



'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: WENDY SILVA AND BENITA SCHECKEL

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club



Wendy Silva graduated from USC in 1993 with an emphasis in Real Estate Finance. She began her career working for different institutional investors managing and acquiring commercial retail real estate. In 2002, she shifted gears to concentrate on home loans. She enjoys being able to apply her extensive financial knowledge to provide a service that is thoughtful and honest to her clients so that they may make informed decisions. Wendy has resided in Altadena since 2010, with her husband, Gabriel

Silva, and their 3 children. Her true love language is an act of service, and she shows her love to Altadena in the many ways she serves; Cub Scout Pack 13, Altadena Chamber of Commerce, and Eliot Arts Annual Fund Chair. She will be speaking to the Rotary in her support of the Pasadena Unified School District and has invited the new principal of Altadena Eliot Arts Magnet to join her. Additionally, the Eliot PTSA is hosting a fundraiser by collecting donations of gently used shoes. Please bring what you can to support.



Benita Scheckel, Ed.D., serves as the Executive Principal of Altadena and Eliot Arts Magnet K-8 span school since 2021. Previously she served as Principal of Altadena Arts Magnet K-5 where she and her team successfully implemented the discrete and integrated rigorous arts and French DLIP curriculum. She is now excited to continue the work of articulating the programs between the two campuses by building the arts conservatory and French dual language program for our students in middle school.

To support this transformation, Eliot is one of three schools in the Pasadena Unified School District to be the recipient of a multi-million federal magnet grant! In 2020-21 she was named Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region XV. Prior to her position at Altadena Arts Magnet, Dr. Scheckel served as Assistant Principal of Marshall Fundamental Secondary School where she led the Academy for Creative Industries, the college and career pathway program. She was previously the K-8 curriculum resource teacher at McKinley School.

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

February is: Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution Month

Officers

President: Doug Colliflower
 626-524-4158

Vice President: Mark Mariscal

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

Club Admin: Dawn Digrius Smith

Membership: Maria Perez-Arton

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

From 2011-2015, Dr. Scheckel was coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme at Blair School and served on the team that brought the dual language immersion program to Blair. She began her teaching career at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) in 1999 and joined PUSD in 2007 as an English and Music teacher at Blair School. As a lead soprano in an opera touring company, Dr. Scheckel has sung internationally in several languages and performed in regional musical theater.

LAST WEEK: GABRIEL SILVA

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal Review: Steve Kerekes



This past Thursday we had the opportunity to hear Gabriel Silva, from the Pasadena Public Works Department, speak about the local challenges and opportunities in recycling. California disposed of approximately twenty-seven million tons of organic waste in 2017, the most recent year it was counted. Organic waste includes not just food, but also trimmings from landscaping and pruning, paper products, lumber manure, and sludge. The main challenges stem from a law that passed in California last year, SB 1383, which mandates a reduction in greenhouse gases from organic waste (mostly methane) and the anticipated closure in two years of Scholl Canyon Landfill which is where Pasadena

currently dumps its waste. Pasadena is also trying to increase its recycling infrastructure to accommodate the growing need for depositories to manage organic waste. This includes updating and electrifying the vehicles that pick it up and carry it, creating community composting hubs, and “recycling” edible food, which means getting it from places that have an excess to places that need the food.

Organic waste which is thrown out by a homeowner should be separated in the garbage cans. Once it is picked up, the organic waste is delivered to a “bio-slurry” which is like a digestion machine. The bio-slurry grinds up the organic waste and digests it until it becomes biogas, which is used or sold as methane, and biosolids, which are brought to a composting facility in Oxnard and then used as a soil amendment.

Pasadena is also setting up community composting hubs, which right now are only at Arlington Gardens and a condominium complex. However, they will be building eight more at parks throughout the area. Each one will be about twelve feet long and have a capacity to accommodate up to 75 households. The City will also provide a free home composter if you attend a seminar on composting. Pasadena also has a requirement that businesses of a certain size which produce organic waste must arrange for composting. This is called “commercial organics.” There are seven haulers who are certified and licensed by the City to haul such commercial organics.

In the edible food recovery program, Pasadena has established points of contact with all food “generators” who may have extra food. This includes supermarkets, restaurants, and schools. They also have contacts with entities that can distribute the food to those who may need it, through food banks, churches and community outreach organizations.



Independent Living, reimaged

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

Rotary Sponsored Events:

March 2023 Read at Families Forward

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

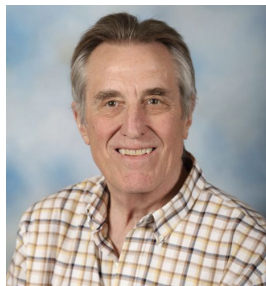
Honoring Congresswoman Judy Chu and Abel Ramirez

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Support our children and families

For information, [click here](#)
Or contact Liz Kwong at

Lastly, there is the challenge created by the anticipated closure of the Scholl Canyon landfill, where organic waste is currently dumped and composted. Other candidates are being scrutinized for use, including the Las Puente Material Recovery Facility (35 miles away), and Athens Services, a private garbage dispose company, which is developing a facility in Irwindale.



President's Piece

By President Doug Colliflower

Future Leadership In Place

It is my pleasure to announce that Maricela Viramontes is our President-Nominee and will serve as our President for the 2024 - 2025 Rotary year.

Maricela became a Rotarian in February of 2020

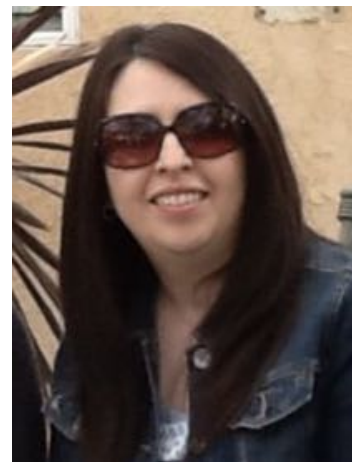
just before we shut down for COVID. In addition to her Rotary activities, Maricela serves on the Altadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served as the Chamber's Secretary from 2021 - 2022. Maricela owns a Farmers Insurance Agency here in Altadena and takes great pride in providing hands-on personalized service to all her clients so that they understand their insurance coverage options and purchase the appropriate policies. I have worked with Maricela and I am certain she will be a great leader for our club.

Our President-Elect Dawn Smith is busy preparing for her presidential term beginning on July 1, 2023. In addition to her duties as our President-Elect, Dawn recently attended **Southwest PETS**. PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) is a 3-day training event with over 300 President-Elects from the Southern California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Arizona regions. The classes primarily focus on idea sharing and planning for your Rotary year. The weekend includes inspirational speeches and a ton of great networking. I am confident Dawn will be well prepared!

My year thus far has been busy and rewarding, and I feel we have made progress on some of the items on my original "To Do" list. If you haven't visited our website www.altadenarotary.org recently, please do so. Mark Mariscal is becoming an accomplished webmaster and doing a very nice job with our site. On the social media front, Sarah O'Brien and Lacey @ Wellborn Media are instrumental to the progress we are making. You can find us at www.facebook.com/AltadenaRotary and www.instagram.com/altadenarotary. Please let us know what you think.

I am grateful to have strong leadership in place and that our future is bright.

Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!



President-Nominee

Maricela Viramontes

Black History Month Celebration at Farnsworth Park, supported by Altadena Rotary Club



CORRECTION: L-R Daniela & Maricela Viramontes, Maggie Cortez, MC Howard Smith, Alejandro Miranda, **Stephanie Spruill***, Mark Mariscal

- **Keynote Speaker**



@altadenarotary



altadenarotary