



## **'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL**

*An Award-Winning Newsletter*

Edited by Sarah O'Brien

**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon  
at Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1757 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104**

**Rotary Club of Altadena - #772**

Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

RI Pres: Francesco Arezzo, Dist. 5300 Gov: Gilda Moshir

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Rotary 



**SEPT 04, 2025**

**September is: Basic Education  
and Literacy Month**

### **Officers**

President: Brad Roeber

Vice President: Maricela Viramontes

President Elect: Lisa Rickard

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

Elizabeth Schreib

### **Chairs**

Executive Club Secretary: Mark Mariscal

Membership: Maria Perez-Arton

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

## **THIS WEEK: NEW MEMBER CRAFT TALK**

**Thursday, at noon**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

1757 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104

This week, one of our newer members will present a "Craft Talk". Some of us may not even remember giving our own talk 10, 20, 30 or in Mike Zoeller's case, 42 years ago! These introductory talks allow a member to share information such as where they grew up, education, family members, impactful experiences and of course, their current profession and interests including why they joined Rotary, past volunteer work etc. We all know that one gets out of Rotary what one puts in - Service Above Self. Talks usually last 15 - 22 mins and there is usually time for questions at the end or during the course of the presentation, if the presenter prefers.

There have been times that the Craft Talk has lasted 7 minutes and other times when the Club President has had to END IT NOW!

Sometimes a Craft Talk is so profound that the speaker gets invited to the Disneyland Hotel to address hundreds, like Jose Valenzuela (L w/wife Sandra) on stage this past April, at the Rotary District Conference!



# LAST WEEK: ANDERS COREY

Review by Steve Kerekes

Photo by Deb Halberstadt



The speaker this past week was Anders Corey, who currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Altadena Recovery and Rebuild Corporation (ARRC). Prior to heading ARRC, Anders served as an advisor to Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn

Barger focusing on housing, land-use, economic development, legislation and development. During his career, Anders managed the County healthcare portfolio, care services, public health and mental health services. In this capacity, Anders oversaw major County capital projects including housing development and the expansion of the County's public healthcare covering the County hospital system and primary care system. He previously served as a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission and on the Board of the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS).

ARRC was organized right after the Eaton Canyon fire with the support of Supervisor Kathryn Barger to be a lasting presence and driver of recovery in Altadena. The concept behind ARRC is that government can provide support to rebuild Altadena, but that government alone is not sufficient. It cannot fill many of the wants and needs that are necessary to make Altadena thrive again as a community. ARRC was organized to fill these gaps. The board of ARRC is comprised of Altadena community members and leaders in philanthropy, business and civic governance.

Anders Corey explained that ARRC has two purposes. The first is to assist in the collaboration between private enterprise and government, providing resources for the successful planning to rebuild Altadena and the surrounding community. The second purpose of ARRC is to focus on the long-term success and sustainability of this rebuilding effort. This rebuilding effort extends not only to constructing homes, but also to reestablishing

Altadena's commercial corridors and urban forest.



[www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro](http://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro)

**DONATE TO EATON FIRE RECOVERY FUND**  
<https://givebutter.com/EatonFireARC>

All funds support the community recovery efforts and are separated from all other Altadena Rotary Club projects.  
Fed Tax ID 95-4600758

**CLUB MEMBERS WHO LOST HOMES TO THE EATON FIRE:**

**Maricela**

**Lisa**

**Dawn**

**Mark**

**Rene**

**Sue**

**Carol**

(Sue's sister and friend of Rotary)

**Linda C.**

**Wendy**

**Lauren**

**Frank**

**Tony**

**Sarah**

**Roger Fennell**

**Dennis McGinley**

(Former member)

**Deb H**

**David Smith** lost his place of business (carpenter shop)

## **Fire Relief Resources:**

<https://www.altadenalibrary.org/news/emergency-resources>

<https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/eaton-wildfire-resources>

<https://altadenatowncouncil.org/2025/01/information-resources-eaton-fire/>

The priorities of ARRC are to raise funds, plan a scalable rebuild, and assist in the coordination and direction of resources where they are needed by community residents and businesses.

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

## PRESIDENT BRAD REMARKS

By President Brad Roeber



While I miss all my friends in Altadena, I am very happy to be in Chicago to spend some time in my favorite city! We were fortunate to buy a condo in the Lakeview area of the city nearly ten years ago and we love it here. We have three Cub games lined up for this week and we were fortunate to see the new Second

City show, which features a celebration of 65 years of legendary laughs. There are over 2,000 alumni of this amazing sketch comedy and improvisational venue. We witnessed hilarious songs and unforgettable sketches, originally written and performed by such iconic stars as Bill Murray, John Belushi, Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert and many more. WE laughed until our sides ached!

We are fortunate to enjoy many long walks along Lake Michigan in mid-70's degree weather with our faithful dog, Oliver. We look forward to seeing our Rotarian friends again in a few weeks!

**Brad**



## IMPORTANT DATES!

October 4, - Pancake Breakfast in parking lot of Grocery Outlet

October 4 - Taste of Dena, Altadena Library Foundation (Library parking lot)

November 8 - put up flags for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving

November 15 - Santa's Pantry - Pack boxes (Grocery Outlet)

November 22 - Santa's Pantry Box Distribution (Families Forward)

November 29 - Take down flags on Lake Ave

December 6, - Christmas Tree Lane Lighting Rotary Booth

December 6 - Booth at Door of Hope Holiday event

December 18 - Club Holiday Gathering





## INTERACT AT MUIR - A GREAT START TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

Carina Jacob

Muir Interact Co-Advisor

Success! John Muir High School's Interact Club had over 40 students sign up on Monday, 8/25 during Club Rush! Muir's Interact President, Owen Porter-Self, did a great job promoting Interact. Interact's first meeting for the 2025-2026 school year will be on Wednesday, October 1st in Mr. Kim's classroom during lunch!



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS: THEY'VE ARRIVED!

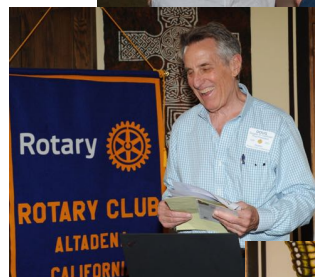


Immediate Past-President Maricela and daughter Daniela arrived safely in Cambodia last week and are settling into their new apartment in Siem Reap - which happens to be upstairs from another Past-President, Sarah O'Brien and her children. After unpacking, and enrolling Daniela at school, a trip to the

Angkor Aquarium and Wildlife Park was in order. The adventure begins..!



## LAST WEEK AT THE CLUB



Top to bottom: Mike Thatcher leads "I've Been Working on the Railroad," Zoot Velasco, who shared the inspirational moment, w/ Mike Zoeller, Doug stands in for Pres Brad and Dawn greets Peter Chrimes!

Photos by Deb Halberstadt



Happy 43rd Wedding Anniversary, Paula & Mark Mariscal!