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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* April 25, 2025 \* #01-014

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

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### *THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM*

# TEACHERS

## *of Excellence*

#### **Co-Chairs**

PP Mary Lou Byrne & Mike Bernard

#### **Special Guest**

Dr. Elizabeth Blanco  
Superintendent, PUSD

#### **Honored Teachers**

Martin Dorado, Madison Elementary School  
Sang Lee, Marshall Fundamental School  
Barri Messersmith, Sierra Madre Elementary School  
Lisabet Nepf, Sierra Madre Middle School  
Julie Ysassi, Alexander Hamilton Elementary School



Pasadena Rotary is proud to present the 35th 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 projects.

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**WEDNESDAY – APRIL 30, 2025**  
**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA**  
**\*\*THIS WEEK: Buffet opens at 11:45 am**  
**Meeting starts at 12:15 pm**  
**175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101**  
**RSVP A MUST - Deadline: 5:00 pm MONDAY**

**OVERFLOW PARKING:** Pasadena Heritage Blinn House  
Enter parking off Madison Ave. - Do not park in any reserved parking space

**Meeting Host:** President Stephen Smith  
**Reception:** Alan Schier & Mike Bernard  
**Song Leader:** Eric Olson  
**Lunchtime Pianist:** Ann Louise Christensen  
**Inspiration:** Howard Raff  
**Scoot Zone Reporter:** Dean Billman  
**Photographer:** PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt  
**Technical:** Frank Fish & Scott Carlson  
**Sergeant At Arms:** Robert Lyons  
Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

**ZOOM opens at 12:00 pm**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09>  
**Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523. - Passcode: 667356**

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# Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks

Here I am in Fish Creek, which is in Door County Wisconsin, waiting to get ready to attend the 1st Round of the NFL Draft on April 24th.

Yesterday, we landed in O'Hare, rented a car, and stopped in Wisconsin for a Spotted Cow (that's a beer) and a Brat.

Today, for some athletes, dreams are fulfilled and for others disappointment becomes reality. Nearly a half million fans will converge upon Lambeau Field in Green Bay, a city with a population of 100,000. Football fans from across our nation will converge upon this city to root for their team hoping the player their team drafts will bring them to the Super Bowl come next February.

My wife and I have never before been to this event but we anticipate it being fun and festive. No doubt we will partake in our share of Brats, cheese curds, beer, and other cultural traditions. Being a former Wisconsinite, it is sure to bring back faded memories.

I attempted to connect with some Door County Rotary Clubs, sadly, none of them were open during our stay. I am reminded of how beautiful (and reasonable) other parts of our country are in comparison to California. Nonetheless, I look forward to going back home, knowing full well my team, the Green Bay Packers, will have achieved their objective.

## Stephen D. Smith

President 2024 - 2025  
Rotary Club of Pasadena  
Cell 310.908.1779

**ATTENDING THE MEETING -  
MEALS & SEATING ARE  
PROVIDED BASED ON RSVP'S WE  
RECEIVE**

Please **RSVP** if you are attending!  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

**BUFFET opens at 11:45 am  
MEETING starts at 12:15 pm**

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The Long and Short of it with President Elect Hillary Schenk & Robert Lyons

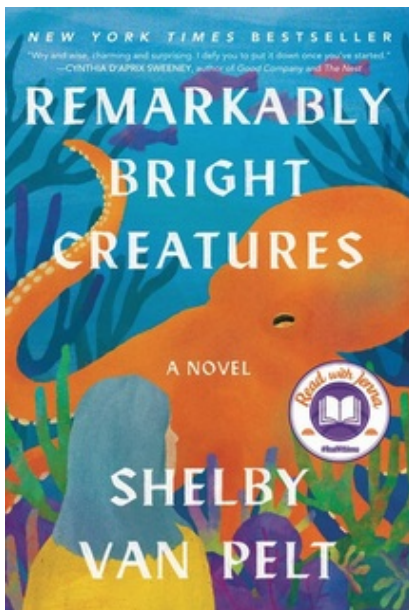




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## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

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### ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet at  
6:00 pm on May 5th.

Liza Billington (Past President Cory Brendel's better half), will lead the discussion of Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

Please RSVP to  
Mary Lou Byrne at [maloby@outlook.com](mailto:maloby@outlook.com) or  
Cathy Simms at [simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net).

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### EATON FIRE RELIEF TEE SHIRT PROJECT

Liza Pattison, a passionate advocate for small businesses, has launched a fundraising t-shirt project to help the businesses devastated by the Eaton Fires in Altadena: The Best of Altadena.

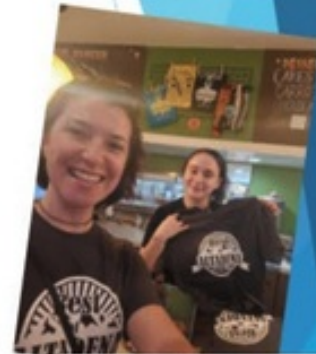
The project, backed by **Pasadena Rotary** and Pat Pattison's Best of California TV show, aims to raise awareness and generate financial support for the small businesses completely lost to the fires. The shirts, featuring Altadena's view of the San Gabriel foothills, are available for purchase online ([bestofcal.tv](http://bestofcal.tv)) and through local retail partners. The shirts feature the institutions: The Bunny Museum, Fox's Restaurant, Freddy's Antiques, June Bug Tattoo, and St. Marks School/Church. Also order from Freddy's Antiques Instagram at

<https://www.instagram.com/freddysantiques?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>

## Best of Altadena T-shirt project Happy beneficiaries are selling



Where you can buy:  
Instagram: [freddysantiques](https://www.instagram.com/freddysantiques)  
In-person/retail:  
Cindy's Coffee shop Eagle Rock (Fox's owner)  
June Bug Tattoo Eagle Rock new location  
The Bunny Museum (not up yet)  
And online e-store:  
[www.bestofcal.tv](http://www.bestofcal.tv)

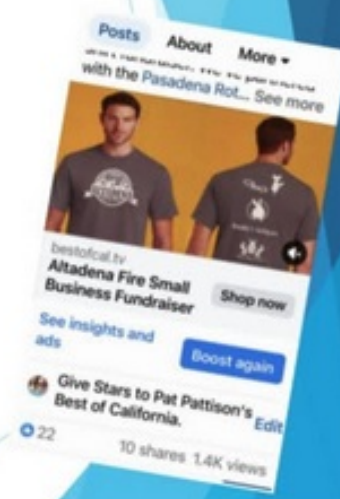
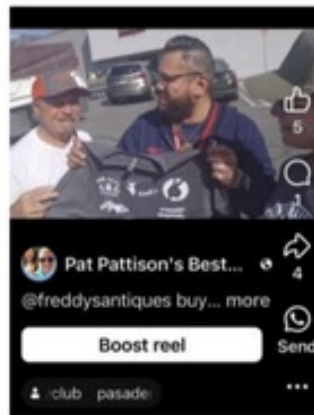


How you can help:

Reshare/ post on your social media

Facebook & Instagram: "Pat Pattison's Best of California"

@bestofca tag #Pasadenarotaryclub





# Volunteer to help staff the 2025 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. If you can't get dropped off and picked up in the blocks surrounding the Showcase House, you should also factor in around 40 minutes to an hour for that process **each way**.
- 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.

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If you'd like to volunteer, let our coordinator, Amanda Pumilia, know which days you're available for and which shifts you'd prefer. She will schedule your shift(s) and send a confirmation with the date and time.

**Email: [apumilia@yahoo.com](mailto:apumilia@yahoo.com) or text: (818) 693-0331**

**Shifts are available on Tuesdays - Sundays from April 20th to May 18th**

**9:00 - 12:30**

**12:15 - 4:00**

**3:45 - 7:00**



## Rotary Club of Pasadena

### Community Paul Harris Fellow Award Nomination Form

Each year the Awards Committee selects a recipient for the Community Paul Harris Fellow Award. This individual shall be from within the Pasadena community and not a current member of Pasadena Rotary. Organizations, groups and clubs are not eligible to receive the award. Nominees should exemplify the qualities and ideals of Rotary and "Service Above Self," be active in community affairs, and be known in the business community as one who follows the



“Four-Way Test.” This year, we wish to highlight those nominees that have been engaged in Eaton Canyon Fire community relief and assistance efforts.

The Rotary Club of Pasadena will honor our award recipient with a Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Our recipient will be honored at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Pasadena on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

To nominate someone email Co-chair Catherine Hany - [chhany@pacbell.net](mailto:chhany@pacbell.net) or Co-chair Mike Farrand at [mjfarrand@yahoo.com](mailto:mjfarrand@yahoo.com) for a Nomination Form.

# The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Gui Bittencourt & Tammy Silver



With **President Stephen Smith** taking a well-deserved vacation, **President Elect Hillary Schenk** rang the bell at 12:30 and turned things over to **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, who led us in singing “California, Here I Come,” accompanied by backup vocalist **Don Andruess** and piano accompanist Ann-Louise Christensen. After the Pledge of Allegiance, **George Ricciardella** gave the inspiration, a story from comedian Steve Martin about how Los Angeles is a city that rises from the ashes both metaphorically and literally.



We had just one guest this week – Nick Giovanazzi, the Community Engagement Coordinator from Pasadena Heritage. We gave him a warm Rotary welcome.

**President Elect Hillary** then reminded us that last week’s speaker, Zoot Velasco, is an Altadena Rotarian, and during her conversation with him he mentioned that since their meeting place at the Altadena Town & Country Club was destroyed in the Eaton Fire, he really misses his Rotary badge. That gave Hillary and President Elect Elect Tammy Silver an idea! The Pasadena Rotary Board met and decided that it would be a great idea for

Pasadena Rotary to replace the Altadena Rotary badges that burned in the fire. Hillary channeled Sally Struthers in the old “sponsor a child” commercials ([https://youtu.be/ePENcrE\\_xcQ?t=56](https://youtu.be/ePENcrE_xcQ?t=56)), and urged us all to sign up to sponsor an Altadena Rotarian by replacing their badge. (If you weren’t at the meeting and want to contribute, each badge is \$11.50 and you can sponsor one by contacting [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com).) Everyone responded enthusiastically and there were more than a few tears shed.

Next up, **Past President Mike Farrand** announced that we will be presenting our Second Annual Paul Harris Award on June 4. If you have an outstanding citizen you would like to nominate, please do so! Details above.

**President Elect Hillary** reminded everyone that next week is our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Teachers of Excellence presentation. If you’ve never been to one of these events, you are in for a treat! The meeting will start 15 minutes early: The buffet will open at 11:45, the bell will ring at 12:15, and the Teachers of Excellence program will begin at 12:30. Be on time and don’t miss it!

**Robert Lyons** introduced our speakers, Pat Pattison and his daughter and collaborator Liza Pattison. Pat is a former TV network executive, model, actor, sculptor, and TV host. Liza is a sculptor and PR/marketing whiz. Together they are the dynamic duo behind “Pat Pattison’s Best of California,” a nationally syndicated TV lifestyle show. Pat is the host and Liza is the food and entertainment editor.



Liza took the lectern first, updating us on the Best of Altadena t-shirt project that is being sponsored by our Club ([https://www.facebook.com/BestofCa/photos/best-of-altadena-t-shirts-buy-more-than-one-benefits-local-altadena-small-busine/1159350502868863/?\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/BestofCa/photos/best-of-altadena-t-shirts-buy-more-than-one-benefits-local-altadena-small-busine/1159350502868863/?_rdr)). The shirts directly benefit small businesses in Altadena that were destroyed by the Eaton fire. She thanked our Club for our support. You can buy the shirts directly from Altadena businesses or on the website [www.bestofcal.tv](http://www.bestofcal.tv).

Then Liza introduced dad Pat, explaining that their Best of California show got its start because “my dad always narrated everything when I was a kid and he was driving me around in the car. Eventually he needed to find a new audience!”





When Pat took over the mic, he explained that his family came to Southern California from Scotland in the 1880s. Some years ago, he took his daughters to Scotland to explore their roots. He was very excited to find an inn that had been owned by his grandfather. He excitedly took his daughters to visit it, only to find it was now a nightclub with the theme “Downtown USA!”

You can find Pat’s show on YouTube, here: <https://www.youtube.com/@bestofcaltv>  
He shared his Top 10 California Hidden Gems (ed. note this reporter ended up with seven, but they were great!):

First up was the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WecrEmc9EHg&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WecrEmc9EHg&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia) . Fun fact: Alex Madonna was a highway contractor who kept running into big rocks during the highway construction. He decided to put the rocks to good use and built his inn out of them!

Next, did you know that the Japanese navy shelled the beach at Goleta in 1942? It’s true! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhmDQzPGPXE&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhmDQzPGPXE&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia) The pier and an oil derrick were destroyed, and the still-existing Timbers Roadhouse restaurant was built using timbers from the pier.

Third, who can resist the wineries and food in the Santa Maria Valley? Pat is particularly fond of Shaw’s Steakhouse, and he shared his “Sideways” (the movie) moment at the Rancho Sisquoc winery: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lteo05e4qf0&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lteo05e4qf0&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia)

Closer to home is the Boysenberry Festival at Knott’s Berry Farm. At this event, you can purchase a tasting card entitling you to sample 82 (!) boysenberry delicacies! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_9hm1KQsjo&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_9hm1KQsjo&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia) Liza shared that she enjoyed the boysenberry desserts, and Pat reminisced about the deep fried French Toast stuffed with boysenberry-flavored cream cheese!

Heading north again, Pat sang the praises of Guy Fieri’s home town of Ferndale in Humboldt County. It’s an unspoiled Victorian gem. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQWp6ScEV0k&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQWp6ScEV0k&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia)



Pat and Liza love to support women-owned businesses and next up, they shared their visit to Jaunts Boutique in Torrance, where the owner gave Liza a fun designer fashion makeover! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNooBeSaYdY&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNooBeSaYdY&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia)

Looking for a fun weekend adventure experience? Pat recommends the Commemorative Airforce So Cal Wing Aviation Museum in Camarillo. Pat actually went up in one of the WWII training planes, and it turns out anybody can do the same for about \$50! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q1\\_Zq74Kew&ab\\_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q1_Zq74Kew&ab_channel=PatPattison%E2%80%99sBestofCalifornia)

Winding down his presentation, Pat noted that many of his best ideas come from viewer suggestions, whereupon David McAlexander and Dean Billman promptly stood up and gave excellent suggestions for future episodes!

After a very enjoyable Q and A session, **President Elect Hillary** rang the bell and adjourned the meeting right on time at 1:30.





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Sneha Villalva	April 26
Frank Nicholas	April 27
Cedrick Jihanian	April 30

## HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

Helen Baatz	4/26/00	25 Years
John McDannel	4/29/73	52 Years
Antonio Rezik	4/29/24	1 Year

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 7, 2025 - Sara Safari, Climb Your Everest
May 14, 2025 - Danny Feldman, Pasadena Playhouse
May 21, 2025 - George R. Hensel Ethics Essay Contest
May 28, 2025 - Julie Uhman, President/Co-founder Angel City Football Club
June 4, 2025 - Paul Harris Fellow Award

**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.

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

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

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# Making Magic

by doing service

PROMOTING PEACE

FIGHTING DISEASE

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.



Pasadena Rotary Club  
Stephen Smith, President 2024-25

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

**PRESIDENT: Stephen Smith**

**PRESIDENT ELECT: Hillary Schenk**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec**

**SECRETARY: Wende Lee**

**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Nevino Rocco, Tammy Silver, (President Elect Elect), Dede Venkat**

**Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club**

## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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