



**'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

**THIS WEEK: The 4-Way Speech Competition**

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

Our program this week is the District 5300's 4-Way Speech Competition. Our club will be hosting three local High School students who will compete to represent the Altadena Rotary Club at the Group Level competition scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th. On February 28th, club members Roger McKee, Liz Kwong and Mark Mariscal conducted the preliminary round of interviews at the Families Forward Learning Center. From there, our three students were selected.

Following the group level, there is one additional round called "region level". The winning student at the region level will then be invited to compete in the finals that are scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 18th at noon at the Sheraton Complex on the grounds of the Pomina Fairplex. The ultimate winner receives a \$5,000 scholarship.

***Not to be missed - invite a guest!***



**International Women's Day  
March 8th, 2024**

#InspireInclusion  
#IWD2024

D.Vance Graphics  
**March 07, 2024**

**MARCH IS WATER, HYGIENE AND  
SANITATION 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**

## LAST WEEK: State of the Adult and Juvenile Justice System by Kathryn Barger, Supervisor 5<sup>th</sup> District, County of Los Angeles

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal Program Write Up: Doug Colliflower



Supervisor Kathryn Barger was our guest last week and delivered a very noteworthy talk, shedding light on the multifaceted role of Los Angeles County in the justice system. Highlighting the county's unique setup with an elected Sheriff and District Attorney, Supervisor Barger emphasized the significance of various appointed leaders within departments crucial to criminal proceedings.

One area of focus was the juvenile justice system, where the County faces challenges regarding the condition of juvenile halls. The Board of State and Community Corrections recently deemed these facilities unsuitable, prompting urgent action from the Probation Department to bring them into compliance or find alternative solutions. Supervisor Barger underscored the importance of addressing longstanding issues within these facilities, advocating for improved programming and upgrades to meet the needs of justice-involved youth.

In response to these challenges, Supervisor Barger initiated efforts to reimagine the Barry J. Nidorf juvenile hall, aiming to enhance services and rehabilitative opportunities for youth. Despite facing obstacles, including the need for consistent programming and contraband prevention, the County remains committed to ensuring that youth leave these facilities better than they entered.

Furthermore, Supervisor Barger highlighted innovative approaches to juvenile justice, including the establishment of the Department of Youth Development (DYD) and collaboration with non-profit organizations to provide mentorship and diversion programs. By leveraging the expertise of credible messengers with lived experiences, the County strives to offer holistic support to youth in the justice system.

Shifting focus to the adult system, Supervisor Barger emphasized the importance of striking a balance between diversion programs and humane incarceration for those in need. Acknowledging the need to address mental health issues among inmates, Supervisor Barger outlined plans to create a secure facility dedicated to providing mental health services to justice-involved individuals.



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



Presentation of 75th Anniversary scarf to Supervisor Kathryn Barger!



Craig Sloane becomes a Paul Harris Fellow!

### Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR

March 7- Four Way Speech Contest

March 13 & 14 - Families Forward Reading Days

March 14- Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party



Additionally, Supervisor Barger discussed the significant reduction in the jail population over the past year, attributed to initiatives aimed at diverting inmates to state facilities and investing in community-based mental health beds. Despite these strides, challenges remain in bringing these beds online and addressing the needs of inmates with severe mental illness.

In conclusion, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's talk underscored the County's commitment to reforming the justice system, with a focus on rehabilitation, diversion, and addressing the complex needs of justice-involved individuals. Through collaborative efforts and innovative approaches, the County aims to create safer communities and support the successful reintegration of individuals into society

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## MESSAGE FROM DAWN



Dear Friends,

March is Women's History Month and Friday, March 8, 2024 is International Women's Day. In the United States, 42% of all businesses are owned by women, or 13 million as of January 24, 2024. California ranks 2nd in the nation with the highest percentage of women-owned businesses, just under Hawaii. We are fortunate that there is good support for women entrepreneurs in our area, but there is always

more work to be done. A few years ago, David Smith and I worked to create a program to provide seed funding to emerging women entrepreneurs in Altadena who have been in business for 3 years or less, or are contemplating starting a business. Each grant is \$1000, so a total of \$2000 a year is available for support.

As a woman business owner myself, I know how much this funding can make a difference! We have given out three of these grants thus far, to a wide range of businesses. Applications are now open, with a deadline for submission of March 31, 2024. If you know of any woman who has a business that would benefit from our support and meets the criteria, please have them apply. The application link will be included in the next few Sparks editions, please share! I am also looking for 2-3 people who would be willing to serve on the subcommittee, reviewing the applications and selecting the recipients. Let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

## Please Register for Families Forward Reading Days on March 13 & 14

By Craig Cox

The Rotary Club of Altadena will be reading to the 3 and 4 year olds attending the Families Forward Learning Center.

We will have eight slots (AM - 9:30; 9:45; 10:00; 10:15 and PM - 2:00; 2:15; 2:30; 2:45) on March 13.

We will have four slots (PM - 2:00; 2:15; 2:30; 2:45) on March 14.

Members who wish to read should sign up for one of the available slots. You will be reading for about 10 - 12 minutes.

We will also be distributing bags of items to the children which will include books in English and Spanish, crayons, chalk, coloring books, and other educational items.

Please go to DacDB, Login, select the My Club tab, go the calendar icon and sign up for the available slots.



<https://www.familiesforwardlc.org/>



**Rotarians helping out at the 'Friends of the Altadena Library' book sale last Sunday**



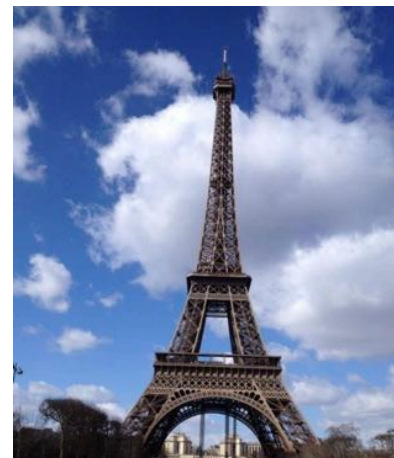
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kGaNb28ppMDgIqQLi768bm2Y5zEBJXF9/view?usp=sharing>

March is also the month of celebrations: St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, Easter on the 31st, and the beginning of Spring (March 19th). I always think of March as the month I visited Paris for the first time as a tourist with a colleague from Stevens Institute of Technology (all prior trips were for research and I spent 99% of the time in libraries and archives). Opposite are photos I took at the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. I LOVE Paris...especially in springtime.



Take this spring to engage in some activities that benefit our community. Service Above Self is the best way to make a difference!

Dawn



Rotary International celebrates International Women's Day 2024: 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress'

Stephanie Urchick, President of Rotary International for 2024-25, left, and Jennifer Jones, President in 2022-23



[rotary.org](http://rotary.org)

Rotary International is sponsoring "Empowering and Elevating Women in the Workplace", on Friday, March 8, 2024, 9:00 am PST (60 min) open to anybody interested as well as Rotary members.

The discussion will focus on the importance of not only including but being a champion of women in leadership – in the workplace and beyond. We will discuss the importance of identifying leaders early, establishing mentorship and sponsorship programs, and what it means to be a good ally. We'll also announce and celebrate the recipient of the 2023-24 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award.