



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL

An Award-Winning Newsletter

**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: Gordon R. McNally, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael L. Soden



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



January 18, 2024

THIS WEEK: Dr. Phlunté Riddle, Community Leader

Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon



Dr. Phlunté Riddle (pronounced fa lôn tay) is a lifelong community leader, educator, businesswoman, and public safety executive. She spent her career addressing community safety issues and advocating for those in need.

Phlunté spent nearly 30 years serving Pasadena and honing her leadership skills at the Pasadena

Police Department, moving through the ranks as a patrol officer, detective, and community liaison. She broke barriers when she became the first African American female sergeant, lieutenant, and then sworn Adjutant to the Chief of Police in the history of the Pasadena Police Department. In 2019, Phlunté was appointed as a Board of Juvenile Hearings Commissioner with California's Division of Juvenile Justice, continuing her public safety service. She conducts hearings with young offenders to help them gain access to educational and job training opportunities and trauma informed mental health treatment to reduce their risk of re-offending.

Before her appointment, Phlunté served the Foothill communities as Assemblymember Chris Holden's District Director. She helped him expand the College and Career Access Pathways program that provides high school students with the opportunity to take college and vocational training courses. Together, she and Assemblymember Holden pursued solutions that work for expanding the Gold Line, mental health services, public safety, and cleaner energy.

Officers

President: Dr Dawn Digrius Smith
Vice President: Doug Colliflower
President Elect: Maricela Viramontes

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
Maricela Viramontes
Doug Colliflower
Dawn Digrius Smith

Chairs

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

JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

In addition to her lifelong work as a public safety officer, Phlunté was an adjunct professor teaching criminal justice at several universities. She leads her own consulting company, where she works with executives to solve organizational challenges and implement leadership development strategies.

Phlunté received her doctorate degree specializing in psychology from Phillips Graduate Institute. She holds an M.A. degree in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury University and a B.S. in Public Administration from the University of La Verne. She is also a graduate of California Command College and the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Dr. Riddle has been married for over 40 years to her husband, Edgar. Together, they have three married sons and six amazing grandchildren.



<https://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro/>

Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR

Jan 20 - Pollinator Event

Jan 27 - Peace Conference

February 10th - 75th Anniversary Gala

March 7- Hold for four way speech contest

March 14- Hold for Four Way speech contest

March 21- Hold for Dan Stover Music Contest

March 28- Hold for Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President
Dawn's Demotion Party



LAST WEEK: CLUB ASSEMBLY



President Dawn introduced Committee Chairs, Club Treasurer and others who informed the Club about our outstanding scholarship and youth programs, membership and financial status, opportunities to serve and of course our upcoming 75th Anniversary Gala Event. All to be featured in 'Sparks' as we take 2024 by storm!



Above Row 1: Doug, Sarah Mike N. Row 2: Maria, Ed, Tony.

Opposite (top to bottom): Mark, Craig, Steve K.

For Chair info and Club positions, see list on page 1 of 'Sparks'

MESSAGE FROM DAWN



Happy New Year! I do hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and happiness. I believe that 2024 will be an amazing year, as we start the new year off Creating Hope in the World through Rotary!

Robert and I spent the week between Christmas and New Years in New Mexico. It truly is the land of enchantment! We met one of his relatives who he had not seen in decades, an old friend, and made some new friends. We arrived back home

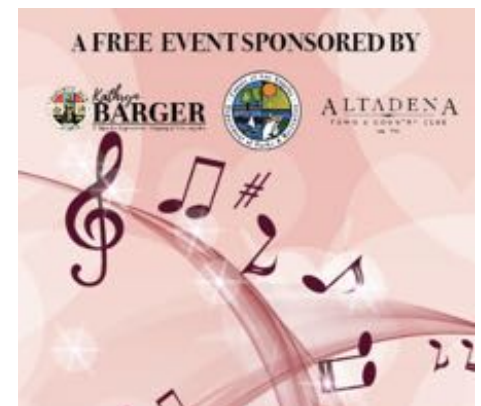
on New Year's Day just in time to take down our holiday decorations before the rains came.

This week, I am trying to catch up on work that was delayed due to the holidays, but also preparing for the upcoming events in our community including the 100th Anniversary (Centennial) of the Altadena Chamber of Commerce, to be held on February 2, 2024 at the Altadena Town and Country Club and our 75th Anniversary celebration to be held on February 10, 2024 also at the ATTC. If you have not already purchased your tickets for these events, I encourage you to do so as soon as you can so you do not miss out on the fun and excitement of these celebrations!

I look forward to the second half of my term as your President in 2024, and for all of the wonderful things we can do together! If you have not been attending regularly I hope that you will join us at least once per month at our Thursday lunch meetings. Stay tuned for more fellowship opportunities this year...we have some exciting things planned- our goal is to make 2024 the year that we CREATE HOPE in the WORLD...

Your President,

Dawn



Saturday February 3rd -

7:00pm

The William D. Davies Building

Farnsworth Park

568 Mount Curve Avenue East Altadena,
California 91001

FREE CONCERT

Garbis Der-Yeghian

34th Annual Peace Conference



Rotary
District 5300

Rotary
District 5330

Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Richard Nixon Presidential Library
and Museum**

18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, CA



POLLINATOR PALOOZA EXTRAVAGANZA!

By René Amy

Following up on an exceptionally-successful event last year that saw over 1,000,000 California-native wildflower seeds given away, a special free grassroots event in Altadena on Saturday, January 20 will bring together multiple organizations to provide education and free seeds so that LA County residents can create their own pollinator friendly gardens — with free California-native milkweed (the host plant for struggling Monarch butterflies) at the forefront.

Open to all, the event will be hosted by the Altadena Community Garden from 10 am until 3 pm. The free event is organized, produced, and presented as a public service by Altadena Maid Products, a local wildflower seed company.

In addition to the seed giveaway, those bringing in a "tropical" milkweed plant can claim a free special "trade-in" pack of Altadena Maid's "Monarch Munch" Milkweed Seedbark containing over 100 California-native milkweed seeds.

Such tropical milkweed, commonly sold by "big box" stores, stays green all year, and can be identified, in part, by its small yellow or yellow/red flowers. Once seen as a way to help Monarchs, tropical milkweed was rated a noxious pest by the California Department of Food and Agriculture last year, its sale has been banned in several California counties, and its removal is now encouraged by pollinator organizations.

(cont'd from p.5) In its early days, Altadena was marketed across the country as a wildflower haven, where wildflowers were picked in what was still the middle of the winter for much of the country. "It'd be great to see our community once again become a hub of drought-tolerant native wildflowers and plants," said René Amy, the owner of Altadena Maid Products, and the event organizer and sponsor. "Giving away so many seeds is one way to help that process along — and it's really time to do everything we can to help pollinators!"

With Southern California expecting lots of rainfall this year, it's widely expected that the area will experience a significant wildflower bloom again this year. "This is the perfect way for folks to experience the joy of wildflowers, and to see just how

Doug Colliflower, past president of the Altadena Rotary Club, and 2023 Altadena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, said, “The environment is one of Rotary International’s primary areas of focus, and we’re proud to be actively engaged in efforts to support pollinators.”

Among the many groups participating will be the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association. “Bees are fascinating and wonderful creatures who do so much for our planet – yet, due to human actions, they are severely stressed,” according to Altadena resident Mary Landau, the group’s education chair.

“We hope that folks will come out and learn the very easy ways that they can help bees and other essential pollinators.” Lois Brunet, executive director of the Pasadena Audubon Society, spoke for other pollinators. “Did you know that hummingbirds and orioles play an important role in pollinating our plants? In the LA area, we are blessed with 6 different hummingbird species and 3 oriole species. Come visit the Pasadena Audubon table to learn more about these beautiful pollinators!”

The event is intended to provide entertainment (with games, and pollinator selfie photowalls) and education (with presentations from different groups), and to provide residents with enough free native-milkweed seeds to plant hundreds of thousands of native plants — along with more than one million native wildflowers to support other pollinators — all in a family-friendly, upbeat event.

Those who appear in a pollinator costume will receive a special gift bag, and will be entered in a pollinator costume contest to win a grand prize.

A \$100 VISA gift card will be given away through a free raffle open to all adults.

(Cont’d on page 4, side column)

easy they are to plant and maintain. They need very little water beyond rainfall, and can provide year-round support for pollinators of all sorts,” said Amy.

“Bottom line, the idea is to make it incredibly easy for anyone and everyone to help pollinators. Just taking a few seconds to spread these free seeds can help all sorts of amazing creatures make our planet a better place to live. Folks want to make a difference, and this is about as easy a way as possible!”

In addition to the Garden, the Beekeepers, the Altadena Rotary Club, and the Pasadena Audubon Society, confirmed participating organizations include Amigos de los Rios, Rotary International’s Operation Pollination, and the Pasadena Sierra Club.

The Altadena Community Garden is located at 3330 N. Lincoln Ave, Altadena, within LA County Department of Parks & Recreation’s Loma Alta Park, and the event will be held rain or shine in the Garden’s back parking lot.

VOLUNTEER FOR RYLA!

By Tony Hill

Our District is seeking Rotary members to volunteer as camp counselors for the upcoming RYLA weekend from Friday March 22nd to Sunday March 24th.

The District's RYLA program operates a weekend camp for approximately 250 high school Juniors who show a potential for leadership, selected by Rotary Clubs throughout our District, from Pasadena to Las Vegas. Our Altadena Rotary Club will be sponsoring 8 high school Juniors from John Muir High School to this year's RYLA weekend.

The Rotary members who chose to volunteer as camp counselors will travel up to the camp in Running Springs and back, on a bus with participating students from this area. You will be advised where to meet the bus, which will leave early in the morning of Friday, March 22nd, and you will return on the bus, in the early afternoon of Sunday, March 24th.

While at the camp, the Rotary member volunteers will lead a group of approximately 6 or 8 students assigned to them, and guide them through the many activities throughout the weekend. The activities include numerous inspirational speakers, as well as competitions and skill testing events to challenge the students individually and within groups.

Anyone interested in volunteering for, or seeking further information about, this year's RYLA weekend should speak to RYLA Chair, Tony Hill, at one of our regular meetings, or contact him at email: tlctony@aol.com, or phone (626) 795-5363.

This is an outstanding Rotary program. If you enjoy working with kids, you will never regret volunteering, as past volunteers including, Craig Cox, Ed Jasnow and Tony Hill will readily attest.



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Club's FB page!

<https://www.facebook.com/AltadenaRotary>



75th Anniversary Gala Dinner Invitations Have Arrived!

By Doug Colliflower

The invitations should have arrived in your mailbox by now. Our Gala is fast approaching! If you have not received the invitation or need another one, please reach out to me via email or a phone call. The committee is planning a fun event that will include having Happy Hour at 5:30, Dinner and Program at 6:30 and ending the dinner with music and dancing. With our club starting at the end of the 1940s and actually having the first 10 years in the 1950s, having people dress in either of those decades is being encouraged. We have invited the President of the Pasadena Rotary Club to help our President, Dawn, kick off the program with a joint ringing of the Rotary Bell!

