
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * May 10, 2024 * #01-0019

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

TEACHERS

of Excellence



Co-Chairs

Janine Hamner Holman & Phyllis Mueller

Special Guest

Dr. Elizabeth Blanco
Superintendent, PUSD

Honored Teachers

Stephanie Elliot, Alexander Hamilton
Elementary School
Amanda Leja, Sierra Madre Middle School
Melanie Gray, Willard Elementary School
Robyn Wehrly, Octavia E Butler Magnet DL
STEM Middle School
Kristina Andrews, Don Benito Fundamental

Pasadena Rotary is proud to present the 33rd annual Teachers of Excellence Program.

This program started in 1990, a product of hard work and dedication on the part of Pasadena Rotary members Joe Lonergan, Al Lowe and Christle Balvin, among others. Their inspiration. came from Jaime Escalante, the former East Los Angeles high school teacher who believed inner-city students could master subjects as demanding as calculus.

WEDNESDAY – MAY 15, 2024

UNIVERSITY CLUB - 12:00 pm

175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101

RSVP Deadline: 4:00 pm MONDAY

OVERFLOW PARKING: Heritage House - Enter parking off Madison
Do not park in any reserved parking space

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier aka Badge Master
Lunchtime Pianist - Ann Louise Christensen

Song Leader: Don Andruess & Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Tammy Silver
Scoot Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: Tammy Silver
Technical: Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

ZOOM is back and opens at 12:15 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09>

Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523. - Passcode: 667356

Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec

Last week, I talked about the changing business climate since Rotary was founded. Another reality of modern work is that many people who want to join Rotary can't take 2 hours off in the middle of a workday on a Wednesday.

To address this, Rotary has come up with the Impact Club. The founder of the idea had a wife who was a kindergarten teacher. By sheer coincidence, First Daughter Amanda is a kindergarten teacher. Just about the only downside to her job is that she might never be a Rotarian.

Have you noticed how many people have been coming to the meetings? Have you noticed how many have joined? More would join but for the other demands on their time.

So -- at the instigation of President Elect Stephen Smith, the Board approved a two-year pilot program of the Pasadena Rotary Impact Club. This self-governing Companion Club will have a service project once a month and a social event once a month. (It's called the Companion Club. Legacy Pasadena Rotary will be the Host Club.)

Impact Club members can but never have to attend Host Club meetings, social events and service projects. Host Club members can but never have to attend Host Club meetings, social events and service projects.

Right now, there are two Impact members, Amanda Pumilia and Stewart Espinosa. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes buzz and we're expecting more members any day now. After all it's only been around a couple of weeks.

There are two things you can do now: Put June 6th at 6:00PM on your calendar as the first Social Activity of the Impact Club. We will be having a Happy Hour Mixer at The Wild Parrot Brewing Company, 2302 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena.

Reach out to those people you know who have been interested in Pasadena Rotary but thought it was too big a commitment. Pasadena Rotary Impact Club has dues of \$50 and no mandatory lunch fees.

I know it sounds great but current members aren't eligible. Nor can a corporate member join the Impact Club.

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



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Jonathan Edwards

What happens when a major donor bequeaths the Huntington Garden with a gift to provide a traditional Japanese Tea House to the Japanese Garden area? You go find a 320-year-old residence and garden in perfect condition in Marugame, Japan, have it disassembled and brought to Pasadena, CA' and re-build it, exactly like it was in Japan. Our speaker today, Huntington Garden's **Robert Hori**, took us on his journey of bringing this treasure to the Garden, and what it means to all involved.

Today was the first day in a long time that the University Club provided the delicious lunch – enjoying lunch at noon with fellow Rotarians is a highlight of the week.

President Justene Adamec rang the Rotary Bell at 12:30pm and our own **PP Phil Miles** on guitar and harmonica, accompanied by Board member **Don Andruess** on guitar and **Major Roy Wild** on snappy tambourine led us on a rousing chorus of Oh! Suzanna (by Stephen Foster, 1948). **Lisa Kroese**, inspired by our speaker and Japanese cultural treasures, spoke to us of a revered Japanese poet, Otagaki Rengetsu, who inscribed Haiku poems into her ceramic bowls. Today, Rengetsu is regarded as a national treasure.



President Justene told us that past-member **Elaine Silberman**, the wife of **PP Shel Capeloto**, was now in hospice care in her home, and we all hope and pray for Elaine and Shel.

Guests today:

PP Howard Raff introduced several people today, in keeping with his role as Membership Chair and all-around great cheerleader for the benefits of networking and service fellowship in the community:

- Benjamin Field, an Executive Coach
- Casey Marticorena, A Family Law Attorney
- Sean York, a Realtor with Kelly Williams
- Josephine Savellano, with Golden Arches Home Care

New member **Steward Rydman Espinosa** introduced Curtis Smith, an IT and home security professional.

Bill Opel welcomed his wife, Judy Opel

Jane Imai introduced her husband, Eugene Imai

PP Cory Brendel celebrated his wife, Liza Billington; South Pasadena Rotarian Rod Gregson; and potential member Elizabeth Nadeau, an advisor with Community Advisor Program in Pasadena

Robert Lyons announced his referral, Patrick Dinan, has applied for membership.

PP Cathy Simms introduced her friend Marlys Murray, retired from JPL after 40 years and now President of the San Marino League supporting the Japanese Garden at Huntington Library. Cathy is also a docent at the Huntington Garden.

New Member Induction:

PP Howard Raff introduced **Steward Rydman Espinosa**, a life-long San Gabriel native who participated in a Rotary Youth Leadership conference in high school and went on to graduate from UC Berkley and now is an agent with NY Life in Pasadena. He's joining the new Companion Club Pasadena Rotary Impact Club. See Future Flash Column above. (photo left)

TYROS member **Alex Oscoco** introduced **Parker Hayward**, a Wisconsin native and U of W graduate as a successful personal trainer, owning his own business, Always Upwards Fitness as a Certified Strength, and Fitness instructor, as well as a competitive body builder. (photo right)

Welcome Stewart and Parker!



Voting for New Board Members

President Justene explained the Nominating Committee, headed by **PP Tony Phillips**, met a few weeks ago and came up with a slate of nominations for the four open board seats. After no nominations were received from the floor, Treasurer **PP Tony Phillips** ran the tally for new board members, and the following four members were elected to the Pasadena Rotary Board:

- o **Nevino Rocco (3 years)**
- o **Dede Venkat (3 years)**
- o **Claudia Ponce de Leon (3 years)**
- o **David McAlexander (3 years)**

Congratulations to our new board members and Thank You for serving!

Announcements

- Rod Gregson of the South Pasadena Rotary Club announced the Taste of South Pasadena on Tuesday, May 28th. More information at <https://www.tasteofsouthpasadena.com/>
- **PP Ken Joe** announced the next Tyros Mixer on Mon., May 20th at El Torito Restaurant.
- **PP Mary Lou Byrne** announced that President Justene's Demotion is right around the corner. It will be held the last Wednesday evening in June at the Ambassador Auditorium, in lieu of our regular lunch meeting. She asked for volunteers to help with the "dinner party part" and the "show part" of the festivities, and several Rotarians raised their hands on the spot. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact **PP Mary Lou** at maloby@outlook.com.
- **President Elect Hillary Schenk** offered an unusual Gala announcement – The 2nd Annual Pasadena Rotary “Please Don’t Attend Event” as a 100% deductible contribution to the club, with no dietary constraints or dance floor competitions. Pure fun! Give today.
- **President Justene stridently** announced the need to **RSVP** for next week’s Teachers of Excellence lunch which will be very popular.

PP Mary Lou Byrne introduced our speaker today, Robert Hori, of the Huntington Garden, and his presentation was on the new-to-Huntington Garden, the 320-year-old Japanese Heritage Shoya House. Robert started his presentation by thanking the San Marino League for their support. One of the ladies of the League, Ms. Mary Lee, had lived in Japan after WW II and wanted to protect the Japanese garden at the Huntington against the post-war anti-Japanese sentiment, observing that “gardens are a place of peace” and that there should be a tea house, too. She then told the Garden that she would build them one, and upon her death her estate bequeathed the funds to create the new tea house and garden,



direct from Japan.



The search for the perfect house and garden resulted in the owners of the Shoya house wanting to give it a second life, as they were not interested in living in it, but wanted to preserve its long history and beautiful gardens. "Mottainai" is a Japanese phrase of feelings of remorse, or regret, and that extends to resources, materials, or opportunities. The decision to move the house and garden intact to Pasadena, for use as a cultural center and home was like its role in the village in Marugame, and after getting approval of local officials and neighbors, it was finally disassembled in 2019 and moved to Pasadena area for reassembly and garden replanting.

Then the Pandemic hit, and the parts sat outdoors for almost a year, threatening the entire project with ruin if it was not rebuilt to withstand the Southern California sun. We watched as the many steps to rebuild it to both Japanese and American standards forced the construction to re-think 300-year-old design and modern earthquake standards to everyone's satisfaction, but the Huntington is diligent to make it work, and the result was a beautiful building and authentic Japanese garden of peace that we can all enjoy.

Perhaps we need to have a Rotary Day at the Huntington Gardens to welcome this new civic and cultural jewel to our city?



L2R: President Justene, Robert Hori, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Ellen Batzel Palm-Leis, Rod Gregson, Elizabeth Nadeau, Liza Billington, PP Cory Brendel.

[CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY](#)

**BUFFET MEAL PROVIDED BY
Chef Tony, The University Club**

Caesar Salad with Croutons and
Cheese
Chicken Parmesan
Eggplant Parmesan (Vegetarian)
Pasta Marinara (Vegetarian)
Sauteed Summer Squash
(Vegetarian)



Chef's Choice Dessert

Indicate if you'll be dining as
Vegetarian only

Check in with Alan Schier (aka Badge Master) &
Jane Waas

DEADLINE TO RSVP: MONDAY 4:00 pm
office@pasadenarotary.com

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

POLIO PIG ANNOUNCEMENT:

**Foster Care Project Presents David Ambroz in conversation
with Judge Margaret Henry (Ret.) about *A Place Called Home*
Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. in Sweetland Hall,**

All Saints Church Pasadena (132 N Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101)

David Ambroz, a national poverty and child welfare expert and advocate, will discuss his memoir, *A Place Called Home*, with **Judge Margaret Henry (ret.)**, who established and presided over the 18-and-up Courtroom in LA County, a pioneering, first-of-its-kind court designed to address the needs of young people in extended foster care, ages 18 to 21.

Joining us in person? Please RSVP here (<https://bit.ly/AmbrozBookTalk>). If you'd like to join online, please register to receive the zoom link here (<https://bit.ly/AmbrozHenryBookTalk>). For information, contact Debbie at ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org.



TYROS HAPPY HOUR

**CALLING ALL
MEMBERS/SIGNIFICANT
OTHERS** who want to meet our
newest TYROS. Join us on

Monday, May 20th, at El Torito's, 3333 E. Foothill Blvd. (x Madre St) for Happy Hour.
From 4:30 to 6:30 pm, appetizers will be provided, and no-host bar will be available. There

is no need to RSVP.

President Justene said the Club will buy the first round of drinks!!

Questions? Ken Joe - kenjoerealtor@gmail.com or Wende Lee - wendelee323@gmail.com

PASADENA ROTARY IMPACT CLUB
HAPPY HOUR
+ MIXER

THURSDAY, JUNE 6
6:00 - 7:30 PM

WILD PARROT
BREWING COMPANY

2302 E Colorado Blvd,
Pasadena, CA 91107

The flyer features a dark background with white and yellow text. On the right side, there is an image of three glasses of beer: a tall pilsener glass, a mug, and a tulip-shaped glass, all filled with golden beer topped with white foam. The word 'HOUR' in the title has a clock face integrated into the letter 'O'.

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.

7-DAY NOTICE

Patrick Dinan - Sponsor: Robert Lyons

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn	May 11th
George Falardeau	May 12th

David Weidert	May 13th
Liz Algermissen	May 14th
Keith Harrington	May 14th
Stephen. Smith	May. 15th
Dave Mans	May 15th
Christian Port	May 16th
Colleen Carey	May 16th

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

Lynne Sullivan	5/10/23	1 Year
Liz Algermissen	5/11/22	2 Years
Debbie Loveland	5/11/05	19 Years
Colleen Carey	5/13/09	15 Years
Paul Martin	5/13/15	9 Years
Wende Lee	5/15/19	5 Years
Cyril Vergis	5/15/19	5 Years
Cathy Simms	5/16/01	23 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 22nd - Barry Gordon, Why I Love Musical Theatre. Parson's Nose Theater
May 29th - TBD
June 5th - Brandon Rodriguez, JPL/NASA - Underwater Research
June 12th - Paul Harris Fellow Community Award
June 19th - President Justene's Last Meeting
June 26th - DARK-No Meeting - DEMOTION PARTY TONIGHT!

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
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**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP
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Claudia Ponce de Leon, Desiree Alvarado, Mike Bernard
& 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.**

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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