



'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: Stephanie Urchick, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael Driebe



**THIS WEEK: KENIA ESTRELLA
LA COUNTY RECREATION SERVICES**

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon
Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Kenia Estrella is a Recreation Services Supervisor with LA County Parks and Recreation, bringing over 10 years of dedicated service to the Department. Throughout Kenia's tenure, she has successfully coordinated several impactful events, including A Day in Nature, Art Festival, and Earth Day. These programs have enriched the community by promoting environmental awareness and

fostering a love for the arts and nature.

Kenia is currently advancing her expertise by attending Citrus Community College, where she is studying Wildland Resources and Forestry. This education complements her practical experience and underscores her commitment to environmental stewardship and recreation management.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Kenia enjoys reading and exploring the great outdoors!

AUGUST 01, 2024
AUGUST IS: MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Officers

President: Maricela Viramontes
Vice President: Dawn Digrius Smith
President Elect: Brad Roeber

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
Lisa Rickard
Doug Colliflower
Brad Roeber

Chairs

Executive Club Secretary: Mark Mariscal
Membership: Maria Perez-Arton & Brad Roeber
Foundation: Steve Kerekes
Service 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

LAST WEEK: BRENDA RAMIREZ 'EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PARROTS, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!'

Speaker Chair: Dr David Campbell

Review: Ed Jasnow



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



That's what our speaker, Brenda Ramirez (introduced by David above), regaled us with last week! She works at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology at Occidental College. The laboratory was named after

Robert T. Moore, who donated his entire collection to the college. This collection covered 2,000 bird species and 65,000 individual items. It also contained the largest collection of endemic Mexican birds.

Ms. Ramirez concentrated her talk on the thousands of parrots that continuously fly overhead. The title of her talk was "The Parrots of California, our favorite chatty neighbors."

Ms. Ramirez referred to an organization called "Free Flying Los Angeles Parrot Project", or FLAPP.

The first question was, "How did the parrots get here?" Amazingly, there is no definitive answer to that question. Some suspect a 1959 pet shop fire that set them free. Others blame the closure of Busch Gardens. Still others claim they got here from Mexico as a result of the illegal pet trade.

There are 37 different species of parrots in Southern California. The two most common are the red crowned parrot, that prefers the lowlands, and the lilac crowned parrot, that prefers the higher elevations.

All of the parrots are thriving in Southern California. They eat the fruit of non-native trees. Ms. Ramirez mentioned the Temple City Parrot Roost Outreach Event, which gives information about the parrots. It is estimated that there are 1,000 flocks of parrots in Southern California.

Currently, research on the parrots is concentrating on the creation of a robust environment, distinguishing sister species, understanding hybridization, and comparing the parrots of Southern California with those of the east and west coasts of Mexico.



Free-Flying Los Angeles Parrot Project (FLAPP) is a fascinating initiative that focuses on non-native parrots in Southern California.

<https://moorelab.oxy.edu/research/free-flying-los-angeles-parrot-project>



President Maricela presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr David Campbell DDS, one of our summer concert sponsors.

Ms. Ramirez stated that the reasons parrots do so well here include food availability and less predators.

So, the next time a noisy flock of parrots flies overhead, remember that they are a beautiful addition to the Southern California bird population!



Summer Concerts are Rocking!

By Doug Colliflower - Concert Committee Chair



Our four concerts in July have flown by! From the July 6th kick-off by Phat Cat Swinger, to last Saturday's Sange Nueva Salsa Music, the dance area in front of the stage at Farnsworth Park Amphitheater has come alive! We've had full houses at every show, and we are

thrilled to see an increase in families using the picnic areas (on a first come-first serve basis), before and during the concerts.

We are fortunate to have been able to include additional volunteers (non-Rotary Club members) to help with the concession area and security. Big thanks to each of them! At <http://www.altadenarotary.org> we have links to the sponsors who support us. If you have an opportunity once a week, please go to the website and click a few of these links. That will help them know that people are appreciative of their support.

On July 20th, we had in attendance our local LA County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger. She addressed the crowd before the beginning of the concert. She, along with 8 friends, stayed the whole night dancing and enjoying the music. Last Saturday (the 27th), we had LA County Sheriff Robert Luna, his wife and Mother-in-law in attendance. They too stayed the entire evening enjoying the music, dancing and of course, delicious food from El Patron Restaurant!



Doug receives his Past-President pin from Past-President Mark... finally!

SUMMER CONCERT PHOTOS



Mark with visitors from Rome (above). Joined by Sheriff Luna and Capt. Williams (below), and with Dawn (opposite). Photo credit: Deb Square Photo.

