



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * September 18, 2020 * #71
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This Week's Program

R. Michael Alvarez, Ph.D.

Can America Have A Safe & Secure Election

Introducer: Diana Peterson-More



Michael Alvarez received his B.A. from Carleton College, and his Ph.D. from Duke University, both in political science. He has taught at the California Institute of Technology his entire career, focusing on elections, voting behavior, election technology, and research methodologies. He has written or edited a number of books (most recently, the edited volume *Computational Social Science*, and *Nonpartisan Primary Election Reform, Mitigating Mischief*) and scores of academic articles and reports.

He has studied elections throughout the world, working closely with public officials in many locations to improve their elections. His current research projects include using

machine learning to detect election fraud, developing social media tools to assess election problems in real time, and statistical auditing of voter registration databases. He is currently collaborating with state and county election officials in the United States developing and using these tools for the November 2020 Presidential election.

Alvarez is currently the co-director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, which since the 2000 Presidential election has been working to improve the security and integrity of elections throughout the world. He is also leads the Monitoring the Election project at Caltech, which has been working since 2018 on

building tools and methods to help improve the integrity of elections, focusing largely on collaborations with election officials in California and Oregon.

Alvarez's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Haynes Foundation, and the John Irvine Foundation. He was named to the Scientific American 50 in 2004 for his research on voting technologies. Alvarez is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, a Fellow of the Society for Political Methodology, and is co-director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project. He has also received awards for his teaching and mentoring, including twice receiving the Caltech Graduate Student Council's Teaching & Mentoring Award.

11:45 am: Reception Greeters: Scott Carlson - Jane Waas
Song Leader: **Phil Miles**

Scout Zone Reporter: **Justene Adamec**
Tech Team: **Frank Fish - Robert Lyons - Don Andruess**

Zoom Team: **Scott Carlson - Kat Rogers - Frank Fish - Tammy Silver & Elisabeth Browne**

**** NEED HELP WITH ZOOM****

Tammy Silver - tamarasilver@gmail.com - 626-755-4272



Pasadena Rotary invites you to its Weekly Wednesday Meeting
Sept. 23, 2020 at 12:00pm - 1:00pm

** All or part of our weekly Rotary meeting may be recorded to assist with documenting donations, input, or other Pasadena Rotary business.*

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86287855806?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86287855806?pwd=WUJBY0RGdjV2UUPLWXIRTWpWS1Vldz09)
[pwd=WUJBY0RGdjV2UUPLWXIRTWpWS1Vldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86287855806?pwd=WUJBY0RGdjV2UUPLWXIRTWpWS1Vldz09)

Meeting ID: 862 8785 5806
Password: 994656

NOTE:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND COUNTY MANDATES AND FOLLOWING PHASED IN REOPENING OF GATHERED GROUPS, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE PASADENA ROTARY CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

PASADENA ROTARY IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THIS MAY CHANGE, AND AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S PLANS TO REOPEN BUSINESSES AND GROUP MEETINGS UNFOLD, WE WILL KEEP EVERYONE UPDATED ON THE STATUS OF PASADENA ROTARY CLUB'S IN-PERSON MEETINGS.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Corner is on hiatus this week due to illness in the family. **President Ken** welcomes your good wishes and if you wish to reach him emails, but please no Zoom or phone calls at the moment. president@pasadenarotary.com

THE SCOOT ZONE

By **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, Bureau Chief Emeritus



President Elect Cory Brendel

In the absence of **President Ken Joe** due to a family emergency, **President Elect Cory Brendel**, looking like he was born for the job, called the meeting to order right at 12:00 noon.

Ross Jutsum led us in a song from the year he was born, "[Vaya Con Dios](#)," which he dedicated to **President Ken's** mom, who is

recovering from brain surgery after a stroke. He followed that up with "You're a Grand Old Flag" and the pledge of allegiance. **Marsha Rood**, gave the inspiration: a quote from the Dalai Lama about practicing kindness and compassion.

Announcements:

Ken White shared the results of the September 11 Done in a Day project, which was a tree-planting project on New York Drive. Thanks to everyone who participated at the invitation of **John McDanell**, who initiated the project some years ago. Thanks to **Ken Joe** and **Mary Chalon** for participating. You can see photos on the [Pasadena Rotary Facebook page](#) and below.



Marsha Rood inspiring us

Mary Chalon reminded everyone of the ongoing Huntington Hospital blood drive, which is an ongoing service project by the Done in a Day committee.

Wendy Anderson ("without whom this club would collapse completely," according to **Cory**), put in a plug for the restaurants who are supporting our Adopt a Meal program by providing great meals at a discounted price. Please support these institutions by eating in outside or getting takeout! See below for contact information. Thanks, too, to Adopt a Meal co-chairs **Shel Capeloto** and

Elaine Silberman and their committee of 23 who are underwriting the meals!

Joshua Levine Grater Made a Polio Pig donation in gratitude that **Mel Cohen's** home has been spared from the fire, (see photos below) and in honor of the upcoming Jewish Rosh Hashana holiday, praying for a healthy and safe new year.

Tammy Silver facilitated our guest introductions. **Howard Raff** introduced returning former member **Andrew Svitek** ("none are so welcome as the sheep who have strayed," said **President Elect Cory**), and **Mel Cohen** had a whole bunch of guests, who were here to see his daughter do the presentation.

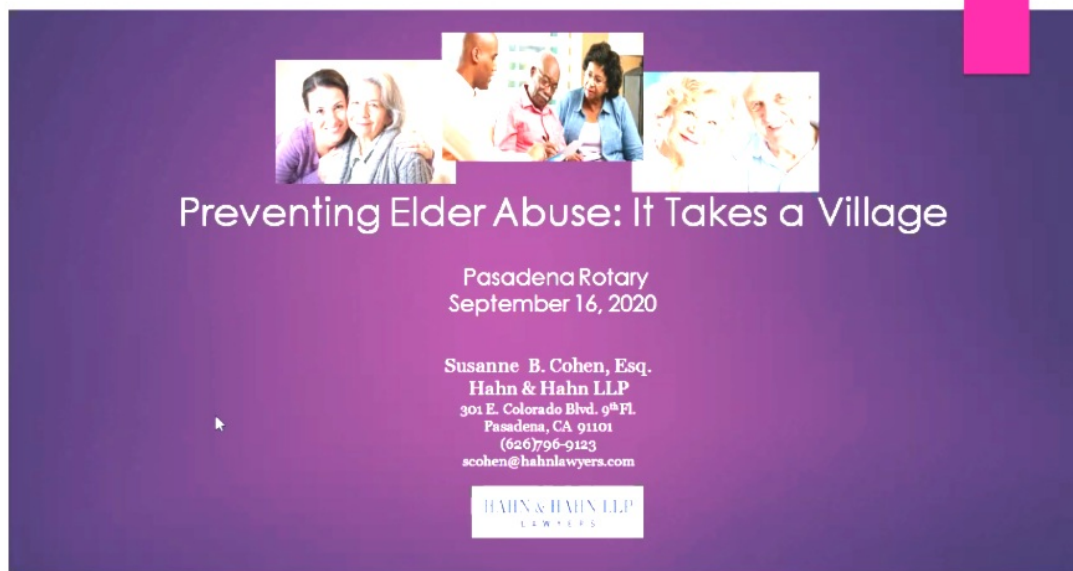


Former member Andrew Svitek is rejoining Rotary

Dean Billman gave a presentation about Polio Plus in the Age of Covid. He is the District 5300 Polio Plus chair and we are the first of 63 clubs to whom he will be giving this presentation. Important points:

1. Polio in our lifetime is not much of a consideration: The people we know who have had it are probably in their 80s or 90s. Two things we can learn: So many people had polio in the summer of 1953 that Boston Hospital had people laying on the sidewalk unable to breathe. It was a virus that shut down swimming pools, social gatherings, everything.
2. Now the world is virtually polio-free because of vaccines. It's only in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, because Rotary International took on the project of distributing the vaccine across the world.
3. On the front lines there are hundreds of thousands of vaccinators and community mobilizers, surveillance medical officers and lab technicians. They will be mobilized to work on COVID when there is a vaccine available: COVID-19 will be the "plus" in Polio Plus. So it's more important than ever that we continue to support [Polio Plus](#).
4. Right now your donations will go further than ever because there is a three-for-one match. Two-for-one from Gates Foundation plus matching from another donor. Dean is giving \$1,000 this week in honor of his dad, his father in law, and the priest who performed his wedding, all of whom were polio survivors. Make your donation by the end of the month to get this big match to fight polio PLUS COVID-19!

Past President Mel Cohen introduced our speaker, Susanne Cohen, his daughter and elder law attorney at Hahn & Hahn: "All of the good things she learned from me, all of the bad things I won't go into but I am married to Renate." (**Mel** also assured us that he and Renate are safe from the Bobcat Fire after a harrowing evacuation experience on Sunday.)



Susanne has been in practice for 30 years, mostly in the Bay Area and for the last 18 months here in Pasadena at Hahn & Hahn. Her topic was Preventing Elder Abuse: It Takes a Village. She noted that we have a community of professionals in Pasadena Rotary that keeps us safe, protected, and thriving as we and our families age. The Club has someone to serve pretty much any need than elderly people have.

Some of the problem areas that Susanne is seeing in her practice include the following:

The Baby Boom generation is aging: started turning 60 in 2006 and ends in 2024. It's referred to as "the aging tsunami" and it's going to affect everyone. California is the most populous state in the Union and has the largest number of elders: in 2024 20% is projected to be 60 or over.



Speaker Susanne Cohen

Some of the issues she highlighted for elderly people are as follows:

- a. Adult children - they can be very helpful or very selfish. Sometimes they have support needs (failure to launch, "starving artists," disabilities), which can cause problems. Other issues include blended families, incapacity planning and fiduciary selection, and in-law issues.
- b. Caregivers - there are a lot of lawsuits by caregivers after the elder dies. Wage claims, or claims they were promised they would be in the will. You need to make sure you comply with wage and hour laws for caregivers.
- c. "Cabana boy" and "golddigger" cases, where an elderly person is swept off their feet by a newfound "love interest" who takes advantage of them.
- d. Fraudsters posing as professionals: fake public agency calls, reverse mortgages, living trust mills, door to door salespeople, phone and internet phishing. If it's too good to be true, watch out. Watch out if time to act is short,

watch out if you have to give personal information - those are the hallmarks of scams.

e. How to deter abuse: A good estate plan and a good incapacity plan. Work with trusted advisors, avoid isolation, make sure you have good health care including good home care. Decisions don't have to be in the hands of a family member: you need someone good and trustworthy. Proactively address changing needs including a financial management transition plan.

f. "Elder and dependent abuse" is defined in California Welfare and Institutions Code 15610 and includes adults over 18 who are in inpatient treatment settings. It provides enhanced remedies for various kinds of abuse including financial abuse.

What should you as a professional do if you suspect one of your elder clients is being abused? Some people are mandated reporters under the code but attorneys and accountants need permission to disclose/report elder abuse. In any event, the first step should be to stabilize the elder's finances.

To prevent elder abuse, encourage your clients to have good plans in place. Stay connected to your clients and refer them to other trusted professionals.

As we ran out of time, **President Elect Cory** noted that he is in a monthly study group of attorneys who are in this field and Susanne Cohen is at the top of her game and the top of her profession. Anyone wishing a copy of her powerpoint, send a request to office@pasadenarotary.com.

Introducing the breakout sessions, **Cory** noted that a benefit to this procedure is that we get to chat with somebody we might not have encountered at our in-person meetings. He gave "how are you doing with the smoke this week?" as our discussion question. Yours truly had a grand time catching up with **Ellen Simon** and **Debbie Loveland**.

President Elect Cory ended the meeting right on time, admonishing us to "be safe, [and] be Rotarians!" Susanne graciously stayed behind for Q&A moderated by **Kat Rogers**.

COMMITTEE EVENTS & CALENDAR

ADOPT-A-MEAL PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT

Let's show our appreciation to restaurants supporting our monthly Adopt-A-Meal Program.

- **CABRERA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 655 N. Lake (Orange Grove) 626-795-8230 www.cabreras.com
- **UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA**, Click on Calendar for their "to go menu" and other virtual & live events. Every Fri & Sat - BBQ Americano 626-793-5157 www.universityclubpasadena.com
- **GREEN STREET RESTAURANT**, 146 Shoppers Lane, 626-577-7170 www.greenstreetrestaurant.com

- **ROMEGA EVENTS** with Chef Cameron Czekalla 626-710-0240
www.romegaevents.com cameron@romega.la

CAPTURING (DIAD) MOMENTS WITH JOHN McDANNEL

DIAD Co-chairs **Ken White & Mary Chalon** along with **President Ken Joe** donned masks on one of the worse smoke-filled days to help fellow Rotarian **John McDannel** plant seedlings to add to the 180 Oak Trees already planted on New York Drive as a Memorial to 9/11. **Wende Lee** stopped by to cheer them on with help from Engine 37. *Photos by Mary Chalon & Wende Lee.*





BUSINESS ALLIANCE ZOOM COMMITTEE MEETING

JOIN US - Monday 9/28/20 at 4:00 pm

This group of 23 members foster meaningful connections among business and organization Rotarian leaders. We share resources and ideas, provide constructive feedback, and 'out of the box' inspirations. At our 9/28 meeting, **Wende Lee** of The Print Spot will share results of our ideas and inspirations and a special business connection. Mentors: **Shel Capeloto & Sandy Goodenough** CONTACT: Co-chairs: **Cyril Virgil** - cyril@livhome.com or **Wendy Anderson** - wowproductions2@gmail.com

POLIO PIG ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Do you wish to show a photo & tell us what you are up to when sheltered in - Wish to make an announcement about your family or event - Tell us what your favorite nonprofit may need or tell us about their event. For a minimum donation of \$20 to Polio Pig you can do so at our Weekly Meeting. Email **Wendy** at office@pasadenarotary.com by Tues.

DISTRICT 5300 LEADERS

Pasadena Rotary is proud to have three of its members serving at the District Level. We spotlighted **PP Mary Lou Byrne**, Assistant District 5300 Governor and **PP Phil Miles**, District Treasurer in last week's Spokes. This week we spotlight **Dean Billman**, District 5300 PolioPlus Coordinator.

DEAN BILLMAN, DISTRICT 5300 PolioPlus COORDINATOR

Dean Billman represents District 5300 PolioPlus effort (our club's weekly Polio Pig donations fundraises for PolioPlus). His role is to "virtually" attend 63 club meetings in District 5300 and present a five-minute presentation of "Polio in the Age of Covid". Rotary International may have an international position in rolling out the Covid vaccine, with our polio eradication experience.

"I joined Pasadena Rotary because many of my friends in Pasadena Symphony and Pops, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and my fellow Tournament of Roses White Suiters were in Rotary, so I finally came to a meeting and never left."



Dean celebrating July 4th!

What impressed me was the drive to eradicate polio, which I have lived with my entire life as my father was a polio survivor. Now it turns out that my father-in-law and the priest who married Karen and I are also polio survivors."

THANKS ARCADIA FIREFIGHTERS!

Rotarian **Mel Cohen** made the news as he and Renata had to evacuate their home on Sunday 9/13/20 which was featured on KTLA News.

According to **Mel**: *"These pictures are in the back of my house on Sunday. The firefighters with their axes are in the back yard. The flames you see are above Wilderness Park in Arcadia. We had to evacuate Sunday. Renata & our dog stayed @ Susie's apartment @ the Paseo. I came home Sunday night. There were 2 different fire fighter crews in our back yard throughout Sunday night. We're safe. Renate & I are back home even though Arcadia still has a Forced Evacuation on all houses above Elkins Avenue. There are 260 homes affected."*

According to Suzanne Cohen (daughter): *"No damage to their home. Extraordinary firemen on the job all yesterday. They monitored, cleared brush in Wilderness Park, and kept us feeling confident and safe"*



Yoga by Ken Hill

YOGA BY KEN will return soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Ken Hill** at kenhill8@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Jan Sanders

September 20th

Akila Gibbs

September 22nd

Angela Hawekotte

September 23rd

Chet Specht

September 24th

Rotaversaries!

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Mary Lou Byrne | September 18, 2013 | 7 Years |
| Scott Carder | September 18, 1996 | 24 years |
| Brian McDonald | September 23, 2015 | 5 years |

Upcoming Programs

| | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 30 | Charlie Firestone, President, Rose Bowl Institute |
| Oct. 7 | Troy Anderson, Founder/International Director, Speak Up For the Poor |

SPOKES is a weekly newsletter published by the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

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*Complimentary Valet Parking

Should you have questions regarding this publication, please call us at 626-683-8243 or send us an email to office@pasadenarotary.com.

WEBSITE UPDATE:
Chair Paul Martin - www.pasadenarotary.com
Looking for Spokes go to the website, scroll down the homepage to [This Week in Spokes](#).

