



'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**



D.Vance Graphics
March 14, 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

Vocational Service: Steve Kerekes

Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike

Zoeller

Youth Activities: Tony Hill

International Service: Sarah O'Brien

**THIS WEEK: DAN STOVER MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST**

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon



Dan Stover and Kay

Dan Stover Memorial Music Contest

The Rotary Club of Alhambra, in the year following the death of Dan Stover, established a Music Scholarship Program in his name. The program was proposed, organized, and championed by a new Rotarian, Christine Montan, who was Alhambra's first woman Rotarian. Ms. Montan recognized and appreciated the contribution that Dan Stover had made as a Rotarian, musician and person. From these beginnings, the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship program, "graduated" into a District program. A generation of talented, young musicians have participated and had the opportunity, in the name of Dan Stover, to compete against their peers and earn funds to further their musical education with the scholarship awards.

Join us this week to hear local instrumentalists compete in the first Club Round! Our performances will include music played on violin, piano, alto saxophone and accordion. Professional judges include Peter Jacobson and Delia Park Camp.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: we start promptly at noon!!!

LAST WEEK: The 4-Way Speech Competition

Program Chair: Roger McKee

Review: Sarah O'Brien



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



Sarah with guest, Sachin!

Our program last week was the District 5300's 4-Way Speech Competition. Our club hosted three local High School students who competed to represent the Altadena Rotary Club at the group level competition scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th. 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.



Program Chair Roger McKee



First to speak was: **Isaac Graham**, a student at Pasadena High School, 11th Grade. Isaac gave a passionate speech about the implications of 'cancel culture' in society today, and the public scapegoating that can result. He argued that the values presented by the 4-Way Test are certainly threatened, especially if current trends are allowed to persist and people blindly follow the blame games that seem to fill our news and media outlets.

Altadena Rotary Events

March 13/14 - Families Forward Reading

March 14- Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party



Next to speak was **London Gray** from Pasadena High School, 10th Grade. London gave a compelling talk about the issue of missing black women and women of color, whose disappearances are not accounted for to the same extent as white women. She presented statistics, personal experiences and held up the 4-way test as a measure of the disparity faced by black girls, women and their families, when crimes are committed.



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/>



Jacob Metcalf was our third contestant. Jacob attends Aveson Global Leadership Academy, 12th Grade. Jacob wore his Liverpool football team (soccer) scarf and immediately engaged the audience with discussing how the matches and championships have impacted him over the years, and how the sport stands up to the 4-way test. He addressed issues of education, outreach, corruption and leadership and

emphasised that there is a lot going on behind the scenes of the 'Beautiful Game' that we should not ignore.

All students were well-prepared and spoke eloquently about their chosen subjects, giving us plenty to think about! London will advance to the next round and Jacob will compete as runner up if she is unavailable.



(Four Way Test Speech Contest cont'd) Following the group level contest, 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL! Thanks to Roger McKee for organising this year's contest, and also to Ruben and Monte Cedro for sponsoring our guest hospitality. All who participated received a gift certificate presented by President Dawn.

ARTICLE: Duarte Students revisit how Rotary Club defied status quo and changed law: kicked out for admitting women in '78, school group won Supreme Court case.

BY ANISSA RIVERA CORRESPONDENT

Printed in the Pasadena Star-News on March 11, 2024

It's a story Diya Shah Patel heard growing up, but not in such living color. The Duarte High School senior knew the key points: how the Duarte Rotary Club was kicked out of Rotary in 1978 for admitting women as members, how the group fought the ruling for nine years before winning its case at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987. Shah Patel was among the students who revisited the storied chapter in their city's history as part of International Women's Day on Friday. She is also president of Duarte High's Rotary sponsored Interact Club. "I probably wouldn't be able to do this without the women who came before, and I want them to know we will continue to fight for equal rights," she said.

Duarte Article (cont'd)

Wilson and fellow Rotarians Rosie Mares of Arcadia, Sheila Gutierrez of Glendora and Marilyn Diaz of Sierra Madre told the crowd the club's "Service Above Self" ethos has become a pillar in their lives. Marilyn Diaz spent 32 years at the Pasadena Police Department, retiring as commander, before serving as police chief for the city of Sierra Madre from 2006-2011. She recently returned from a Rotary medical mission helping deliver reconstructive surgery to children with cleft lips, burn scars and other deformities. "Rotary has changed my world, and I'm so grateful for it," Diaz said. Donna Georgino joined the "Ex-Rotary Club of Duarte" one year before the group was reinstated. "I don't think I could have ever imagined how far-reaching it was, how breaking down gender barriers created a better environment for women to live their dream," she said. Sylvia Whitlock, the first woman to serve as president of a Rotary Club, said her groundbreaking role wasn't obvious to her when she was elected to lead the Duarte Rotary in 1987. "I never had a clue that I would be spending the rest of my life serving the community by being a Rotarian," Whitlock said. "It's been a character of my life." Whitlock embraced the characterization of Duarte Rotary Club as "the mouse that roared," including it in the group's banner. Rosa Holguin will be inducted as the Duarte club's president in July. Today, she is one of about 400,000 women among Rotary's roster of 1.4 million members worldwide. "We are proud of our story," Holguin said.

John Fasana, president of Duarte Rotary, organized the event at Duarte Performing Arts Center to remind students history was made in Duarte. "This is a story our kids need to know, to remember history was made here in our own community," he said. "For the students, it was kind of a revelation."

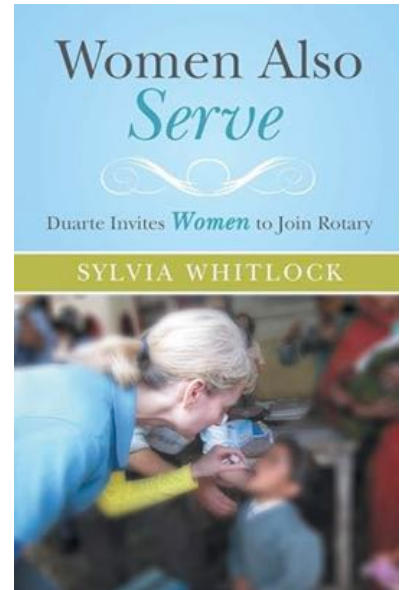
Government class students from Duarte High School reenacted key arguments in the case that ended gender discrimination against women in Rotary and all other service clubs in the country. Four women from local Rotary Clubs also spoke about how the service organization influenced their lives. Teacher Jim Lynch spent months with students in his AP government and economics classes arguing both sides and watching newscasts from major television networks reporting on the case. "It presented them with a good opportunity to learn that Duarte made a significant impact, not only in American history, but also in the women's rights movement," Lynch said.

Women were just getting into the workforce in the 1970s when then-Duarte Rotary President Richard Key invited three women to join the group. "It was just a tiny little club that took on the big boys," said Mary Barrow Somerlett, who has researched and documented the case. "I'm proud of my little city. Duarte started something and changed it throughout the nation." Mary Wilson of Duarte joined the Pasadena Rotary Club a year after the landmark 7-0 ruling. "The men were mostly welcoming and plenty curious," she said. "But what sold them was when we picked up some of the work they were doing." Wilson said the service club has given her enriching friendships and mentors. "To be part of something enormous, (from ending gender bias) to eradicating polio, is what keeps me in Rotary," she said. *(Cont'd previous page, side column)*

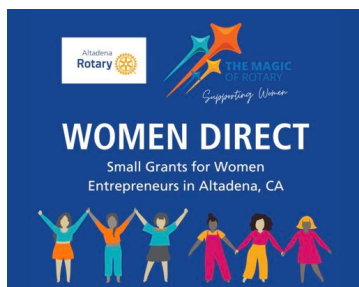


**First woman Rotary President
Sylvia Whitlock**

(Image from The World / Amanda Linares 2020)



A must-read for ALL ROTARIANS!
(available on Amazon)



For Women's History Month, Altadena Rotary Club is excited to launch "Women Direct" - a small grants initiative designed to empower local women entrepreneurs. If you're in the early stages of building your dream or have been nurturing it for three years or less, this opportunity is for you! The Opportunity: \$1,000 grant for general operating expenses to fuel your start-up or newly established business journey.

Women entrepreneurs in the process of establishing a small business and women who have been in business for three years or less may apply here:

<https://drive.google.com/.../1kGaNb28ppMDgIQLi768bm.../view>



Students at Laligurash School in Nepal (supported by Altadena Rotary), also held speeches last week. More to follow!