

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * February 16, 2024 * #01-007

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

MICHELLE ZACK

ALTADENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - OWEN BROWN

Introducer: **Jim Osterling**



Michele Zack is a writer, historian, and activist whose career has brought her from the global to the local. Before returning to her Altadena home in 1998 after 8 years in Asia, she was a correspondent based in Thailand for *AsiaWeek* and *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Both of Zack's histories, *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City*, and *Southern California Story*, were honored by the American Association of State and Local History, and historian Kevin Starr said of

her work: "Here is regional history that offers real insight into American life." *Eaton's Water*, a film about Pasadena pioneers and the difficulties of getting water to our semi-arid region, was adapted from her short story and shared with 100s of PUSD students.

"How can we expect anyone to care about preservation if they don't understand the history and meaning behind what they are being asked to care about?" Zack said at the film's premiere. "That's true of places, water, old buildings — and especially, ideas."

She will speak to Pasadena Rotarians as chair of the Owen Brown Gravesite Committee, and leader of LA County's effort to preserve the burial place of the Owen Brown. Owen was the last surviving member of his father John Brown's "Army of God" who set off the American Civil War with a raid on the US Armory at Harpers Ferry in 1859. He is buried in Altadena's foothills.

Zack will tell the civic story behind gaining historic designation.

WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 21, 2024

UNIVERSITY CLUB - 12:00 pm

175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101

RSVP Deadline: Friday 2/9/24

Reception: Jane Waas & Jeannine Bogaard
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Eric Olson
Inspiration: Mike Bernard
Scoot Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographers: Tammy Silver
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

Future Flash

By President Justene Adamec



Remember all those columns asking for service projects? Now we have them. Here's a complete (I hope) list of the opportunities. Scroll down for more details and Chairs contact information.

- Elizabeth House - outdoor maintenance
- Read Across America - reading to elementary school students
- Arroyos and Foothill Conservancy -- trail work, two projects with different difficulty levels (easy and moderate)
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - volunteers for their fundraising 5k
- Corazon - build a house for a family needing a home in Tecate Mexico.
- Adopt-a-Meal - support and delivery of one meal a month to Union Station Homeless Services's Family Center. Chair: Sandi Mejia-Ramirez
- Four Way Test Speech Competition - judging student speakers at the preliminary round
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - spend a weekend in the local mountains with winning high schoolers



Come join us as we put service above self

Photo: Gilda Moshir (San Marino Rotary), President Justene and Shelley Miles at Altadena's 75th Anniversary Gala

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



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Wende Lee

Longtime Pasadena Rotary member **Nat Read** entertained us today with his lifetime adventures of finally riding all 21,400 miles of AMTRAK rails in America and invited us to enjoy his excitement by sharing the views, the travel tips, and the freedom of riding the rails. He showed us clips of his interviews from all major media around the world – an achievement few can boast.

As we were enjoying the University Club again with a catered buffet line, our augmented “Rotary Love Band” featuring Rotary Board Member **Don Andruess** on guitar, our marvelous pianist Ann Louise Christensen and her drummer and harmonica-playing husband Gino, rounded out with Joe on bass.

President Justene rang the club to order and brought the Rotary Love Band back for a rendition of “I Love You”, which they soloed. **Mic Hansen** offered our inspiration, and in honor of **Nat Read** and his train travel, she gave us four quotes, all summed up by Henry Miller, “One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” There was a murmur of approval.



Guest introductions:

- **Jan Moscarel** is very proud of her grandson Cole, a recent graduate of FIDM and living back in Pasadena.
- **Nat Read’s** wife Linda said hello.
- **Russ Guiney and Pat Wright** welcomed Christina Hurn, a production development manager for non-alcoholic beverage company, and Judge Lance Ito, both members of LA5 and interested in joining our club.
- **PP Phil Miles’** wife Shelley, CEO of the Singleton Foundation
- **Sandy Goodenough’s** husband Richard Shulhof said hello
- **Michelle Ferroni** welcomed past member Laura Huang
- **PP Howard Raff** introduced George Ricciardelli and Shelly Wood as potential members
- **Bob Risley** was accompanied by his lovely wife Rosemary.

Announcements:

* **David McAlexander** gave the grave announcement that there is a suspected new virus in Pasadena – “Charitable Service Deficiency Syndrome” – where a Rotarian will not stop to help an old lady stumbling in the crosswalk, but we would write a check to her favorite charity (we laughed ruefully – so true). To cure this malady, there is a Done In A Day (DIAD) service project coming up next week at Elisabeth House (see below).

* **PE Stephen Smith, Tammy Silver** and **Bill Tilney** offered 3 more Volunteer Projects and two projects championed by **PP Cory Brendel** listed below along with more details on all

opportunities.

* **PP Diana Peterson-More** gave TWICE to the Polio Pig (donations go to the RI fund to eradicate Polio worldwide – Pasadena is a leader in donations in our District 5300)

First, a donation in honor of **Nat Read** for being such a stand-up guy, leading our club over the years with his acumen. And 2nd, in gratitude of her book “Consequential Leadership in Turbulent Times” making NY Times #1 best seller when it premiered, and she has several copies available to those who give to the club.

* **Fred Findley** kept us up to date on three promising candidates for our Rotary District 5300 Global Grants Scholarship. All three candidates sound amazing, and our table commented that we were never that ambitious at their age, and we have lots of faith in the new generation.

* **President Justene** mentioned the annual Corazon Mexico Super Build project that we used to do as a club, but now is offered as a District-wide event to bring more people into the work. **Bob Martin** was a longtime member and supporter of Corazon, which many of us experienced over the years. This project was his passion.

* **PP Jim Graunke and Robert Lyons** passed out Rotary stickers to any and all that mentioned coming to our club in the past month – the hands went up and many stickers were passed out. (photo of Robert with stickers)



Marilyn Buchanan introduced our speaker, **Nat Read**, saying that his exploits visiting the North and South Poles, and many adventures, made him a great and fascination friend. Nat, in turn, lauded **Marilyn and Gene Buchanan** because they had the courage and foresight to buy properties in a downtown Pasadena that had fallen into terrible disrepair and crime. Their commitment to buy the worst properties that no one else wanted and turning them around over the years resulted in the wonderful and highly respected Old Town Pasadena that we see today.



Nat then took over the lectern with a visual journey across America that started as a one-year-old baby seeing his father off to WW-II, with his mom standing for almost a whole day with two little children in a crowded train home, which led to her not a fan of trains, and with Nat enchanted by them. Nat is a professional public relations (PR) manager, so he “knows how to write a press release” and somehow enabled his latest adventures to be recorded in his final journeys by a photographer from a major New York newspaper and that led to appearances on ABC’s Nightly News with David Muir, CNC Radio Canada, and a crowning award, a letter from President Biden acknowledging his achievement, “as one rail fan to another.”



He enjoyed all the sights and sounds over the years and gave us some tips as to where to focus our next train ride: The San Francisco to Denver AMTRAK is two days and spectacular scenery every mile. If we do take this train trip, plan on staying at the Crawford Hotel in Denver, two blocks from the Denver station – it has been updated to its original splendor, and worth the stay. The most spectacular trip? The Durango & Silverton Railroad in Colorado.

Nat reviewed the history of transportation, from sailing ships to airplanes, and noted that trains were once the only way to travel across the land, but jet travel now is commonplace. He does see the future of rail to be like the super-fast high-speed rail of Europe and the Far East – and he was even the VP and Officer of American High Speed Rail Corporation a few years ago. After the meeting he expressed interest in the proposed high speed rail project between LA and Las Vegas.

One of the highlights of all this rail travel has been the wonder of seeing everyday people at the

local train stations, and when asked why he enjoys train travel, he explained, "I sit on top of a two-story magic carpet, and I never tire of seeing the cluster of people in small towns. Railroad tracks are the lace that ties all of us together in this great country."



L2R: Lance Ito, Marilyn Buchanan, Pat Wright, Sandy Goodenough Richard Schulhof, Christina Hurn, Russ Guiney, President Justene



Nevino Rocco, Jan Moscaret and her grandson, Cole Moscaret check in with Jeannine Bogaard & Jane Waas

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

Lunch is being catered again this week by
Tardino's.

**Brisket of Beef w/ Mushroom Gravy,
Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley,
Mixed Baby Green Salad, Dinner Rolls
Or Vegetarian Choice**

**DEADLINE TO RSVP:
BY FRIDAY 2/16/24**
office@pasadenarotary.com



ALTADENA ROTARY 75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

PASADENA ROTARIANS having fun at the 75th Anniversary Gala of the Rotary Club of Altadena. Pasadena was the sponsoring Club for Altadena - President Justene was a guest speaker at the Gala.

Photos: PP Phil Miles, Shelley Miles, Tammy Silver, President Justene Adamec, PP Cory Brendel, PP Mary

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SERVICE ABOVE SELF

FEBRUARY

DONE IN A DAY – Stephen Smith – ssmith.meridian@gmail.com
Elizabeth House – light outdoor maintenance – **Sat. 2/24/24 – 8am-noon**

FOUR WAY SPEECH CONTEST – Bill Tilney – bill@afpasadena.org
Need judges for preliminary round on **Wed 2/28/24 at 5pm**

MARCH

READ ACROSS AMERICA – Tammy Silver – tamarasilver@gmail.com

Volunteer to be a guest reader to students in TK-5th grade at Washington Elementary STEM Magnet, 1520 N. Raymond Ave, Pasadena. Bring your own book or choose from the selection available at the school. Reading blocks are 15-20 minutes - **Tues/Wed 3/6/24 and 3/6/24 – 8:30 am- 1:30 pm** in 15-20 minutes reading block. Contact: Ms. Debbie directly to schedule – afsharian.datevik@pusd.us - 626-396-5840 x75042

DONE IN A DAY – Stephen Smith – ssmith.meridian@gmail.com
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – JDRF One Walk Fundraiser at the Rose Bowl – **Sat. & Sun. 3/16/24 and/or 3/17/24** – Set up, Distribute supplies, decorate baskets, Welcome Tent, Kids Zone, Greeters, Breakdown, etc.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) – Desiree Alvarado – phone best: 213-400-1502 or desiree@pasadenapromos.com. Be a facilitator for 11th graders for 1 or 2 days at Running Springs (near Big Bear) Dates: **3/22/24-3/24/24**

APRIL

FOOTHILLS & ARROYOS CONSERVATION PROJECT – Cory Brendel - corybrendel@gmail.com - 2 Service Projects – **Sat. 4/6/24** - Trail repair on Cottonwood Canyon, easy work and Trail repair on Rubio Canyon, more substantial moderate work. Reporter Dean thinks there is a waterfall there, so this would be interesting.

MAY

CORAZON 2024 SUPERBUILD – Justene Adamec – president@pasadenarotary.com
Build a house in one day for a family needing a home in Tecate Mexico. May 4th. Costs include \$30 roundtrip bus from Chula Vista to Tecate site and hotel costs. Contact Justene for details.

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!!

Armida Baylon	February 17th
Mark Batatian	February 18th

ROTAVERSARIES!

Russ Guiney	2/17/16	14 Years
Fred Soldwedel	2/19/92	32 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Feb . 28th - Joel Stern - "The Beauty, Fun, and Magic of Origami"
March 6th - Lance Davis - Parson's Nose Theater - "My Life in the Theatre"
March 13th - Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo

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

Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP
University Club Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave.

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Bookman, Ken Joe, Claudia Ponce de Leon & Dede
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ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena

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