



**'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



D.Vance Graphics

**JUNE 06, 2024**

**JUNE IS: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS**

**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

**THIS WEEK: MICHAEL LASTA, Center Director  
and DYLAN NANNI, System Center Director,  
MATHNASIUM ALTADENA**

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

Program Chair: Mike Zoeller



Our speakers for this week's meeting are Michael Lasta and Dylan Nanni, representing Mathnasium, a mathematics learning center with a local office in Altadena. Their presentation

this week will outline the Mathnasium mission and how their program supports students in their math growth worldwide.

**Michael Lasta** earned his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. Michael has always been passionate about STEM, especially math and coding. As an Altadena native who attended St. Elizabeth Parish School, he has an abundance of knowledge of the local school systems and how the Mathnasium program works for each individual student. He's been with Mathnasium for over 4 years and is currently serving as the Center Director at Altadena's Company Owned/Training Mathnasium Center.

**Dylan Nanni** started working for Mathnasium of Green Valley in 2013 as a Lead Instructor throughout his college career. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Dylan moved to sunny

Los Angeles as a Center Director for Mathnasium's flagship centers and is currently the company's Systems Center Director. testing new systems and curriculum over the past 3 years. Recently, Dylan moved into a District Manager position overseeing Mathnasium's Company Owned Centers across Los Angeles and Orange County. Dylan has recognized the importance of efficient math learning and has seen the impact that Mathnasium has made on thousands of students.

Mathnasium is an American education brand and supplemental math learning franchise consisting of over 1,000 learning centers in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia that provides instruction to students in pre-kindergarten and high school. The curriculum includes the Mathnasium Method, a proprietary system that was developed by a team of education experts with co-founder Lawrence Martiniek. Mathnasium has designed fun and engaging techniques to help children understand math easily and provide highly experienced and qualified math tutors who teach after-school mathematics programs.

## LAST WEEK: JACK FORRESTEL

### TV PRODUCTION DESIGNER AND MEMBER, ART DIRECTORS GUILD AND THE ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES

Program Chair: Ed Jasnow

Review: Mark Mariscal



If you wanted to understand a little about the challenges in the local television and movie industry since the strike was settled late last year, your opportunity to know firsthand just passed you by. Our speaker, **Jack Forrestel** shared how his opportunity to work directly in the television industry came about.

Jack started off by sharing his few years in the military (serving on the

USS Midway that is now a museum in San Diego) allowed him to use the GI Bill for going to college. While serving, he was constantly drawing. After hundreds of sketches and drawings, he was only able to retain 4 of them. For those not knowing what was happening back in 1970-1972, there was a military conflict called "Vietnam". It was difficult to keep personal items. His love for art led him to get his degree (BFA) from The Philadelphia College of Art and a MFA from Temple University. His father told him, "Find A Job Using A Pencil, not your back".



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

### Altadena Rotary Projects and Events Calendar

Craig Cox

June 29 - Melodia Mariposa Concert

July 6 - Take down Flags on Lake Avenue

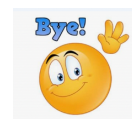
July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24 - Summer Concerts

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



**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 at Farnsworth Park (568 East Mt. Curve Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001)

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

To learn more about Altadena Rotary Club and the Concerts in the Park, visit [www.altadenarotary.org](http://www.altadenarotary.org).

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

<b>PLATINUM SPONSOR</b> 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BANGER	<b>GOLD SPONSOR</b> ALTADENA HARDWARE ALTADENA LIBRARIES CRAND & SUSAN COE FIDUCIOSA MOUNTAIN BREWING COMPANY J. C. L. PRODUCTIONS PASADENA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PATTON & RYDOL WESTERN ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC ZOBEL & ASSOCIATES	<b>SILVER SPONSOR</b> ALTADENA MIDDORBY MAGAZINE ALTADENA TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB DR. DAVID CAMPBELL - DENTIST CITY OF HOME DANIEL PARTNERS, INC. E. FARMER MARK & CANDY TORRES GROCERY OUTLET PLATINUM SPECIALTY ENDOCRINOLOGY BIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT - ROGER STEPHENS THE ROBERT FAMILY LINDA REYHER, COUNSELOR BANNER UNIVERSAL TRAVEL SYSTEMS
---	---	---

After his prestigious summer Internship he received a phone call in 1984 from Ed Swift, the Manager of Production Services at NBC. This was very unusual. He asked Jack how soon he could come across country for a job in Hollywood. Jack said, give me a few weeks and I will arrive just after the 4th of July (1984). He packed up everything, rented and drove a moving truck while towing his prized vehicle more than 3,000 miles.

He started at the show "The Price is Right". He was thrilled to be given money and told to go purchase items for the sets. He talked about working with the legendary Sy Tomashoff, who was the Production Designer on The Bold and Beautiful TV Series starting in 1987. After Sy retired, Jack was promoted to Production Designer and holds that position today. He shared with me after the meeting that after 2 years on this particular TV Series, he was asked to become the Production Designer for an upcoming movie. He contemplated that for a few weeks and decided he could see staying with The Bold and The Beautiful for another few more years. Well, it actually has been 35 years since that former opportunity came up.

Jack talked about how television sets would be set up and taken down each night (five days a week of shooting Soap Operas). This took much labor. Now, the sets (as many as 12) are designed and produced to last up to two weeks before being removed. He is planning to retire in the Fall of 2024. Since the brutal strike of 2023, more than 75% of the members of the Art Director's Guild are still not working. And with "AI" on the horizon, many Art Directors and Production Designers wonder what their profession will be like in a few short years. He credits learning the Autocad system for creating drawings, set units and making scales rather than the way taught in his University years for some of his success. But in reality, it was his tenacity towards the job of being that person in the middle between the Executive Producers, Producers and the other workers on the sets represented by the unions.

Jack did not have enough time to brag about his 6 Emmy Awards over his 40 years in the business. More impressive is the fact that according to IMDB.com, he has been nominated 21 times for his work as an Art Director and Production Designer.

Jack's wife Tina attended lunch with us. She is an Interior Designer. They met (television industry of course) in the 1990's and married in 1999. They have 3 children including Jack's daughter from a previous marriage. They have lived in Eagle Rock for the last 11 years. But prior, they lived directly across from Ed and Mona Jasnow for almost 15 years. They are good friends. And of course, Jack and Tina know which type of Chardonnay to bring to the house during visits!

## **Altadena Rotary on Display at the Library**

By President Dawn Smith

Late last week, our club installed a small display at the Altadena Library Main Branch that shows a little about our 75 years of service to the community. The display was made possible by the generous support of club members Nikki and Ashley. Please stop into the library before June 29th to check it out!



---

## **Another Success at Flipping Pancakes!**

By Afton Copeland Spiegel  
(Rotary Summer Intern)

Photos on following page

This was my first time participating in the Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast. It was fun to see the community come out to support the three organizations that benefited from the proceeds: Altadena Mountain Rescue Team, Altadena Town Council and Outward Bound Adventures.



He left us with this thought - for those with children, grandkids, nieces or nephews who want to study "Arts" - **please** encourage them and allow them to seek that dream! It might be hard financially to follow an Artistic Dream but happiness of the individual is important to them, and should be for you too.

[www.mathnasium.com](http://www.mathnasium.com)

---

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST EVENT! Another flippin' success!



(Con'td) State Senator Anthony Portantino stopped by. I was so happy to meet him in person and to take a photo with him.

The teamwork it takes to put on this fundraising event was clear, especially in the cooking area (Brad, Craig, Doug, Tony, Mike N. and Mike Z.). Visiting Rotarians included PDG Hank and Peter Huisking and their two grandsons along with a friend visiting from Arizona. Grocery Outlet owner Jose, members Mark, Paula, Roger (Toastmaster), Wendy, Susan and her sister Carol were also very important to the execution. And of course, we had members Maria and Ashley stop in to sample the food to ensure the cooks were concentrating on their role!

The club presented a check to the AMRT leaders in the amount of \$1,000. Both ATC and OBA will receive at least \$500 each. The cloudy day was a huge success. Oh yes, I did hear about the \$25 Happy Bucks wager made between Brad and Mark about the time of the morning that the sun was to come out. You will have to attend the meeting this week to figure out who has to pay...!