

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* August 25, 2023 \* #23-1334

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

*THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER*

**CHRISTINA O'CONNELL**

***"RESTORING THE BLUE BOY"***

**Introducer: PP Mary Lou Byrne**



Christina Milton O'Connell is the Mary Ann and John Sturgeon Senior Paintings Conservator at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

O'Connell began at The Huntington in 2013 as the first paintings conservator on staff. Her initial projects included establishing a lab space at the Huntington for the examination and treatment of paintings as well as a condition survey of all the Art Collections (over 40,000 collection items, 600 of which were paintings).

Starting in 2017, O'Connell planned and managed the multi-year treatment and technical study of Gainsborough's *The Blue Boy*, with many of the conservation treatment steps carried out in the gallery for visitors to observe.

O'Connell previously worked as a painting conservator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art from 2004-2013. O'Connell has also held positions at The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, and the M.H. DeYoung Museum in Sann Francisco. O'Connell graduated from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in 2004.

**WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 30th**

**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.

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## **Must RSVP to attend! DUE TO KITCHEN RENOVATION**

***SPECIAL DEADLINE TO RSVP IS 3:00 pm - MONDAY 8/28/23***

**Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier**

**Song Leader: Don Andruess**

**Inspiration: Don Andruess**

**Scout Zone Reporter: PP Mary Lou Byrne**

**Photographer: Matt Bookman & 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***

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# Future Flash

By President Justene Adamec



India landed a craft on the moon this week. So I am thinking about Space. Well, being a Trekkie, I often think about Space. In 1968, Frank Borman, a Rotarian, brought his club banner to the moon. Frank, a NASA astronaut was the commander of Apollo 8, the first mission to fly around the moon.

As promised, here's the link to Pierre Mainguy's wonderful organization in Cambodia, Community First. I urge everyone to take a peek or more.

<https://www.wearecommunityfirst.org/>

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

Justene Adamec  
626-806-2529

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# The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Tammy Silver and Dede Venkat



We had a busy day ahead of us so **President Justene Adamec** rang the bell at 12:29. **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** explained that Music Committee Chair **Don Andruess** was under the weather and unavailable to play the guitar for the planned song, so “we’re doing it old school Rotary with a tribute to our flag, which survived the U Club fire.” She then led us all in singing “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” followed by the pledge of allegiance. **Sally de Leon** (photo right) gave the inspiration – it was her first time and she did a great job!

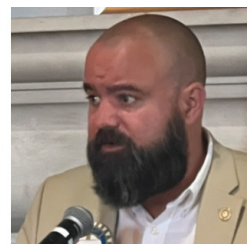


**President Justene** went right to the introduction of guests, of which there were many. **Bob Risley**, **Howard Raff**, and **Dean Billman** all had guests, and Michael Desplaines, the new CEO of the L.A. County Arboretum, was making one last guest appearance before being inducted into our club next week. In addition, our speaker, Judge Meltzer, brought his mom as his special guest. Marilyn Diaz, past president of Sierra Madre Rotary was also in attendance.



We remained standing and **Bob Risley** delivered the sad news that **Past President John Cushman** passed away last week. John was a life-long Pasadenean who was deeply involved in many aspects of the community. He is survived by his wife Ginny, three children, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. **President Justene** played a short video featuring John’s reminiscences of his time as president of our club. He began by saying how lucky he was to see so much change in his life, and concluded by saying, “The only thing that doesn’t change is service above self.” We had a moment of silence in John’s honor.

Next up, **Past President Cathy Simms** (photo right) shared the very exciting news that our ongoing Global Grants project, Caring Little Hearts, has reached that amazing milestone of five hundred lifesaving pediatric heart surgeries performed! This project was started by **Past President Shel Capeloto** in his presidential year of 2017-2018, and was our club’s first Global Grant, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Madras South in Chennai, India (which became our sister Rotary Club in 2018-2019). (You can read about it here: <https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/pasadena-rotary-teams-with-counterpart-in-india-to-pay-for-kids-heart-surgeries> ) **Cathy** shared a video of **Shel** sharing his thoughts about the project, which will be shown at the 500-surgeries celebration in India, and then we all stood and cheered and waved our arms while Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons took a video of all of us to be shared at that celebration as well.



**Pierre Mainguy** (photo upper right) Pasadena Rotarian who lives most of the year outside Siem



Reap, Cambodia, updated everybody on Community First Initiatives, the nonprofit he runs which has done several successful projects with Pasadena Rotary and District 5300. The latest goal is to expand the Farm School, where they are teaching the local citizens how to do aquaponics and grow their own food. **Pierre** is heading back to Cambodia in a few days and thanks everyone for their support. <https://www.wearecommunityfirst.org/>



After announcements (see below for upcoming events), **President Justene** introduced **Dean Billman**, who is the Polio Plus Chair for District 5300. Dean, in turn, introduced a very special guest, our District Governor Michael Soden, who was in attendance with his wife Sylvia. Michael shared that the reason he joined Rotary is because of our polio eradication efforts – it's very near and dear to his heart because Sylvia is a polio survivor. Because he is so

passionate about polio, he has created the Polio Plus Society in our district. For a donation of only \$100, you can become a member! **President Justene** announced the names of several people in our Club who are members already, and D.G. Michael handed out large shiny Polio Plus Society challenge coins to those people. **Justene** then asked several other people if they would join, and they all said yes and were given coins. At that point, people got so excited about the whole thing that Justene just said "Okay, stand up if you want to donate," and Michael ran all around the room giving out coins, and there was general chaos and it was pretty great! Michael had to run out to his car to get more coins, as we exceeded his highest expectation. The list of people who donated is as follows:

**Justene Adamec, Wendy Anderson, Janine Bailey - Dean Billman's Guest, Dean Billman, Agnes Bollinger - John McDannel's Guest, Cory Brendel, Mary Lou Byrne, Mel Cohen, Robert Earnest, Michele Ferroni, Fred Findley, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Gary Kearney, Debi Kroman, Debbie Loveland, Pierre Mainguy, David McAlexander, Phil Miles, Eric Olson, Tony Phillips, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Bob Risley, Hillary Schenk, Cathy Simms, Ellen Simon, Allen Schier, Gwen Strong, Lynne Sullivan, Jane Waas, Mark Waterson.**

**Past President Mary Lou Byrne** introduced our speaker, Judge Abraham Meltzer of the Pasadena Superior Court. Mary Lou has known Judge Meltzer for many years, and shared that when she was a partner in a law firm in Downtown Los Angeles, Judge Meltzer was "the smartest associate we ever had!" And fun fact: Judge Meltzer won the Rotary Four-Way Test speech contest at Beaumont High School in 1984 (and judged our Four Way Test Contest last year)!

Judge Meltzer worked for many years as Chief of the Civil Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and he told us that fraud is "part of the human condition." What is fraud? "It's when you use words to make something unreal appear to be real."



**PP Mary Lou** wasn't kidding when she said Judge Meltzer was smart -- In addition to being a prominent judge and legal scholar, Judge Meltzer is an art lover and philosopher, and he illustrated his presentation with classical art and quotes from famous philosophers. For example, he quoted Friedrich Nietzsche, who said "The art of dissimulation reaches its peak in man. . . The liar uses the valid designations, the words, in order to make something which is unreal appear to be real. He says 'I am rich,' when the proper designation for his condition would be 'poor.'" Then showed us a pretty gruesome 19<sup>th</sup>-century etching illustrating Dante's placement of the fraudulent lower in Hell





than the violent, because they have misused their minds, which separate humans from animals. Whew!

Again, what is fraud? "A simulacrum passed off as reality." What is hyperreality? It is confusing a symbol with being the thing it supposedly symbolizes.

Some examples of hyperreality:

A driver's license. Judge Meltzer posited that in some ways, "our photo ID is more real than we are. You know who you are, but try getting on an airplane without your ID!"

Grades in school are more real than the knowledge they supposedly represent. "My wife is a professor at USC Law School, and if she asked her students

whether they'd rather have complete mastery of the material with a C grade, or 50% mastery with an A grade, they would all choose the latter!"

There are, said Judge Meltzer, levels of fraud. Level One is a simulation of an existing thing. For example, a fake Rolex watch vs. a real Rolex. (Pro tip, per the judge, one clue to a real Rolex is a large date magnifier window!)

Level Two fraud is a simulation of something that does not exist; a simulacrum. Judge Meltzer told us an interesting story about an artist who painted a picture and claimed it was a "lost" painting by Johannes Vermeer. It was purchased by the Rembrandt Society in 1937 for the equivalent of \$5.4 million in today's dollars.

Similarly, in a 2017 federal fraud case called U.S. v. Triple Canopy, Inc., a security company contracted with the government to provide security guards who were required to meet marksmanship qualifications. None of them could pass the marksmanship tests, so the company faked the results. And amazingly and infuriatingly, the whistleblower's supervisor told him to falsely submit higher fake scores for the male guards than for the female guards, on the theory that would be more believable!!

After analyzing the many levels of hyperreality in Andy Warhol's painting Shot Sage Blue Marilyn, ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shot\\_Marilyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shot_Marilyn)), we had a very interesting and lively Q and A. President Justene rang the bell to adjourn right on time at 1:30.



L2R: President Justene, District Governor Mike Soden, Sylvia Soden, Sandy Goodenough, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Abe Meltzer and Betty Meltzer



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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Board Members Sandy Goodenough and Michele Ferroni realized they were the only two that received the memo for Wednesday's "safari" dress code.



Ellen Simon & Armida Baylon  
*CHECK IN with Alan & Jane*

**FIRM SPECIAL DEADLINE TO  
RSVP**

**MONDAY 8/28/23 at 3:00 pm**  
**NO RSVP'S accepted after  
the Deadline.**

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

### MENU

Due to kitchen renovations on Sun-Tues.  
this week's has two menu choices and a  
special deadline to RSVP.

**Melange Salad with Chicken**, Baby Greens,  
Gala Apples, Gorgonzola, Pepitas, Candied  
Pecans, Balsamic Vinaigrette

**Melange Salad**, Baby Greens, Gorgonzola,  
Candied Pecans, Pepitas, Gala Apples &  
Balsamic Vinaigrette

**RSVP:** [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

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## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

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## ADOPT-A-MEAL PROGRAM

24 Pasadena Rotarians serve on this committee to underwrite monthly meals, desserts and drinks for the Union Station Homeless Services Family Service Meals.

This month, Committee Chair SANDI MEJIA-RAMIREZ made the the meal pick up from our partner restaurant Mako Bowl, drinks and dessert making the delivery to Union Station. Sandi caught a photo of the employees 'in action' getting our order ready.

### MAKO BOWL

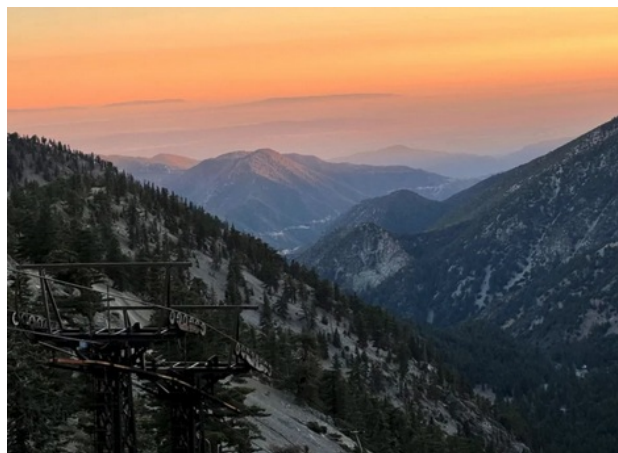
3621 E. Foothill Blvd. #312, Pasadena 91107

Hours: Mon-Sun: 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

In the big 'outdoor mall' - plenty of parking in front - across from Toyota Dealer

9/11/23 - Monday 11-11:30 am	TYROS 9/11 TREE PLANTING	Eaton Canyon Drive just off New York Drove
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## 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](mailto:-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](mailto:meridianappraising@yahoo.com)

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**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

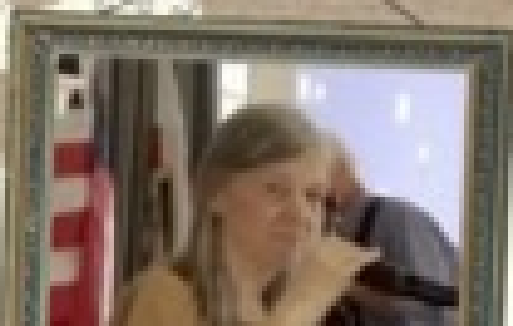
**PRESIDENTS COCKTAIL**

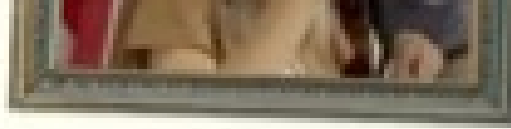
*Party*

*Save the Date*  
*September 10*

*4:00 - 6:30 p.m.*

*In Honor of*



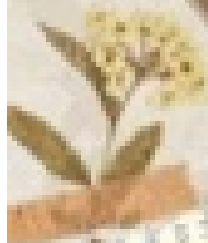


# President Justene Adamec

2023 - 2024

Location:

5917 Satsuma.  
No. Hollywood



Ticket Price \$50

RSVP: [Mferroni818@gmail.com](mailto:Mferroni818@gmail.com)  
or [Cpponcedeleon@cbbank.com](mailto:Cpponcedeleon@cbbank.com)





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## **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](mailto: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.

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### **Happy Birthday!**

John Howell	Aug. 25th
Justene Adamec	Aug. 26th
Scott Vandrick	Aug. 28th
Ken Hill	Aug. 30th

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### **Happy Rotaversary!**

Jan Moscaret	8/29/18	5 Year
Sean Cain	8/31/22	Previous member + 1 Year

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### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Sept. 6th - Edsel D'Souza, Rotarian & former Pasadena Rotarian - "You Never Know: An Immigrant Story"
Sept. 13th - Larry Livingston, USC Dept.of Music (Retired) - Be Your Own Conductor
Sept. 20th - Danny Feldman, Pasadena Playhouse,"Victory Lap"
Sept. 27th - Troy Anderson (former Pasadena Rotarian) - Speak Up For the Poor
Oct.4th - Dr. Elizabeth Blanco, PUSD Interim Superintendent,100 Day Plan

**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**

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

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

**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans  
Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver, Matt  
Bookman, Ken Joe & Dede Venkat.**

**Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher**



**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETS the 2nd Thursday of every month 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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**[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)**

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