

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



A CENTURY OF SERVICE



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 22, 2021 * #21-4

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This Week's Program

MICHAEL ALEXANDER, Ph.D.

"Naming A Child"

Introducer: JOSH BETTA



Michael Alexander, Ph.D. is an award winning public speaker with over 25 years of public speaking experience on both technical matters and humorous subjects. He also has had a successful career as a professional witness in cases involving energy economics, where his enviable record of favorable judgements is a testimony to his ability to explain complicated matters in a way that the layman can readily understand and trust.

Michael is the son of the inventor of the bar code, so as you would expect, even though his doctorate is in economics, he is very much at home with the technical world as well. In fact, Michael's coaching of professional witnesses in energy, medicine, art history and art forgery, have led to several favorable courtroom decisions. He is also an expert in what he refers to as "Free-Range Thinking." Solving

problems isn't just a matter of learning to think outside the box. Sometimes, it is a matter of learning to think inside the box. "We are geniuses at making problems complicated. What we need to do is to become geniuses at making problems simple."

11:45 am: Greeters

Scott Carlson - Jane Waas - Elisabeth Browne

Song Leader: **Phil Miles** - Inspiration: **Debbie Unruh**

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 - Wendy Anderson

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

Tammy Silver - tamaramsilver@gmail.com - 626-744-9533



Pasadena Rotary invites you to its Weekly Wednesday Meeting

January 27, 2020 at 12:00pm - 1:15pm

** 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/84583324183?pwd=R3p1bEtTWHp4R0FjLy82VIFKR0x3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 845 8332 4183

Passcode: 073016

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



"Rotary Dim Sum with President Ken & Marina from 2016"

Hello Pasadena Rotary,

One of my planned events that have been placed on hold this year is my monthly dim sum brunches.

Our three sons may not speak a word of Chinese, but they appreciate good Chinese food and especially dim sum! To put this in perspective, they will gladly get off their electronic devices for dim sum!

Dim sum is a traditional Cantonese brunch that is served from morning to early afternoon. It's both a culinary and cultural experience from selecting the tea to enjoying a variety of pork, beef, shrimp and vegetable dumplings. There's also the steam beef balls, lotus leaf wrapped sticky rice, egg rolls, steamed and baked buns filled with BBQ pork, custard tarts and you can't forget the famous chicken feet!!!

Dim sum literally translates to "a touch of heart" - Pasadena Rotary is a place to serve and a place to fellowship and does it with a touch of heart. I'm looking forward to the days ahead and having dim sum together!

I am always available to you for a socially distant cup of coffee!

In Your Service,

Ken

THE SCOOT ZONE

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief Emeritus



President Ken Joe called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. **Don Andruess**, at the U Club with his guitar, led us in the title song from Camelot, in honor of our idyllic town of Pasadena and the mayor's visit. We followed that with America the Beautiful (almost as good as J Lo's inaugural version!), and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Will Hoyman gave the inspiration, saluting the inauguration and inviting everyone to unite in our dedication to service above self. He closed with a quote from Martin Luther King and one from The Little Prince in honor of his wife, whom he sadly lost last summer. The chat panel on Zoom lit up with expressions of support and condolence for Will.



Don Andruess

President Ken welcomed everyone and reminded us "we are not just your average Rotary Club." The poll for the day was "how long have you lived in Pasadena?" We never got the official results but word on the street was that most of the answers were in the range of "a long time." (This reporter has been here since 1980, and **John Cushman** reported in the chat bar that he moved here as a child in the 1940s!)* See *Poll Results Below*



Mike O'Neil

Announcements: Mike O'Neil from our local Toastmasters District made a Polio Pig announcement and announced Toastmasters is starting a new chapter based on the arts, culture, and history of Pasadena. Kickoff Zoom meeting will be Jan 23 7-8:30 p.m. It's free and open to the public. (See *more details below.*)

Sheryl Guerrero announced that applications for Community Grants are now being accepted. Go here for details and forms. This year we are distributing up

to \$62,741 to local non-profits working in the arts. Contact Sheryl if you'd like to join the committee.

Past President Shel Capeloto announced that the Adopt-a-Meal Committee provides meals for families at Union Station Homeless Services' family shelter once a month,

and also supports local restaurants and caterers by patronizing them for those meals. (See list of restaurants below.) Please support the restaurants and let **Shel** know if you'd like to participate in the committee.

Phil Hawkey introduced our speaker, Pasadena's new mayor Victor Gordo. Mayor Gordo thanked Don for his song and said, "I agree, Pasadena is certainly the center of the universe in my view! It's a title we've earned over generations!" He noted that our City has faced adversity in the past and has developed a strong spirit to succeed. He began by addressing COVID-19: The infection rate in Pasadena now, lab confirmed, is up to 9,408. That's not counting people who haven't been tested. Yesterday we dropped from the daily high of 286 to 69. Just before Thanksgiving we were averaging 8-16 infections per day, average 12. After Thanksgiving it shot up, and hospitalizations shot up and we saw the surge throughout our city as well as county and state. Huntington Hospital's 46 ICU beds have been close to full - it got up to 43 at one point and has started to decline but is still high. Deaths are at 192 in Pasadena. The numbers have begun to decline, but ICU use is still pretty high and ventilator use is still pretty high. We are hopeful that now that we have a vaccine, we can distribute it and ramp up to 1,000 vaccines per day in Pasadena. That depends on how much we receive. We've administered 9,017 doses so far to Pasadenans and Mayor Gordo has demanded more doses from the Governor. He is joining forces with other mayors including Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles to get more vaccine doses. Pasadena is offering up the Rose Bowl as a "super mobile distribution site."



Mayor Victor Gordo

The Mayor noted that COVID also presents a mental health crisis. "We are beginning to see more and more impacts - I see it on my own teenage children," he said. It's difficult for kids that age to be restricted to home and not be able to see their friends. And what about athletics? Sports are very important for a variety of reasons to teens, and our kids are missing out on that now. We are also starting to see more and more people of all ages show up with

PTSD-like symptoms due to lack of contact with friends and family.

The economic impact is "surreal," said the Mayor. "I drive around our city every day and check things out and for a city that's the center of the universe and was pre-COVID welcoming 105,000 visitors for work, education, dining, etc., it's all come to an all-but-complete halt. It's sad to see, there's no other way to say it. Coming out of COVID we need to think about business owners and also people who work in those businesses including waiters, dishwashers, etc. I'm thinking through how we support those workers - it's going to take effort by feds, state, county, and local government."

The Mayor noted that we can all see the impacts on restaurants and brick and mortar stores. To-go and takeout is not nearly enough to keep restaurants in good shape. Also building permits are down: in 2018 we had 2900 in 2019 3200, 2020, 2795. It's not a huge variation but you can begin to see the impact of COVID. One good thing is we have a very diverse economy. We have a lot of professional businesses in addition to dining and retail.

What's the next step in the pandemic? The vaccine. The City's budget is an important

issue that will be discussed as we move into budget season. Our reserves of 5% has gone down to \$313,000. Our 15% emergency reserve hasn't been touched - that's about \$41,000,000. The section 113 trust, set aside to help pay pension costs, is \$12,000,000 unrestricted. That seems like a lot, but we have debt service at the Rose Bowl and Convention Center, about \$10,500,000 for the Convention Center and \$11,000,000 for the Rose Bowl. If they aren't re-opened, then the city's general fund will be looked to as the backup. The Convention Center has reserves for another year and relies on the transient occupancy tax, but the Rose Bowl relies solely on revenue it generates at stadium and golf course, which is way way down, of course. If we have to pay all that debt service that will quickly deplete our reserves and Mayor Gordo is concerned about that. We will ask the governor for some relief about that.

Jobs in the region: We are seeing increased unemployment in the region including Pasadena. One of our important sectors is the hotel sector, he noted. We have many beautiful hotels that contribute to our transient occupancy tax. "One of the things about COVID is it's taught us to do business differently and I'm concerned about long term effect on business travel," said Mayor Gordo. As a city we need to have serious post-COVID discussions about land use. Will the brick and mortar stores come back? We were already seeing them take a big hit from Google and Amazon and similar. Expect to hear about whether we should re-think and re-use some of the currently zoned office and retail space. How do we want our city to come out of COVID and evolve in the future?

Police reform is an issue a lot of people are interested in. We need better training not just in Pasadena, to impact culture of policing and take a different approach to policing. The City Council has moved forward with police commission and oversight commission, will be voted on this coming Monday. The District 5 council seat vacated by Mayor Gordo when he was elected mayor will be filled - 4-5 candidates will come to City Council and one will be appointed in February to replace him.

Opportunities for Pasadena: Even in the midst of this crisis things continue to happen. What's going to happen with "710 ditch?" Caltrans has agreed to work with us to transfer land that was once designated for 710 back to City of Pasadena. We need to think through all of the issues that come along with taking it back and ensuring it's handled properly and whatever we decide to do is something we can be proud of for generations. "That's going to take a very robust and transparent public process;" the Mayor promised.



News on the Rose Bowl and the Rose Bowl game: "The game being moved was a bit of a surprise to some us in the City," the Mayor said wryly. "Let me assure all of you that this is not something that the City Council or RBOC did. Our contract with Tournament of Roses goes through 2048 and calls for Rose Bowl game to be played at the Rose Bowl stadium. We are confident we can protect the game and keep it here - the only other time it was moved was in 1942 due to WWII. Even people who supported moving the game maybe are thinking twice about it now after having seen it in Texas. It just wasn't the same."

Mayor Gordo closed on an optimistic note: Pasadena has reinvented itself before in the

1920s, 1950s, 1970s, 1990s among others. "I believe once again Pasadena will shine just like Camelot - Pasadena is the center of the universe. There is no place else where in a city the size of Pasadena you can study and explore the universe like you can here. I am confident we can overcome these challenges and be back to shining and meeting each other for lunch in person."

President Ken thanked Mayor Gordo and reminded him that one of the benefits of being Mayor is being an honorary member of Pasadena Rotary. He explained him the Four Way Test and inducted **Mayor Gordo** as an honorary member.

After the Q and A with the Mayor, **President Ken** recapped our Club's do-gooding activities during this difficult COVID year. Mayor Gordo thanked all of us, individually and collectively, and said we can count him as a member and a partner, and he looks forward to having a martini with all of us in the near future.

President Ken adjourned the meeting and sent us all of our breakout rooms. This reporter had a grand time catching up with dear friend Ross Jutsum.

COMMITTEE EVENTS & CALENDAR

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

Co-chairs Sheryl Guerrero & Deborah Lewis are pleased to announce the 2021 Pasadena Rotary Club's Community Grants Application & Guidelines are now online at <https://pasadenarotary.com/community-grants/>.

This year the committee will consider applications from non-profit organizations (501)(c)(3) that serve residents in the Pasadena area in arts or culture. This focus will be on providing financial support to address organizational needs that have arisen as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Grants will range from \$2,000 to \$6,000. The full application packets must be submitted by Wednesday, February 10, 2021 by 5:00 pm.

Since 2004 the Rotary Club of Pasadena has issued more than 370 grants totaling \$703,659 to over 140 organizations.

POLIO PIG ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wish to show a photo & tell us what you are up to - Wish to make an announcement about your family or your favorite nonprofit. Email **Wendy** at office@pasadenarotary.com by **Tues afternoon**. Minimum donation: \$20.00

ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY TOASTMASTERS OF PASADENA

Rotary International & Toastmasters International formed an strategic alliance to provide Rotarians more opportunities to develop and improve their leadership and communication skills. Mike O'Neil, Club Growth Director for Toastmaster International District 100 is making a polio pig donation to announce the new Pasadena Toastmaster Club being formed and to invite you to their Kickoff Meeting on Saturday evening.



**ATTENTION:
A NEW CLUB IS COMING!**



**Arts, Culture & History Toastmasters of
Pasadena**

Surrounded by the San Gabriel Mountains, Pasadena is a unique cultural enclave with some of the most esteemed art collections, and architecture. The Crown City has a fascinating history and vibrant culinary, and music scenes. Come share your knowledge, hear and learn from others or exchange ideas about Pasadena Culture, and much more.

While sharing your interest in Pasadena Culture, enhance your communication and leadership skills.

This new Toastmasters club is for you !!!

Save the Date!

SATURDAY

January 23, 2021 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

Register Today for our FREE *Kickoff* meeting:

ZOOM REGISTRATION

Sam Luk , ACS, CL

Email: courage88@hotmail.com

Darren Ng, ACB, CL

Email: darren.tm@outlook.com



ADOPT-A-MEAL PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT

Show appreciation to restaurants/caterers supporting our monthly Adopt-A-Meal Program for Union Station Homeless Services Family Center

- **CABRERA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 655 N. Lake (Orange Grove) 626-795-8230
www.cabrerass.com

- **UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA**, Click on Calendar for their "to go menu" and other virtual & live events. 626-793-5157 www.universityclubpasadena.com
- **GREEN STREET RESTAURANT**, 146 Shoppers Lane, 626-577-7170 www.greenstreetrestaurant.com
- **KETCHEF with Benjamin Berard** 213-458-8854 MyKETCHEF@gmail.com
Brings the restaurant experience to your home. www.KETCHEF.com
- **MIJARES MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Celebrating 100 years in Pasadena, 145 Palmetto Drive, 626-792-2763 www.mijaresrestaurant.com
- **SANSAI**, 350 S. Lake Ave., The Shops on Lake Ave. 626-683-0900
<http://www.sansagrill.com/>

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

David McAlexander	January 23rd
Edsel D'Souza	January 24th
Gail Scanlan	January 25th
Bob Risley	January 26th
Roy Rico	January 26th
Russ Guiney	January 28th

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Februtary 3	David Lockington, Pasadena Symphony & Pops
February 10	Chief John Perez, Pasadena Police Department
February 17	Pierre Mainguy, Community First Initiatives

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

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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](#).

See you on Wednesday!