



'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. McInally, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael L. Soden



February 8, 2024

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

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
Vocationa Servicel: Steve Kerekes
Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller
Youth Activities: Tony Hill
International Service: Sarah O'Brien



THIS WEEK: NO MEETING

**75th ANNIVERSARY
 GALA EVENT**

**Altadena Town and Country
 Club, Saturday Feb 10 @ 5.30pm**



**PLEASE NOTE
 START TIME: PLAN
 TO ARRIVE AND
 BE SIGNED IN BY
 5.30pm**

Free valet parking

Note: multiple events at ATCC so arrive early to avoid parking lines!

LAST WEEK: DR WEN CHEN

CHINA'S GLOBAL IMPACT

Review: Tom Polenzani



Our Club was pleased to hear from Dr Wen Chen once again. She is an impressive speaker, loaded with topical information. Just a few things to refresh her background: Wen came to the US from China in 1994 and earned her Ph.D. from Cal Tech in Biology. Over the years, she has given hundreds of

presentations to community organizations about Chinese culture, history, and society in addition to human rights and economical issues.

China is a powerful entity to deal with. China invests money in other countries to gain influence, eg. North Korea and Iran. There is concern that such investment facilitates the supply of weapons in conflicts such as Ukraine and Gaza.

Wen spoke about China's controversial human rights record. According to her:

- millions of Wegars have been displaced
- large numbers of outspoken students disappear
- the media is controlled by the government
- internet surveillance is total; if a person looks up a subject that is not allowed, the police show up at their door within a few hours

Business practises and surveillance are also under Wen's spotlight. Private companies must host and pay expenses for a Communist Party Chapter. This applies equally to foreign companies doing business in China. Using AI technology the Chinese government can monitor cell phones, getting information from TicTok and WeChat. Wen said that 50% of the US gets news from TicTok.

The Chinese also make among the best and cheapest security cameras and drones, and electric cars. They can get information through all of these products.



<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



The Confucius Institute from China is offered at no cost to US Universities; even schools like Stanford and UCLA. The Institute provides the Chinese slant on world events.

Wen believes that more Chinese citizens are questioning the government. She concluded that in the past 20 years, 425 million Chinese citizens have turned away from the Communist Party.

Wen Chen, Ph.D.

Public Speaker for Chinese Culture, History, and Human Rights

Phone: 626-389-7522

Blog: [Wen Chen's View](#)

Dressed to Kill at the Recent Chamber of Commerce Dinner!

Doug, Maggie, President Dawn and Mark



Don't forget your 40s and 50s costumes for Saturday!!

Note: there are two events so arrive early to avoid long lines at the FREE valet!

Dr Wen Chen (cont'd)

As promised for those attending the Rotary meeting last Thursday, information is below to attend another upcoming meeting talk by Wen Chen on the campus of CalTech.

Dear friends,

We sincerely invite you to celebrate the Lunar New Year with Caltech Women in Biology and Bioengineering! Our topic for this year is "Working Women in Ancient China" with light refreshments to bring in the new year.

Come join us in Chen 130 at Caltech or on Zoom (<https://caltech.zoom.us/j/83223693266>) on 2/8 from 2:30-3:30 pm. If you plan on attending in person, RSVP using this link: <https://events.caltech.edu/calendar/working-women-in-ancient-china>
-1.

In International News...
Congratulations to Dr Surendra at the Laligurash Community Hospital in Nepal.



Now a distinguished member of the Nepal Heart Foundation, part of the World Heart Foundation!