

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * August 11, 2023 * #23-132
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THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

Jeff Prang

"The Mysteries of the LA County Assessor's Office – Revealed!"

Introducer: Tammy Silver



Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang was elected in 2014 as the 27th Assessor for the County of Los Angeles and re-elected in 2018 and 2022.

Raised in Warren, Michigan, Assessor Prang is a graduate of Michigan State University. After graduation, Mr. Prang relocated to California where he served nearly 18 years as a councilmember for the City of West Hollywood, including four terms as Mayor, among many other positions in the public sector.

Upon taking office in 2014 as the Los Angeles County Assessor, Mr. Prang implemented sweeping reforms to ensure that the strictest ethical guidelines rooted in fairness, accuracy and integrity would be adhered to in his office.

Assessor Prang is a State Board of Equalization licensed appraiser and administers the largest office of its kind in the nation with 1,400 employees that provides the foundation for a property tax system that generates \$19 billion annually.

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 11th

MEETING LOCATION

ALTADENA TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB

2290 Country Club Drive, Altadena

Complimentary Parking

PARKING: As you are aware, parking at the Altadena Town & Country Club is limited, and we want to address this issue with some parking considerations to ensure a pleasant experience for all members:

1. Arrive Early: If you have specific accessibility needs to park closer to the club's facilities, plan to arrive early. By doing so, you increase the chances of securing a parking spot in close proximity to the main building.

2. Consider Walking: For those members who enjoy walking or are keeping track of their daily steps, we encourage you to park in the farther sections of the parking lot or along the street. This thoughtful gesture not only allows members who need closer parking to find a spot more easily but also contributes to your own physical activity goals.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping one another.

Must RSVP to attend!

DEADLINE TO RSVP IS 11:00 am - MONDAY 8/14/23

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier

Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christenen

Song Leader: Phil Miles

Inspiration: Lisa Kroese

Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman

Photographer: Jonathan Edwards & Ken Joe

Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

To attend LIVE - RSVP Below

Non-members are welcome - \$40.00 includes lunch

NO ZOOM CAST ON WEDNESDAY

Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec

The Maui fires are devastating. With 36 deaths as of this writing, it's the deadliest fire since the Camp Fire (85 deaths). The visible symbols are the courthouse and museum, which have been destroyed, and the iconic banyan tree. It is scorched but they are hopeful that the roots are strong enough to regrow. Beyond that, the loss of homes and businesses will be massive.

Through the Rotary District 5000 Foundation, a relief fund has been established. Foundation President Dave Hamil and Treasurer Sharon Amano will handle all donations. The Rotary District 5000 Foundation is a 501c3 organization and all donations are considered charitable.

A committee will be organized shortly to find the greatest needs for distribution of monies. Monies will be used to make the largest impact based on needs and will be sustainable. A single fund will be the most helpful over time to provide the greatest significant benefits.

Please consider donating to this special fund. Click on [***Maui Fires Relief Fund.***](#)

Justene Adamec
626-806-2529

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Wende Lee and Ken Joe



After **President Justene Adamec** rang the bell to get us started at 12:30, Music Committee Chair **Don Andruess** led us all in a rousing version of Buddy Holly's 'Every Day,' featuring Past President **Mary Lou Byrne** on vocals and tambourine solo. **Jeannine Bogaard** gave the inspiration, urging us all to follow the example of the doctors in her favorite TV show, "New Amsterdam," by approaching every situation asking, "how can I help?"



President Justene went right to the guest introductions to make sure she wouldn't forget, and there were several, hosted by **Marsha Rood**, **Russ Guiney**, **George Falardeau**, and of course indefatigable Membership Committee Chair **Howard Raff**, who was hosting not one, not two, but *three* female lawyers!

Announcements:

George Falardeau reported that he has had a nice phone chat with **John Cushman**, who is in great spirits despite having some health challenges these days. "I've had a fabulous life and wouldn't do anything differently," quoth **John**! George donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in John's honor, thus earning himself a place in the Polio Plus Society.

President Justene announced that we have a bunch of service projects coming up (eyeglasses collection with the Lions Club, World Polio Day Walk/Run to End Polio, Adopt a Meal, to name a few) but we are always looking for more! "If your service project does not involve painting walls, it will get high priority!" promised Justene. Please contact **Justene** or **Wendy Anderson** or Done in a Day Co-Chairs **Gary Kearney** or **Stephen Smith** with your service project ideas. (Click on their names to get their emails.)

Hillary Schenk reminded us that the President's Cocktail Party is September 10, not August 10, which you already know if you showed up at Hillary's house by mistake last night.

Past President Rob Fisher introduced our speaker, Greg Apodaca, whom he has known since they were both members of Pasadena Jaycees, back when "my hair was redder and Greg's was more robust."

Greg explained that he was working for the City of Los Angeles when he read the book "Thank You for Being Late" by Thomas

Friedman. It inspired him to quit his job and work full-time on the climate emergency. "I had no subject matter expertise," said Greg, "so I decided if I can't be an 'actor' I'll be a 'producer.'" He founded Community 2.0 to mobilize individuals and organizations in the greater Pasadena community and larger L.A. County area to take action to help overcome climate emergency challenges.



First, Greg talked about the pace of change. Whereas in the past the pace of change was linear, it's now exponential. That's hard for us to understand because we've been taught to think linearly. What's the difference? Well, if you take 30 steps, linearly, of one meter each, you've traveled 30 meters. But if you take 30 exponential steps, starting with one meter and doubling the distance with each step, you've traveled 1,073,741,824 meters – 26 times around the Earth! And 96.9% of the distance was taken in the last five steps!

The exponential development means, according to Professor Raymond Kurzweil, that "We are about to experience 20,000 years of technological progress in just 100 years."

Having blown our minds discussing the pace of change, Greg proceeded to break our hearts with a video clip from David Attenborough's new Netflix series "Breaking Boundaries: The

Science of Our Planet." Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb6wQtNjblk&t=10s&ab_channel=Netflix

Even Greg was a bit choked up when it was finished.

The science is clear, said Greg. We are moving in the wrong direction on climate change. The stable climate period is over, and we are now in an era of Anthropocene Climate Instability. That's the bad news. The good news is that there is still time to change. "It's up to us to save ourselves," he said.

Greg recommended this article from the Wharton School of Public Policy: "Can the World Change Course on Climate Change?" Read it here:

<https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/podcast/knowledge-at-wharton-podcast/climate-change-report-ipcc/> It suggests a strategy including marketing, a shift in culture, and most importantly an "all hands on deck" global collaboration with the U.S. taking the lead.

Greg also quoted United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres, who states "It's code red for humanity [and] business as usual won't cut it!"

There is cause of cautious optimism, however, we are waking up and net zero asset managers, local governments, and other organizations are taking action. "Nations are not going to save us," said Greg. "The cities are taking the lead."

Greg suggests the following mindset shift: "If we change the preposition, and consider that global warming is happening for us, we begin to live in a different world. . . we see global warming not as an inevitability but as an invitation to build, innovate, effect change, a pathway that awakens creativity, compassion, and genius." (From Drawdown by Paul Hawken.)

Let's all tell ourselves "how cool is it that I get to step up and help?" and ask ourselves "what's mine to do?" Greg promises that there are so many opportunities – "the glass of opportunities is overflowing and re-fillable," he said.

Will we change in time? Al Gore thinks we can:

https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_the_case_for_optimism_on_climate_change?language=en
Historically, said Greg, we've overcome humanity's greatest challenges: World War II, the space rights, the battle for women's rights, the battle for civil rights, and so on. "This is going to be the most amazing, inspiring, and unifying social movement that the world has ever seen," he promised.

Finally, Rotary is going to be part of the solution. Rotary International's new Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) has pledged to plant 1 million trees, and our Club is going to be part of it!

President Justene thanked Greg for his inspiring talk and noted that the news of the moment is all about Lahaina, Hawaii, being on fire. The first time Justene used a re-usable straw was in Lahaina, which inspired her to choose re-usable stainless steel straws for her Rotary speakers' gift. She presented one to Greg to great applause.



L2R: Pat Wright, Russ Guiney, Michael Desplaines, Mel Cohen, Omar Facory, President Justene, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Greg Apodaca, PP Rob Fisher.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

George Falardeau of Pasadena Media introduces newest Corporate Alternate Member - Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn, Director of Community Engagement



FIRM DEADLINE TO RSVP
MONDAY 8/14/23 at 11:00 am

**NO RSVP'S accepted after
the Deadline.**

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

MENU

Flat Iron Steak with Shiitake Mushroom
Demi Glace

Grilled Salmon, Tarragon Cream Sauce

Cauliflower Steak with Quinotto, Coconut
Tumeric Sauce

RSVP: office@pasadenarotary.com

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

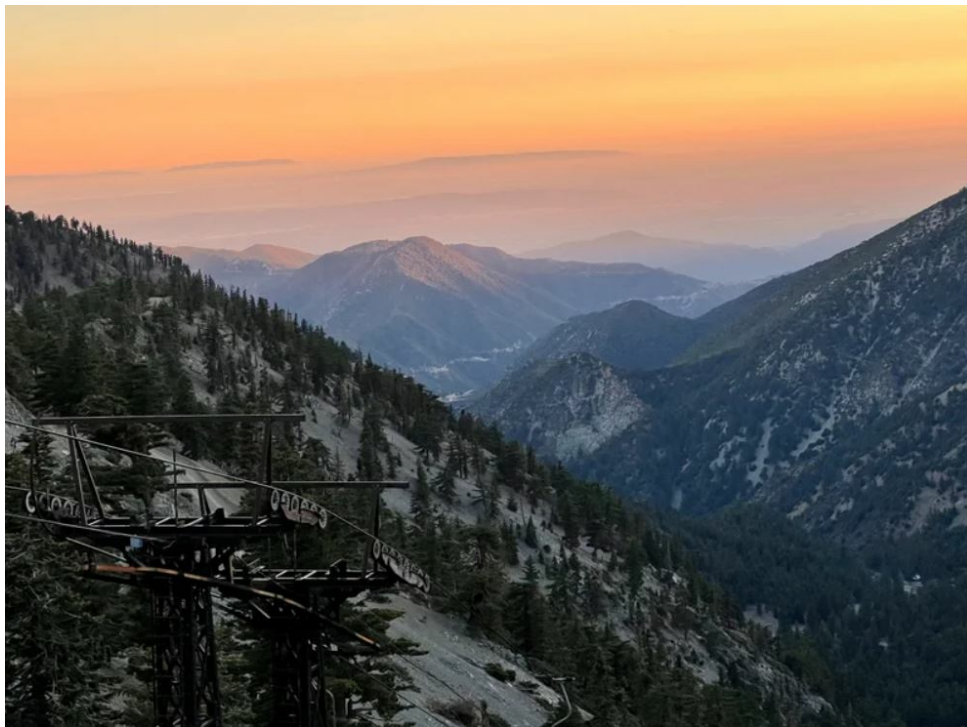
SHOP WITH A COP - Chair: J.P. Harris
Thursday - August 24, 2023 - 4pm-5pm
East Pasadena Target

Hillary Schenk announced that the Committee is seeking club members to help usher the school-age kids and Pasadena's finest around the East Pasadena Target to shop for school supplies.

To Volunteer: Arrive at East Pasadena Target at 4 pm on 8/24/23 - if you have one, wear your Pasadena Rotary Shirt



Rotary Roamers Moonlight Hike



Join the fun with a moonlight hike on **Friday, August 25, 2023**. It's so much more than a hike. First there is a peaceful ride up the ski lift to the Top of the Notch restaurant. Then a three-mile round-trip hike to a panoramic lookout point. Once back at the restaurant enjoy live music and a buffet dinner. Finish the evening with a beautiful ski lift ride under the starry sky back down the mountain.

Dinner and ski lift package is \$50.00. Purchase here:
<https://www.mtbaldyresort.com/calendar>

Choose the Friday, August 25 Moonlight Hike with James Donaldson. James Donaldson is the musician that evening.

Plan to arrive at the Mt. Baldy ski lift around 5pm. Navigate to: 8401 Mt Baldy Rd. Mt Baldy. When you arrive, go on up the ski lift. We'll meet at the Top of the Notch restaurant and leave for our hike from there.

Don't want to hike? No problem! You can ride the ski lift to the Top of the Notch, sit on the

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

Michael Desplaines - Sponsor: Ken Hill

Resignations

PP Shel Capeloto
Elaine Silverman
Barbara Bishop
Calvin Chan transfer to LA5

Happy Birthday!

Sara Smith Orr	Aug. 11th
J.P. Harris	Aug. 11th
Jeannine Bogaard	Aug. 16th

Happy Rotaversary!

Carmen Choy-Surdam	8/14/19	4 Years
Robert Earnest	8/16/17	6 Years
Nat Read	8/17/22	30+ Yrs - Plus 1 Year - Honorary

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Aug.23rd - Judge Abe Meltzer - Fraud As Hyperreality

Aug. 30th - Christina O'Connell, The Huntington - Restoring the Blue Boy

Sept. 6th - Edsel D'Souza, Rotarian & former Pasadena Rotarian - An Immigrant Story

Sept. 13th- Larry Livingston, USC Dept.of Music (Retired) - Be Your Own Conductor

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
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**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm
The University Club Pasadena
175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101**

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**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 2nd Thursday of every month at the University Club Pasadena at 5pm**

PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec

PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne

SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni

TREASURER: Tony Phillips

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, George Falardeau, Frank Fish,
Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver,
Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.**

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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