



## **'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



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



**February 22, 2024**

## **THIS WEEK: MR TIM C.**

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



Our speaker this week is Mr. Tim C. He will be sharing with us his background and experiences while serving as a volunteer for 7 years with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. As we know, in our local mountains, the Montrose, Altadena and Sierra Madre Teams ALL stay busy in

spring, summer and fall. But there are many rescues that take place in the winter also.

Tim stays busy in his professional career. At one point, he led the Ad business at Yahoo, He was a VP of Search at Overture and a consultant at The Boston Consulting Group and McKinsey. He has a BSc from London School of Economics, an MPhil from Oxford University and an MBA from Stanford University.

Tim is an avid runner and has finished the Angeles Crest 100-mile endurance race three times.

### **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: 'OUT OF THE ASHES WE WILL RISE' CHARLI TRANSUE, FILM MAKER

Review by Ed Jasnow



That is the title of the documentary being made by last week's speaker, producer Charli Transue, and her father, David Harsberger. Their home was destroyed in the horrific Bobcat Fire, and they are making a documentary film about their experience, as well as that of their neighbors, of surviving the fire and working to prevent another one.

The first part of the film covers preparation, evacuation, and loss. There are multiple interviews with FEMA staff and the California Emergency Office on how to prepare, improve communication, and the process of recovery and rebuilding. The discussion also centered on how forest fires happen and how they can be prevented.

Those being interviewed included residents who had lost their homes, government officials, and scientists studying the causes of forest fires and what can be done to prevent them.



The filmmakers talked about the need to engage the audience. They plan to show the film in an outdoor screen where everyone can attend.

The trailer they showed represented about 10% of the planned film, so there is a lot of work to do. In the meantime, they are working to rebuild their home.

The program was very timely and meaningful for those of us who live near tree covered mountains. (Pictured above: President Dawn with Charli and her father, David.)



<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



Club Guests:  
Roger Carlson and Sam Friske



## 75th Anniversary Gala Event - Part II

**Excerpts from the Event Program** By Doug Colliflower

### History

The new Altadena-North Pasadena Rotary Club received Charter No. 7183 on Monday, March 7, 1949 from the distinguished “world citizen” and honored guest from Australia, Rotary International President ANGUS S. MITCHELL at a banquet with an overflow crowd at the Altadena Town and Country Club. The club was chartered with 24 members. The Sponsor Club was the Pasadena Rotary Club (established in 1919). The East Pasadena Club (aka Pasadena Breakfast Club and Pasadena After-Hours Club was established in 1937) was one of 37 clubs represented at that dinner from around the world. Pasadena After Hours merged with our club in 2022.

The first 15 years are well documented in two booklets that will be made available to members before June. In there, stories and information on club projects, fundraising and fellowship will be found. During the first 15 years, the club had a “Matched Club” partnership with the Dremmen RC in Norway (founded in 1936) and then we matched with Vitoria Oeste RC, Brazil in 1959. This gave opportunities for rotary members to write or visit each other.

Almost from year one, the Altadena-North Pasadena Club, now known just as Altadena RC, jumped into supporting local and international projects. The club helped gather clothing, eyeglasses and funds for Korea during that first year. Of course, education-based projects were part of every year’s reports. During the first 20 years of becoming a club, we supported the Altadena Rose Parade Association. Altadena community had floats in the parade for 16 of the first 20 years. The club honored the Altadena Rose Parade Queen and her court up until 1969. Another long tradition that doesn’t exist any longer is an annual joint meeting with the local Kiwanis and other service clubs. The same held true with the club hosting the Boys and Girls Club and participate in National YMCA Day once a year. From the late 1950s through the 1980s, we supported the West Altadena Little League by sponsoring at least one team each season.

It was just around 1961 that the relationship, which was already established, enhanced working with the Pasadena City College Administration in providing awards for students. To this day, our relationship is strong. We currently provide more than \$12k in Scholarships to 20 students on average. And of course, our work with the public schools in Pasadena Unified School District is a club favorite for members. This includes the Teacher Mini-Grants, ROTC Scholarships at Blair, Scholarships at Muir, and Marshall Fundamental HS for graduating seniors and two Scholarships at Eliot Arts Magnet Academy. Not many rotary clubs give scholarship funds to 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates.

For more than 35 years starting in the early 1960s, we supported a few orphanages around Tijuana Mexico. This included not just with finances but collecting clothes, supplies, etc. and taking an annual trip for a weekend to

**More Gala Photos!**  
Special thanks to Deb  
Halberstadt and Robert Smith



deliver and participate in a service project. We even had included members from other clubs and the members' families. House of Hope or La Casa De Esperanza. The Altadena Old Fashioned Days Parade was one of the ways we recruited new members. Nothing like volunteering to make one proud of their community.

Over the years, many of our club members were active in other local organizations such as Altadena Heritage, Library District, Youth Organizations such as sporting, youth development, Outward Bound Adventures, Altadena Town Council, and Supporting Altadena Sheriff Station with Pancake Breakfast fundraisers for the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team. In 2017, the club took over from the Sheriff Support Group (SSGA) the responsibility of producing the Summer Concert Series in Farnsworth Park. That has become our club's signature project. The club raises funds for production but not many people know that we also generate funds that are returned directly to the park for program enhancements and to send funds to the Rotary Foundation in support of the End Polio Now campaign.

### **Altadena Rotary Serving the Community**

The Rotary Club of Altadena began serving Altadena immediately after being organized in 1949 by contributing to the Youth Health Development Project which began in 1945 in local schools. The club's second project was financial support for the performances of the Pent House Flyers group on June 14, 1949 in the amphitheater at Farnsworth Park. From there, the club helped with the Altadena Rose Parade Float, sponsored Little League teams, and for more than 14 years coordinated the Annual Rabies Shot Vaccination Clinics. The club also helped build the picnic area and supply water to the Echo Mountain Picnic area and was active for many years in the Altadena Old Fashioned Day Parade, and the Christmas Tree Lane Association Tree Lighting. The club has also provided Vocational Awards and Scholarship funds to students at Pasadena City College (PCC), ROTC Scholarships and Scholarships to graduating high school students in local public high schools, some of which stretch back 60 years.

Our active work really grew in 1997 when the club incorporated Altadena Rotary Charities (a 501C-3 Non-Public Benefit Corporation), after receiving an endowment from Altadena American Legion Post #470, which was followed by several additional endowments from the Post. Since 2001, we have spent more than \$1,385,000 on programs both locally and internationally. In broad categories, the club spent \$441,000 in Community Service projects, \$390,000 in International Projects, including more than 10 years of teaching in Nigeria, \$339,000 in Youth Activities, Contests and Awards, \$198,000 in Vocational Scholarships and awards and \$17,000 in other categories. The club is particularly proud of the Teacher-Mini Grants we have awarded for more than 30 years, and the scholarships awarded to students in the PUSD Public Schools for nearly 25 years. We are also very proud of our 60 years of awards and scholarships to students (and Veterans) at Pasadena City College.





Altadena Library District (ALD) Trustee Boon Lim (left to right), Assistant Director Ashley Watts, Director Nikki Winslow, Trustee Katie Clark, Trustee Kameelah Waheed Wilkerson, and Trustee Jason Capell.

