



'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



D.Vance Graphics
April 04, 2024

THIS WEEK: JENNIFER HALL LEE

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon

Speaker Chair: Craig Cox



Jennifer Hall Lee is the Vice President of the Pasadena Unified Board of Trustees. She is an unwavering advocate of public schools. She is presenting her Willowbrook stories for the advocacy of inclusive practices in public education and in the PUSD. Her background is in visual effects for feature films and independent

filmmaking and has worked on films such as Forrest Gump, Back to the Future 2, and Pirates of the Caribbean among many others.

An independent film she created brought her around the world including Pakistan and she now speaks publicly about women's rights. She was awarded a Fulbright, but due to circumstances could not travel to Pakistan. An independent donor thankfully stepped in and Jennifer spent five weeks in Pakistan in 2023 interviewing women about feminism and patriarchy that culminated in a visual exhibit at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. This show will be in Pasadena this summer. She is the co-creator of the Pasadena Unified Women's History Month Assembly which focuses on the US women's liberation movement and women's rights globally.

**APRIL IS:
 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH**

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Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller
Youth Activities: Tony Hill
International Service: Sarah O'Brien

LAST WEEK: ELLEN SNORTLAND 'BEAUTY BITES BEAST'

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal

Review: Ed Jasnow



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



Speaker Ellen, with husband John.

That's the name of the documentary film that our speaker, Ellen Snortland, has produced. It is a part of her campaign to help women defend themselves. She used Rotary as an example of the struggle women have had for equality. In 1972, the Rotary Club of Manhattan proposed allowing women into Rotary. They were laughed out of the room. In 1989, the Rotary Club of Duarte won a case that allowed women into Rotary, and the organization has been much the better for it.

What started Ellen on her quest to help women defend themselves was her encounter with a burglar at her MacArthur home in 1992. Her husband told her to stay in her car, but she decided that a woman should be brave enough to support her husband. So she got out of the car and ran into the burglar as he was leaving. He had a knife that he was going to use, when she let out an enormous scream.

The burglar was so startled he dropped the knife, covered his ears, and ran away!

When Ellen asked the members of her staff if they felt they could defend themselves from an attack, 100% of the men said yes, and 100% of the women said no. Ellen discovered that there were no books on self defense for women, so she wrote one.



Is anyone happy? Roger is!
With Lisa collecting Happy Bucks!

Altadena Rotary Events

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party

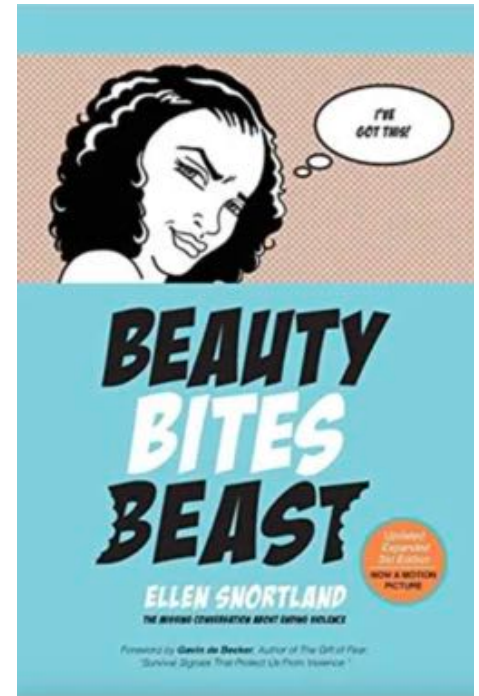




She then showed the trailer for her documentary, “Beauty Bites Beast.” It teaches women how to defend themselves, and where to go to get training. It promotes what she calls “security hygiene.”

She discussed the difference between how boys and girls are raised. A boy can say “no” to a hug from a relative, but a girl who says “no” is often shamed into accepting the hug. This is wrong. It is a fundamental right to say “no.”

Then, she and her husband played the “no game,” shouting “no” at each other and escalating the volume and intensity of the exchange. Ellen’s talk was very eye-opening, and we all realized the different expectations of self defense between men and women.



Update on 4-Way Speech Contest

By Roger McKee



On Wednesday, March 27th, 11th grader London Gray from Pasadena High School represented the Altadena Rotary Club at the Group Level in the Speech Contest. She had been selected during our Club Level

Competition on March 7th. She was up against two very talented young ladies that represented the San Marino (Sarah) and Pasadena (Paulina) Rotary Clubs.

The winner, Paulina McConnell, also in 11th grade attends Pasadena High School. She will be representing the Pasadena Rotary Club at the Region Level competition on April 20th in Montebello.



Ed Jasnow presenting the Inspirational Moment.



Guest: Isabel O'Brien, organising the badges after ringing the bell.