



## **'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

## **THIS WEEK: CHARLI TRANSUE, FILM MAKER**

**Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon**



Charli Transue is an Emmy Award Winning Segment Producer (NATAS Lower Great Lakes – Student Production 2015). She has a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media/Communications from The University of Akron and a minor in photography. She has worked in the film industry for over 8 years, as an associate producer, segment producer and production coordinator, working on all production types from

film, television, scripted, reality, music videos, and advertisements.

*"Ever since I was in diapers, I have been on a film set. My father, a now retired prop master, often brought me to set for either on or off camera work. I have gained a lot of art department experience with over 20 years of working with my father as a Prop Assistant, Property Master and Armourer. My experience and enjoyment of working on film and television projects sparked my love for film."*

In Charli's role as the Executive Producer and Project Director, she oversees all aspects of production incl. coordinating all logistics, budgets, and interviews.

*"I am willing to do whatever it takes to make a great production, on time and under budget. At ZTV, the motto was "Make Media, Make a Difference". It is a motto I carry with me as I pursue furthering my career. Let's make a difference!"*



**February 15, 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

**Vocational Service:** Steve Kerekes

**Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards:** Mike  
Zoeller

**Youth Activities:** Tony Hill

**International Service:** Sarah O'Brien

## LAST WEEK: "IT WAS A GAS!"

### 75th ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENT - Part I



Last Saturday was a spectacular night honoring 75 years of service by Altadena Rotarians, past and present! Club members were joined by family members and friends, community leaders and DG Mike Soden, who presented awards honoring major donors, outstanding years of service and more. Guests rose to the occasion, many in late 1940s and 1950s attire, dining in style with specially created center-pieces and decorated tables. Elegant live music by harpist Margaret Comer welcomed guests who later

danced the night away to music of the era, by DJ JC Lara, following dinner. A special presentation was a table of memorabilia from 75 years of the Club's activities, including photos, banners from visiting Rotarians from around the world, and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings.



Read more about the event in this week's President's message below and be sure to check out social media pages to see many photos from the event. Thank you to all who contributed photos, including Robert



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

### Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR

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



75th Gala Photos below, and more to follow next week!





Smith, Deb Halberstadt, Mark Mariscal, Sarah O'Brien and additional members.

Doug has added many photos to the **Dropbox folder: 75th Gala 2024**

[www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/u6vqg688hp4jfmuk27vob/h?rlkey=820ywb6pm3r2mrbmdw1m5rne7&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/u6vqg688hp4jfmuk27vob/h?rlkey=820ywb6pm3r2mrbmdw1m5rne7&dl=0)



Special thanks to the Gala Committee led by Doug Colliflower who created such a spectacular and memorable event: Mark Mariscal, Lisa Rickard, Maricela Viramontes and President Dawn.

To be continued next week...



Mike and Carol Zoeller were celebrated for their outstanding years of service and generous support of the Rotary Foundation, as major donors.





## MESSAGE FROM DAWN



Dear Friends,

I am so pleased to write to you this week - there is so much to be happy about! This past Saturday, we celebrated our 75th Anniversary as a club, with a full house of folks! The 75th Gala Celebration was held at the Altadena Town and Country Club. There were quite a few members in attendance, plus a lot of community members who came to wish us well and help us celebrate!

Our club, Mike and Carol Zoeller, the Mariscals and the Altadena Library were all recognized for their commitment to making a difference and the work that we do in Altadena for the community! Commendations were received by Senator Anthony Portantino, Supervisor Barger, and Assemblymember Chris Holden.

Our District Governor, Michael Soden and his wife drove all the way from Henderson, NV to celebrate with us; I cannot thank them both enough for taking the time to come all that way just to be with us. Michael's heartfelt comments were both authentic and moving. We have an amazing DG! Incoming District Governor, Gilda Moshir, was also in attendance; you may know her from the San Marino Club.



Above: DG Governor Mike Soden recognized and presented crystal to Mark and Paul Mariscal as major donors to the Rotary Foundation.

We recognized our original sponsor in 1949, the Rotary Club of Pasadena, with President Justene Adamec ringing our bell to officially start the program (the first time a member from Pasadena has rung our





bell since we were first chartered). A group from the Pasadena Rotary Club joined us to celebrate as well.

There were presentations and speeches and I asked our current and former members to stand and be recognized, as well as all past presidents of our club. I also spoke briefly about our support for various organizations in our community, but especially support for education and women business owners.

I asked all women entrepreneurs in the room to please stand and be recognized, and about 1/3 of the attendees did so. That was great to see! I shared with the attendees that in honor of Women's History Month each March, our club provides two grants to local business owners who are women, in the amount of \$1,000 each. Women who are either starting their business or have been in business for three years or less can apply. Once the application is submitted, a subcommittee reviews the entries and finalists are invited to give a short presentation at our meetings in March. We select from the finalists up to two recipients each year and present them with a check at a meeting in April.

We accept applications for this grant until February 29, 2024 so please share this with any woman you know who is planning to start their own business or has just started their own business and encourage them to apply!

The final part of the formal program included the announcement of a new vocational scholarship at PCC in Library Science, initiated by Mike and Carol Zoeller. Mark introduced the scholarship and Mike Zoeller committed an initial donation of \$5,000. With that, Mark opened the floor to others to donate to the scholarship fund, with over \$11,000 raised during the live auction!



Proceeds from the gala event will also be used to support this scholarship since we are deeply committed to supporting our public libraries and public libraries in general! A contingent from the Altadena Library came to our event, and Director Nikki Winslow (left), spoke about the library and was recognized for the Library's commitment to Altadena.





One of the best parts of the evening was the amount of guests who came up to me to share what a wonderful time they had and how great our club is!!! Brought both a smile and a tear to my eye!



Our DJ for the evening was Juan Carlos Lara (JC) who also handles the audio for our summer concerts. He closed out the evening with music selected from the decades to bring guests out of their chairs and onto the dance floor! One thing I learned, our members can dance!!! As your president, I was honored to emcee the evening and share in the celebration with you. If you were not able to make it, I do hope you will

review the photos being posted on our social media and grab one of the programs.

It was a memorable, fun, and encouraging evening and I want to take this time to thank our sponsors [see the program for the full list], our members, our guests, and especially Lisa Rickard, Maricela Viramontes, Maria Perez-Arton, her daughter Daniella, Doug Colliflower, and Mark Mariscal for their hard work putting the Gala together! The decorations, the memorabilia, the programs, the take-home gifts, the presentations, were all beautiful!

If you did not receive a commemorative scarf, ask Mark if there were any leftover!

All the best,

Dawn







*Gala Photos cont'd (and opposite)*