

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * December 22, 2023 * #23-1350

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

DARK - NO MEETING

Wishing all a very Happy Holiday!



Future Flash

By President Justene Adamec



What a wonderful meeting we had!



Now is about the time I remind some of you and tell others for the first time that I have face blindness. The scientific name is Prosopagnosia. I recognize things like body type, hairstyle, voice and facial expressions. I just can't recognize your face and until one of the other things clicks, I am lost.

I first realized I had a problem when I was crossing the street and my mother happened to be crossing in the other direction. I thought she looked vaguely familiar. Another time, I was supposed to meet my father at the entrance to something. I looked everywhere. He actually watched and laughed. *Finally* he spoke and said "I thought I'd get you by wearing a hat." I am probably the only one who wouldn't have caught on in real life to Clark Kent and Superman being the same person. After all, glasses fool me a lot of the time.

It happens a lot in Rotary meetings when I can't read a name tag. Yesterday, I noticed a new person sitting at Howard Raff's table. I started to go and greet her when I realized it was Hillary Schenk, one of my best friends. I often have trouble with Hillary. Once we went to an outdoor café. She got a table while I went to the restroom. I came out and didn't see her anywhere. Finally she waved. She had put sunglasses on.

All this to say – if I don't recognize you and you see me staring at your nametag, don't take offense. I do know you but my brain is catching up.

Justene Adamec
626-806-2529
President@pasadenarotary.com

The Scoot Zone

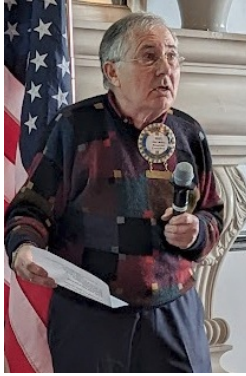
By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Matt Bookman and Hans Rosenberger



We had an extra special lunchtime music program, with new member **Michael Bernard** playing his oboe along with pianist Ann Louise Christensen in a great selection of holiday tunes.

President Justene Adamec rang the bell right at 12:30, and **Past President Phil Miles** led us in singing White Christmas, a Christmas song written by Irving Berlin, who was Jewish, to cover all the holiday bases! The Music Committee members including **Past Presidents Cory Brendel** and **Mary Lou Byrne**, along with **Eric Olsen** and **Don Andruess**, helped out with some harmonies from the front of the room. **Past President Ken Joe** gave the Inspiration, reminding us that as Rotarians, we are People of Action!



Michael Desplains, Howard Raff, Sandy Goodenough, and John Foulkes proudly introduced their guests. Another special guest was Eddie Rivera of PasadenaNow.com, seated up front at the President's Table.

President Justene announced that we will be dark next week, so if you show up for lunch you will be all alone! We will meet at the Pasadena Elks' Club in January, and we will be back at the University Club on February 1! That announcement was greeted with great applause.

President Justene kicked things off with a charming holiday story about her twin daughters: Right before they were born, her husband announced he wanted them to figure out "the Santa thing" on their own: No spilling the beans. Twin Madeline figured it out when she was seven and also figured out, thanks to the NORAD Santa Tracker, that "the government lies to kids!" The second twin, Amanda, kept believing. She turned 8, then 9, 10, 11, 12... She always wrote letters to Santa, and Justene always managed to fish them out of the mailbox. One year the letter slipped by, and the Pasadena Jaycees, whose project was to respond to such letters in cooperating with the Pasadena Post Office, came to the house with a gift, asking "Where's little Amanda." "Uh, here she is," said an abashed **President Justene**, pointing to her daughter, who was taller than she was!

Finally, when she was 13, Amanda asked her mom to level with her. "Because if Santa isn't real, and I get married, and my husband has to tell me Santa isn't real, that will be embarrassing." "Do you really want me to tell you?" "Yes!" "Really?" "Yes! Is Santa real?" "No, he's not."

Well. Amanda fell apart. As she wept and wailed, her twin Madeline sympathized, "I know how you feel. I felt the same way when I found out the Tooth Fairy wasn't real."

"YOU MEAN THE TOOTH FAIRY ISN'T REAL, EITHER?" wailed Amanda.

After the sympathetic laughter died down, **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** introduced our speaker, **Tammy Silver**. **Tammy** is a member of the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees, among many civic activities, and most important for our purposes, she is the co-chair of the Pasadena Rotary Program Committee!

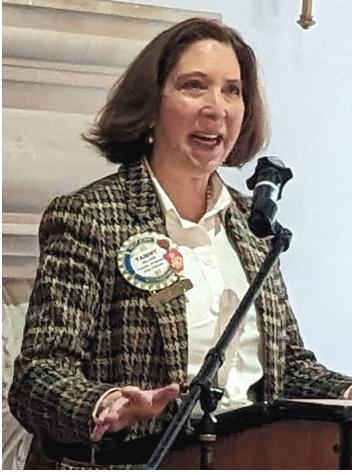
When **Tammy** came up to the lectern, the room was dark because somehow the curtains had all been closed while we weren't paying attention. Tammy asked us all to turn on our flashlights or cell phone lights, and lo and behold! We banished the darkness! As we all shone our lights, the curtains magically opened, and the light returned! Hooray!



We were fortunate enough to have a real, live member of the actual press in attendance for her talk, and you can read a fabulous synopsis right here:

<https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/rotarian-pcc-board-of-trustees-member-tammy-silver-fascinates-gathering-with-little-known-truths-about-christmas>

After **Tammy** finished her presentation, we all traded fun facts and



memories of holidays past, and it was with reluctance that **President Justene** rang the bell and adjourned for the year at 1:30.



L2R: Matt Bookman, Tammy Silver, Eddie Rivera, Mary Lou Byrne, President Justene, Mike Bernard, Leslie Bernard, Michele Ferroni

Holiday Dinner for Residential Kids Five Acres

President Elect Stephen Smith and Past President Phil Miles volunteered serving dinner at the Five Acres Holiday Dinner for their kids on December 19th.





ADOPT A MEAL

On December 15th, we partnered with StoneFire Grill for our Adopt A Meal Program, of which 25 Pasadena Rotarians serve on and fund this committee for the Union Station Homeless Services Family Services.

Thanks to Debi Kroman for volunteering to pick up and deliver 39 meals. Debi seen here with Cameron at Union Station.

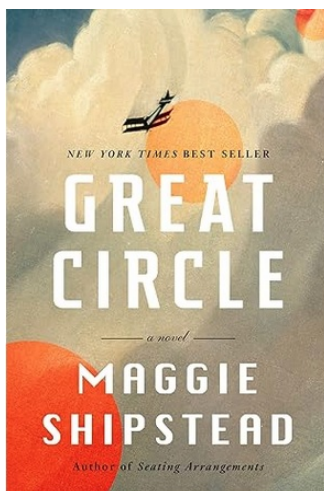
StoneFire provided: Mesquite BBQ Boneless Chicken Breast, Caesar Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Freshly Baked Breadsticks.

StoneFire Grill

473 N. Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena 91107

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sun: 11am – 8:30pm. – Fri & Sat – 11am-9pm

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR



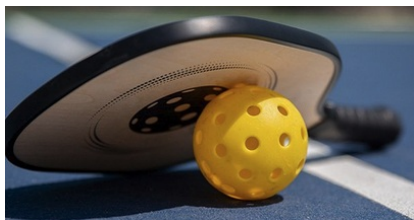
ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet at 6 PM on Monday, January 8th.

Phyllis Crandon will lead the discussion of the Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead.

Please RSVP to Jan Sanders at janinpasadena@gmail.com.

If you have questions please email Cathy Simms at simmsie1@pacbell.net.



INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

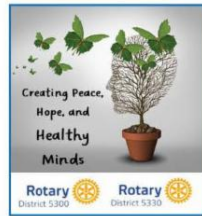
Saturday - January 13th

8:00 to 11:00 AM

4490 Cornishon Avenue (Hogg Hollow Pre-school) in La Canada.

Bottled water will be provided. If you have a pickleball paddle please bring it. We have some extras. There is a good likelihood of the group going out for a late breakfast/early lunch nearby afterwards.

Stephen Smith at ssmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com



Garbis Der-Yeghian 34th Annual Peace Conference

THEME: Creating Peace, Hope, and Healthy Minds

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Registration Check-in/Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Conference Begins Promptly at 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum



Keynote Speaker:

Brian Rusch

CEO—Out for Equality

Founding Member of RI DEI Task Force

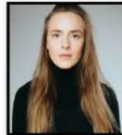
Vice Chair- RI Joint Advisory Council of DEI

Past President and Founder of Rotary eClub for Global Action



Engaging Panel on Mental Health, covering:

Destigmatizing Conversations, Raising Awareness, and Advancing Access



Jenn Freeman

Autistic American
choreographer, dance
performer, and educator



Lora Illig

Former Executive
Director for NAMI
Pomona Valley



Chris Florendo

Team Support Leader
CalHOPE & NAMI Greater
Los Angeles County



Sally Sagario

Operations Manager for
NAMI Long Beach/
Whittier

Registration/Admission

(includes continental breakfast and tour of the museum)

\$40.00: early registration by January 26, 2024

\$45.00: at the door if seats are available

**Students/Interact Clubs/Rotaract Clubs free
registration**

To **REGISTER** and for more information, visit the event website at:

<http://district5300.org/peace-conference/>



Scan for Event Page and
Registration



Rotary District 5300
District Governor
Michael Soden



Rotary District 5330
District Governor and
Panelist Moderator
Jamie Zinn



Conference Chair and
Emcee
Rotary District 5300
Mary Ann Lutz

Multi-District Event

POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED!

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement (30 seconds) about your family, business or a favorite nonprofit or a Committee announcement? Email Wendy at office@pasadenarotary.com by Tues at noon. Minimum donation for Polio Pig Announcement: \$20 or for \$30+ which is billed to your account. Additional \$20 If you wish to leave flyers (in a stack on the table not individual) or a hand-out at end of meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Tammy Silver	December 24
Mark Nicoletti	December 27

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan. 3rd - Alex Aghajanian - My Year As Tournament of Roses President - Elks Lodge
Jan. 10th - Michael Soden - Rotary District 5300 Governor - Elks Lodge
Jan.17th - Tom Coston - "The Parade of the Future" - Elks Lodge
Jan. 24th -Tim McDonald - Pasadena Public Library - Elks Lodge
Jan.31st - Rotary Players - Groundhog Day - Elks Lodge

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
Rotary Club of Pasadena**

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm
Altadena Town and Country Club
2290 Country Club Drive, Altadena**

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Bookman, Ken Joe & Dede Venkat.**

Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher



**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5pm**

PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec

PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne

SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni

TREASURER: Tony Phillips

PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT: Hillary Schenk

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, George Falardeau, Frank Fish,
Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Wende Lee, Tammy Silver,
Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.**

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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