Altadena families to attend musical theatre summer camp in June 2025.

Badon Tennis (@badontennisacademy) Community & Disaster Recovery

**For more information please contact Craig Cox at 818-903-4983.**

## Mini-Grants to Teachers (Con'td)



Above: Jackson Elementary staff with Jennifer Hall Lee and Ed Jasnow

## Restore Altadena Grant Awards



Above: Rotary members Nikki Winslow and Mark Mariscal present a check to Claire Robinson from Amigos de Los Rios to help the group continue their environmental work on PUSD campuses after their administrative offices burned down in the fire.  
Below: student recipients representing TechBridges4Teens with Lisa Rickard - see the full list of Restore Altadena Grant Awardees opposite.



## Future Leaders Get A Hand From Altadena Rotary Club

By Peter V. Huisking (photos by Mark Mariscal)



Each year our Club supports the Junior Reserve Officer Training Course program at Blair High School in Pasadena with financial aid for equipment as well as \$5,000.00 in scholarships for graduating senior cadets. (The funding for this comes from a legacy endowment from the former American Legion Post #470 which closed in the late 1990's.)

Last month, the club gave \$2,800.00 to purchase new leather harnesses for the flags of the Color Guard. They look great and help instill personal pride and respect for the flags of our country. See the photo of their first use!



This past Tuesday our club distributed scholarship checks to 10 cadets in the "Viking Battalion" during the annual end of year award ceremony at the school. Past President Mark Mariscal and club member retired Army Colonel Peter Huisking represented Altadena Rotary to present the scholarships (see photo opposite). Mark invited the new US Army Corps of Engineers Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southern California Wildfires Debris Recovery Mission - Task Force Phoenix, Brigadier General Bill Hannan, to participate in honoring the JROTC cadets as the keynote

speaker. He was accompanied by Colonel Sonny Achival who has been working the recovery mission since January. *Photo: The Blair High School JROTC Color Guard using new equipment provided by Altadena Rotary Club*

*Photos from ROTC Scholarship program:*



<https://blair.pusd.us/academics/jrotc>



*Cont'd:* The graduating cadets have plans that will challenge them in the next few years: attendance at Cal State, Los Angeles, Coe College, Iowa, Cal State Fullerton (and enlistment in the US Army Reserve), four to Pasadena City College, Cal Poly Pomona, and one to the US Army Reserve and then to Cal State. They have learned about teamwork, leadership, and the responsibilities of citizenship at a young age. Our club is proud to help these young men and women as they continue their education and life experiences. They are already living up to the expectations of JROTC as well as our Rotary ideals of Service above Self. **We wish them well as they go forward!**

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## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

The Rotary Club of Altadena in partnership with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation's Parks After Dark is announcing the lineup for the 28th

season of FREE Summer Concerts. This year the concerts will be on the lawn of lower Loma Alta Park 3330 N. Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001. All Concerts are on Saturday evening and start at 7:00 PM.

This year's season kicks off on July 5th featuring Kenny Metcalf as Elton John: The Early Years.

On July 12th enjoy The Walking Phoenixes featuring the loved music of the iconic Johnny Cash.

The July 19th concert will be Sgt. Pepper a tribute to the Beatles and other British invasion artists.

On July 26th it will be Phat Cat Swinger and their blend of rock, swing, and jazz infused with a modern sensibility.

On August 2nd we will feature the classic Mariachi music of The Mariachi Divas.

On August 9th Upstream returns to our stage once again as everyone's favorite Steel Drum Reggae and Soca Band. As it is every year this concert will be a jammed packed audience!

This year, the Summer Concert Series is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors including MonteCedro, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, The Tournament of Roses Foundation, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, and Supervisor Kathryn Barger

The Rotary Club of Altadena will be selling beer and wine throughout the entire Summer Concert Series.

**Additional information can be found at [www.altadenarotary.org](http://www.altadenarotary.org)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By President Maricela



My whirlwind trip to Cambodia is drawing to a close and sadly it is time to pack for the long journey home. During the weeks to come I shall have plenty to share with you about my experiences in the Kingdom of Wonder!

For now, I am reminded that sometimes pictures speak louder than words. Below is Chea, one of the villagers in rural Siem Reap, only a few miles away from the magnificent temples of Angkor that are admired by millions of tourists each year. As you know, Altadena Rotary supports the Cambodia Clean Water and Toilets project that not only saves lives through better hygiene and sanitation but also improves education, since children are no longer missing school with diarrhea and other illnesses. When Rtn Darrel Steer (pictured above) first visited Chea to discuss the construction of her new toilet and washroom, he was told she had been blind for 5 years. Rotarians are people of action, so Chea was examined by a doctor and with a little additional fundraising, cataract surgery followed that restored her vision. But the help did not stop there. \$3000 was raised for the construction of a brand new house that Chea will soon be able to move into. More to follow about our impact in rural Cambodia - seeing the work first hand makes me proud to be a Rotarian!

