



**'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: VIVIAN KAMBE  
 PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

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



Vivian Kambe has been the Development Manager for Pasadena Community Foundation for over a year and a half. She was born and raised in La Canada, where she has been drawn to nonprofit work since she was a child. What began as volunteering for Hathaway Sycamores and the YWCA of Glendale & Pasadena led her

to major in Peace & Justice at Regis University in Denver. After graduation she focused on grant positions, before transitioning to working in Development for Pasadena Community Foundation. Today her passion for nonprofit work goes beyond her job as she is a member of the Pasadena Rotary and is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for a child in the foster care system.



D.Vance Graphics

**AUGUST 15, 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 Service: Steve Kerekes  
 Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller  
 Youth Activities: Tony Hill  
 International Service: Sarah O'Brien

## LAST WEEK: PAULINA McCONNELL High School Student Winner of District 5300's 4-Way Speech Contest

Speaker Chair and Review: Mark Mariscal



After being introduced by Mark Mariscal, our speaker this week, Paulina McConnell, jumped right into the speech that she gave as part of the District 5300 Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest. After winning the club, group and regional levels (held last February through May), she took first place out of 150+ entries, at the District level. The prize was a Scholarship check in the amount of \$4,300. After

her seven-minute speech, she then described her background and interest in climate change, the environment and why she has such a passion for being involved in her community.

Paulina talked about starting the college application process since she is starting her senior year at Pasadena High School (PHS). She shared her interests over the last few years that include being part of the Green Club at PHS. This year she has taken on the duties of Green Club President. She is also involved in the 28% Women in STEM newsletter at school that seeks to address the disparity of female representation in STEM careers. She also writes regularly for the school newspaper, The Chronicle.

Prior to returning home earlier in the week, she had just finished completing a 4-week specialized program at the University of Santa Cruz. The program is called COSMOS and is offered at several UC campuses as a summer enrichment program in Math and Science. Paulina opted for the cluster affectionately referred to as 'Bug and Bones' where the students, led by UC faculty and graduates, conduct field research on pollinators and mammals, and attend intensive lectures on a wide range of advanced topics.

One of the local organizations that she volunteers with is Altadena Wild, a 501(c)(3) non-profit working to preserve the wild foothills of Altadena by protecting them from development. She works as a student ambassador, conducting outreach to the community at large, and collecting signatures. It is a subject she is very passionate about



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

### Altadena Rotary Projects, Volunteer Opportunities and Events Calendar

Craig Cox

August 17, 24, Sept 7 - Summer  
Concerts

August 31 - Melodia Mariposa  
Concert

Please save the date for the next  
Rotary Community Pancake  
Breakfast - October 5, 2024  
8 -10.30 am.

September 14th: 12-4 pm  
Altadena Community Garden  
Annual Event

September 28th: 5-9 pm  
Altadena Library Foundation  
Taste of Dena Event

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

**\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR  
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - check  
emails from Craig Cox**



**CLUB GUESTS:** Linda Ciarimboli  
Elizabeth Brooks,  
Danielle Guerrero



as the foothills are essentially her backyard, where's she's spent countless hours hiking and learning about the local flora and fauna, particularly birds. She thanked the current President of the Board, Michael Bicay and Treasurer, Leslie Lowes for attending and for their support.

While describing how she found out about the Rotary contest, she specifically acknowledged and thanked her English teacher at PHS - Ms. Darlene Osmonson. Ms. Osmonson also serves as the Interact Advisor on the PHS campus. Paulina also thanked her for asking the newly hired school principal, Dr. Eric Barba to attend. Additionally, she thanked PUSD Board member Jennifer Hall Lee who attended and is a strong ally of the PUSD Student Think Tank, made up of a district-wide group of student advocates under the direction of Sehba Sarwar. Of the many issues related to student equity and inclusion that the group focused on, they created a pilot program that allows for student representatives at the school board level.

Rounding out her appreciation of those in attendance, Paulina thanked the Altadena Rotary Club, and in particular Mark Mariscal, for providing her the opportunity to share her experience with her community. In addition, she recognized the support and love of her family (pictured below), especially her grandparents, Mike and Esther Shaw, who live in Yucca Valley, who have been a constant positive and creative presence in her life. She also acknowledged her parents Roberta Shaw and Paul McConnell, who have surrounded Paulina, as an only child, with an abundance of exploration, love, mutual respect and yes, trips to the Natural History Museum! They have always encouraged Paulina to not only have a voice, but to believe in the value of using it.



We can clearly see why Paulina is a winner!



Michael Bicay, Jennifer Hall Lee, Nic Arzen



Leslie, Altadena Wild organization Darlene, teacher, Pasadena HS Eric, new Principal, Pasadena HS



Dave and Kristen



Jim Gorton leading members in song!



## BY THE NUMBERS!

By Mike Noll, Treasurer

Since I missed last month's Club Assembly, here's a snapshot of our finances:

Last fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) we increased our gross revenue 35% from \$70,679 (prior year) to

\$95,543. Gross revenue includes member dues, Happy Bucks, donations from Altadena Rotary Charities (ARC) to cover our project expenses, grants from District 5300, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and production/concessions revenue from the Summer Concert Series (member meals are considered a pass-through expense are not included in revenue or expenses). The primary drivers were an increase in the Concert revenue (\$10k) and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary revenue (\$15k), which we celebrated this past fiscal year. Total project expenses increased 17% from \$74,914 to \$87,781 (includes local nonprofit contributions of \$3,620 and \$4,490, respectively).

Net assets increased \$17,367 or 19% from \$91,891 to \$109,258, with thanks to Mr. Market for increasing our Vanguard S&P 500 mutual fund 25% from \$38,519 to \$47,958. In June 2024, we received a \$32,400 Global Scholar Grant from The Rotary Foundation for the benefit of Zia Saylor who will be studying in the UK. These funds are held in a separate grants bank account and revenue is deferred until spent over the next two years.

Our strong financial position is a testament to the diligent oversight of the Board of Directors and the support of our members who pay their dues timely and who generously support the club's projects with their time, talent, and treasure.

Complete year-end financial statements are available upon request.



by @aldlasd: Thank you lacosheriff for joining us at concerts at the park presented by the @altadenarotary. We hope you had as much fun as we did. Thank you to debsquaredphoto for capturing this memorable moment. lasdhd #community #concert

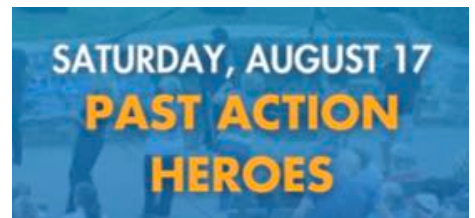


## SUMMER CONCERT FUN...



Last week: : UPSTREAM!

This week:



<https://www.pastactionheroes.com/>

## A Note of Thanks from René Amy

(Flyer emailed to members)

There will be a very special recognition ceremony at the close of the headstone cleaning on August 24, as the Altadena Good Cemeterians are formally presented with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award <https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/> for all the work done in 2023.

A special letter from the President of the United States accompanies the award, and it will be read and presented to the volunteers. Join us, won't you? As always, many thanks for your support!