



**'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



D. Vance Graphics

## **THIS WEEK: DR YEH, CITY OF HOPE**

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club



[CityofHope.org/jekwon-yeh](http://CityofHope.org/jekwon-yeh)

**JEKWON (JAY) YEH, M.D., M.B.A.**, decided to become an oncologist at a very young age after watching several loved ones battle cancer. "I want to become the physician that patients can depend on when they are at their weakest," he says.

An honors student at University of California Irvine, Dr. Yeh received his medical degree from Boston University and continued his specialty training in radiation oncology at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center.

Highly skilled in all forms of radiation therapy, Dr. Yeh specializes in the treatment of solid tumors, including but not limited to: prostate, brain and breast cancers. He's focused his research on minimizing the side effects of radiation therapy. "Finding new and innovative ways for patients to be cured of their cancer yet still maintain a high quality of life is of utmost importance," he says.

**FEBRUARY 02, 2023**

**February is: Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution 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**

Dr. Yeh has published his research in major peer-reviewed journals and presented numerous research projects at international conferences.



<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

**Garbis Der-Yeghian**



**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

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

Families Forward Learning Center invites you to join us for our 2023 Annual Soirée

Honoring Congresswoman Judy Chu and Abel Ramirez

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Support our children and families

For information, [click here](#)  
Or contact Liz Kwong at [liz@familiesforwardlc.org](mailto:liz@familiesforwardlc.org)

**LAST WEEK: LISA A. RICKARD**

**President, U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (Retired)  
Executive Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (Retired)**

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal      Program Review: Brad Roeber



Our speaker this week was Lisa Rickard, who has recently moved to Altadena from Washington DC, where she has worked and lived for over 40 years with her husband, whom she met at Lafayette University in Pennsylvania. She has a son, daughter in law and 2 ½ year old grandson who live here, and they moved west for them and for the weather, although she joked that “she was not responsible for all the rain we’ve been having”! She attended law school at American University in D.C., although she said that she never wanted to be a “courtroom lawyer” but, rather wanted to focus on

advocacy and lobbying because she was interested in “how government works – not how it doesn’t work”. Her career began with her serving two U.S. Senators, one a Republican and one a Democrat – something that “wouldn’t happen today, sadly”. She then labored in Governmental Affairs for two corporations before moving to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 2003. She mentioned that the Chamber serves over 3 million associations and businesses, both in the US and internationally. Her work at the Chamber was highlighted by leading the U.S Chamber Institute for Legal Reform as its President. This work focused on curbing litigation that creates undue burden on businesses – a focus that she also took internationally. The international work included efforts to convince the European Union to avoid adopting Class Action Litigation, not because she believes it is wrong, but because of the impact and hardship that it brings to business owners.

She then pivoted to discussing the focus and strategy of the U.S. Chamber itself. She opined that the Chamber worked to pass our most recent Infrastructure bill but noted that our current permitting processes were making it challenging to get projects moving. Further hampering efforts to resolve our infrastructure challenges, is that there are only 73 available U.S. workers for every 100 jobs. The Chamber is addressing this labor shortage by endorsing alternatives for childcare as well as to find ways for “Dreamers” to enter our workforce. This isn’t a political position, but, rather, one that comes from necessity. The Chamber also seeks to develop additional energy sources and also to increase foreign trade, while preserving the Rule of Law (no slave trade). She closed her remarks by saying, “business is given a really bad rap even though they are well intentioned and want to do good”.

The presentation closed with several Rotarians asking insightful questions of Ms. Rickard. All present were edified by the time spent together and were grateful for her willingness to speak with us.



## President's Piece

By President Doug Colliflower

### Area 1 News

Before getting to the *news*, I want to clarify "Area 1". Rotarians are members of their clubs. For administrative purposes, the more than 46,000 clubs worldwide are grouped into **529 districts**, and

the districts into 34 zones.

Altadena Rotary is a member of District 5300 which is comprised of 63 clubs which are further segmented into 13 areas. Each area has an Assistant District Governor that provides support to the clubs in his or her area. In addition to our club, Area 1 includes Pasadena, San Marino and South Pasadena Rotary Clubs

On Thursday, January 26, a few of our club members (see photo opposite) attended The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rotary Business Mixer at the San Gabriel Playhouse. The San Marino Rotary Club coordinated the event. The event was well attended, and we enjoyed hearty appetizers, wine, and some good networking. Area 1 Presidents were asked to share their "Rotary Moment" and most Rotarians have difficulty picking just one! I shared my experience in December 2020 delivering toys and gift certificates to a worthy Altadena family. This was a joint effort with our club and the Altadena Sheriff's Station. The opportunity to meet the family, hear their story and realize how big a difference we made in their lives and that holiday was truly a heartwarming experience.

Area 1 clubs have joined forces and will have a table at the San Gabriel Valley MEGAMIX EXPO on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be sharing the mission of Rotary along with the rewards of becoming a Rotarian. Tickets are still available, for more information and to register, please visit [www.sgvmegamixexpo.com](http://www.sgvmegamixexpo.com)

On January 20<sup>th</sup> our Assistant Governor, Gilda Moshir hosted Area 1 presidents for a wonderful breakfast meeting at the Athenaeum. We discussed Rotary business and reviewed our goals and "To Do's" for the remainder of our Rotary year which concludes on June 30<sup>th</sup>

We discussed plans for an Area 1 mixer to be held at the Athenaeum Al Fresco in April or May. The primary goal is to share Rotary with friends and colleagues. I will share details as they become available.

Additional noteworthy events coming soon:

- Annual Peace Conference, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Nixon Library
- Rotoplast Mission April 15 - 18
- District Assembly April 29<sup>th</sup>

Please take a few minutes each week to read your issue of Sparks and stay current with your clubs activities.

*Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!*

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

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.



Attending the 2nd Annual Rotary Business Mixer at the San Gabriel Playhouse. (See article opposite). Pictured: President Doug Colliflower, PE Dawn Digrius Smith, Liz Kwong, Mark Mariscal

