

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 25, 2024 * #01-004

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

GROUNDHOG DAY!

Groundhog Day, with the Mighty Rotary Players featuring a special guest appearance by a surprise guest Player!



WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 31, 2024
PASADENA ELKS LODGE - 12:00 pm
Must RSVP to attend! RSVP Deadline: Tues. at 10:00 am

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Mary Lou Byrne
Inspiration: Michael Desplaines
Scoot Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographers: Tammy Silver & Claudia Ponce de Leon
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec

Next week is Groundhog Day, my second favorite holiday. My first is April Fools' Day. Some of my pranks were startlingly easy. I used to have kidney stones frequently. Every April 1, I would roll over, shake my husband awake, and tell him I needed to go to the ER. He fell for it a lot of years in a row.

People outside my family weren't immune. There was a time when my firm had sued a minor celebrity. We could not locate the guy to serve him. I was in trial in Oakland. On April 1, I called one of my associates and said "the guy we want was being interviewed on the radio this morning but I can't recall the station. That means he's here." He spent quite some time calling every station in the area. The rest of my employees sent me delighted updates which I read on breaks in the trial. The employee was good-humored and appreciated a good joke.

Then there was the day it backfired. My husband and I worked downtown. Sometimes, in a reverse carpool, I would leave my car there overnight and return back with him in the morning. On one April 1st, after he had left for the day, I went to the parking lot to take my own car home. I had left the keys in my pocket back at the house.

No one believed me. First Daughter Amanda was really close to believing me because the rule was that I wasn't allowed to trick her. Every time she was about to give in, my husband would say "it's April 1. She's probably breaking her promise. You know how she can't resist temptation on April Fools' Day."

There was much bargaining. Finally, I said, "there is one set of keys in this suit pocket and the other set is in that drawer." More bargaining and finally she extracted a promise that, if she just looked for both sets, I was not allowed to yell "April Fool." It was only a legitimate prank if I got her to drive to downtown.

I promised. She looked. She found the keys and drove downtown to rescue me. And thus ended my campaign to fool my family.

The rest of the world is still fair game. So be prepared for April 1. While you're waiting, enjoy what we have cooked up for Groundhog Day.

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



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman
Photographers: Tammy Silver & Jonathan Edwards

The Pasadena City Library is celebrating its 140th year, and today's speaker, **Library Director Tim McDonald**, gave us the update on the revitalization of the main library, including the realization that the community needs to help the city decide what the library means to the people today. There are currently 10 open Pasadena branch community libraries, all within a mile of every resident in Pasadena, serving the needs of thousands of residents this past year. But what will the city do with the Historical Landmark main library?

Ann Louise Christensen, our pianist today, had everyone at the table comment on how wonderful she was and how we really appreciate her.

President Justene rang the brass Rotary bell in the refurbished Pasadena Elks Lodge today, and we stood as **Eric Olson** led us in the opening cheer, written by Garrison Keiler, L-I-B-R-A-R-Y. Eric explained that well-loved and former-Pasadena City Librarian **Jan Sanders** was similarly cheered, and we all missed her today as she was under the weather. Every time we cheer this cheer, we will think of you, Jan! **Past President Howard Raff** led us in our inspiration, reflecting on how books inspire us, and quoted several authors, including Carl Sagan on how reading brings voices from the past that live forever.



Guests:

- **PP Howard Raff** introduced Alex Oscoco of Southeby's real estate. And Bill Tilney, CEO of the Ambassador Auditorium Foundation. Both have signed up for membership.
- **President Justene** introduced one of our "corporate alternatives", **Angie Pizano**, (pictured right) of New Wave Home Care, representing our newest member, **Sam Gopinathan**. Corporate members are allowed and encouraged to have members of their organization attend and participate in our meetings and events so that we can



share the work of Rotary in our community.

- **Eric Olson** introduced his wife, Carole Broede, retired from Pasadena Library, as a department head, and the Pasadena City Economic committee
- **Catherine Hany** introduced her guest, Sasha Grimes from the Library
- **President Justene** also introduced Nancy Davis, President, Chelsea Philanthropy; and Bill Ellinger, a Historical Architect for Ellinger Architects & Associates
- **Mike Bradley's** guest was a retired professor from UCLA

Announcements:

- **Desiree Alvarado** (co-chair with **John Burt**) called for assistance for RYLA – her son had attended when he was a junior in high school, and it changed his life
- **Hassan Kheradmandan** welcomed all of us to join him for the Rotary District 5300 Peace Conference at the Nixon Library this Saturday
- **PE Stephen** Smith offered Done In a Day events (see below)
- **PP Phil Miles** donates \$50 to the Polio Pig in celebration of his “Indie-Rock Star” daughter Brenna’s band of playing NYC tomorrow, and giving her first concert in LA on May 25th, and we should all go
- **Lynne Sullivan** made a \$100 Polio Pig donation on the birth of her granddaughter last night



President Justene then gave the floor to our Board Treasurer, **PP Tony Phillips**, CPA, who warned us that some people fall asleep when numbers are discussed, but since he had only five minutes, he would try his best to keep us interested. And he did - the budget is balanced, we run a budget surplus (the envy of any business, and every Rotary Club) and the board keeps a tight lid on costs. Tony should know – he was Past President and has been the club treasurer for six Rotary Presidents and promised to continue for **PE Stephen Smith** next year. On meeting other club presidents at a District event, and revealing our surplus, the Nevada club member asked what we were planning to do with it, and Tony slyly mentioned “a hostile takeover of the Pahrump Club.”

Catherine Hany, Pasadena Library marketing and fellow Tournament of Roses volunteer, introduced our speaker today, Tim McDonald, Director of the Pasadena Public Library. Speaking on the past, present, and future of the historical landmark in the center of Pasadena, built in 1927, the library is a crown jewel of Pasadena and American heritage. Unfortunately, it was built with the standards of the day, and un-reinforced concrete for the main walls in many rooms has been determined by city and professional engineers that the building is not earthquake resilient and has been Red Tagged. Yes, the building is condemned unless serious retrofits are performed, and now the opportunity is here to match this glorious building that houses books, when everyone reads online. Tim, with a nod to **PP Tony** to be brief on the numbers, pointed out the branch libraries had over 55,000 people visit in person or virtually last year, checking out over half a million books and other media. And most important, 228 community organizations utilized the library to provide series, programs, and events. This is proof that Pasadena utilizes and participates with our library resources, and they are woven into our community.



But what about the main library building, designed by the famous Myron Hunt (Rose Bowl, Hollywood Bowl, etc.)? Well, that is where Pasadena citizens get to participate in its next life – a QR Code was displayed. Rotarians at our table scanned the code and got to work as Tim was finishing his presentation – it is that easy. The most popular response so far – people want more gathering spaces, so small meeting rooms are being proposed.

Our members had questions. **PP Phil Miles** asked about the safety concerns of people in the main library when it seems some people use it as a refuge instead of a library – and Tim said that incidents are rare because there are security staff



posted within the library, and their presence tends to fend off bad behavior. And, with the new “open atrium with rings of elevated bookshelves, all visible from the ground level”, this takes away from the dark rows and shelves that lined the old library. **PP Mary Lou Byrne** asked when the library might re-open and Tim said that if funding and engineering all go as planned, we could see it open in 2028, which seems far away, but we have been waiting for years to bring the library back to its 1928 glory, and it might be worth the wait.

LINK to the Central Library Retrofit and Repairs webpage.
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/library/central-library-earthquake-retrofit/>

The survey link is there as well as the latest information presented to City Council on Monday night. The Council report is listed under the Reports header on the right side of the page. It can also be accessed at

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/library/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/Central-Library-Earthquake-Retrofit-and-Building-Repairs-Agenda-Report-and-Presentation-to-City-Council-2024-01-22.pdf>. The slides that Tim presented were also included in the agenda report.



L2R: Bill Ellinger, PP Mary Lou Byrne, President Justene, Tim McDonald, Catherine Hany, Sasha Grimes, Angie Pizano and Nancy Davis



Alan Schier & Jane Waas Check-In our President Elect Elect Hillary Schenk

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

**RSVP to attend on 1-31-24
Pasadena Elks Lodge
Lunch Menu - Buffet**

Any issues with your badge - see
Badge Master Alan
DEADLINE TO RSVP: Tues. at 10:00am
office@pasadenarotary.com



Kathy Meagher / Gary Kearney / Mary Lou Byrne / Robert Lee / Wende Lee / Howard Raff / Ken Joe

DIM SUM Jan 20, 2024

ADOPT A MEAL

On January 19th, we partnered with Raffi's Catering 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 Mary Lou Byrne and Gary Kearney for volunteering to pick up and deliver 35 meals. Mary Lou seen here with Minas Fouranouzian (who she also found out is a former Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Altadena). Gary was bringing the car around to pack up the food.

Raffi Catering provided a generous meal of: Chicken, Rice, Salad, Hummus, Pita Bread and Grilled Vegetables

Raffi's Catering: 1887 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena 91101
626-351-0900

Hours:

Tues-Sat: 11am-8pm. Sunday: 11am-7pm - Monday: Closed



MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

Done in a Day

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SEVERAL "DONE IN A DAY" PROJECTS

Elizabeth House - February 24 (Saturday) - 8:00 – noon

Looking for volunteers for light outdoor maintenance. They are located at 559 N. El Molino Ave.

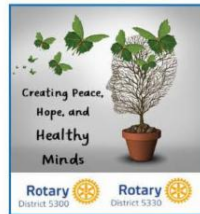
CONTACT: PE Stephen Smith - ssmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com

Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) - Volunteers needed for support of Pasadena Unified students and families for three events:

1. **Chaperone high school students** on a field trip to the Japanese American National Museum on 1/30 (Tuesday) from 9:45am - Noon. More info: pased.org/volunteer

2. **Prepare boxes of nutritious fruits and vegetables for families on 2/20 & 2/21 (Tue & Wed)** PUSD Warehouse - 9:00 - 11:00 AM. More info pased.org/produce

CONTACT: PE Stephen Smith - 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

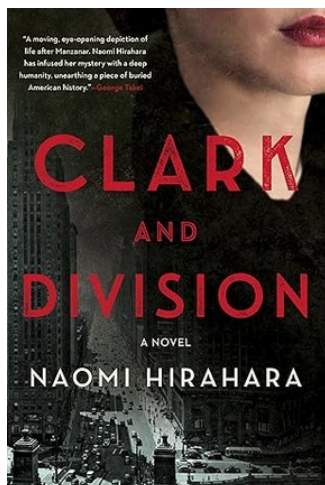


Rotary District 5330
District Governor and
Panelist Moderator
Jamie Zinn



Conference Chair and
Emcee
Rotary District 5300
Mary Ann Lutz

Multi-District Event



ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers next meeting will be at 5 pm on February 5th.

Minna Adams will review Clark and Division by Naomi Hirahara.

Please RSVP to Florence at florence.h100@gmail.com

Notice: Rotary Readers always reviews the City of Pasadena's One

City One Story in March. On March 4th Jan Sanders will review

Properties of Thirst by Marianne Wiggins.

Any Questions, please contact Jan Sanders at janinpasadena@gmail.com or

Cathy Simms at simmsie1@pacbell.net.

RYLA IS BACK!!!!

District 5300 will be conducting the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp 2024 the weekend of March 22-24 in Running Springs, CA.

The Pasadena Club will be sponsoring 8 high-school Juniors for the event. We are currently seeking applicant students! Please consider any high-school Juniors you or your friends may know and have them apply!

Also, we're looking for volunteer facilitators for the event.

Please contact Co-Chairs Desiree Alvarado (213) 400-1502 or John Burt (720) 235-9370 for more information.



Attention 11th Graders

You Are Invited to

Apply For A

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)



CAMP CEDAR CREST

Running Springs,
California
March 22-24, 2024



WHAT IS RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for High School Sophomores and Juniors. Talented young people attend a 3 day seminar organized by the Rotarians of District 5300 of Rotary International. All of the participants' expenses are often paid by sponsoring Rotary clubs.



WHAT DOES RYLA OFFER

Develop Leadership Skills
Increase Self Confidence
Gain exposures to a variety of issues & people
Improve career skills & knowledge
Meet community leaders & members
Have a lot of fun
Meet other people your age from Southern California & Southern Nevada



WHO PARTICIPATES IN RYLA

RYLA events are for young adults with proven leadership experience and potential leaders from diverse backgrounds. If you are a High School Junior you will learn, grow, have fun and make friends. The RYLA experience prepares young people to be leaders in their community, profession, and other facets of life.

**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!!

Bob Risley	January 26
Roy Rico	January 26
Russ Guiney	January 28
Tamia Hope	January 30
Nancy Kozakar	January 30
Susanne Cohen	January 31

ROTAVERSARIES!

Dede Venkat	1/30/23	1 Year
Ken Bayley	2/1/23	1Year

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Feb. 7th - Juan Bastos - Celebrity Portrait Painter - Back At the University Club
Feb. 14th - Nat Read -Raconteur - How I Rode All 22,400 Amtrak Miles in Just 84 Years
Feb. 21st - Michele Zack - Altadena Historical Society - Owen Brown: His History & Memorial In Altadena
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
Pasadena Elks Lodge - 400 W. Colorado Blvd.**

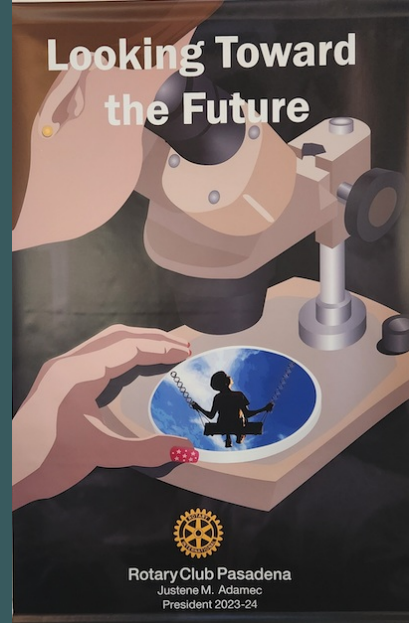
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Bookman, Ken Joe & Dede Venkat.**

Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher



**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena**

**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, 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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