

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * August 18, 2023 * #23-133
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THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

JUDGE ABRAHAM MELTZER

Pasadena Superior Court

"FRAUD AS A HYPERREALITY"

Introducer: PP Mary Lou Byrne



Judge Abraham Meltzer is a Superior Court Judge, and is presently assigned to a criminal courtroom in Pasadena. He was appointed in September 2021 by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Previously, Judge Meltzer was in private practice for several years and subsequently worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles for 17 years, where he was Chief of the Civil Fraud Section. Among other matters, he supervised the civil team that in 2020 recovered \$2 billion from Wells Fargo Bank for opening millions of fake accounts without its customers' authorization. Other cases he handled included: (a) a \$195 million settlement from Insys Therapeutics for healthcare fraud involving kickbacks paid to physicians to induce them to prescribe oral-spray fentanyl; (b) a \$36.4 million jury verdict against a construction company that burned 28 square miles of the Angeles National Forest; and (c) a \$65 million settlement from a major hospital chain involving alleged medically unnecessary inpatient admissions of Medicare patients.

induce them to prescribe oral-spray fentanyl; (b) a \$36.4 million jury verdict against a construction company that burned 28 square miles of the Angeles National Forest; and (c) a \$65 million settlement from a major hospital chain involving alleged medically unnecessary inpatient admissions of Medicare patients.

Many of Judge Meltzer's matters were False Claims Act cases, where whistleblowers who provide the government with valid information of corporate fraud can receive between 15 to 25 percent of the government's recovery.

Judge Meltzer received his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and his

undergraduate degree from Harvard University. He lives in Glendale with his wife, who is also a lawyer. They are the parents of a son and a daughter.

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 23rd
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 8/21/23

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier
Song Leader: PP Mary Lou Byrne
Inspiration: Sally De Leon
Scoot Zone Reporter: PP Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver
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



This week's column is going to be a favorite for Pasadena Rotary nerds. If you are at risk of eyes glazing over, skip to the 6th paragraph. I've marked it so you don't even have to count.

Past President Diana Peterson-More came up with the co-chair structure. If a committee chair left the club or just got too busy, a committee could function without interruption. I think (and I am sure that someone will pipe up) that the co-chair was once a "backup" position. Now the practice is equal chairs.

When I became President, I decided that not every committee needs two people. For example, Rotary Readers doesn't need two people. Books are picked for the whole year, the meeting is

always the First Monday and a different member hosts the meeting each month. If the chair needs to let go, there's ample warning to get someone else in place. The Music Committee is the same. It's mostly scheduling and making sure the pianist gets paid. The singer each week picks the song and the presentation. Weeks are scheduled in advance and we'd have ample warning if we need a replacement chair. Some committees have such a huge workload, we need two people. Community Grants is the best example of such a committee.

Then there are the quirky committees like Done in a Day. The projects are large enough with different groups of volunteers, as well as on-site coordination that we need two chairs. Only one chair does scheduling. So PLEASE work with **President Elect Stephen Smith**. I have it on good authority that **Gary Kearney** is traveling a lot this year to far-flung places like Antarctica.

Otherwise, you may find yourself in the current predicament. It's no one's fault but we had a whole right hand/left hand situation. As a result, we don't have a lot of lead time for the August 26th Done in a Day at the Don Benito School. Pasadena Rotary volunteers will be working to get the garden in shape as part of the larger project that includes parents and high school volunteers.

THE SIXTH PARAGRAPH – Despite the short notice, we'd like a good turnout for this project. It's 8 am – 1 pm on Saturday, August 26th. You don't need to be there for the whole time. In fact, given the August heat, it's best to limit yourself. I'll be there even though I'm also attending the Moonlight Hike the evening before. Details in the announcement section below.

Finally, if you're ever hitting a roadblock, whether it's reaching a chair or wondering how to get something done, the buck stops with me. Email me at president@pasadenarotary.com or call or text me at 626-806-2529. You can always catch me before or after the meeting. (Be prepared for a short conversation on Wednesdays because I'm always scurrying. You may have to talk to me while I'm setting up the projector or looking for the second mike or trying desperately to get my lunch at my seat before I can sit down.) However you contact me though, I'll fix whatever you need fixed or suggest some alternative.

If you've read this far, email me. I'll pick someone at random from the emails to win one of the coveted Pasadena Rotary reusable straws.

To DONATE to Rotary District 5300 Maui Fire Relief Fund - [Click here!](#)

Justene Adamec
626-806-2529



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Jonathan Edwards & Ken Joe

Pasadena Rotary President Justene Adamec rang the Rotary Bell at 12:30pm and brought the meeting to order, declaring that her unofficial theme for her term this year will be "Roll with the Punches", replacing her official theme of "Looking Toward the Future" (with a microscope focusing on a child of tomorrow). She announced that our speaker attendance success rate was not too good, today's speaker had to cancel because of illness, and this was the third cancellation of a speaker so far in the last two months of her term. Add in the University Club fire forcing us to move to the Altadena Country Club, and speaker gifts and club merch buried in the basement of the U Club, and as she was speaking, her banner swung from the mantle behind her as it became unattached to the wall.

Someone yelled out, "Welcome to Club Presidency!" Justene just sighed.



PP Phil Miles introduced his song for today with a long preamble of how California taxpayers pay more now with certain deductions eliminated, and as a tax accountant, he sees more taxes from all the government agencies, but you can't do anything about taxes, "So you might as well accept the taxes and – Let It Be", which was our Beatles song of the day. In honor of the people who lost everything in the fires in Maui, PP Phil pointed out his flowered Hawaiian shirt he was wearing was purchased in the destroyed town of Lahaina, Maui.

Lisa Kroese offered our inspiration from the August Issue of a Poetry Magazine, quoting a native speaker from the Philippines, "A Debt of Gratitude is the basis of charity" and how there is wonder everywhere, inspiring language between two friends which made them focus on others.

President Justene then reiterated Rotary International's response to the devastating fires on Maui is still available on President's Future Flash Column. [*Maui Fires Relief Fund.*](#)

We had many guests today from **Colleen Carey**, **George Falardeau**, **Robert Lyons**, the speaker had two guests, **PP Howard Raff** had two guests, **PE Stephen Smith** also had two guests including his wife Adriana. Gilda Moshir our District 5300 Nominee for 2025-2026 attended and brought a guest.

Announcements:

- **PP Mary Lou Byrne** announced the need for back-up speakers in two categories: "Today Flash" and "Future Flash" – if we have a speaker drop out, give us your craft talk; if you have a great speaker for our calendar, please step forward and let Tammy Silver or PP Mary Lou know.
- **PP Mary Lou** gave \$20 to the Polio Pig in thanks for **PE Stephen Smith** and Adriana's guest to get the computer to work today
- **Matt Bookman** of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music offered a Polio Pig announcement for adult studies starting soon – a flyer was distributed
- **President Justene** reminded everyone that our District 5300 has a goal to make all members join the Polio Plus Society by giving \$100 during the Rotary year, and **Lynn Sullivan** and **Wendy Anderson** are the latest new members. A question from the floor was, "if I give \$10/month on my Rotary Dues to Rotary International, does that count towards the \$100 annual goal?" and the answer was "the Polio-Plus Society is extra to your giving" and does not count, but we thank you for your gifts.

Program Co-Chair Tammy Silver introduced our speaker today, Ms. Dara Smith, a Director in the Executive Office of the LA County Assessor, standing in for Jeff Prang who could not attend. She smiled and declared that she had one hour to prepare her presentation, and then did an amazing performance of explaining how and why the LA County Assessor department works, both to raise funds for everything the county government does, and how we as taxpayers have rights and privileges.



Pasadena Rotary has a lot of attorneys, real estate agents, financial advisors, even a judge, and they all have one thing in common: They want to honor and respect the law and play by the rules. However, “What are the Rules?”

- How do taxes work when real estate changes hands, or gets improved?
- What happens to property taxes when people inherit property? At owner’s death, new owners have 150 days to notify the Assessor of the death for re-assessment? What? 150 days? Who does that?
- What property taxes are in effect and when?
- What is a Homeowner Exemption?
- How to apply, why to apply
- Prop 13 and Prop 19 – How are these propositions related?
- Which applies to the homeowner?
- Who do I call to ask for help?
- How unpopular is Prop 19?
- Does Prop 19 force kids who inherit the house to sell it, rather than let it sit unused?
- If someone sells a house for \$1.3 million, and buys a house for \$1.5 million, how does Prop 13 tax base get transferred, or do you lose it because you bought a more expensive house?
- When someone puts a property in a Trust, it changes the tax base?
- What about old houses with no permits available? Who determines what is permitted, or needs to be permitted?
- How come it takes so long for an assessor to finish an estate estimation?

The answer to these questions and more can be found on the Website. I mean everything. And you need to sign up to apply for the Homeowners Exemption if you have lived in your home for a certain time, as you will get a refund.

To summarize: Go to the website, sign up for the Homeowners Exemption (if you qualify), and review the facts. They have a newsletter, too, and Ms. Dara assured us that all our questions would be answered there. But just in case, they have a direct line to call, if – you look on the Website.

The meeting ended after a lively Q&A session..



L2R: Gilda Moshir, Sandy Roscoe, Tammy Silver, Dara Smith, Aldo Arellano, William Yen, & Nevino Rocco

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Pierre Mainguy, Community First; Debbie Loveland, recently retired from Sierra Club and Paul Martin, CRAIG Technologies, Inc. meet up at Rotary.



**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

MENU

Braised Meyer's Ranch Beef Short Rib,



Harissa Braising Liquid

Citrus Hoisin Chicken, All Natural
Chicken Breast, Housemade Sweet Soy

Super Food Salad, Kale, Cabbage,
Apple, Fresh Herbs, Hemp Seeds,
Activated Turmeric Vinaigrette

RSVP: office@pasadenarotary.com

CHECK IN with Alan Schier & Jane Waas

FIRM DEADLINE TO RSVP

MONDAY 8/21/23 at 11:00 am

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

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

9/11/23 - Monday	9/11 TREE PLANTING	Details to Come
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SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

SHOP WITH A COP - Chair: J.P. Harris

Thursday - August 24, 2023 - 4pm-5pm

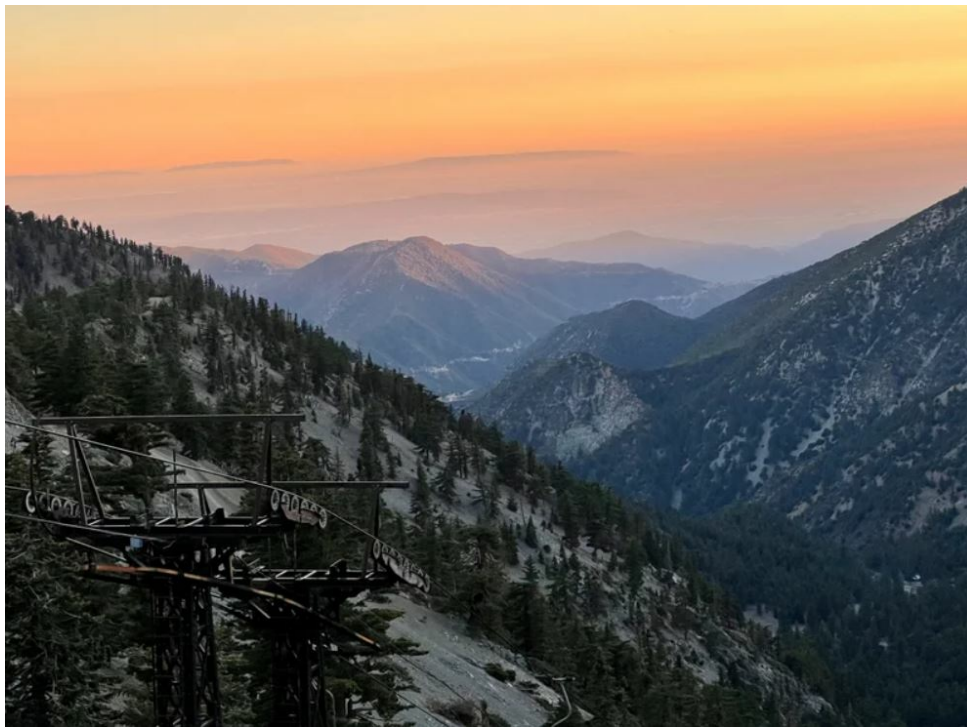
East Pasadena Target

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 patio, have a beer or a glass of wine, and relax until we get back from the hike.

Questions? Contact Chair Tammy Silver - tamaramsilver@gmail.com

DONE IN A DAY

Don Benito Elementary School

Saturday - 8/26/23 - 8 am to 1 pm

Gardening - Weeding, plantings & sprucing up the campus!

Please join us for Done in A Day at Don Benito Elementary School on Saturday August 26, 2023 from 8am-1pm. Pasadena Rotary DIAD volunteers are greatly needed at Don Benito as we weed, plant, and spruce up our campus for the new school year. Don Benito Fundamental Elementary is a Pasadena Unified School District Title 1 School. What is a Title I school? Title I is a federal education program that supports low-income students and high poverty public schools. Title I designation is determined by the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.



Photo: Mrs. Davis' Don Benito Second Grade Class, 2022-2023

Don Benito is tucked away in Upper Hastings Ranch between Hastings Ranch Dr and Valley View Ave. The campus is in need of TLC, especially since Covid has presented the school with several years with low volunteer participation and fewer beautification resources. The Don Benito PTA, staff, teachers, and families are full of love and determination and would love to see Rotarians at Don Benito for DIAD. Please come to 3700 Denair Street; Pasadena, CA 91107 - we will be working 8 am -1 pm on Saturday, August 26, and would love to see you! Bring water, sunscreen, hats, and gardening tools, and gardening gloves if you have them.

Sign up with Chair Stephen Smith: meridianappraising@yahoo.com

JOIN US
PASADENA ROTARY
BUSINESS ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

SUMMER MIXER
THURSDAY - 8/31/23
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

VENUE HOSTED BY GEORGE FALARDEAU
PASADENA MEDIA
150 S. LOS ROBLES AVE #101
(ENTER ON EL DORADO)

WINE & LIGHT APPETIZERS

RSVP: WENDY AT
WOWPRODUCTIONS2@GMAIL.COM

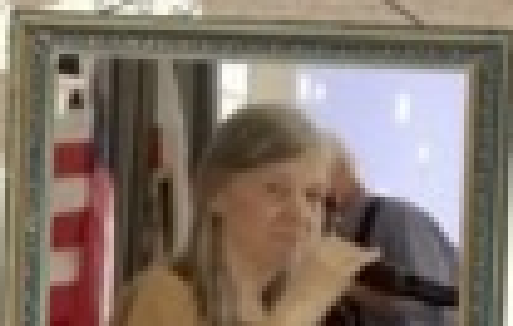
PRESIDENTS COCKTAIL

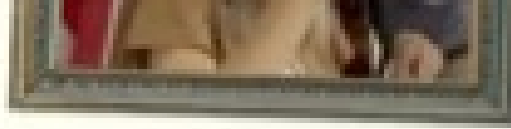
Party

Save the Date
September 10

4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

In Honor of





President Justene Adamec

2023 - 2024

Location:

5917 Satsuma.

No. Hollywood



Ticket Price \$50

RSVP: Mferroni818@gmail.com
or Cpponcedeleon@cbbank.com



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.

Happy Birthday!

Salvatrice Cummo	Aug. 19th
James Macpherson	Aug. 20th
John Cooper	Aug. 20th
Debi Kroman	Aug. 22nd

Happy Rotaversary!

John Mack Kozakar	8/24/22	1 Year
Nancy Kozakar	8/24/22	1 Year
Lisa Kroese	8/24/22	1 Year

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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
Sept. 20th - Danny Feldman, Pasadena Playhouse,"Victory Lap"

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
Rotary Club of Pasadena**

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm
The University Club Pasadena
175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101**

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Venkat. Back-up: Ken Joe**

**Publisher/Editor: Wendy Anderson
Bureau Chief: Justene Adamec
Bureau Chief Emeritus: Mary Lou Byrne**



**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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