



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL

An Award-Winning Newsletter



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

**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

**THIS WEEK: Cory Brendel, Trainer,
Guide Dogs of America
Accompanied by Cory's wife Liza and guide dog Bogart!**

Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon

Program Chair: Mike Zoeller



Our speaker this week is Cory Brendel, a trainer for the Guide Dogs of America, who will be accompanied by his wife Liza and an in person appearance by Bogard, Cory's guide-dog-in-training. Cory and Liza will briefly describe the GDA organization and cover several topics regarding the fostering of guide dogs through GDA.

Located on a beautiful 7.5-acre campus in Los Angeles, GDA transforms lives through partnerships with service dogs. They breed, raise, and train guide dogs

for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and service dogs for veterans and children with autism. They also place facility dogs with professionals in hospitals, schools, and courtrooms. All programs and services, including transportation, personalized training, room/board, and postgraduate support, are provided at no cost to the recipient.



D.Vance Graphics

JUNE 13, 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

Cory Brendel is a retired Trusts and Estates Litigator. He practiced in Glendale and subsequently Pasadena for thirty years. He is active in Pasadena Rotary (President 2021-2022) and spends his free time working on his historic craftsman bungalow in the Bungalow Heaven neighborhood. He enjoys hiking, reading, and playing his ukulele for senior centers and various senior venues.

Liza Billington is a retired litigation attorney, who practiced for 33 years. She worked in private firms and was in-house counsel for the PARSONS corporation in Pasadena for seventeen of those years. She now spends her time reading and sewing for her grandchildren and is an avid bridge player.

Bogart is a six-month-old half Golden and half Yellow Lab puppy and looks forward to a career as a Guide Dog for a blind person. Cory and Liza met in a swing dancing class and were married in 2012. Nowadays, it seems that most of their time and energy is consumed by the topic of their talk to Altadena Rotary.

LAST WEEK: 2 + 2 = 5?

MICHAEL LASTA, Center Director and DYLAN NANNI, System Center Director, MATHNASIUM ALTADENA

Program Chair: Mike Zoeller

Review: Steve Kerekes

2 + 2 = 5? This is the conclusion you might reach if you were mathematically challenged and did not take advantage of Mathnasium. Mathnasium is an American education brand and supplemental math learning franchise. It has over 1,000 learning centers in North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. They provide math instruction and learning to students from kindergarten through high school.



This week we were treated to a presentation by two members of the Mathnasium community – Michael Lastra, the director of the Altadena center on Lake Avenue near Mendocino, and

Dylan Nanni, the district manager for Los Angeles and Orange County.



<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

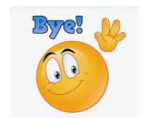
July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24 - Summer Concerts

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



They talked to us about Mathnasium's mission which is to take the hard, cold numbers that are often daunting to young people, and even older people, and give them the concepts which help whittle the math down to familiar tasks. They use a combination of visual and verbal presentations to make the math concepts fun, especially for younger students who may not have all their times tables down yet.

Mathnasium has a variety of programs and they customize a plan to the needs of each individual student. They can devise a program to help students struggling with their class lessons and homework, students who are preparing for a test such as the SAT, or students who simply want to avoid a "summer slide" into arithmetic ignorance.

Michael and Dylan discussed the concept developed at Mathnasium of "high impact math tutoring" which consists of 60 minute sessions of four students or less. The teacher takes time in that hour to engage with each student individually.

Mathnasium students have achieved measurable improvements in their mental calculus. 94% of parents have reported an improvement in their child's math skills and understanding. 90% of them saw an improvement in their child's school grades.

Mathnasium is located at 2333 N. Lake Avenue, Unit C in Altadena. Phone number (626) 227-0135.



www.mathnasium.com

Presentation made to Winner of Hensel Ethics Essay Contest

By Steve Kerekes



This past week, Adrianna Soto, the winner of the Hensel Ethics Essay Contest, joined us for lunch at the Altadena Town and Country. She was presented with the winner's certificate and a check for \$500 by Edward Franco, the President of the Montebello Rotary Club. Mr. Franco also presented a Certificate and check for \$200 to Adrianna's teacher in appreciation of her mentoring the winning candidate.

However, the teacher asked that the money be given to the Altadena Schools. The Rotary Club of Montebello sponsors the George R. Hensel Ethics Essays contest each year. Rotarians George and Bernadette Hensel were members of the Montebello Club and created the contest.

Altadena Rotary on Display at the Library

By President Dawn Smith

Our club has 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!**



Eddie Franco with Carina Jacob

(Cont'd) The District Chairperson is always a Rotarian from Montebello. Students win a total of \$4,500 in prizes each year.

3rd Annual
**JUNETEENTH
 CELEBRATION**
 2024

Altadena Community Luncheon
 Ellen Garrison Clark
 Scholarship Award Ceremony

Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Noon - 1:30 pm
 Farnsworth Park
 William D. Davis Memorial Bldg.
 568 Mount Curve Avenue
 Altadena, CA 91001

Purchase Tickets & RSVP:
<https://altadena-historical-society.square.site/s/shop>
 \$25 pre-event/\$30 at the door

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WILL FEATURE A SPECIAL SCREENING OF
 ELLEN GARRISON: SCENES FROM AN ACTIVIST'S LIFE
 A SHORT FILM BY LOS ANGELES-BASED FIVE SISTERS PRODUCTIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL
 STUDENTS IN THE SPIRIT OF ELLEN GARRISON CLARK.
 EVENT HOSTED BY THE ALTADENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*More Pancake Breakfast
 Event photos below and
 opposite*

*(as shared on our FB page)
 Also see last week's 'Sparks'*



*More Pancake Breakfast Event photos below and opposite
 (as shared on our FB page)*



Altadena's Upcoming Headstone Events @ Mountain View

René Amy

Two exciting events are happening later this month at Mountain View Cemetery. On **Wednesday, June 26**, America's foremost graveyard preservationist, Jonathon Appell, will present a day-long "Headstone Cleaning & Restoration 101" tutorial with hands-on opportunities for participants to clean and to repair damaged headstones, as part of his annual "**48 State Tour**" <https://48statetour.com/>. This event begins at 9 a.m., in the cemetery's shaded "Royal Oak" section, which includes headstones of Union U.S. Civil War veterans. After a discussion about techniques and supplies, John will lead participants in cleaning headstones. After lunch, (courtesy of Mountain View Cemetery), participants will have a chance to learn about headstone repair techniques, with John demonstrating proper techniques on damaged headstones in the cemetery. This is the first time that John has brought the 48 State Tour to Southern California, and he's utilizing a L.A.-based videographer (and member of the Los Angeles Explorer's Club) to create a documentary about what he does. Be ready to be on film!

Then, on **Saturday, June 29**, Altadena's own erstwhile group of volunteer headstone cleaners (affectionately referred to as "good cemeterians") will be celebrating our **1,000th-headstone milestone** - an extraordinary feat for the handful of locals who are passionate about preserving local history and heritage that is, literally, carved in stone! Over the last couple of years, we've cleaned the headstones and markers of several hundred military vets, from all of the U.S. wars dating back to the Civil War. We've also cleaned many markers of children, and of loves lost too soon. This event will begin at 8 a.m. with volunteers spending the morning cleaning headstones. At noon, there will be pizza (courtesy of **Altadena Pizza Company**), cake, and ice cream (courtesy of Altadena Grocery Outlet) for all in attendance.

These two events have seen a truly-tremendous outpouring of community financial support, with contributions from the **Altadena Rotary Club**, the **Altadena Chamber of Commerce**, **Altadena Heritage**, the **Altadena Historical Society**, and the **Pasadena Cemetery Association** resulting in the purchase of a 55-gallon drum of the specialized cleaning solution used on headstones in our country's National Cemeteries (and the White House, among other historic structures), for ongoing use by the "good cemeterian" group. The drum of cleaner is currently in transit from the East Coast, and will be on hand for the events. A total of \$1,800 has been pledged by the organizations listed (Rotary, Chamber, Heritage) to purchase the cleaning solution.

This is a great opportunity for Altadena to showcase its diversity and its appreciation for local history and heritage. I'll be posting about it all on Altadena's Nextdoor newsfeed, and I have created an Eventbrite page for the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/919636085287>

Again, many thanks to all who've made this possible, both through financial donations and in-kind support, especially Sandra and Jose Valenzuela of **Altadena Grocery Outlet**, who have generously provided snacks and water since early days. PCA will be purchasing sundry supplies (gloves, brushes, and the like) for the event, and will be supplying luncheon for participants (though that may involve a further donation from a restaurant). The cemetery, as host, is fully focused on ensuring that these events go well, and has cleared their calendar for June 26, and will have their groundskeeping staff focused on making sure everything goes smoothly. Altadena Historical will also be supplying some of the cleaning supplies. The efforts of the local volunteers have previously been featured locally on KCBS-TV and on CBS' national "Inside Edition" program <https://www.insideedition.com/group-known-as-good-cemeterians-clean-headstones-in-california-82814>.

Again, many thanks for your support!
Altadena rocks!