Rotary Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * April 17, 2026 * #01-061
www.pasadenarotary.com

DAN STOVER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Chair: Paul Roach - Co-Chair: Allison Burgos

Don't miss this week's program. Some of the most talented instrumentalists from our local high schools compete in this annual district wide musical scholarship competition. Cash awards will be given to the winner and runners up.

Fourteen talented musicians were heard at the Audition Round that took place Thursday evening, April 16th, 2026 at 6 PM in the chapel at the Salvation Army Tabernacle of Pasadena. The top 3 competitors will be heard next Wednesday, April 22nd. Three independent judges will select the winner, who will move on to the Regional final on May 14th, 2026. The winner of the Regional Final will move on to District Final at the District Conference on May 23rd, 2026.

A big thanks to Pasadena Rotarian Nick Helms who has generously hosted this competition on behalf of the club for the second year in a row. Thank you for helping us celebrate and champion the young musicians of our community, Nick!

*Note: Our Club has produced more Dan Stover winners than any other club in the district.

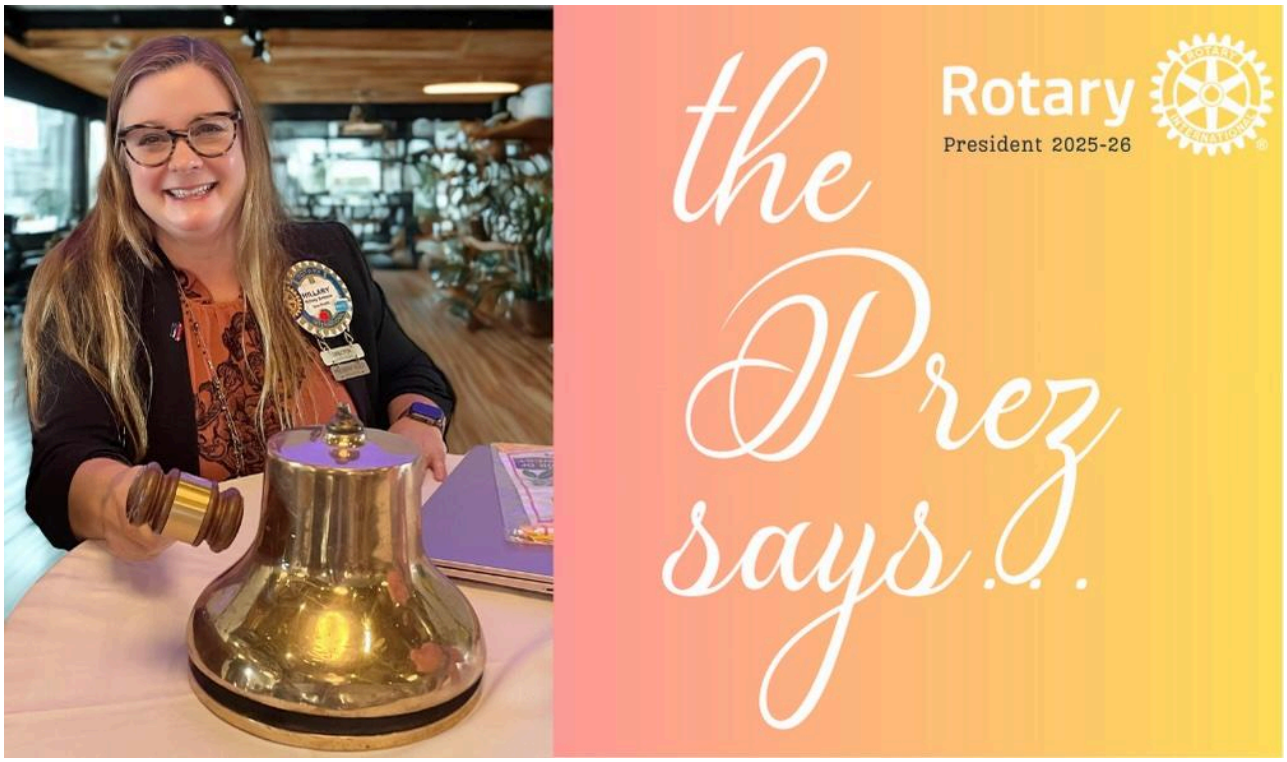
HISTORY of the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship: The Rotary Club of Alhambra, in the year following the death of Rotarian, Educator and Musician, Dan Stover in 1997, established a Music Scholarship Program in his name. The program was proposed, organized, and championed by a new Rotarian, Christine Montan, who was Alhambra's first woman Rotarian. Ms. Montan recognized and appreciated the contribution that Dan Stover had made as a Rotarian, musician and person. From these beginnings, the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship program "graduated" into a District program. A generation of talented, young musicians have participated and had the opportunity, in the name of Dan Stover, to compete against their peers and earn funds to further their musical education with the scholarship awards.

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 22, 2026
UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA
LUNCH BUFFET: 12:00 PM - MEETING: 12:30 PM
175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101
Non-members are welcome - $45.00 includes lunch
CLICK ON: ***RSVP*** ***- Deadline: 5:00 pm MONDAY***

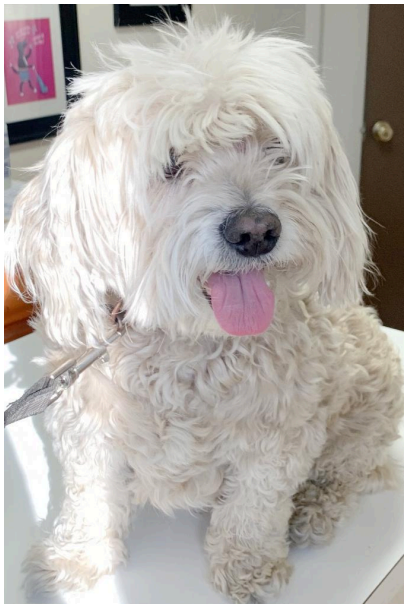
OVERFLOW PARKING: Across street behind Pasadena Heritage
Enter parking off Madison Ave.
OKAY to park in reserved parking spaces
ADDITIONAL PARKING: 221 N. El Molino - Northwest corner of El Molino & Walnut.
2 block walk to UClub. Cost: $1.00/2 hours

Meeting Host: President Hillary Schenk
Reception: Alan Schier
Song Leader: PP Phil Miles
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Wende Lee
Scoot Zone Reporter: PP Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: PE Tammy Silver
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: PE-E Robert Lyons

Meeting is also on ZOOM opens at 12:15 pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09
Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523
Passcode: 667356



Remembering Nimbus — A Lesson in Love and Loss



Our sweet 17-year-old cockapoo Nimbus crossed the rainbow bridge on Monday, and my family's hearts are broken. We were by his side until the very end, surrounding him with all the love he gave us every single day.

Nimbus wasn't just a dog, he was family, our comfort, our joy, and such a bright light in our lives. He was part of the rhythm of our home in a way that only becomes fully visible when it is suddenly gone. The quiet feels different now. The routines feel unfamiliar. Even the smallest moments, having left behind an emptiness that is hard to describe despite the 5 other furry family members surrounding us with love.

He had his own gentle spirit and little quirks that became part of the fabric of our daily life. The way he moved through the world, with quiet trust and steady companionship, had a way of softening everything around him.

What has stayed with me most in these past days is not only the grief, but also the gratitude. We were able to be with him at the end, to hold him close and return even a fraction of the love he gave so freely for 17 years. That kind of loyalty and presence is something rare, and it changes you.

Pet loss is often spoken about lightly by those who have not experienced it, but for many of us, it is profound. These animals are not "just pets." They are witnesses to our lives in their most unguarded forms, our routines, our changes, our quiet and unspoken moments. They give companionship without condition and love without complication.

Grief, in this way, becomes a reflection of love. And Nimbus was deeply, deeply loved. In community life, especially in spaces like Rotary where we often focus on service and outward strength, it feels important to acknowledge these quieter human experiences as

well. We carry them with us when we show up in the world, sometimes softened, sometimes changed, but often with a deeper sense of empathy for others who are carrying unseen loss.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for the kindness, support, and compassion you've shown my family during this time. Your words, gestures, and presence have meant more than I can adequately express, and they have brought comfort in a moment that feels otherwise very heavy.

Thank you for loving us so well, Nimbus. You'll always be with us.

Hillary S. Schenk
President 2025-2026
Rotary Club of Pasadena
cell 805.358.8596

ATTENDING THE MEETING MEALS & SEATS ARE PROVIDED BASED ON *RSVP'S*.

CLICK HERE TO RSVP TODAY

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

53rd Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

SIGN UP FOR ROTARY'S ANNUAL TABLE

It looks like we may have 2 tables at the breakfast - sign up ASAP!

Thursday - May 7th from 7:30 am - 9:00 am at the
Pasadena Convention Center
Cost: $45 - billed to your monthly account

PLEASE RSVP: *office@pasadenarotary.com*

Member Interest Survey!

Have fun and get involved. Pasadena Rotary has a lot of committees; committees to suit nearly every interest. But we don't know what YOU are interested in. Please complete this survey and let us know. Complete by Friday, April 17. Click the link here for the survey. Or scan the QR code.

MASTERS OF TASTE VOLUNTEER - SIGN UP HERE:

VOLUNTEER PORTAL LINK: *https://ushs.rosterfy.com/login*

email us at ***volunteer@ushs.org***. For any questions (626) 715-5004.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Set Up from 8:00am - 12:00pm: Assist with posting vendor signs, setting up vendor booths, delivering supplies to booths, fill water jugs, assemble sanitation stations, and more!

Volunteer Requirements

1. All volunteers must be at least 21 years old
2. Should be comfortable standing for extended periods of time and comfortable lifting up to 25 lbs
3. All volunteers will be asked to complete our volunteer requirements, including an online registration form, acknowledge our liability waiver, and complete our online orientation.

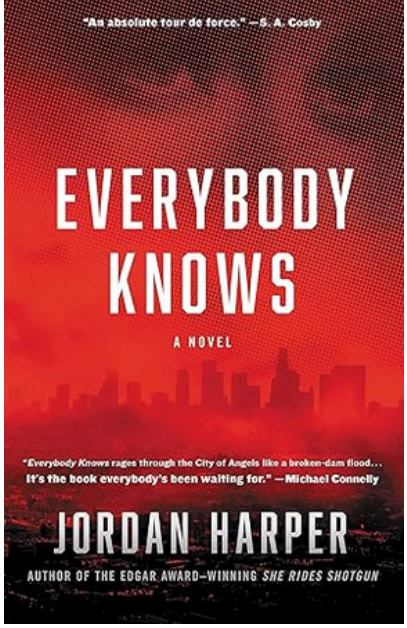
UNION STATION HOMELESS SERVICES

Volunteer Opportunity – Help Set Up for Masters of Taste, Union Station's Premier Fundraiser

When: Sunday, April 19, 8am to 12noon, Rose Bowl

ROTARY READERS

MONDAY - May 4th at 6:00 pm



On May 4 at 6 pm Rotary Readers will gather for Bill Opel's review of Everybody Knows by Jordon Harper.

Our host will be Martha Shenkenberg

Please RSVP to Martha Shenkenberg at ***mshenkenberg@yahoo.com.***

Please RSVP

Volunteer to help staff the 2026 Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts!

Enjoy this beautifully decorated house, support Showcase's mission to fundraise for the arts, and earn donations for our club in the process. For every shift completed by one of our members, Pasadena Rotary will receive $50.

KEY DETAILS

- Shifts are 3 and 1/2 hours long (inside or outside) and you must stand the whole time (other than during a 15 minute break for water/snacks/bathroom).
- Parking for volunteers is at Santa Anita Park with shuttles to and from the house. There will be no drop off in front of the house, but Santa Anita is only a 10 minute shuttle.
- Your job will be to greet guests, answer basic questions, and direct traffic through the house.
- If you complete TWO separate shifts, you will receive a **free ticket** to tour the Showcase House any day after 1:30 p.m.

If you'd like to volunteer, contact our coordinator, Amanda Pumilia. She will upload your information into the volunteer portal, send you available dates/times, and confirm and schedule your shift(s).

Email: apumilia@yahoo.com or text: (818) 693-0331

Shifts are available on Tuesdays - Sundays from April 19th to May 17th
9:00 - 12:30
12:30 - 4:00
4:00 - 7:00

The Scoot Zone

By Dr. Sonya Sharifiard, Staff Reporter

Photographers: PE Tammy Silver & Larry Weiss

It’s tax day!

President Hillary Schenk rang the bell as we were joined by **Eric Olson** *Fly Me to the Moon* with Ann Louise Christensen on piano.

Josh McCurry delivered the inspiration remarking that when Albert Einstein visited the paradise of Pasadena, his wife Elsa questioned his choice of clothing. Einstein assured his wife that one ought not worry about their simple layers of clothing, that people should instead seek him.

Josh also mentioned the words of Christina Koch, who served as mission specialist of NASA's Artemis II mission last week. Astronauts might leave earth; but they choose it. Collectively, we will explore, we will build, we will bolster industry, we will visit again and we will choose earth and choose each other, which is what matters most in life.

Guests
PE Tammy Silver introduced Mars Shi, a biomedical engineering student at Pasadena City College who was a member of the Rotaract of San Marino Rotary in high school.

PP Howard Raff introduced Mitch Bradford, a producer.

Wendy Anderson introduced Charlie and Juanita Pankow. Wendy and Charlie are planning their 60th High School Reunion of John Muir High School at the UClub.

Announcements
PP Cory Brendel went through the election process for the Board of Directors who will take their positions on July 1st. Afterwards, members casted their votes. The following members have been elected to the Board.
Catherine Hany
Jim Osterling
Martha Shenkenberg
Paul Roach
Congratulations!

PP Cathy Simms, on behalf of Jan Sanders for Rotary Readers, announced their next meeting scheduled on May 4th. Rotary Readers will be joined by Bill Opel to review the book *Everybody Knows* by Jordan Harper. (see flyer above)

Paul Roach thanked members for raising funds at our annual fundraiser in March. Funds raised will help with supporting the Dan Stover Music Competition. The competition is one of Pasadena Rotary's fundamental programs that supports musicians in the San Gabriel Valley. Auditions took place on Thursday, April 16th. Finalists will perform at the next Rotary meeting on April 22nd.

Sandy Goodenough mentioned that she and Co Chair **Nevino Rocco** serve on the committee that determines which international projects are funded. Sandy made a $100 donation to Polio Pig in honor of Nevino and his late father who was a member of São Paulo Rotary in Brazil taking care of beehives.

Martha Shenkenberg encouraged volunteering on Sunday morning from 8-12 to set up for the Masters of Taste event. (see flyer above)

PE Tammy Silver reminded members to complete the member interest survey.

Pasadena City College President, **Dr. Jose Gomez** and **PE Tammy Silver** will be lighting PCC blue in honor of baseball legend Jackie Robinson,who broke the MLB color barrier, debuting for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15th, 1947.

Dean Billman made a $100 contribution to Polio Pig. His wife, Karen Billman will be designing the kitchen at the Pasadena Showcase House of Design, which opens on April 19.

President Hillary encouraged members to volunteer at the Pasadena Showcase House. For every shift a Rotarian completes, Pasadena Rotary receives $50. Every Rotarian who works two shifts will earn a free ticket to tour the Showcase House. (see flyer above)

Paul Roach introduced the guest speaker**, Dr. David Zierler,** Ronald and Maxine Linde Director of the Caltech Heritage Project. Dr. Zierler arrived at Caltech in 2021 after directing the Oral History program at the American Institute of Physics, and serving in the Office of the Historian at the U.S. Department of State.

Drawing on his doctoral work in the science of ideas and the flourishing of research, he conducted oral interviews in Washington DC of famous physicists. Then in 2020 as the global COVID-19 pandemic turned everything around, Dr. Zierler sent an email to Caltech President Thomas Rosenbaum who provided Zierler with a list of scientists to speak with. Over the course of a year, over 500 physicists were interviewed over Zoom. Across these interviews, the mentioning and pioneering of advancement via Caltech became a common theme over and over. Zierler, having no connection to California or Caltech, reached out to Rosenbaum and pitched the idea of becoming the institutional historian for Caltech. Rosenbaum supported the idea, found the funds to create this inaugural position and shortly after, the Zierlers were packed on a cross-country trek to South Pasadena.

Amos Throop was an abolitionist from the state of New York and one of several industrialists who came to California to help build Pasadena. Throop founded Throop College, a coeducational institute of higher learning and the first of its kind to develop a Pre-K to vocational studies program where the emphasis on education was to cultivate the entire human being spirit and the love for the liberal arts. Their heliography and astronomy

program were meant to succeed in Wisconsin, but the humidity conditions prevented effective observations from taking place. The ideal set of conditions would be similar to the Italian mountains where Galileo was able to carry out his missions. Pasadena later earned the honorary title of “Mediterranean of the West.”

Later, they partner and develop the Hooker Telescope, the world's most successful telescope and the realization of the universe expanding from the big bang where Einstein was proven wrong.

Historically, weed and crop management was done manually. Nowadays, we use chemical compounds to identify weeds versus crops and spray accordingly. In the 1950s, genetic selection and herbicides were introduced to boost crop yields and help feed the global population.

Matthew Meselson, a Caltech postdoc, helped uncover the replication mechanism of DNA. Caltech had earlier discovered DNA’s structure in 1953. Meselson and Frank Stahl determined how DNA replicates. Meanwhile, student Howard Temin and David Baltimore at MIT found that DNA and RNA communicate genetic information. In the 1960s, the Kennedy administration championed “the best and brightest,” whereas Eisenhower had relied on nuclear power. In 1965, the United States adopted advanced technologies to halt North Vietnamese aggression, deploying high-tech devices. American advisors and their South Vietnamese allies faced attacks from guerrilla fighters who used the forest for concealment. As a result, experts devised plans to reformulate herbicides, originally intended to nourish crops, so that they would instead destroy forests—a misuse of scientific technology. Arthur Galston protested this approach. Along with Meselson, he discovered what the Johnson administration already knew: Agent Orange was a significant problem. As President Johnson escalated the war, all military programs expanded, including defoliation efforts. Millions of acres of forest were destroyed by Agent Orange, a chemical whose manufacturers produced herbicides beyond normal temperatures. They testified before the United States Congress about the devastation wrought in Vietnam, arguing that herbicidal warfare should be subject to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans chemical warfare.

For 100 years, Caltech has produced global leaders. A small research university that does not boast or amplify its novel contributions and advancement to science, it has always remained core to its values and insistence on fundamentals and the discovery of nature. That is perhaps why it has accomplished so much, from molecules to cosmos.

President Hillary adjourned the meeting with a fun pair of Rotary Socks! The trek continues...

L2R: President Hillary, Elizabeth Blanco, PE-E Robert Lyons, PP Cory Brendel, Paul Roach, Aviv Zierler, David Zierler, Phil Hawkey

7 DAY NOTICE

Justin Glasson, CORPORATE - Chief Development Officer, Pasadena Playhouse
Sponsor: Mary Lou Byrne

Dimetris Jones, ACTIVE - Director of Community Relations, Morningstar Senior Living of Pasadena
Sponsor: Howard Raff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

KHANH RUSSO - April 20th

WILL HOYMAN - April 20th

SAM GOPINATHAN - April 22nd

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

Diana Peterson-More	4/22/96	28 Years
Quinn Bebb	4/23/25	1 Year
Nicolas Giovanazzi	4/23/25	1 Year

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 29th - 36th Annual Teachers of Excellence Awards

May 6th - Nicole Craig, FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design and Marketing - The Business of Fashion

May 13th - Akila Gibbs, Executive Director Pasadena Senior Center - Stories from the Fire

May 20th - David Klug, City of Pasadena Economic Development Director

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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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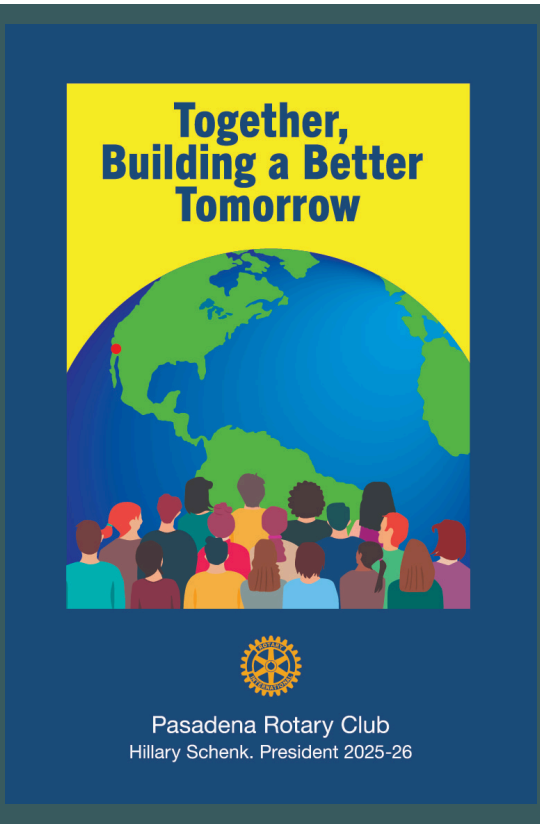

ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena

PRESIDENT: Hillary Schenk
PRESIDENT ELECT: Tammy Silver
SECRETARY: Wende Lee
TREASURER: Allison Burgos
CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andrues, Mike Bernard, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Deb Raupp, Nevino Rocco, Alan Schier, Dede Venkat
Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club

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