



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
An Award-Winning Newsletter



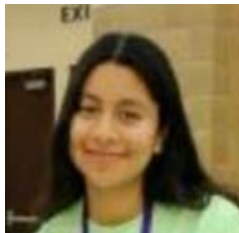
**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon
 at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

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: JENNIFER CUEVAS

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon
 Speaker Chair for October: Maria Perez-Arton



Our speaker on Thursday is Ms. Jennifer Cuevas. She is currently enrolled at California State University Los Angeles where she is studying Engineering. For the last 18 months or so, she has been participating in a Mentoring and Internship Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Jennifer served as the 2019-2020 President of the Interact Club at John Muir High School. She also received a scholarship that year from our club to further her educational dreams.

OCTOBER 17, 2024

OCTOBER IS: Economic & Community Development Month

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



One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio

World Polio Day is a time for Rotary members, public health advocates, and all who want a world free from polio to come together, recognize our progress in the fight to end polio, and talk about the actions we need to take in order to end polio for good.

All donations are matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, tripling your impact!

LAST WEEK: MICHAEL DRIEBE

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Speaker Chair: Maria Perez-Arton

Review: Michael Thatcher



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



Mike is originally from Washington city and he came out to the West Coast in 1980 where he met his wife at a disco party and the rest was history! Mike joined Rotary in 1994 at the bequest of his boss, the owner of a funeral directory and he gave the following heartfelt story about why he decided to stay in Rotary for 30 years: while delivering wheelchairs in Puerto Vallarta as part of a service project, he watched a 40-year-old father carry his



District Governor Michael Driebe with Club members and guests (below)

20-year-old son. When he later saw the look on the face of the man receiving the wheelchair, he realized how powerful it was, stating that they had given the **gift of dignity**.



He then turned his comments to the Altadena Club.

The Altadena club was founded in 1949 on Valentine's Day.

Mike said that while the club should rightly be praised for giving many gifts over the years, we, as Rotarians should also be reminded of the many gifts we *receive*. The gift of service, the gift of fellowship and the gift of personal development all turn us into better human beings and better leaders. Mike also discussed some of Rotary's peace-building efforts, namely, the Peace Conference at the Nixon Library on January 26, and the sponsoring of a master's student, through Rotary's Global Peace Fellowship.



Other notable opportunities to engage with Rotary outside of the Club Include the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary CA, and the District Conference on April 12 at the Disneyland Hotel.

Mike's speech was met with warm applause, and all in attendance felt the sincere depth of our DG's desire to serve and inspire all Rotarians under his charge!



Above: Roger Carlson, Vieyvette Stewart-Gorton Altadena Town Council and Judy Matthews, Altadena Chamber



Taking One For The Team

By President Maricela

Last week, District Governor Michael Driebe presented me with a certificate to recognise our Club's contributions to The Rotary Foundation, last year under the presidency of Dawn D. Smith. Every club member contributed more than \$25 individually, and collectively as a club we averaged more than \$100 per member. A big part of that is because of Steve Kerekes, our Club's Foundation Chair. Also, the amount we raise during the Pass The Pitcher part of the Summer Concerts helps the club exceed the goal for the End Polio Now Campaign.

At the time of writing this article, the reservations are a little light for this Thursday's meeting. However, I really hope you will make an extra effort to attend the meeting on October 24th: World Polio Day. Mike Zoeller will share a little of his personal experience of having Polio as a child and the challenges he faced as a child growing up during that era.

Going back to last week's meeting, it was nice that our club invited representatives from the Altadena Town Council, the Altadena Chamber, Altadena Heritage, Altadena Historical Society, the Sheriff Station and the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT). This gave the local community leaders an opportunity to hear some of the exciting programs involving Rotary members from the District and around the world. During the meeting, we presented checks representing the donations received as part of the Pancake Breakfast on October 5th. One check was in the amount of \$675 for the Altadena Heritage and the \$1,000 check went to AMRT. The third organization receiving proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast was Christmas Tree Lane Association. They received \$900 via their ticket sales. (Photos opposite).

I want to again remind all of you of the opportunity to attend the Pasadea Village event scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd from 5 pm - 7:30 pm. at the Woman's Club in South Pasadena. Our club is being honored for our service to their programs. Club members wishing to attend must either make a reservation through our club (Mark or me) or purchase tickets directly online.



Check presentation to Altadena Mountain Rescue Team (above) and Altadena Heritage (below)



Rotary Monthly Themes

- July - Maternal & Child Health Month
- August - Membership & New Club Development Month
- September - Basic Education & Literacy Month
- October - Economic & Community Development Month
- November - Rotary Foundation Month
- December - Disease Prevention & Treatment Month
- January - Vocational Service Month
- February - Peace and Conflict Prevention Month
- March - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month
- April - Environmental Month
- May - Youth Service Month
- June - Fellowship month