



## **'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: Jennifer E. Jones, Dist. 5300 Gov: Roger Gutierrez

## **THIS WEEK: LISA A. RICKARD**

**President, U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (Retired)**

**Executive Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (Retired)**

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club



Lisa A. Rickard served as one of the U.S. Chamber's top leaders on a wide range of issues, with a strong focus on legal reform from 2003 - 2022. She played a significant role in maintaining the Chamber's long-term position as the world's most influential advocate for business.

Rickard served as president of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) through 2020. Under her leadership, ILR developed from a strong national legal reform organization into a comprehensive, multifaceted global legal reform campaign with cutting-edge legislative advocacy, communications, and voter education initiatives. Rickard's notable accomplishments include leading the effort to enact the landmark Class Action Fairness Act law in 2005; presiding over the creation and expansion of the Madison County Record enterprise - a wholly owned ILR subsidiary chain of nine legal newspaper that count millions of readers annually; and guiding the global expansion of ILR into Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Rickard led government affairs practices for Fortune 500 companies Dow Chemical and Ryder System, Inc. She was a partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, and she worked on Capitol Hill for two senators.



**Happy Lunar New Year!**

**JANUARY 26, 2023**

**January is: Vocational Service Month**

### **Officers**

**President: Doug Colliflower  
626-524-4158**

**Vice President: David Smith  
President Elect: Dr. Dawn Digrius Smith**

**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**

**Membership: Maria Perez-Arton**

**International: Sarah O'Brien**

**Community Service: Craig Cox**

**Vocational: Steve Kerekes**

**Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards:**

**Mike Zoeller**

**Youth Activities: Tony Hill**

**Foundation: Steve Kerekes**

Rickard has received multiple honors, including two from *The National Law Journal*, naming her as one of the nation's Most Influential Lawyers and one of Washington's Most Influential Women Lawyers. Rickard was also a recipient of the Women & Law Leadership Award recognizing distinguished alumnae of American University Washington College of Law who have made significant contributions to the field of law. In 2015, Rickard received the Burton Foundation Legend in Law award. She served on the board of directors of the Carlton Club, is a member of the Business Government Relations Council, International Association of Defense Counsel, and International Women's Forum, and is an honorary board member of the Burton Awards. Rickard graduated from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, and received her law degree from American University in Washington, D.C., where she was executive editor of the *Law Review*. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.



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

#### Rotary Sponsored Events:

March 2023 Read at Families Forward

Feb 9 Dan Stover Music Contest

May 4 - Mini Grant presentations to teachers

## LAST WEEK: A COUNTRY OF ETIQUETTE: TRADITIONAL CHINESE ATTIRE

DR. WEN CHEN

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal

Program Review: Tony Hill



Last week we had the pleasure of hearing all about traditional Chinese attire from the charming and knowledgeable Dr. Wen Chen. Dr. Chen is a graduate of CalTech and has worked as a biologist for CalTech for twenty-seven years. She has enjoyed Chinese art and Chinese history since she was a child. She shares her expertise by writing articles and making presentations on Chinese culture, history and society to local organizations such as our Altadena Rotary Club. In fact this was the second time that Dr. Chen has presented a program on a topic related to Chinese history and culture to our Club. Her previous talk addressed human rights issues in China.

## Garbis Der-Yeghian



District 5300  
District 5330

### 33rd Annual Peace Conference



### Exciting New Format

Virtual Session 1— Wednesday March 1, 2023 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Virtual Session 2— Thursday, March 9, 2023 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Live Session—Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
*Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum*  
18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, CA

### Rotary Club of Altadena Director Nominations - 2023-2025

In accordance with the bylaws and the California Corporations Code, the Nominating Committee presents the following as nominees to serve on the board of directors from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025:

Maria Perez-Arton  
Brad Roeber  
Maricela Viramontes



In her presentation last Thursday, Dr. Chen focused on Chinese attire through the ages, starting in 700 AD during the Tang Dynasty. She went into elaborate detail about the style of dress, the meaning of items of attire and the way men and women wore them, supplementing her descriptions with slides

showing paintings of people wearing the various items of clothing. We were told that the outfits that men wore were comprised of two outer items: a shirt with very long and wide sleeves, and a skirt. Colors were also important, with black being seen as exhibiting young, positive energy, and red seen as representing a more of the negative aspect of life. Wen also explained that the left side was also seen as better than the right, so the black part of the outfit would partially cover the red part, crossing over from left to right - representing positive energy over negative. Buttons were never used.



Dr. Chen told us that individuals in the various levels of the social strata would wear different styles and fabrics. For instance only royalty and upper class individuals could wear silk. The lower working class individuals could only wear clothing made of cotton. Also, married women would dress differently to single women. As a result, while passing

people along the street, you could tell by their clothing whether they were royalty, upper class or working class, and sometimes whether they were married or single.

We were told of other interesting traditions. For instance, shoes were tilted up at the front to reduce the risk of tripping over the long garments. Men and women did not cut their hair. During wedding ceremonies the bride and groom's hair was often tied together as a symbol of their union. Also, women often wore elaborate decorations in their hair, and men often wore some type of hat, although, we were told, only the emperor could wear the dragon hat.



The vote will take place at the next Board Meeting, Feb 7. Please be informed that members have the right to nominate candidates by petition as follows:

**Nomination by Petition** Additional nominations to the board may be made by petition and presented to the secretary at least one week prior to the annual meeting, when bearing the signatures of ten (10) or more members.

## THURSDAY AROUND TOWN EVENT

San Marino Rotary will be hosting TAT EVENT (Thursday Around Town Event) in the evening of Jan 26. This will be our 2nd Annual Rotary Business Mixer hosted by San Marino Rotary. Last year, we had this event in March at the Blossom Market Hall and partnered with the South Pasadena Rotary Club. This year we are collaborating with both the Altadena & South Pasadena Rotary Clubs and the event will be held at a bigger venue - at the Padillo Room at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse in the City of San Gabriel. The event is from 5 - 8 pm.

4 members from the San Marino Rotary Club have stepped forward to speak: 1) Dr. Joel Kim, Physical Therapist, 2) Russ Osmonson, Educational Consultant, 3) Ginny Hsiao, Family and Estate Law Attorney, and 4) Tony Chou, Oak Family Consultants. You will hear more about our presenters between now and the date of our event. Our sponsors have each paid \$250 to get 10 minutes to speak to you and share



As different Dynasties came and went, so would the customs regarding what styles of clothing would be deemed appropriate. In the 1600's AD, during part of the Ming Dynasty, earth tones, rather than bright colors, became the standard theme in clothing, representing a desire to be closer to nature. During part of the Qing Dynasty, Mongolian styles became the accepted clothing. After the start of the communist revolution in the early 1900's, traditional clothing was no longer acceptable. Dr. Chen told us that the communist regime introduced a shade of red referred to as blood red, which was unpopular with the masses who preferred the traditional burgundy shade of red.



Another enjoyable presentation from Dr. Wen Chen. She finished by acknowledging that the slides used in her presentation are from the Shen Yun performing arts website. Shen Yun dance performances are a way to see more of traditional Chinese culture and there are upcoming performances in

Southern California in 2023. Hopefully Dr Wen Chen's visits to our Club and her fascinating descriptions of Chinese history and culture will become a regular occurrence!



about their businesses. We will also have a TEA BAR being presented by Fong & Jessica Sam from the University of the West. They will share their TEA CEREMONY with us.

Other activities include a Business Scavenger Hunt, a photo op by our Imagine Rotary Theme Banner and, of course, heavy appetizers and wine.

For the members of our 3 clubs, we do need your rsvp and payment of \$25 to reserve your spot. We would like to collect all payments before the event. The deadline to reserve your spot is January 18, 2023. If you are with the San Marino Rotary Club and you are charged via credit card for your membership dues, we will bill your card on file. If you are in San Marino and you pay via check (we will ask you to send your check made payable to the San Marino Rotary Club) and send it to me so I can track your rsvp.

If you are a member of the S. Pasadena and Altadena clubs, please send your payment by check to San Marino Rotary Club and mail it to Gilda Moshir at 400 Ninita Parkway, Pasadena, CA 91106.

This event is a great opportunity for us to invite non-Rotarians and to showcase what we do as a community of Rotarians coming together to support our members.

Gilda Moshir  
Membership & TAT Chair 818-807-6060  
[gmoshir@gmail.com](mailto:gmoshir@gmail.com)

## Fun in the Sun!

### 1M Milkweed Seeds Giveaway at Altadena Community Garden

On Saturday Jan 21st, René Amy led an event to help the monarch butterflies, through the distribution of over 500 bags containing 1 million native milkweed seeds. René spoke to close to 1000 attendees about the importance of planting native milkweed on which the monarch caterpillars thrive - and destroying any tropical milkweed, that causes them to perish. Altadena Rotary sponsored seed packets that were offered in exchange for the return of tropical milkweed for disposal. Around 12 families participated in the exchange. René's company Altadena Maid also provided and gave away additional seed packets of native wild flowers. Altadena Rotary has signed the Pollinator Pledge, which is an initiative of RI President Jennifer Jones and an environmental area of focus. A resolution can also be adopted by Clubs and organisations.



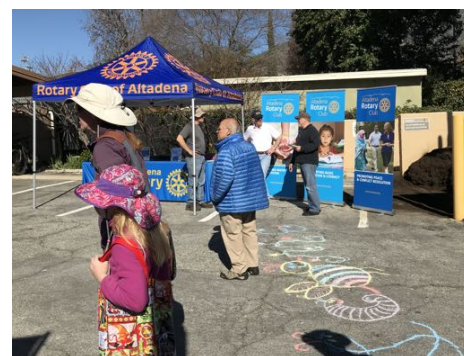
Mike Noll created a cheery welcome doodle in chalk and visitors had the opportunity to learn more about our Club's activities at our booth, manned by President Doug, Mike Noll and others. Additional displays and tables provided information about birds, bees, water conservation and more. Altadena Community gardeners encouraged visitors to stroll through the area as they offered insight into gardening techniques, and samples of some of their crops. According to René there is already interest in repeating the event next year. If you missed the opportunity to pick up native milkweed seeds, they are available for purchase at:

<https://www.etsy.com/sg-en/shop/AltadenaMaid>



<https://altadenamaid.com/>

<https://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/>



# Pollinator Habitat

This area has been planted with pollinator-friendly flowers and is protected from pesticides to provide valuable habitat for bees and other pollinators.

To learn how you can help to bring back the pollinators, please visit [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org).

## Altadena Libraries

### The Next Chapter Main Library

Join us as we present schematic designs for the Main Library expansion & renovation and welcome community feedback.

**Join in person OR on Zoom**  
**Saturday, January 28**  
**2:30 - 4:00PM**  
 Main Library Community Room  
 600 E. Mariposa St.

**Join in person OR on Zoom**  
**Wednesday, February 1**  
**6:30 - 8:00PM**  
 Main Library Community Room  
 600 E. Mariposa St.

Sign up for Zoom access through our online calendar [www.AltadenaLibrary.org/programs](http://www.AltadenaLibrary.org/programs)

#### Main Library Renovation Priorities

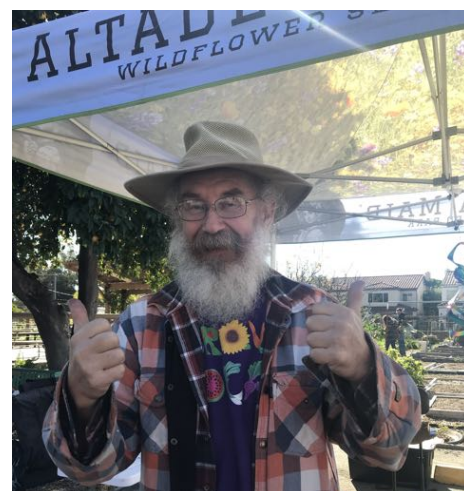
- Make the library **easy to use and fully accessible for everyone**
- **Make essential structural, seismic, and safety repairs** while maintaining the unique and historic mid-century architecture
- Make the most of **indoor and outdoor areas**, developing fun, flexible & future-proof spaces



#### The Next Chapter for Altadena Libraries

The Altadena Library District is embarking on an ambitious multi-year project to repair, modernize, and improve the Main and the Bob Lucas Memorial Library.

We are committed to providing all residents of Altadena with full access to library facilities, including cutting-edge technology, wide-ranging physical and digital collections, welcoming public spaces, and inclusive and innovative programs, services, and events. For more information, go to [www.AltadenaLibrary.org/Next-Chapter](http://www.AltadenaLibrary.org/Next-Chapter).



René Amy (above), Mike Noll w/President Doug (top)