



'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**

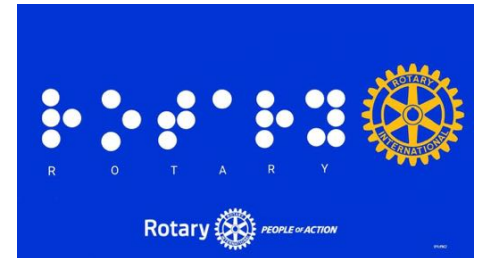
Rotary Club of Altadena - #772

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

May 25, 2024

MAY IS: YOUTH SERVICE 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

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

Vocationa Servicel: Steve Kerekes

Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike
Zoeller

Youth Activities: Tony Hill

International Service: Sarah O'Brien

THIS WEEK: TODD BARBER

Senior JPL Propulsion Engineer

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon

Program Chair: Ed Jasnow



Todd Barber is a JPL senior propulsion engineer, spending two decades as lead propulsion engineer on the Cassini mission to Saturn, following part-time work on the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, Deep Impact mission, and the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission, which landed the large rover Curiosity on the red planet on August 5th, 2012.

Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997 on

its two-billion-mile, seven-year journey to the ringed planet. It "took the plunge" into Saturn's atmosphere in 2017 after thirteen years in orbit around Saturn. The MER team launched twin rovers to the red planet in June and July of 2003, and Spirit and Opportunity lasted six years and fourteen years, respectively, into their three-month missions. Todd also worked as the lead impactor propulsion engineer on Deep Impact, which successfully crashed into Comet Tempel-1 on Independence Day, 2005, at twenty-three-thousand miles per hour. Todd recently completed working on the Dawn mission, an ion propulsion mission to the two largest main-belt asteroids, Vesta and Ceres. He also recently began supporting the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission and was the Mars2020 propulsion lead engineer for operations. Much to Todd's delight, he is now supporting the Voyager mission as well, more than forty years after launch.

Mr. Barber worked on the Galileo project for over seven years and his primary responsibility was getting Galileo into Jupiter orbit on December 7, 1995. Todd also worked part-time on the Space Infra-Red Telescope Facility (SIRTF) mission and on the Stardust mission, as well as the Mars Sample Return mission and a Mars airplane study. Todd received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Award in 1996 for his work on Galileo. In 2018, Mr. Barber was also honored to receive NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medal for heading up Cassini's propulsion team for nearly two decades.

Mr. Barber is a native of Wichita, Kansas, and attended MIT between 1984 and 1990, obtaining B.S. and M.S. degrees in aerospace engineering, with a humanities concentration in music. He is also a composer of church choral music, with two pieces published to date. His hobbies include singing charitably and professionally, playing the piano, snagging degree confluences (exact integer latitude/longitude intersections), visiting all the U.S. tri-state corners and national parks, playing basketball (though it's been a while), and amateur astronomy.

LAST WEEK: PUSD SCHOOLS

Student Scholarships Program

Program Chair: Mark Mariscal Review: Steve Kerekes Photos: Mark Mariscal



The Color Guard Students of Blair included 5 scholarship winners!

This past week, our Club gave scholarships to students at four local schools - Muir High School, Blair High School, Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, and Elliot Arts Magnet (middle school). The luncheon was sponsored by the Montecedro Retirement Community, and was arranged by our own Ruben Alvarado who is their director of Sales and Marketing. In all, fifteen students were recognized, along with the principals and administrators who accompanied them. \$13,000



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

AWARD DETAILS

Muir High School \$1,000 each student

Nicholas Grover
Belinda Martinez
Zackery Parkins
Victor Saldana

Marshall Fundamental School \$1,000 each student

Alejandro Leyva
Kassandra Briones
Jaime Lugo
Anthony Duenez

Blair ROTC

Javier Rodriguez Salinas -
\$1,250
Charles Hutts - \$1,250
Destiny Rayburn - \$1,250

Arlington Pacheco - \$200
Damaris Escudero - \$200

Eliot Arts Magnet Academy \$500 each student

Logan Dewey - Check payable
to Anna Marie Dewey
Yasmin Gaida - Check payable
to Margaret Gaida



in scholarships was handed out at this luncheon. President Dawn noted that over the last twenty years, our club had handed out about \$400,000 in scholarships. The luncheon commenced with a color guard that was provided courtesy of the Blair High School ROTC and led by Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Instructor Ms. Betsy Cuevas.

Two local officials made some introductory remarks -- Jennifer Hall Lee, a director on the Board of the PUSD and a former member of our Club, as well as Victoria Knapp, the Chairwoman of the Altadena City Council.

The first students to receive their scholarships were from Elliot Arts Academy. Two students were recognized from the school. They were introduced by their counselor, Jody Simmons, as follows:



- Yasmin Gaida – she is the eighth grade president and has acted in numerous theatrical productions at Elliot, including Jungle Book Usher, Peter Pan and Midsummer's Night Dream. She is also on the girls' soccer team. Yasmin will be going to Muir High School this Fall.
- Logan Dewey – he is a 5th grade student. He was described by his counselor as polite, kind, and a great performer in the school's theatrical productions. He has also maintained a high level of academic performance. He will be going to the California School of the Arts – Duarte in the Fall and will be enrolled in the Acting Conservatory there.



The next up was Blair High School. The spokesperson was Sergeant Betsy Cuevas. She introduced the Blair students, three of whom were also in the ROTC and were on the color guard that day, as follows:

- Javier Rodriguez Salinas – he is a runner in the track and field program and a diligent student. Javier has spent all his four years at Blair as a member of the ROTC.
- Charles Hutts, who is also a runner and has spent all four years in the ROTC, Charles also has helped with ROTC affairs outside of school hours when needed.



Thanks to Ruben Alvarado and Montecedro for sponsoring the luncheon.



Mark Mariscal, program chair.

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
Pancake Breakfast

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) 788-1131

Donate through PayPal or Venmo, note it is for Pancake Breakfast, and tickets will be held at door.

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 Altadena Mountain Rescue Team.



- Destiny Rayburn – she has been a very exemplary cadet during her four years in ROTC at Blair and is a member of the girls basketball team.
- Two other students were not able to be present but were mentioned and will receive scholarships: Arlington Pacheco and Damaris Escudero.



Dana Moore, the Assistant Principal at Muir High School, was the next to speak and introduce the students who received scholarships. She explained that several of the students could not attend because they were taking AP tests that day,

but described her students in this order:

- Nico Glover – he is the drum line leader at the school and was this year's winner at the San Gabriel Valley Young Musician's Competition. He is a jazz musician studying at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music and has already been accepted into two top colleges. He hopes to be able to join the FBI one day.
- Belinda Martinez – she is in the Arts and Media Academy at Muir and a member of the Interact Club. She has accumulated over 200 hours of community service and will be the first in her family to attend college.
- Zackery Parkins – He is in the Business Academy and has already accumulated enough college credit through the PCC early college credit program to earn his AA degree. He will be majoring in either Economics or Finance in college and would like to become a financial planner.
- Victor Saldana – He is on the basketball team and is the President of the Latin American Club. Victor has acquired 35 college credits on the PCC early college credit program.



Last to receive their awards were the students from Marshall Fundamental School (the high school portion of

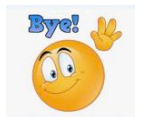
Altadena Rotary Projects and Events Calendar

Craig Cox

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.

June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party



FRIENDS of the
Altadena Library
 Friends of the Altadena Library (FOAL)
 Annual Meeting
 with Author Ellen Snortland



Tuesday, June 4, 2024
 6:00-7:30pm

it). The school's Principal, Lori Touloumian, introduced the students as follows:

- **Kassandra Briones** – She is in the Academy for Creative Industries. She has a 4.5 GPA and has been recognized as an AP Scholar. She is in the Filipino Club and a member of the Honor Society. She is the captain of the Color Guard of the Marching Band at Marshall, which has placed in the top ranks of various marching band shows. In her spare time, she does volunteer work at Huntington Hospital.
- **Jamie Lugo** – She was described by Ms. Touloumian as honest, responsible, and engaged. Jaime is on the girls' basketball team (which made it to the CIF semi-finals this year) and volunteers with the K9 Youth Alliance at the Pasadena Humane Society. She will be attending Pasadena City College in the Fall, where she will be taking classes in business and cosmetology.
- **Alejandro Leyva** – he is very interested in Math and has maintained a 4.7 GPA. He is also involved in the mock trial program as well as the book club. He ran the 22.6 mile L.A. Marathon this year and is a recipient of the Congressional Award Bronze Metal, - the highest award for a civilian youth. He will be attending UC Berkeley, where he plans to major in Math.
- **Anthony Duenez** – he is the President of the football club and helped football to return as a regular competitive sport at Marshall. His position has been defensive lineman. He is also a weightlifter as well as a member of the broadcast journalism club. He plans to enlist in the Army after he graduates.



CONCERTS IN THE PARK
Presented by The Rotary Club of Altadena in Cooperation with LA County Parks & Recreation

27TH ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2024
All concerts are FREE and start at 7:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays at the Amphitheater of Farnsworth Park (568 East Mt. Curve Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001)

DATE	ARTIST	DATE	ARTIST	DATE	ARTIST
SATURDAY, JULY 6	PHAT CAT SWINGER	SATURDAY, JULY 27	SANGRE NUEVA BAND	SATURDAY, AUGUST 17	PAST ACTION HEROES
SATURDAY, JULY 13	BRITAIN'S FINEST	SATURDAY, AUGUST 3	MISKEY MOUNTAIN BOYS	SATURDAY, AUGUST 24	GHOST IN THE MACHINE
SATURDAY, JULY 20	EAGLES RONSTADT EXPERIENCE	SATURDAY, AUGUST 10	UPSTREAM	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	TBD

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR
27th DISTRICT SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BANGER

GOLD SPONSOR
ALTADENA FOUNDATION
ALCANTARA ORGANICS
CRAGO & SUSAN COE
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J. C. S. PRODUCTIONS
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REAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT
THE KIDDER FAMILY
LINDA BENTLEY, COACHING BUSINESS
UNIVERSAL WASTE SYSTEMS

Dan Stover Music Scholarship Contest - UPDATE!

The 2023-2024 Dan Stover Contest concluded on Saturday evening at the District 5300 Rotary Foundation Gala in Pomona. There were 4 contestants who participated representing 4 regions of the district: California East, California West, High Desert, and Las Vegas. All 4 contestants did a marvelous job and we each deserving of recognition. The winner of this year's contest was Caleb Fong who represented the LaVern Rotary Club. The runner up was Abrielly Aguire who represented the Las Vegas Club. The other finalists were Lillian Feng representing the Arcadia Rotary Club and Annemarie Bell representing the Apple Valley Rotary Club. The winner was awarded a \$3,000 prize; the runner up - \$1,300 prize and the finalists were awarded \$1,000.

Altadena Rotary's contestant Clayton Fong (piano) was placed third in the regional contest. He sent the following message to Altadena Rotarians:

Altadena Rotary Recognized For Foundation Giving

By Steve Kerekes, Club Foundation Chair

During the District Rotary Foundation Dinner held last week in Pomona, our Club was recognized with a banner for being a 100% Giving Club. In addition, our Club was given a Certificate of Appreciation for contributing more than \$1,500 to the Polio Plus Campaign. These were awards from the 2022-2023 Rotary Year ending last June.



Our Club was represented by Mark Mariscal and Tom Polenzani.



District 5300 celebrations & Speech and Essay contest winners!

"I just want to thank Altadena Rotary for this amazing opportunity.

As you probably know, I placed third in the district level and it was one of the most competitive competitions I've ever been a part of. The level of playing was amazing and I just want to thank Altadena Rotary for sponsoring me and allowing me to be a part of this amazing performance!

*Thanks again,
Clayton*



Mark, Zoot and Tony, manning our booth for Altadena Guild Home Tour on May 5!

Last Saturday, our Rotary Club helped out the Friends of the Altadena Library with their big Annual Book Sale. The Friends raised over \$4,000 that will be donated to the Library District. Club members Doug Colliflower, Paula Eckert and Mark Mariscal helped with set up. Our club also contributed funds to help offset the rental cost of the 8 foot banquet tables.

