

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* January 5, 2024 \* #01-001

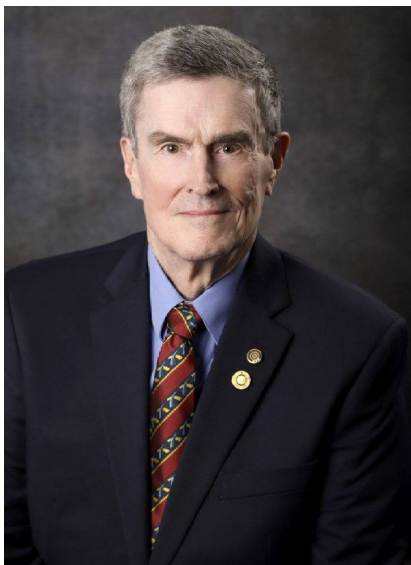
[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

## MIKE SODEN

ROTARY DISTRICT 5300 GOVERNOR

*Introducer: **President Justene Adamec***



The story of Michael's Rotary journey began in 2003 when he initially joined the Rotary organization. Presently, he is among the prominent members of the Rotary Club of Green Valley, situated in Henderson Nevada. Over the years, he has exhibited a strong dedication to the Rotary organization, earning him the prestigious title of President twice.

In 2008-2009, Michael served his first term as President of the Brandermill (Midlothian) region of Central Virginia, District 7600, followed by his second tenure as President of the Green Valley club, located in District 5300, from 2013-2014. During his second tenure as club President, Michael contributed significantly to the club's success, leading the club to earn high accolades, such as becoming the number one medium-sized club in District 5300 and receiving the RI Presidential Citation with Distinction.

Additionally, the club qualified as a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club, demonstrating exceptional qualities of service and community engagement, a feat accomplished through Michael's exceptional leadership.

For his exceptional contributions to the Rotary organization, Michael has been recognized with the prestigious honor of Rotarian of the Year by his respective clubs on three separate occasions. Furthermore, due to his remarkable leadership capabilities and commendable personal qualities, Michael has taken on various leadership roles in Rotary, serving as the District Communications Officer (DCO) for both District 7600 and District 5300 for over a decade, Zone 26 Assistant Public Image coordinator 2018-2022 and previously serving as the District 5300 Grants Chair from 2017-2021.

Since 2015, Michael has been a committee chair on the SWR PETS committee, showcasing his unwavering commitment to the organization. Additionally, he is a Major Donor. Illustrating his strong dedication to the Rotary Foundation, and is an exemplary Rotary member.

Michael resides with his wife Sylvia in Henderson, Nevada, and their family includes one daughter named Alycia, as well as two grandsons Aden and Alejandro, who are adored by the family.

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**WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 10, 2024**

**PASADENA ELKS LODGE**

**Must RSVP to attend! **RSVP Deadline: Tues. at 10:00 am****

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier  
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen  
Song Leader: Don Andruess with Ann Louise  
Inspiration: Young Lee Hertig  
Scoot Zone Reporter: IPP Mary Lou Byrne  
Photographers: Wende Lee & Tammy Silver  
Technical: Scott Carlson - Frank Fish  
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

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**NEW ROTARY MEETING VENUE FOR JANUARY 2024**

**PASADENA ELKS LODGE BALLROOM**

400 W. Colorado Blvd - with complimentary parking (enter off Green Street)



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# Future Flash

By President Justene Adamec



District Governor Michael Soden is coming! Now, I know that some DGs have been boring, but DG Michael is a lot of fun. After all, he is having the District Conference aboard a cruise ship. Remember how exciting it was when he visited in the fall and handed out these Polio Plus coins and I forgot **Debbie Loveland's** name?

I have asked Music Chair **Don Andruess** to come up with some special music. Let's see if he delivers. No pressure, Don.

Wait until you see how many new members are being inducted.



Here's a special request - now's a good time for your Polio Pig announcements. DG Michael is very committed to End Polio Now. His wife, First Lady Sylvia, is a polio survivor. Plus he'll get to see what great members we have.

Let's see: music, members, Polio Pig announcements... with any luck I won't have to ramble on at all.

Justene Adamec  
626-806-2529

[President@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:President@pasadenarotary.com)



# The Scoot Zone

**By Staff Reporter Dean Billman**  
**Photographers: Tammy Silver & Claudia Ponce de Leon & Hans Rosenberger**

**Tournament of Roses 2024 President Alex Aghajanian**, our speaker today, was asked about his favorite moment of this New Year's Day Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game, and he thought for a moment before he said, "there were so many, I can't pick a favorite time, but I can pick my favorite day!" Wearing his signature red Tournament of Roses coat, he was certainly our celebrity of the day, as many Rotarians are also Tournament "White Suiters" volunteers, and **President Justene Adamec** asked us to stand up and be honored (your reporter is also a White Suiter and served his 21<sup>st</sup> parade on the Music Committee this year – and is also exhausted like our President from too much fun and lack of sleep).

President Justene rang the big shiny Rotary brass bell to start our meeting at the Pasadena Elks Lodge, our temporary new meeting place these next two weeks. The Lodge has been completely remodeled in time for the holidays, and it looked majestic and welcoming for our meeting. **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** led us in singing "California, Here I Come" as she remarked that everyone watching the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game would see how beautiful California is and want to visit. **Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn** inspired us with a scientific explanation that music and good moods affect all life around us, and even water crystals react to sounds around us, and to surround ourselves with joyful laughs and good music.



Special Note: Next week, our District 5300 governor will be our speaker, and President Justene asked us to stand when he takes the stage to speak – **it is very important to stand**. We will know more next week.

Today's Guests: First daughter Amanda Pumilia; Myra Allen, PP of Temecula Sunrise Rotary, (District 5300 Ambassador & PR Marketing for Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee "Award-winning Rotary Float!" added **PP Mary Lou**); **PP Howard Raff** introduced Stewart Espinosa, Terry Tang, and Eric Messell; **Sandy Goodenough's** guest was her husband, Richard Schulhof Past President of LA Arboretum and a Rose Parade Float judge this past parade and **John Foulkes** brought his daughter Debbie.

Speaking of Rose Parade, President Justene asked all Rose Parade White Suiters to stand, and **Mel Cohen, Fred Soldwedel, Ken Hill, David McAlexander, Catherine Haskett Hany, Lisa Kroese, Tammy Silver, Mary Wilson, and Dean Billman** all stood up to club applause. **President Justene** then recounted how the Rose Bowl was nearing completion in 1922, but was in danger of running out of funds, when members of Pasadena Rotary stepped up and organized the final push to rally all the local clubs to raise the rest of the cash – and that was over 100 years ago! Because of that leadership, our club was named on the Rose Bowl as a major donor. How about that!



President Justene thanked **Robert Lyons** for his hard work hauling the Rotary badges, bell, banners, and heavy equipment back and forth to our roving venues this year. Maybe he needs a Rotary Service Star or reusable straw?

#### Announcements:

- **Dean Billman** gave \$100 in honor of our guest today, and his leadership of a great Rose Parade and tremendous Rose Bowl Game.
- **Mic Hansen and PP Diana Peterson-More**, co-chairs of the Community Grants Committee, invited Rotarians to begin applications for the grants. And in a new move, are looking for community partners to co-sponsor our gifts. Click here: (<https://www.pasadenarotary.com/community-grants/>)
- **PP Cathy Simms** invited everyone to join the Rotary Readers – see announcement details below!
- **President-Elect Stephen Smith** invited all members to a

“Pickleball Clinic” on January 13<sup>th</sup> (see details below). President Justene emphasized that this is a clinic, not a competition, so there will be no ruthless serves or attacking the net – just fun!

- **President Justene** asked us to circle the date of February 10<sup>th</sup> for the Altadena Rotary Club’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to join her in buying a table so we can support them like they supported us at our 100<sup>th</sup> a few years ago. Count us in!

Rose Parade White Suiter **Catherine Haskett Hany** introduced our speaker today, Alex Aghajanian, the President of Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, leading the 135<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade and 110<sup>th</sup> Rose Bowl Game on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Known as “America’s New Year’s Day Celebration”, his theme for this year’s parade was “Celebrating a World of Music, the Universal Language.” His theme poster, which everyone received, had several hidden messages and he challenged us to find the 1-3-5 symbols and elements. A hint might be the one singer on the poster, or maybe the three elements he chose for his pins: a Music note, an Instrument, or a Drum Major; maybe the “five” will come to you puzzle masters.



The Tournament house has a professional staff of 35, with 935 volunteer White Suiters, and 32 open committees, all needed to keep one of the longest parades moving – it is really 5 ½ miles long and a post-parade of float viewing that goes on another two days.

President Alex is especially fond of the Music Committee, having chaired it in the past and also using music as his theme, so he went into depth on the behind the scenes: He has a sense of humor, and wanted to prank each band by asking them to be unique for their city, and some bands took him up on

it – Pulaski, Wisconsin band marched with accordions in the front row (I saw it with my own eyes) and West Chester (PA) University marched with eight gigantic moving walls of a scene







**MUST RSVP to attend**  
**DEADLINE TO RSVP: Tues. at 10:00am**  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)



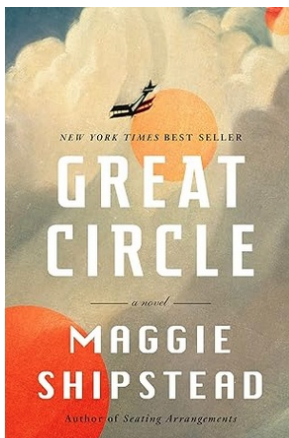
## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

President Justene & Past President Myra Allen

Visiting Rotarian Myra Allen,  
Past President,  
Temecula Sunrise Rotary District  
#5330

Rotary Rose Parade Float  
Committee Member and  
Ambassador

## 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 Cory Brendel at [corybrendel@gmail.com](mailto:corybrendel@gmail.com)  
If you have questions please email Cathy Simms at  
[simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net).



# INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

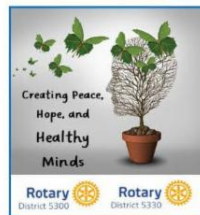
Saturday - January 13th  
8:00 to 11:00 AM

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](mailto:ssmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com)

Peacemaker of the Year Award  
Art for Peace Contest



## 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

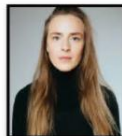
Vice Chair- RI Joint Advisory Council of DEI

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](mailto: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.

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## 7-DAY NOTICE

**Deb Raupp** - Sponsor: Fred Findley (former member)

**Ellen Batzel Palm-Leis** - Sponsor: Howard Raff

**Sam Gopinathan** - Corporate Membership - Sponsor: Howard Raff (former member)

Corporate Alternates: Royce Gilder, Becky Happach Detrick & Angie Pizano

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Melissa Froehlich	January 5
Stephen McCurry	January 7
Estela Richeda	January 9
Kelly White	January 10

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## ROTAVERSARIES!

Tammy Silver	1/8/20	4 Years
Lisa Cavelier	1/9/19	5 Years
Sonia Lagomarsino	1/10/90	34 Years

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan. 17th - Tom Coston - <i>"Parade of the Future"</i>
Jan. 24th - Tim McDonald - <i>Pasadena Public Library: Past Present &amp; Future</i>
Jan. 31st - Rotary Players - Ground Hog Day
Feb 7th - Juan Bastos - Celebrity Portrait Painter



**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.**

**E**

**Spokes Chair/Publisher/Editor: Wendy Anderson  
Bureau Chief: Mary Lou Byrne**

**Scoot Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman**

**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans  
Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver, Matt  
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, 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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