



**'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: JESSE PEYRONEL**

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club

Speaker Chair for March: Maria Perez-Arton



Born to Argentine and English parents, Jesse grew up in London, Buenos Aires, Madrid, and New York. Now based in Los Angeles, Jesse has written for such shows as *Dracula* (NBC), *Dig* (USA), and *Snatch* (Crackle). A graduate of NBC's Writers On The Verge mentorship program, Jesse has developed television series for ABC

Studios, Fox, Freeform, and the UK's Channel 4. After graduating from film school at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Jesse worked in advertising for clients including Coca-Cola, Nike, Stella Artois and LEGO, before writing and directing his first feature film *Siren*, which premiered at the Austin Film Festival in 2015.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1618437/>

**MARCH 02, 2023**

**March is: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 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**

# LAST WEEK: WENDY SILVA AND BENITA SCHECKEL: VISIONARIES IN EDUCATION

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal      Review: Maricela Viramontes



This past Thursday we had the opportunity to hear firstly from Benita Scheckel about her love for Altadena, the arts and education. Wendy is the Executive Principal of Altadena and Eliot Arts Magnet and is excited to continue the work of articulating the programs between the two campuses. Recently Eliot was one of three schools in the Pasadena Unified School District to be the recipient of a multi-million federal magnet grant. Plans include building a specialist arts conservatory with state of the art recording studio and band room, and creating a French

dual language program for the middle school students.

We also had the honor of listening to Wendy Silva. A mother of four, Wendy serves the community in many ways, along with her family. She is actively involved in Cub Scout Pack 13, Altadena Chamber of Commerce, and as Eliot Arts Annual Fund Chair. She is passionate about education and getting information out to all parents in the community. She is an advocate for the Pasadena Unified School District. Her goal is to have more kids enrolled with PUSD vs. private or charter education which do not always reflect the diversity of our community. She also coordinates the Twilight Tower Tour at Elliot Art Magnet and hopes to get more parents and public involved.

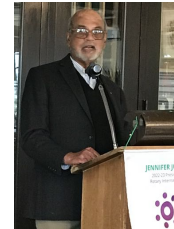


Wendy and Benita are looking for support from the community and local artists in Altadena as well as sponsorships to nurture a successful and thriving arts program.

<https://www.pusd.us/eliot>

<https://www.pusd.us/altadena>

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



Inspirational Thoughts by  
Prakash: *The Unique Opportunities We Have Through Rotary, to Help Others Near and Far*

## Garbis Der-Yeghian

Rotary  District 5300  
District 5330

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)



Wendy Silva and Benita Scheckel are presented with a check by President Doug, in support of the Eliot Arts Annual Fund Program and the "Visit The Tower" program.

## Rotary Sponsored Events

Submitted by Craig Cox  
Additional details at DacDB

- 3/7 Prep Bags for Families Forward
- 3/14 & 3/15 Read at Families Forward
- 3/21 Sandwiches for Shower of Hope
- 4/19 Serve Lunch for Pasadena Village (Farnsworth Park)
- 4/25 Sandwiches for Shower of Hope
- 4/29 Pancake Breakfast Event
- 5/4 - Mini Grant presentations to teachers (at regular Club Meeting)
- 5/13 Habitat for Humanity Build
- 5/23 Sandwiches for Shower of Hope
- 5/27 Set Up Flags on Lake Ave
- 6/27 Sandwiches for Shower of Hope



### President's Piece

By President Doug Colliflower

#### Conflict In Ukraine

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the conflict in Ukraine, I want to take a moment to reflect on the impact this has had on our global community.

The war in Ukraine has resulted in the loss of countless lives and has left many families displaced and struggling to rebuild their homes and communities. Despite these challenges, I am grateful for the efforts of our Rotary family and other organizations who work tirelessly to provide relief and support to those affected by the conflict.

Over the past year, Rotary has worked to provide essential resources and support to individuals and families in Ukraine, affected by this tragedy. The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than 300 disaster response grants, totaling nearly US\$15 million, to help people affected by the war. More than 270 districts have sponsored grants. That's more than half of all districts.

As we look to the future, it is important to remember that our work is not done. The impact of this conflict will continue to be felt for years to come, and it is up to us to continue to support those in need. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of those impacted by the war in Ukraine and help to create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Rotary's mission.

**Yours in Rotary, see you Thursday!**



**'Daisy' - Rotarian of the future!**

Grand-daughter of Mark and Paula Mariscal