

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



A CENTURY OF SERVICE



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * November 20, 2020 * #80

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This Week's Program

NO MEETING 11/25/20



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Pasadena Rotary,

As your club president, I have to say that this week's meeting was one of the best for me. Who doesn't like to give away money?!? I was thrilled and honored on

behalf of our club to support two non-profits, which during Covid19 provide essential services in our community: Salvation Army and Friends in Deed.



President Ken with Captain Terry Masango's daughter Fiela

As I'm driving home from the University Club after our Wednesday Rotary meeting, I decide to pick up a small roast from Stater Brother's.

As I walk into the store, a young lady asks, "Are you with the Pasadena Rotary? My dad is a member there!"

My immediate response, "Yes, I know both your dad and mom. In fact, I just saw your dad today and presented him a check from the Rotary Club and here's another donation."

My personal thoughts, "it's a small world and the apple does not fall far from the tree!"

You will hear me say it again and again and again; "it's more blessed to give than to receive." I'm thankful to see that life principles are being taught to the next generation. Wishing each of you and your families a blessed and safe Thanksgiving!

I am always available to you at president@pasadenarotary.com and or to meet for a cup of coffee.

In Your Service,

Ken



Joshua Levine-Grater

members, but to the community at large. Place your orders by this Friday. Details below.

Colleen Carey

recognized all of those who participated in the Bikes for Christmas bike build last Saturday, including members of our Club as well as Pasadena After Hours, Altadena, and San Marino Rotary. We were super well organized and got the bikes built with record speed. We were also able to get them all delivered to the Salvation Army that very day, which saved us from having to do a separate delivery day. "We were all distanced and we think we had a very safe event," said **Colleen**. She and her co-chairs **Desiree Alvarado** and **JP Harris** are taking special pains to make sure the distribution day will also be super safe in these trying times.

[BIKE BUILD VIDEO of 11/14/20](#)

Diana Peterson-More contributed to the Polio Pig and announced that she will be doing a [virtual conversation with our good friends at Vroman's](#) about her book, Consequential Conversations. Register [here](#) for the event on Monday, Nov. 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Mary Chalon, co-chair of Giving from the Home, thanked those who purchased items for Five Acres, as well as her co-chair **Wende Lee**. Members were encouraged to donate up until midnight.

President Ken thanked **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** for presiding over last week's meeting and shared that his mom is home and doing well.

Friends In Deed, led by **Joshua Levine Grater**. **Joshua** said "we are grateful to have the support of Rotary as we serve those in need in our community in these really hard times."

Next he presented \$1,600 to **Captain Terry Masango** of the Salvation Army, who said "we are very grateful for the support - since the pandemic started the demand for our services has tripled and we are so grateful for this help."

President Ken announced that the University Club is providing takeout Thanksgiving dinner not only to



Captain Terry Masango

Diana Peterson-More introduced our speaker, Assemblymember Chris Holden. Chris was born and raised in Pasadena and graduated from Muir High School. He and his wife have four sons and one daughter.



Diana Peterson-More introduces Assemblymember Holden

Chris began by thanking **Diana**, **President Ken**, **President Elect Cory**, and **George Falardeau** for inviting him, and saying how wonderful it is to come back to Rotary each year and update on what's happening in the Legislature.

This year, Chris began, tough choices had to be made in the Legislature about what bills would go forward and what would be held. Chris's bill [AB 979](#) passed and was signed into law and he was very proud of that step in the direction of [ethnically diverse boards](#) for publicly held corporations headquartered in California.

Among the bills Chris plans to re-introduce in the upcoming legislative session is [AB 1022](#), addressing police use of force. Current law is unclear regarding officers' duty to intervene and [this bill would help remedy that](#).

Chris noted, "as Californians we entered 2020 with the wind at our back, healthy reserves, low unemployment, and the budget in good shape. What a difference eight months makes!" Our 2020 vision had to be revised in light of the pandemic. In May we went from a reserve to a deficit but the 2021 budget act took steps to close the gap and brings the states resources and spending into balance while preserving reserves for future use. Revenues have actually been higher than was forecast when the budget was adopted in June, so that is a very favorable development.

The state received four separate pieces of federal pandemic-related aid. The net cost to state is \$2.1 billion for COVID-related expenditures so far. We are looking forward to a new round of federal relief but the federal government is deadlocked so far. \$62 million in one-time funds have been approved for local government relief for Project Room Key programs providing shelter to needy individuals.

We are nine weeks away from the Governor's January budget, and we also hope for additional federal funds.

Chris discussed the rotating system outages of the electrical grid the state experienced in August. He explained, "The governor has



Speaker Assemblymember Chris Holden

rightfully stepped forward to rally a massive statewide electricity conservation and emergency generation effort to stave off additional outages." A root cause analysis is ongoing. Preliminary results show a series of preventable missteps and a need to be careful in focusing remedies on the problem and targeted solutions. Hearings will be held before next summer

regarding summer readiness. Said Chris, "serving as Chair of Energy and Utilities has been a pleasure and I cut my teeth in that subject area serving in Pasadena during the deregulation era."

Finally, Chris invited us all to join his efforts to gather shoe donations for school-age children. He is not able to host his usual holiday party benefitting [Shoes That Fit](#), so this year it will be a [drive-through, curbside drop off](#) on Saturday December 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Chris's district office at 600 N. Rosemead Blvd. Business owners are also invited to provide coupons to include in the Holden Gift Bag that will be distributed.

Q: What do you think is the future of legislation regarding multiple dwellings on R-1 properties?

A: We have supported ADU legislation for affordable housing legislation. I've not been supportive of efforts to do away with R-1 zoning. I think it's important to preserve single family neighborhoods and let cities use their own processes.

Q: People are leaving California due to cost of living and housing. Is there anything that can be done to reverse this?

A: We need to bring back redevelopment in some form for affordable housing. There is concern about how we would re-start it. Eliminating the 710 freeway construction has opened the possibility of jump-starting affordable housing in the Caltrans corridor. But "we are kind of behind the 8-ball" in this area. We need to incentivize cities and developers to do affordable housing.

Q: Travel/tourism sector generates a lot of revenue and jobs. In what way do you see the governor creating a realistic plan to restore this?

A: We need to get the pandemic under control and then we can move in a more robust way to re-start tourism. When big theme parks and other attractions are shut down it's hard on all surrounding businesses. First and foremost we must have a comprehensive approach to the virus and we have some good news recently about vaccines. But in the interim we need resources from federal government for our businesses and

hospitals.

Q: Who do you think are leading candidates for Kamala Harris's Senate seat?

A: Toughest question all day! There are some talented people whose names are being floated around and a lot of money being spent to promote candidates to the governor. "I've even heard the rumor he may appoint himself!" People are pushing hard for an African American woman. . Barbara Lee and Karen Bass are good candidates. Karen Bass would represent Southern California which would be great. I think the world of [State Controller] Betty Yee and I think she would be exceptional. There are some Latino candidates - our Secretary of State Alex Padilla has the smarts and experience and temperament to hit the ground running. Javier Becerra, I think would probably rather be Biden's Attorney General.

Q: Why are so many propositions dealing with issues the legislature is charged with managing?

A: Many times it's interests with money to un-do results they don't like from the legislative process. It's fairly easy to get an initiative on the ballot. "If you have enough money and talented people who can write an ad, you can put a sound bite out there to make [complicated issues] seem easy." According to Chris, "the ultimate check and balance shouldn't be initiatives to undo legislation, but the ballot box to vote out the legislators."

President Ken thanked Chris for his presentation and for his service to our community. We went to our breakout groups, and the question of the week was "what are you thankful for?" This reporter had a wonderful chat with **Dean Billman**, **Helen Baatz**, and **Anne Miskey**, which was reason in and of itself to be thankful!

Our survey was "would you attend an in-person holiday party in the parking lot of the U Club with heat lamps and social distancing?" The answers weren't revealed but will be taken into consideration in deciding whether to go forward with a party.

President Ken closed the meeting by reminding us all, "Be safe and enjoy your time with your loved ones."

COMMITTEE EVENTS & CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DINNER CANCELLED

For the safety of our membership, we have cancelled the Friday, December 11th Christmas Holiday Dinner. President Ken says: "*Once this pandemic is lifted, we're going to have a party!*" so, stay tuned!!

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

Want to learn more about non-profit organizations in the community that focus on

the arts? Consider getting involved with the Community Grants Committee and helping to get much-needed funds to non-profits who are struggling during the pandemic. Reach out to co-chairs **Deborah Lewis** (deborahlewis@audiodescriptionsolutions.com) or **Sheryl Guerrero** (thesherylshow.com) to learn more or join the committee.

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



UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA

Thanksgiving Dinner To Go

Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner from the Club with Fresh, Local Fixings

- Dinner Packages -

\$50+ for 2 Servings | \$100+ for 4 Servings | \$350+ for 16-18 Servings

Mary's Fresh, Natural, Local, Free Range Turkey
Turkey Breast (2-4 Servings) or Whole Turkey (16-18 Servings)

Oven Baked Cream Corn

Pan Roasted Brussel Sprouts with Bacon

Honeycomb Infused Sweet Potato Puree

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Kumquat Cranberry Relish

Three Sausage Brioche Bread Stuffing

Pan Giblet Gravy

Seasonal Berry Cobbler

Please place your orders by calling (626) 793-5157 by Friday, November 20 for
Pick up on Wednesday, November 25 between 2pm-4pm



(626) 793-5157 | UNIVERSITYCLUBPASADENA.COM
175 NORTH OAKLAND AVENUE | PASADENA, CA 91101

ADOPT-A-MEAL PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT

Show appreciation to restaurants and caterers 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
- **KETCHEF with Benjamin Berard** 213-458-8854 MyKETCHEF@gmail.com Brings the restaurant experience to your home. www.KETCHEF.com

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Brian McDonald	November 21st
Mark Waterson	November 22nd
Sheryl Guerrero	November 23rd
Mary Wilson	November 26th

Rotaversaries!

Phyllis Currie	November 21, 1998	13 years
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Upcoming Programs

- Dec. 2 Deven Upadhy, Assistant General Manager & Chief Operating Officer, Metropolitan Water District
- Dec. 9 Robert Hori, Gardens Cultural Curator & Programs Director, The Huntington

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](#).

See you on Wednesday!