



'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



To all Fathers, Stepfathers,
 Grandfathers, Godfathers,
 Foster Fathers,
 Pet Fathers, Father Figures and
 Fathers Living on in our Hearts...

Happy Father's Day!

THIS WEEK: PRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS GRANTS

Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon

Program Chair: President Dawn Digrius Smith



This week we shall be recognising the winners of our Women's Business Grants, awarded as part of the Altadena Rotary Club's Community GIVING Programs.

"A few years ago, conversations between Dave Smith and I led to the establishment of a grant fund through the Altadena Rotary Club to

support women business owners who are just starting their own businesses or have been in business for three years or less. Each year, we honor female entrepreneurs in the region by supporting their businesses with \$1,000 in seed funding that can be used to help them with start-up costs or operating expenses." Dawn

For the 2024 cohort, we are pleased to announce that there will be three recipients:

Michiko Lynch, Green Circle SGV

Carrie Meadows and Emily Maclean, Crescent Yoga

Kirstin Smith, High Quality Customs

We will present the recipients with a check and hear a little about their businesses and how they plan to use the funds!

D.Vance Graphics

JUNE 20, 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

LAST WEEK: Cory Brendel, Trainer, Guide Dogs of America

Accompanied by Cory's wife Liza and guide dog Bogart!

Program Chair: Mike Zoeller

Review: Tony Hill



<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

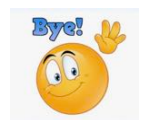
To register for any event go to DacDB,
Login, elect the My Club, tab, go the
the Calendar icon, and go to the date.



Last Thursday we had 3 guests presenting our program for the day: **Cory Brendel** (a retired litigation attorney), his wife, **Liza Billington** (a retired litigation attorney) and their dog named **Bogart** (a golden retriever/labrador retriever mix). Hopefully their former profession did not scare members away because the fascinating topic of their presentation was the training of guide dogs, and the star of their presentation was a dog named Bogart!

Liza and Cory were looking for an activity to pursue in their approaching retirement in 2018. They were looking for an activity that would make the world a better place. Their search was completed when one of Liza's friends introduced her to the role of fostering a dog and training him or her to be a guide dog. Noting Liza's enthusiasm for this activity, Cory agreed to join her and give it a try (or as Cory put it "happy Wife, happy life"). Based upon their presentation, although they have not yet completed their commitment to Bogart, it appears Cory and Liza have no regrets.

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 Clubs and the Concerts in the Park, visit www.altadenarotary.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR KATHY BARGE	GOLD SPONSOR ALTAGENA PARADISE ASTORIA SEABEES CROSS & SUGAN CO. ROCKWELL MOUNTAIN SERVING COMPANY S. C. L. PRODUCTIONS PARADISE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PATTON & BYRDE WESTERN ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC ZIGLER & ASSOCIATES	SILVER SPONSOR ALTAGENA HIGHCROSS MAGAZINE ALTAGENA TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB DR. DAVID CARROLL, DENTIST CITY OF HOLM SMITH PARTNERS, INC. EL PASO MARK & CAROL KONIKOWSKI GRACEY GROUP KALAFORNIA SECURED FINANCIAL KIC WEALTH MANAGEMENT BOBBI STEPHENS THE ROBERT FAMILY LISA BETHSEL, CONSULTING BANKER SHERIDAN, WADE PETERSON
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We were told that the development of guide dogs in our area is managed through the Guide Dogs of America (GDA) located in Sylmar, California. At their 7.5 acre property they breed dogs that have a propensity to be good guide dogs. As litters are born they are grouped alphabetically and named according to the letter assigned to their litter. The puppy given to Liza and Cory was from the “B” litter of 8 puppies, and was given the name “Bogart”.

On January 26th of this year, 6 month old Bogart was presented to Liza and Cory to care for and train as a guide dog. We were advised that the GDA is there to guide them and support them throughout the 18 months that Bogart would be in their care. For the first 8 weeks they would have to attend a GDA class. At these Saturday morning get-togethers, the GDA staff would observe how Bogart was progressing and how Cory and Liza were learning the process of training Bogart to be a guide dog. During each of these 8 classes, there would be a new set of instructions. This 8 week training period is referred to as “puppy kindergarten”.

Throughout their presentation, Liza and Cory ran Bogart through his paces to demonstrate to our members the guide dog skills that Bogart has already developed.

Although Liza and Cory have not yet completed the 18 month period of training, they are already thinking about what will happen when the 18 month period comes to an end. As part of their contract, if Bogart successfully graduates and is selected to be a guide dog, they must give him up. In such an event Bogart will be provided, free of charge, to a person who GDA believes would benefit from having a guide dog, such as a blind person, a veteran suffering from PTSD, a child with autism or sometimes a prisoner. We were told that only 30% to 40% of the trained dogs are selected for such assignments.

In the event that Bogart is part of the 60 to 70 percent of dogs not selected for assignment, Cory and Liza would have the right of first refusal to keep him. This decision remains a matter of discussion between Liza and Cory. They have both grown to love Bogart and letting him go will clearly not be easy!



It's Official!

By Doug Colliflower

As July 1st fast approaches, our club leadership for next year is in place. As we all know, Marcella Viramontes will take over on July 1st as Club President. We now know that Brad Roeber will serve as President-Elect and Lisa Rickard will be our President-Nominee. Lisa will assume the President-Elect role in July 2025 and then becomes President of our club on July 1, 2026. **Congratulations to all!**



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



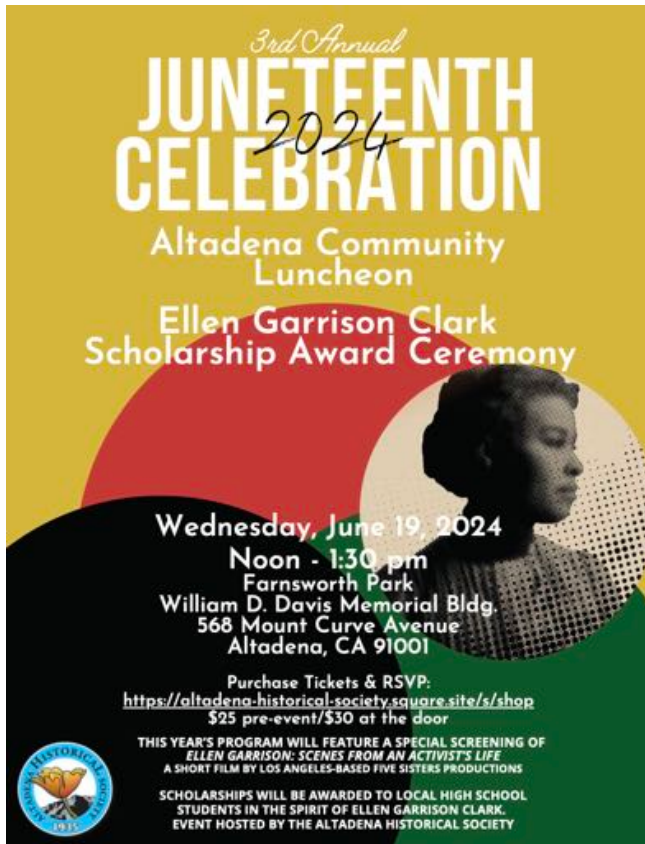
of service to the community. The display was made possible by the generous support of club members Nikki and Ashley.

Please stop into the library before June 29th to check it out!



Guide Dogs
of America

<https://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/>



SUMMER CONCERT FINAL LINE-UP BELOW - Spread the Word!!

Craig Cox

- This year's season kicks off on **July 6th** featuring **Phat Cat Swinger** and their blend of rock, swing, and jazz infused with a modern sensibility.
- The **July 13th** concert will be **Britain's Finest**, a Beatles tribute band with their incredible re-creation of the songs everyone has come to love.
- On **July 20th** enjoy the **Eagles Ronstadt Experience** featuring the sounds of two loved iconic and popular artists.
- **July 27th** Enjoy Cuban music and other Latin styles with the **Sangre Nueva Band**.
- On **August 3rd**, **The Miskey Mountain Boys** will present their incredible Bluegrass show.
- On **August 10th** **Upstream** returns to our stage once again as everyone's favorite Steel Drum Reggae and Soca Band. As it is every year this concert will be a jammed packed audience!
- On **August 17th**, **Past Action Heroes** returns with their high energy show featuring rock anthems, pop classics, and funky R&B.
- On **August 24th**, **Ghost in the Machine** will present the music of Sting and the Police.
- Finally, on **September 7th** **Culture Shock LA** will provide a SPECIAL EVENT with a Hip Hop "Battle of the DJs."

PAUL HARRIS PRESENTATIONS!!



Steve Kerekes receiving his Paul Harris +4 pin from President Dawn...



... and President Dawn receiving her Paul Harris +3 pin from Steve!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Demotion Party is Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 pm. - 8:15 pm

PLEASE RSVP to Maricela / Mark by June 22!