

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* February 2, 2024 \* #01-005

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

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

## JUAN BASTOS

*Painting the Rich and Famous & Other Memorable Characters*



Portrait artist, Juan Bastos, takes us on a tour of 21st century portrait painting with stories from his 40-year career of immortalizing fascinating personalities from four continents. Over the four past decades, Los Angeles-based portrait artist, Juan Bastos, has executed several hundred portrait commissions in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. These oil paintings and pastel drawings hang in private homes, corporate offices, government buildings, embassies, libraries, churches, and universities.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1958, Bastos and his family returned to Bolivia, their homeland, eleven years later. Surrounded by relatives who were painters, Bastos grew up in an artistic environment. After studying fine arts and architecture at the University of San Andres in La Paz, he came to the United States where he enrolled at Georgetown University in 1979. He later obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the

Maryland Institute College of Art, Cum Laude, and a Master of Fine Arts from Towson University.

Bastos has had one-man shows in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Lima, La Paz, and a Los Angeles retrospective of his California portraits. In addition, he has been included in group shows in New York, Paris, Madrid, Los Angeles, Essex, England, and a biennial in Cairo, Egypt. His works have been widely reviewed by the press. Bastos is often invited to give lectures and demonstrations at universities, colleges, and art institutions. Bastos has lived in Los Angeles since 1996. [www.juanbastos.com](http://www.juanbastos.com)

**WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**UNIVERSITY CLUB - 12:00 pm**

**175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101**

**Must RSVP to attend! RSVP Deadline: Friday 2/2/24**

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier  
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen  
Song Leader: Phil Miles  
Inspiration: Armida Baylon  
Scoot Zone Reporter: Dean Billman  
Photographers: Hans Rosenberger & PP Ken Joe  
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson  
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

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# Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec

Thank you for indulging me in a celebration of Groundhog Day. I would promise you that it will be the only time that you will have to go along with me on a lark but we all know that's not true.

They tell me in President training that succession planning is important. Having been a part of the Board for 6 years, I can assure you that it is critical. Yet, it's hard for people to find out just how to get into Club leadership. Never fear, I am always happy to geek out on procedure.

Election of 3 new directors for the board is just around the corner. It is a 3-year term. Prerequisite: You have to have served as a committee chair. Duties: attend one board meeting a month and read the materials sent out before the meeting.

At a meeting in March, the members will vote for 3 at large members of the nominating committee. The nominating committee, which also includes 4 Past Presidents, the current President, and the President-Elect, picks 3 candidates and the members vote for those candidates after that. There is indeed a procedure for choosing a candidate other than the nominees but we'll discuss that later.

Here's some inside information - if you want to be on the board, being on the nominating committee gives you a leg up.

More inside information - it's historically been pretty easy to get on the nominating committee. Each member gets a blank piece of paper and writes down 3 names. The free-form aspect means that a lot of people split the votes and it doesn't take many votes to get in the top 3. If you want to get on the nominating committee, just tell people. Before the meeting, on the day of the meeting, while they are looking around the room, trying to figure out who to vote for. Don't hope in silence. Ask.

If you don't get on the nominating committee and you want to be on the board, tell a member of the nominating committee. There have been years when we have been beating the bushes for volunteers only to discover that we'd overlooked someone.

It's always possible that we get more candidates than we have spots for Hope springs eternal. Tossing your hat in the ring makes it more likely that you will get nominated in the future.

Justene Adamec  
626-806-2529  
[President@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:President@pasadenarotary.com)

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# The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Claudia Ponce de Leon and Tammy Silver



**President Justene Adamec** rang the bell at 12:30 and announced that we were celebrating Groundhog Day, which is her “absolute second-favorite holiday, right after April Fool’s Day!”

**Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, with **Don Andruess** on guitar and vocals and Ann Louise Christensen on piano, led us in singing the Groundhog Day anthem, Sonny & Cher’s I Got You Babe, and we all sounded great. After the Pledge of Allegiance, **Michael Desplaines** kept the Groundhog Day theme going with his Inspiration, which was all about the choices we make.



Announcements: **President Justene** announced there is one ticket left at our table for the Altadena Rotary Club’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on February 10. Contact **Wendy Anderson** at [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) if you’re interested.

**John Burt**, on behalf of himself and co-chair **Desiree Alvarado**, is seeking facilitators who’d like to spend a free weekend in Running Springs (near Big Bear) with a bunch of outstanding high school students at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). Contact John or Desiree for details. [john@johnburtleadership.com](mailto:john@johnburtleadership.com)

**Jan Sanders** reminded all you bookworms that Rotary Readers will meet next Monday evening. We are reading *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara, and this month we are starting at 5 p.m. to accommodate a special in-person visit from the author! Contact **Past President Cathy Simms** for details, or if you’d like to be added to the Rotary Readers mailing list. [Simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:Simmsie1@pacbell.net)

**President Elect Stephen Smith** announced volunteer opportunities for Done in a Day. Details below.

**Jeannine Bogaard** reminded everyone that applications are being accepted for Community Grants, which this year is focusing on STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Applications and more information are available here: <https://www.pasadenarotary.com/community-grants/>

**Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons** facilitated the introduction of our guests. **John Burt** had three guests, Marie Paula Thermidor, Denise



McPheeters and Annice Jackson. New member **Bill Tilney** had a guest, Dereck Rascon. **Angie Pizano's** guest was Susan Hatfield and we had a special visiting Rotarian guest who needs no introduction: Past President Scott Vandrick, visiting from L.A. Five to see the Mighty Rotary Players perform.

Speaking of our new members, we had two new members inducted this week! First, **Past President Howard Raff** introduced new member **Alex Oscco**, who will bring the average age of our club down considerably! Alex is a Real Estate Advisor in Pasadena, associated with Sotheby's International Realty. He lives and works in Pasadena and has more than ten years experience volunteering with non-profits and other charity organizations. He also has a passion for food, fitness and travel. Alex said, "I'm service-oriented and that's why I'm here!"



**Past President Ken Hill** introduced the aforementioned **Bill Tilney**. Bill is the Executive Director of the Ambassador Foundation of Pasadena, which has been empowered to restore and manage the iconic Ambassador Auditorium as a premier destination for arts and culture in Pasadena. Bill has been working in business administration and non-profit management for more than 20 years. He said he is delighted to be a part of Pasadena Rotary and to be among

"most generous and like-minded people."

Next, something strange happened! Instead of introducing our speaker, **President Justene** rang the bell and started the meeting again! **Mary Lou** and **Don** sang the last lines of I Got You Babe, again. Suddenly there was a terrible feedback noise from the mic that sent **Mary Lou** and **Don** scurrying to their seats without reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, strangely, we had ANOTHER inspiration, this time by **Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn**, consisting of a quote from the movie Groundhog Day! And **President Justene** introduced a special guest: Robert Hartstein, the new General Manager of the University Club. **Justene** noted that Robert's father-in-law is a past Rotary District Governor, so he has a soft spot for Rotary. She said we are hoping to make a good impression on him so we can get back to the U Club next week!

And strangely, we had three more announcements: **Gary Kearney** announced a wine-tasting social event, **President Elect Hillary Schenk** announced a social field trip to Mount Wilson, and **President Elect Stephen Smith** announced that last month's Pickleball event would be a regular monthly event!

At that point, **Rachel Malkenhorst-Newkirk** stood up in the middle of the room and shouted, "Wait a minute! I thought Rotary was a service club! These are all social events! What about service!"

**PE Stephen** joked, "Well, come on out for pickleball and you can work on your service!" **President Justene** asked **Rachel** to think of a service project and get back to us. Then **Justene** said "Before we introduce our speaker, the guy who was almost cast as The Golden Bachelor but didn't pass the background check, I have an exciting announcement! After a six month exile, next Wednesday we will be having our weekly Rotary meeting back in our beloved University Club! Right, Robert?"

But... to everyone's shock and dismay, Robert Hartstein stood, crossed his arms, and shook his head "NO!"

Chaos ensued. The banner fell off the lectern, everything re-set, and...

Next thing we knew, **Justene** was ringing the bell, **Mary Lou** and **Don** were singing "I Got You Babe," **Jasiri** was giving the Inspiration, the social events were announced (a bit more elaborate this time), and **Rachel** was asking about service. Justene announced that we hoped to be back

at the U Club next week, and Robert said... NO!

*Photo: Robert says no - Fight between Rachel & Stephen - Sgt-at-Arms breaks it up and runs!*



Chaos ensued. The banner fell off the lectern, everything re-set, and...

This happened several more times, with the social events getting fancier and fancier, **Rachel** getting more and more upset, and Robert steadfastly refusing to let us back into the U Club. By the fifth time, a fistfight nearly broke out between the do-gooders and the fun-havers, and **Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons** had to rush into the fray and break it up!

Until finally, the light dawned...

On the fifth go-round, **Mary Lou** stopped in her tracks and said, "Wait! I Got You, Babe! Groundhog Day! Is it just me or is everybody having a crazy déjà vu thing here?"

Everyone nodded and agreed.

**Mary Lou** continued: "Okay! We've all seen the movie! We know how this works! We need to get back to the U Club, but things are just... wrong! And the way to get back to the U Club and stop this day from repeating and repeating is to make things right!"

Again, everyone agreed, and the chorus rose: "SERVICE ABOVE SELF!"

This time, **Jasiri's** inspiration included the magic phrase "Service Above Self." And even the announcements were different. **Gary, Hillary, and Stephen** each came to the mic and announced a service project. **Rachel** jumped out of her seat and exclaimed "Wow, this is an awesome service club! I'm so glad I joined!"

And best of all, Robert Hartstein announced "We would be delighted to welcome you back to the University Club next week!"

And with that, the meeting adjourned after the Mighty Rotary Players took their bows. Thanks to **President Justene** for the idea and taking the lead on the script, **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** for helping write the script, and the Mighty Rotary Players: **Justene, Mary Lou, Don Andruess, Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn, Gary Kearney, Hillary Metcalf Schenk, Stephen Smith, Rachel Malkenhorst-Newkirk, Mike Bernard, Harrison Gulla, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander** and special guest Player Robert Hartstein!







*L2R: Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn, PE Stephen Smith, PEE Hillary Schenk, President Justene, Robert Hartstein, Gary Kearney, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Rachel Malkenhorst-Newkirk, David McAlexander, Don Andruess*



*Alex Oscoco, Hassan Kheradmandan & Sandi Mejia-Ramirez check in with Alan Schier & Jane Waas*

Any issues with your badge - see  
Badge Master Alan

**DEADLINE TO RSVP: FRIDAY 2/2/24**  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

**No RSVP-No Lunch**  
as Lunch is being catered this week!  
Chicken Marsala is on the menu!

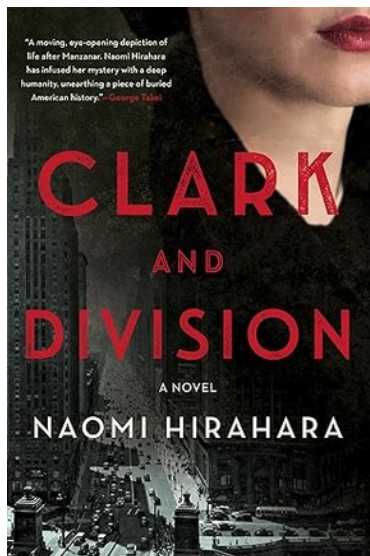


## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

# Done in a Day

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR "DONE IN A DAY" PROJECT**

Elizabeth House - February 24 (Saturday) - 8:00 – noon



## ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers next meeting will be at 5 pm on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Minna Adams will review Clark and Division - includes discussion with the author Naomi Hirahara.

Please RSVP to Florence at [florence.h100@gmail.com](mailto:florence.h100@gmail.com)

Notice: Rotary Readers always reviews the City of Pasadena's

One City One Story in March. On March 4<sup>th</sup> Jan Sanders will review Properties of Thirst by Marianne Wiggins.

Questions, contact Jan Sanders at [janinpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:janinpasadena@gmail.com) or Cathy Simms at [simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net).

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## RYLA IS BACK!!!!

District 5300 will be conducting the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp 2024 the weekend of March 22-24 in Running Springs, CA.

The Pasadena Club will be sponsoring 8 high-school Juniors for the event. We are currently seeking applicant students! Please consider any high-school Juniors you or your friends may know and have them apply!

**LOOKING for volunteer facilitators for 1 or 2 days.**

***Please contact Co-Chairs Desiree Alvarado (213) 400-1502 or John Burt (720) 235-9370 for more information.***





**Attention 11th Graders**  
 You Are Invited to  
 Apply For A  
**Rotary Youth Leadership  
 Award (RYLA)**



**CAMP CEDAR  
 CREST**  
 Running Springs,  
 California  
 March 22-24, 2024



**WHAT IS RYLA**

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for High School Sophomores and Juniors. Talented young people attend a 3 day seminar organized by the Rotarians of District 6300 of Rotary International. All of the participants' expenses are often paid by sponsoring Rotary clubs.



**WHAT DOES RYLA OFFER**

Develop Leadership Skills  
 Increase Self Confidence  
 Gain exposures to a variety of issues & people  
 Improve career skills & knowledge  
 Meet community leaders & members  
 Have a lot of fun  
 Meet other people your age from  
 Southern California & Southern Nevada



**WHO PARTICIPATES IN RYLA**

RYLA events are for young adults with proven leadership experience and potential leaders from diverse backgrounds. If you are a High School Junior you will learn, grow, have fun and make friends. The RYLA experience prepares young people to be leaders in their community, profession, and other facets of life.

**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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Bob Risley

January 26



# ROTAVERSARIES!

Susanne Cohen	2/5/23	1 Year
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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Feb. 14th - Nat Read - Raconteur - How I Rode All 22,400 Amtrak Miles in Just 84 Years
Feb. 21st - Michele Zack - Altadena Historical Society - Owen Brown: His History & Memorial In Altadena
Feb . 28th - Joel Stern - "The Beauty, Fun, and Magic of Origami"
March 6th - Lance Davis - Parson's Nose Theater - "My Life in the Theatre"
March 13th - Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo

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

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP  
Pasadena Elks Lodge - 400 W. Colorado Blvd.**

**E**

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Venkat.**

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

**PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec**

**PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne**

**SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni**

**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**

**PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT: Hillary Schenk**

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

# Rotary Club of Pasadena

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