



**'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. McInally, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael L. Soden



**December 21, 2023**

**DECEMBER IS DISEASE  
 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
 MONTH**



**THIS WEEK: HOLIDAY PARTY!**

Altadena Town and Country Club, at noon

This is our final meeting of the year!

Plan to attend for festive entertainment and fellowship. Celebrate the end of 2023 and toast the upcoming year - our 75th Anniversary!

See you back in January 2024 for Club Assembly!  
 December 28 - NO MEETING    January 4 - NO MEETING

**January 11 - Club Assembly**



**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

**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: SUNNY WU

## Life and Culture in Taiwan

Speaker Chair: Steve Kerekes    Review: Sarah O'Brien



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

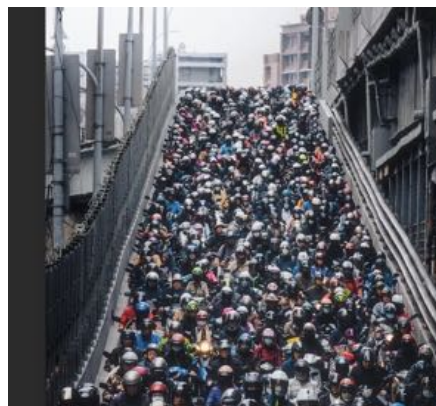


Sunny Wu gave a passionate and entertaining presentation about her life in Taiwan, and return visits with her family in tow, including her mischievous Rotarian husband, Steve Kerekes!

Sunny spoke about how safe the country is, how fond people are of food and night markets, and how the hoards of cyclists can appear like waterfalls cascading down the streets.



Located 100 miles off the coast of China, Taiwan has had a complicated history and relationship with China. Sunny drew attention to the ongoing concerns and fears concerning China's claim to the territory and the reasons why Taiwan's location is of strategic importance to the region. Taiwan dominates the foundry market, or the outsourcing of semiconductor manufacturing. Much of that dominance comes down to TSMC, the world's largest foundry that counts major technology firms such as Apple, Qualcomm and Nvidia as its clients.



Taiwan has many beautiful parks to visit in addition to temples and shrines. People are free to worship as they choose.

Sunny kindly gave everyone a booklet with additional tourist information and she encouraged us to consider Taiwan as a holiday destination. She and Steve also enticed us with a delicious pineapple cake..!

### Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR



December 21 - Holiday Party

Including sponsors from Summer Concert Series

January 11th - Club Assembly meeting

December 28 - NO MEETING

January 4 - NO MEETING  
January 11 - Club Assembly

- March 7- Hold for four way speech contest
- March 14- Hold for Four Way speech contest
- March 21- Hold for Dan Stover Music Contest
- March 28- Hold for Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships  
May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President Dawn's Demotion Party





## MESSAGE FROM DAWN

It is that time of year when we celebrate the holidays and begin the New Year. Hard to believe that it has already been six months since I began my term as President! There is so much to be thankful for, grateful for, and to celebrate in our club.

First, I cannot thank Mark Mariscal, Doug Colliflower, and Lisa Rickard enough for assisting in my weekly tasks and keeping me on track. Next, I want to thank everyone who has served as speaker chair thus far; your selections of folks who enlighten us each week with interesting and engaging topics has been wonderful! To those of you who will serve as speaker chairs for the next half, I thank you in advance for bringing into our meetings speakers that represent the best of our neighborhood!

To Sarah O'Brien, who puts out our Sparks newsletter each week and informs us of all of the things we do, have done, and will continue to do - keeping us in the communications loop of Altadena and beyond. Thank you!!

To my husband, Robert, who supports my participation in Rotary and shows up to help when I ask him...Love you!

And, finally, I want to thank everyone who attends our weekly meetings, who volunteers at our events, and supports our club! Service clubs and other organizations are seeing a decline in membership and your commitment is greatly appreciated and honored.

(Image from Altadena Rotary FB post by Lacey)



I look forward to the second half of my term and all of the great things that 2024 will bring, including our 75th Anniversary celebration!

Let's continue to "Create Hope in the World" in 2024, together!

All the best, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Dawn

## Holiday Cheer at Farnsworth Park

By Maricela Viramontes



Last Saturday, our Rotary Club partnered with LA Country Parks Dept at Farnsworth Park, to provide over 300 toys to kids (up to age 17), who attended the free program. Our club worked with Jose and Sandra Valenzuela, owners of Altadena Grocery Outlet to collect toy contributions by shoppers. Additionally, they purchased toys themselves to add to the donation box, as did our Club. A special shout out to Mark Mariscal for coordinating the program, my daughter Daniella for helping control the line for photos, Craig Cox for coordinating the line for those arriving early, and former member David Smith for being the white haired man in the red suit. Another special thanks for Jose and Sandra for stopping in to offer help, as needed!

