



'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



February 1, 2024

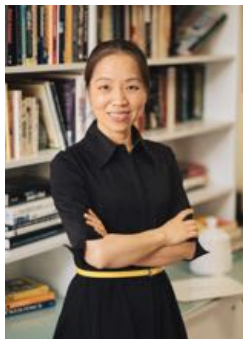
**FEBRUARY IS PEACE BUILDING AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH**

THIS WEEK: MS WEN CHEN

CHINA'S GLOBAL IMPACT

Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Our speaker this week is Ms. Wen Chen. We welcome her back as the Chinese New Year kicks off on February 10, 2024. Places that celebrate the New Year include China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam to name a few of the countries.

The talk this Thursday will focus on China's Global Impact. We all know that Chinese Communist Party (CCP) gained much financial power after joining the World Trade Organization in December

2001. The Chinese government built up business ties with Hollywood and over 30 mainstream media worldwide to tell a better story about China. Come learn why many say that the Chinese consulates actively manipulate Chinese Americans and business owners who may steal intellectual property or influence elections. And we might hear why the U.S. lawmakers cannot stop at "condemning human rights abuses in China.

Ms. Chen Wen was born in China at the end of the Great Cultural Revolution. Being the victim of this horrific atrocity that killed two million intellectuals and destroyed traditional Chinese culture, Wen's parents had mixed feelings about her education. Despite their

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

discouragement, Wen eventually won a national prize at a science competition when she was 16. Hence, she went to a top university for undergraduate study and then came to the U.S. in 1994 for graduate school. Wen received a Ph.D. in Biology at the California Institute of Technology in 2000. For more than 10 years, she has given hundreds of presentations to community organizations about Chinese culture, history, and society. Wen has been working for Caltech since 2000 as a biologist and information scientist. Her everyday work includes scientific outreach by speaking at conferences and seminars at universities. In her personal life, she is an active member of Amnesty International, focusing on human rights in China. She serves as a board member and community liaison for Caltech Women in Biology and Biological Engineering.

LAST WEEK: DR BOON LIM SPACE IS HARD!

Review: Craig Cox



Our speaker on Thursday was Dr Boon Lim who currently works as a systems engineer for Blue Origin. Boon also serves as one of the five elected trustees of the Altadena Library District Board. A native of Malaysia he received his US citizenship a year and a half ago.

While working at JPL he was part of the Radiometer Atmospheric CubeSat Experiment that exploded 6 seconds after lift off on October 28th 2014. The radiometer instrument was designed to be very small, use very little power, and would help analyse the structure of hurricanes by measuring water vapor in the atmosphere. CubeSat is a class of very small satellites - in this case about the size of a loaf of bread. This project started in May 2012 and had a five million dollar budget. The vehicle that exploded was a Russian rocket that was carrying some 29 payloads - many of which were retrieved after the explosion. Unfortunately, the radiometer was lost.

Even though this project ended catastrophically it was a tipping point in the use of miniature satellite systems with quite a few being developed/deployed in subsequent years (Inspire, Astoria, Isara, Marco, Rain Cube, CubeRRT, and others). It also helped confirm that small satellites are harder to develop than large satellites. It also led to the development of Tempest D Radiometer Technology which was successfully launched from the International Space Station. Boon believes this instrument is the best radiometer in space today.

With the advent of private space companies like Blue Origin, the pressure is on to complete missions faster on tighter budgets. Boon believes that JPL still has not figured out how to do quick missions



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

Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR

Feb 8 - NO CLUB MEETING

February 10th - 75th Anniversary Gala

March 7- Hold for four way speech contest

March 14- Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships



June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party



where there is a need to live with compromises, tight planning calendars, and relatively small budgets.

He left us with a couple of truths from his experiences: "Space is hard." Also, "It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose. That is not a weakness - that is life!"

Club Guests last week included:

Justene Adamec, President of Pasadena Rotary Club

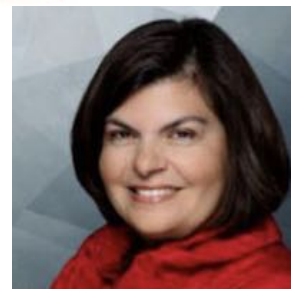


FEBRUARY IS: PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH

Garbis Der-Yeghian
34th Annual Peace Conference



Gilda Moshir,
Past President
San Marino
Rotary



Attendees included: Tom Polenzani, Prakash Shrivastava, Doug Colliflower, Mark Mariscal, Carina Jacob with Muir students



**Saturday February 3rd -
7:00pm**
The William D. Davies Building
Farnsworth Park
568 Mount Curve Avenue East Altadena,
California 91001
FREE CONCERT