



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

THIS WEEK: Altadena Rotary PCC Veterans Scholarships

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon

Speaker Chair: Craig Cox

The Altadena American Legion Post, when it disbanded, created through Altadena Rotary Charities an endowment to provide scholarships to Pasadena City College students who were veterans to help them on their educational journey. Working with the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) this year we will be providing four \$1500 scholarships.

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
Brad Roeber

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



Invite a guest - this is always a wonderful program!

This week meet you will be able to meet our four scholarship recipients along with three of the staff from the Veterans Resource Center.

Our four recipients are:

Saul Diaz served in the US Army as a cannon crewmember from August 2015 to August 2021, with deployments in Iraq and Syria. While stationed in Iraq, Saul demonstrated remarkable composure and empathy during a harrowing encounter with a suicide bomber, a moment that crystallized his aspiration for education. This scholarship not only relieves some of Saul's financial pressures but also stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication and resilience forged through his service to the nation. With a commendable GPA of 3.84, Saul is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts in Engineering Technology, with plans to transition to a Bachelor's in Computer Science.

Manuelita "Denny" Sanchez proudly served in the US Navy as an Operations Specialist from June 2013 to July 2021. Inspired by the distinguished military legacy of her paternal grandfather, who served in the Marine Corps, and the revered Navajo Code Talkers within the Marines, she felt a deep sense of duty to follow in their footsteps. Despite this, her innate desire to explore the world led her to enlist in the Navy. Throughout her service, she completed two deployments in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve. Following her initial enlistment, she chose to reenlist and took on the role of Navy Recruiter for Navy Recruiter District San Diego, based in Rancho Cucamonga. Currently, she is diligently pursuing an Associate's degree in Business Administration, will transfer to Cal Poly Pomona in Fall 2024. With a commendable GPA of 3.39, Manuelita is poised to continue her academic journey with the same dedication and passion that characterized her military service.

Yuan Wenjue – Mr. Wenjue is a motivated student with a 4.00 GPA. His career goal is to become a doctor. He is working on finishing his pre-med requirements before he applies to medical school. He dreams of becoming a doctor to provide the best health care services. Mr. Wenjue served 4 years in the U.S. Army as a combat medic. He was drawn to the medical field with the desire to help others. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Hero of the Month, and many others.

LeChristopher Williams - Mr. Williams served in the U.S. Navy as a Boatswain's Mate for 4 years where he honed his leadership skills and learned the importance of teamwork. While serving in the Navy, Mr. Williams learned the importance of integrity, perseverance, and resilience in the face of adversity. During his time at Pasadena City College, he has maintained a GPA of 3.8. He's confident that he can leverage his military background to achieve academic excellence and make a positive impact in his post-military career.

LAST WEEK: RIGO GARCIA

Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California (HFSC)

Speaker Chair: Craig Cox

Review: Brad Roeber



We were joined this week by a fellow who has been the Executive Director of the Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California for the past two years. Rigo has spent his career in health care but indicated that he has really found a home at the Hemophilia Foundation, where he leads a "small but mighty" team to tackle many uses that arise for families that have a member with this blood disorder.



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

Altadena Grocery Outlet is Proud to Host

The Semi-Annual Pancake Breakfast
 Benefits Altadena Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT),
 Altadena Town Council (ATC), and Outward Bound Adventures

GROCERY OUTLET
 Bargain Market

Saturday, June 1, 2024 • 8:00-10:30 am

Here or To-Go Tickets \$5.00
 Tickets available at Sheriff Station, El Patron
 Restaurant, Grocery Outlet or altadenarotary.org
 Sheriff Station (626) 798-1131

Proceeds benefit AMRT, ATC, and Outward Bound Adventures | Sponsored By - Rotary

Pancake Breakfast!

Tickets are now available for our June 1 Pancake Breakfast at El Patron and Grocery Outlet. Please invite friends, family and neighbors!

The event benefits Outward Bound Adventures, Altadena Town Council and of course, our terrific Altadena Mountain Rescue Team.

Altadena Rotary Projects and Events Calendar

Craig Cox

- May 5 - Staff Rotary Booth at the Altadena Guild Home & Garden Tour
- May 25 - Put up Flags for Memorial Day through Independence Day
- June 1 - Pancake Breakfast at Grocery Outlet
- June 29 - Melodia Mariposa Concert
- July 6 - Take down Flags on Lake Avenue
- July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24 - Summer Concerts
- August 31 - Melodia Mariposa Concert
- September 7 - SSGA Concert

To register for any event go to DacDB, Login, elect the My Club, tab, go the the Calendar icon, and go to the date. (Concert signups should be up by May 1st)

Cont'd: The Foundation was founded 70 years ago by a group of Pasadena families who united to support their children with the “Bleeding Disorder for Boys” as it was titled at the time. The disorder affects both genders and the Foundation strives to provide multiple ways to support the families who face it together. We learned that Hemophilia is not about “bleeding to death” but, rather, about bleeding that occurs internally, usually in joints, where it eats up the cartilage and leads to issues with mobility. Rigo informed us that Hemophilia is now very manageable due to the drugs that have been created to improve the blood’s ability to coagulate. The average person has over 80% coagulation capability, while hemophiliacs coagulate at a rate of 30% or less. Some hemophiliacs are barely able to coagulate at all, and this leads to the need for infusions of the drug, “Factor” 3 times each week! We also were told that new gene therapy is currently being developed that may obviate the need for other medications in the future.

It was fascinating to learn that there are 3,600 hemophiliacs in southern California that are served by Rigo and the Foundation. It is one of the two largest groups of this nature in the United States. It is such a vibrant group that they have added 150 new members in the last year alone. All those present learned much about this relatively rare disease and were grateful for the opportunity to hear Rigo’s message.



Upcoming meeting info and events (save the dates!)

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships
May 16 - PUSD Scholarships
June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party



Pasadena Village Volunteers

(Cont'd): When the program started, the Pasadena Village's Executive Director, Katie Brandon, thanked the club for supporting this program for the second year in a row. After a few of the volunteers were recognized, our Club President Dawn Smith shared some background of what Rotary does throughout our community. She then invited Bridget Brewster, who was there to be recognized by the Pasadena Village to come forward. What she did not know was that our club had ordered a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition Award for all of her work in and around the community and her assistance with Rotary programs such as the Pancake Breakfast, the Summer Concert Series and helping greet guests at some of our weekly club meetings.

Congrats and thank you, Bridget!!



Altadena Rotary Club Supports Pasadena Village Volunteers



On Wednesday, April 17th, our club hosted the volunteers of Pasadena Village at the Davies Building in Farnsworth Park. Our club was the sponsor of the luncheon in conjunction with the County Parks and Recreation Department. More than 60 local Older Americans were recognized for providing

services in conjunction with Pasadena Village. The food was purchased from Stone Fire Grill and served up by club members Craig Cox, Doug Colliflower, Maricela Viramontes, Mark Mariscal, Brad Roeber. There was plenty of tri-tip, lemon chicken, pasta and salads to go around!

Rotary Club members who are also volunteers with Pasadena Village are: **Tom Polenzani, Prakash Shrivastava, and Doug Colliflower.**