



**'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL**

*An Award-Winning Newsletter*

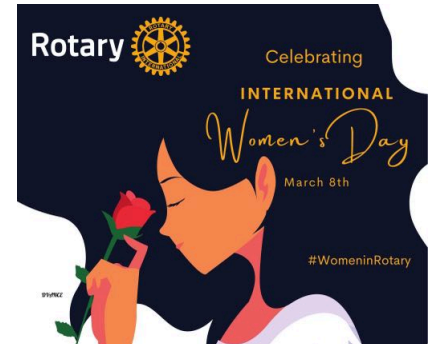
Edited by Sarah O'Brien

**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



**MARCH 06, 2025**

**March is: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene month**

**THIS WEEK: KATIE CLARK  
ALTADENA TENANTS UNION**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church 12.00 - 1:30 pm  
1757 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104**



This week, our speaker is Ms. Katie Clark, one of the lead organizers of the Altadena Tenants Union, a group that recently formed to support renters impacted by the Eaton Fire. The County is not sure of the percentage of renters vs owners but believe that the number of renters in Altadena exceeds the average of 32%.

While some Altadena residents are returning to professionally cleaned homes free of toxic ash, others remain locked in disputes with their landlords over rent increases, smoke mediation and terminated leases. The goal is to "put tenants in Altadena on the radar for L.A. County". Katie is known to many in our community and some of our Rotary Club members. She was the driving force behind Measure Z, which passed in November 2020 and funded dollars for the continuing funding of the former "Parcel Tax" and the new Bond that allows for the restoration and improvements at the two libraries that make up the Altadena Library District. She is an elected Trustee on the Altadena Library District Board of Trustees. She also serves as a consultant to Non-Profit organizations.

**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

## LAST WEEK: A MINI CLUB ASSEMBLY!

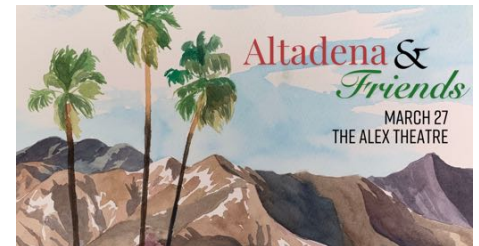
Review by Dawn Digrius Smith

So much to do, so little time! Last Thursday, we heard from different club members about some of the upcoming service projects. These include the upcoming Day of Service on March 15th, Reading to Children in mid-April, the upcoming interviews and selecting of students from Muir HS to attend the upcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). The selection committee consists of Dawn Smith, Tony Hill and Mike Zoeller will be interviewing and selecting candidates to attend the 3-day weekend near Arrowhead. The women-owned business grants will be awarded in April also.

Lisa Rickard gave an update about the club's Restore Altadena Fund work that is progressing. To date, more than \$510,000 in donations have been received into the Altadena Rotary Charities account. The committee released the Grant Applications starting on March 1st.

We heard that the Teacher Mini-Grants are being prepared for teachers in deserving public schools. Ed hopes to deliver the checks to teachers by March 14th. The planning for the Pasadena City College Veteran's program is slated for April 24 followed by the Teacher Mini-Grant luncheon on May 1st, then Vocational Scholarships to students from PCC on May 8th and we wrap it up with scholarships for students from Blair, Marshall Fundamental, Muir HS and Eliot Middle School.

We have an upcoming Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, May 31st from 8-10:30 am. Doug Colliflower has agreed to chair that program. Finally, although the date seems far into the future, please place on your calendar June 26th. That is the date (in late afternoon) of our Presidential Demotion Party!



### CLUB MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR 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

**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-eat-on-fire/>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By President Maricela

### RIPE, like a piece of fruit!

I will probably continue to repeat myself in print and at our club meetings. The last two months have completely changed my life, the family's life and of course, all of you in Rotary and the community at large. The Eaton Fire is still so fresh in our memories. While trying to move forward with our own rebuilding (or cleaning), our club members continue to do amazing work

in so many ways. Another direct version of that will be the next Community Give Away event scheduled for March 15th in the parking lot of Grocery Outlet. Sign-ups can be found in the calendar section of DACdb or just ask Mark, Craig or Doug.

Last week, our meeting focused on the different club service projects that we still have ahead of us before June 30th. It was nice to hear that we are moving forward with lunches in late April and May where we invite students or teachers to our meetings as part of the different Award Programs.

I have to again thank Dawn Smith for securing our meeting location for the remainder of the year. Westminster Presbyterian staff have been helpful.

On Tuesday, February 25th, Mark and I attended a meeting with two local Altadena Architects who want to find a way to volunteer their design services for those Altadena residents who lost homes and need some advice. After that meeting, Mark convinced me to attend the weekly Eaton Fire Collaborative Meeting held at the Elks Lodge each week. Mike Noll is our club's appointed representative. What a valuable resource! There will be more to say about this group over the next few weeks. The different groups in that room really want to help get Altadena rebuilt and operating at full strength as quickly as possible.

On Wednesday, February 26th, DG Mike Driebe, Zoot Velasco, Mark Mariscal and I met and toured around Altadena for an hour with the Rotary International President-Elect (RIPE), Mr. Mario Cesar Martine de Camargo who is slated to become the President of Rotary

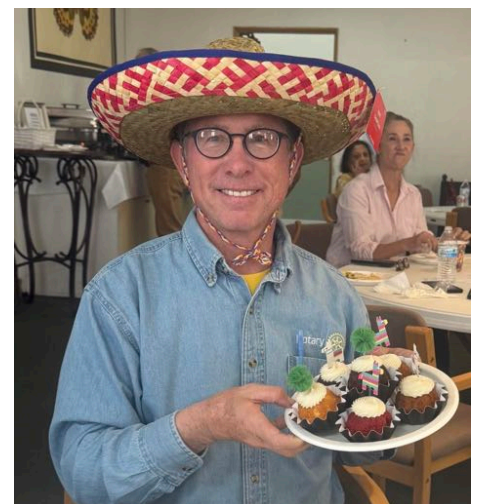
## LAST WEEK AT THE CLUB:



Jose and Jocelyn Velazquez w/ Mike Thatcher



Mark, Caitlin Stamos, President Maricela



Happy 65th Birthday to Mark!

*Happy Birthday song adapted by Craig below, to the tune of Johnny B Goode by Chuck Berry below:*



International on July 1st. Nikki Winslow also attended the greeting but had another appointment and could not go on the tour. Zoot shared with RIPE Mario some of the history of Altadena starting back as early as the late 1890s. RIPE Mario told us he loves to study and read about local history. We stopped at my home (the remains) and took a photo. I explained how my family and I left that very early Wednesday morning with no more than 10 minutes to grab a few things. My daughter and I and fled the area as embers were flying all around. Mario was very interested in what remained of my husband's car. It had completely melted to the ground. In fact, Mark picked up a big piece of aluminum and we all figured it was one of the rims for the tires. It had formed into a piece of art. Now you understand the title of the article more clearly.



With all of the connections that Mark has helped me make over my year as President, one quick meeting many months ago led to lunch this past Monday with Bricia El Awar. She is in a Rotary Club in San Bernadino (District 5330) and her husband Chehab El Awar is in the Las Vegas WON club (our District). What a woman! Bricia is dedicated to making rotary moments for hundreds of people and she and her husband are involved in numerous rotary activities around the world. They truly represent a "Rotary Power Couple" who are humble and proud of heritage and upbringing - personal experiences that help them better embrace *Service Above Self* in making a difference in the local community and the world.

**See you on Thursday - stay strong!**



*Are you following Altadena Rotary on FB and Instagram?*



Deep down in Altadena close to Chaney Trail  
Way back up in the woods where you'd get no mail  
There stood a little house or so they tell  
Where lived a country boy named Mark Mariscal  
Who never ever learned to read or write so well  
But he could do Rotary just like a-riding' a bell  
Go, go  
Go Marky, go,-go  
Go Marky, go,-go  
Go Marky, go,-go  
Go Marky, go,-go  
Go Marky, go,-go  
Mark Mariscal

He'd carry his receipts in a gunny sack  
Go sit beneath the tree by the railroad track  
Oh, Mike Noll would see him sitting in the park  
Fillin' out reimbursements from mornin' to dark  
The people passing by they would stop and say  
"Oh my that little country boy could get repaid"  
Go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Mark Mariscal

His mother told him "someday you will be a man  
And maybe you will be a great Rotarian  
Many people coming from miles around  
To hear about your service 'til the sun go down  
Maybe someday your name will be in lights  
Saying "Mark Mariscal tonight"  
Go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Go Marky, go, go  
Mark Mariscal

**New Donation Link:**

[givebutter.com/EatonFireARC](https://givebutter.com/EatonFireARC)

Altadena Rotary

**Families Forward Learning Center** 2025 Soirée

**Celebrate With Us...**  
You are invited to our Soirée on March 29, 2025 at The University Club of Pasadena.

Join us and support children and families living in isolation to succeed in school and in life.

For additional information contact Liz Kwong - [Liz@FamiliesForwardLC.org](mailto:Liz@FamiliesForwardLC.org) or at 626-318-4936

## How Proposition 19 Can Help Homeowners Save on Property Taxes—Whether You’re Relocating by Choice or Necessity

By Doug Colliflower, Broker Associate at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. Should you have any questions, please call/text 626.524.4158.

The recent wildfires have deeply impacted our community, leaving many homeowners faced with the difficult decision of whether to rebuild or relocate. If you or someone you know has lost a home due to wildfire or another natural disaster, **Proposition 19** offers a way to maintain significant **property tax savings** when moving to a new home anywhere in California.

However, **you don’t have to be a fire or disaster victim to take advantage of Prop 19**. This law also benefits homeowners who are simply looking to **downsize, move closer to family, or relocate to a more affordable area** while keeping their lower property tax base.

### What is Proposition 19?

Prop 19 allows eligible homeowners, including those **55 and older, individuals with disabilities, and disaster victims**—to **transfer their current property tax base** to a replacement home, even if it's in a different county or more expensive than their original home.

### Who Can Benefit from Prop 19?

- ✓ **Wildfire & Disaster Victims** – If your home was destroyed, you can relocate and keep your existing tax base, avoiding a large tax increase.
- ✓ **Seniors (55+)** – If you’re looking to downsize, move closer to family, or transition to a home that better suits your needs, you can transfer your lower tax base up to three times.
- ✓ **People with Disabilities** – If you require a home that better accommodates your needs, you can relocate without a major property tax increase.
- ✓ **Anyone Seeking Affordability** – If you’re thinking about moving to a more affordable area, Prop 19 helps protect your tax savings.

To learn more and check eligibility, visit the Los Angeles County Assessor’s website here:

<https://assessor.lacounty.gov/real-estate-toolkit/proposition-19>

## Key Benefits of Prop 19

- ◆ **Lower Property Taxes When Moving** – Keep the tax base of your current home instead of paying higher taxes on a new one.
- ◆ **Relocate Anywhere in California** – Transfer your tax base to any county in the state.
- ◆ **Move to a More Expensive Home with Adjustments** – If you buy a home with a higher value, your tax base will adjust but still provide savings.

### Why You Should Consider This Now

Whether you’re making a move out of necessity or personal choice, understanding the benefits of **Proposition 19 can help you make a sound financial decision**. This property tax transfer could mean **thousands of dollars in savings each year**, making your next home more affordable.



Doug Colliflower, SRES

Broker Associate, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

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| Past President, Rotary Club of Altadena | Past President & Director, Altadena Chamber of Commerce | Councilman, Altadena Town Council