

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* March 8, 2024 \* #01-0010

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

### *THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM*

## **MAYOR VICTOR GORDO**

*"Pasadena: Looking to the Future"*

***INTRODUCER: PP Mel Cohen***



Mayor Gordo grew up in Pasadena and is a proud product of the Pasadena Unified School District. From age nine until he was 17 years old, Victor delivered the Pasadena Star-News newspaper every day before school and every weekend.

Victor played football, baseball, and soccer at Pasadena High School. He then enrolled at Pasadena City College and was the first person in his family to attend college. He continued his education at Azusa Pacific University, studying business management and finance. Shortly after his mother passed away, Victor was forced to postpone his college dreams to help raise his siblings. As his siblings got older, Victor was able to continue his formal education while still working full-time, eventually working his way through law school.

Victor began his direct service to the City of Pasadena in 1997, when then-Vice Mayor Bill Crowfoot appointed him as the field representative for District 5. Pasadena's District 5 includes several of Pasadena's most important and notable historic landmark districts—Bungalow Heaven, Garfield Heights, Washington Square, and Orange Heights.

Following Vice Mayor Crowfoot's retirement from City service, Victor was elected to represent Pasadena's District 5 on the Pasadena City Council in March, 2001. He was elected Pasadena's third Citywide-elected Mayor on November 3, 2020.

Professionally, Victor serves as the General Counsel and Secretary Treasurer for the Laborers'

International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 777. Victor enjoys a wonderful family life with his wife Kelly, an elementary school teacher in the El Monte Unified School District, and their two children— Michael (St. Francis) and Emma (Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy).

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**WEDNESDAY – MARCH 13, 2024**  
**UNIVERSITY CLUB - 12:00 pm**  
**175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101**  
**RSVP Deadline: 4:00 pm MONDAY 3/11/24**

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier  
Song Leader: Phil Miles accompanied by Don Andruess  
Inspiration: Jeannine Bogaard  
Scoot Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne  
Photographers: Hans Rosenberger &  
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson  
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

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# Future Flash

By President Justene Adamec



## ***Let's Talk Food***

One of the biggest surprises I got when I became President was how much time I spent on issues with the food served at lunch. It hasn't just been the time we were at Altadena Town and Country Club or the Elks Club. From the time I took office in January 2023, when we still had another 6 months at the University Club, I've been discussing the menu, or quality, or service, or price.

For the last month, lunch has been catered while the University Club waits for their temporary kitchen to be permitted. I think the quality has been great. The only problem I hear about is that the food choice for the vegetarian option has been uneven.

When we went back to the University Club, we thought it would be plated service and we needed the precise number. The RSVP rule was strict. Then it turned out that was a buffet and we could handle a couple of late RSVPs or walk-ins.

We still need that Monday RSVP. Final count goes in Monday afternoon. This week we had 9 walk-ins along with the usual smattering of late RSVPs. That's almost a 20% increase over the "final" number we turned in. Good thing some people eat lightly.

***Please please please, RSVP by 4:00 pm Monday.***

Justene Adamec  
626-806-2529  
[President@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:President@pasadenarotary.com)

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# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver  
& Matt Bookman

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As pianist **Ann Louise Christensen** and her bongo-drumming husband Gino provided snappy, jazzy lunchtime vibes, **PP Howard Raff** was heard explaining to Tyros member **Allison Burgos** that the key to success at Rotary, and life itself, was “to keep showing up.” He mentioned he has been coming to Rotary for over 23 years, and motioning towards **Eric Olsen**, that over those years, “I’ve seen Eric almost 2,000 times.” Our table pondered the benefits of meeting together all these years, the friendships and business relationships, and the joys of being involved.

**President Justene** rang the loud brass Rotary bell to call the meeting to order and introduced our musician board member **Don Andruess** on guitar joined Ann Louise and Gino, accompanied by our speaker today, **Lance Davis**, to a rendition of New York, New York. Lance explained he was only singing “to make Don look good.” We knew the words and we all made Don look good. **Wende Lee**, continuing the theme of living the life of a professional actor, quoted Denzel Washington, who counseled that to become a professional actor is not just a dream, but “It’s ambition, courage, and relentless pursuit of dreams” and that anything is achievable if you work hard at it. To prove her point, Wende announced that this year she is traveling to Spain to walk the arduous El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, a dream of hers that she is in training to finish, and the club cheered her on.



**President Justene** called for guests, and we enjoyed seeing Rosemary Risley, Liza Billington, and Judy Graunke, all lovely spouses. **Jim Graunke** and Judy are celebrating 39 years and 11 months together, and she is the magic cookie baker for the Parsons Nose audience members. **Mary Chalon** and Lance introduced their friend, Connie Alexander, a professional organizer and interested in joining our club (we could use some organizing). And **Cyrus Afshin** welcomed his cousin from Germany, Nyan Gighrah.

**Tony Phillips, Nominating Committee Chair** passed out At Large Nomination Ballots for members to nominate three members-at-large, and **PP Kathy Meagher**, **PP Howard Raff**, and **PP Phil Miles** were elected to the committee that will nominate new board members for the Pasadena Rotary Board.



#### Announcements:

- See **PP Stephen Smith & PP Cory Brendel's** announcements below.
- **Sandra Goodenough** – Co-chair with Nevino Rocco gave an update on our Global Grants/International Projects: Step Up for the Poor, which you will hear more of along with photos in an E-Blast Press Release.
- **Dean Billman** made two Polio Pig announcements: the first, he celebrated being an Election Poll Worker yesterday for the Primaries; and the second, to encourage our members to tell the Elks Club management that we truly enjoyed the recently renovated Elks Lodge for our meeting in January but wanted to come back to the U-club. We enjoy our Tardino's caterer much better.

• **PP Diana Peterson-More** - co-chair with **Mic Hansen** of Community Grants. Committee members are wrapping up site visits, and planning to make decisions. If anyone is interested in coming, there is one spot left to visit Mt. Wilson observatory. If interested contact co-chair **Mic Hansen** or **Diana**. Hold the date - Wednesday April 17 awards will be given. **Polio pig** - in honor of Judy Graunke, **PP Jim's** wife. For those who haven't yet visited Parson's Nose, when they come they will be treated with Judy's scrumptious homemade cookies.

**PP Cory Brendel** then introduced Lance Davis, co-founder with his actor wife and Pasadena Rotary member **Mary Chalon** of Parsons Nose, which Lance described the name as either a Shakespearean reference or the tail end of a cooked chicken, which they thought would make them enjoy life and not take themselves too seriously. Lance took us on a colorful journey of his life, from a Catholic upbringing outside Philadelphia, and his early days were a balance of young mischief and active engagement in drama and role-playing. Growing up around steel-mill working uncles who relaxed playing guitars on the weekend, to altar boys stifling laughter, he spun a tale of growing up in a fantasy world of creating characters and stories, all played in front of an audience.



A turning point was enrolling in drama class in high school and getting his liberal arts education at University of Notre Dame, spending his sophomore year in Paris, and getting a well-rounded education in theology, philosophy, language, and comparative literature (through acting parts). Learning to play several roles in Shakespeare plays, along with Moliere and other great playwrights gave Lance an appreciation for the ways of people and society, and he wanted to share the joy he found when he played those characters. The Parsons Nose theater has adapted the Shakespearean plays to shorter lengths, to make the fun and humor shine through for today's contemporary audiences. He noted that the actor's body and voice all must coordinate to project the emotion of the character

to the audience, and not to inhabit the character (called "method acting", where you become the character in thought, word, and deed) but to convey the character to the audience, and not get in the way of the audience's interpretation of the character and his story. And to make the small theater become "a living room with actors" as **PP Cory Brendel** described it, cookies and wine greet the audience at the front door, baked by Judy Graunke.

While we were enjoying Lance's life story of entertaining others, he ended with the observation that all great entertainment through the centuries had sponsors, as Shakespeare had Queen Elizabeth II, Molière had King Louie, and Broadway has investors. He recognized that for any theater to survive, it needs patrons, and our attendance is always appreciated.

Let's have a Rotary Play Night again!





*L2R: President Justene, PEE Hillary Schenk, Don Andruess, George Falardeau, Liza Billington, Cory Brendel, Connie Alexander, Lance David & Mary Chalon*



*Jim Osterling, Bob Risley, Rosemary Risley, and Sandy Goodenough check in with Jane Waas & Alan Schier*

Badge Master Alan is back!

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

*Lunch is being catered by Tardino Brothers  
Brisket of Beef with Mushroom Gravy. Garlic  
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Mixed Baby  
Green Salad & Rolls  
Or **Vegetarian Choice***

**DEADLINE TO RSVP:**  
**BY MONDAY 4:00 pm 3/11/24**  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### MARCH

**DONE IN A DAY** – Stephen Smith - – [SSmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com](mailto:SSmith.meridianappraising@gmail.com).

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation** – JDRF One Walk Fundraiser at the Rose Bowl –  
**Sun 3/17/24 – 6:30-8:30 am** Check In; **7:30 am - 12:00 pm** various assignments; **12-2:30 pm**  
watch kids in Bounce Zone

**ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)** – Desiree Alvarado – 213-400-1502 or  
[desiree@pasadenapromos.com](mailto:desiree@pasadenapromos.com). Interview students applying to attend. Be a facilitator for 11<sup>th</sup>  
graders for 1 or 2 days at Running Springs (near Big Bear) Dates: **3/22/24-3/24/24**

**FRIENDS IN DEED - Bad Weather Shelter** - Stephen Smith -

[Smith.meridianappraising@gmail.com](mailto:Smith.meridianappraising@gmail.com). Volunteers needed at Trinity Lutheran Church

**Wed. 3/27/24. 6:30 am - 9:30am** - Bring salad, potato salad, fruit, chips, OJ, paper plates, paper  
cups, hot cocoa set up, cots & chairs

### APRIL

**FOOTHILLS & ARROYOS CONSERVATION PROJECT** – Cory Brendel

[corybrendel@gmail.com](mailto:corybrendel@gmail.com) - 2 Service Projects – **Sat. 4/6/24** - Trail repair on Cottonwood  
Canyon, easy work and Trail on Rubio Canyon, more substantial moderate work on damage  
from recent rains. Meet Rotarians from nearby clubs.

**MAY**

**CORAZON 2024 SUPERBUILD** – Justene Adamec – [president@pasadenarotary.com](mailto: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.

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## **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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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Bobbie Ferguson	March 8th
John McDannel	March 10th
Rob Fisher	March 14th

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## **HAPPY ROTAVERSARY**

Gary Kearney	3/8/06	18 Years
PP Cory Brendel	3/9/05	19 Years
PE-E Hillary Schenk	3/9/16	16 Years
Frank Waterman	3/10/10	14 Years
Cyrus Afshin	3/11/09	15 Years
David Covell	3/11/15	9 Years
Justene Adamec	3/11/15	9 Years
Don Andruess	3/11/15	9 Years

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

March 20th - Dan Stover Instrumental Music Contest

March 27th - Four Way Speech Contest

April 3rd - Vladyslav Golyk - Ukraine Report

April 10th - Glenn Barnett - Polio

April 17th - Community Grants

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the  
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& Dede Venkat.**

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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**

**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, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough,  
J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Wende Lee, Robert Lyons, Tammy Silver, Cyril Vergis,  
Mark Waterson.**

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