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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



### SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* January 20, 2023 \* #23-102  
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## This Week's Program

### Dennis Carr

Virginia Steele Scott Chief Curator of American Art  
*"What's New in American Art at the Huntington"*

**Introducer: Diana Peterson-More**

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Dennis Carr is the Virginia Steele Scott Chief Curator of American Art at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Prior to joining The Huntington in January 2020, he was the Carolyn and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston for 13 years. There, Dennis worked to expand and diversify the collection of American, Latin American, and Native American art and was a co-curator of the award-winning, 53-gallery Art of the Americas Wing in 2010. His exhibitions have included the critically acclaimed "Made in the Americas: The New World Discovers Asia"; "Cecilia Vicuña: Disappeared Quipu"; and

"Collecting Stories: Native American Art."

At The Huntington, he was the venue curator for "Made in L.A. 2020: a version," the biennial of Los Angeles contemporary art organized by the Hammer Museum, and "Borderlands," a reinstallation of the Virginia Steele Scott and Lois and Robert F. Erburu Galleries of American Art in 2021, as well as an ongoing partnership with Ghetto Film School. He is currently at work on a forthcoming exhibition of the African American modernist sculptor Sargent Claude Johnson.

He holds graduate degrees in the History of Art at Yale University and the Winterthur

## January 25th Meeting

12:00 pm - RECEPTION & LUNCH BY RSVP ONLY

12:30-1:30 pm - Past President Ken Hill (2011)

Song Leader: Don Andrues

Inspiration: Deborah Lewis

Scout Zone Reporter: PP Mary Lou Byrne

Photographer: Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver

Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Tech: Scott Carlson & Frank Fish

**To attend LIVE - RSVP Below**

**Non-members are welcome - \$40.00 includes lunch**

Or by the One-way "Zoomcast"

Zoom opens at 12:15 pm - Speaker at 1:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09>

Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523

Passcode: 667356

**IF LINK doesn't work, cut and paste link in your browser**

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## IMAGINATION

*By President Justene Adamec*

Past President Cathy Simms did a great job yesterday! She brought back "fines" for the day. For those of you unfamiliar with the process, before you head for the hills, the people being fined agree beforehand. Thank you Marshall Fuss and Marsha Rood for stepping up!

PP Cathy mentioned that there were about 250 members in her year. We've dropped to about 185. Uh oh.



Speaking of membership, let's talk about corporate membership. This is a terrific option for people who can't attend every week or want to get more people in their company involved in

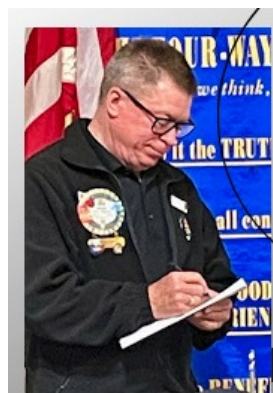


Pasadena Rotary. In a corporate membership, an entity can join and designate one primary member and up to 3 alternates. The monthly fees are the same and the mandatory lunch charge covers any one of the 4. If two or more people attend, the extra lunches are billed at the guest rate.

The monthly dues are the same and there's only one mandatory lunch fee. The initiation cost differs. It's \$100 for individuals, but \$250 for corporate members. Right now, we are not charging the extra fee when members convert from an individual to corporate member. So you can add up to 3 more people from your organization at no extra cost. The initiation fee exemption will end on April 5, 2023.

Next up – Past President Ken Hill. Enjoy!

If you have any questions or concerns or criticism or even the occasional compliment, you can reach me at [president@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:president@pasadenarotary.com) or [jadamec@pumilia.com](mailto:jadamec@pumilia.com).



# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman  
Photos: Jonathan Edwards & Tammy Silver

The Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena is about to re-open with a new owner, new schedule, and according to the LA Times, “a ritzy interior.” Aspiring comedian **Mel Cohen** asked the owner if there were amateur comic try-outs, and Johnny Buss responded that “yes, we will probably have amateur Open Mic nights on certain Wednesdays.” Since Johnny was impressed that we have had Rotary Club Comedy Nights at the old Ice House, maybe we can cheer Mel on to fame and fortune – that’s how Tim Allen was discovered.



The guest host for today, **Ms. Past-Past-Past President Cathy Simms** rang the Rotary Bell and proclaimed her Presidential Repeat today in keeping with **President Justene Adamec's** pledge to have each week of the rest of the Rotary Year be presided by a previous president. **PP Cathy Simms** was president from 2009-2010, which was the 90<sup>th</sup> year of our club, and she and **Dave Manns** hosted “A Gala Like No Other” to raise enough money to bring the Pasadena Foundation up to \$1,000,000 for future charitable events. Later, **Cathy** also noted that the Foundation also supports our Teachers of Excellence and our Rotary Community Grants awards.

**Don Andruess** was our song leader today, inspired by Johnny Buss’s new Ice House Comedy Club, led us on “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin, which included a **Past President Mary Lou’s** leading of “OOOOO” and **Jonathan Edwards** on tambourine.

**Marsha Rood** provided our inspiration today, as she dwelt on the role of volunteers and how they offer empathy, compassion, and dedication; “A well-balanced person is one who finds both sides of an issue laughable – Herbert Procknow. !



**Ken Hill and Mel Cohen** then were invited to the stage to offer a remembrance of past-Rotarian Richard “Dick”. Bigger. **Ken** read his obituary, noting him as an all-around active Pasadena leader, both at Rotary for 48 years, Pasadena JC’s, YMCA and as Tournament of Roses White Suiter. His family-owned business was JH Bigger Furniture here in Pasadena. A minute of silence was observed for **Dick**.

Announcements today from the podium:

- **PP Cathy Simms** announced the upcoming Community Grants reach-out, and as she and **Akila Gibbs** are the co-chairs, they are looking for non-profits in our area who cater to seniors’ needs, and applications for grants are available online – please look around and find some worthwhile causes to submit.
- Tyros Mixer and Tyros Lunch soon – **Judy Taylor** announced our upcoming mixer at Marina’s on Cordova Street and Lake Avenue on Thursday evening and the Tyros lunch at the California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) at noon on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to grow the Tyros lunch attendance so we can apply to go back to the Cal Tech Atheneum (the minimum reservation is 18 confirmed attendees, so let’s remember to come on Feb. 6)
- **Armida Baylon** – chair of our Social Committee – again reminded us of the upcoming mixer on Thursday night. Fun fact: Her daughter was the interior designer for the updated Marina restaurant, and her son-in-law was the contractor. They have an impressive wine cellar wall right next to the table that we usually congregate around – Rotary mixer coincidence?
- **Cyril Vergis** invited all of us to the Pasadena Rotary Business Alliance Committee Meeting on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, via Zoom, to plan the March Mixer and get to know Rotary Hot Seat business brainstorming session for member **John Burt**.

Guests: We had six guests today, and all were interested in our club and our speaker:

- **Howard Raff** was the host of several guests today: Sally Spangler – a college counselor who is joining us soon, and has asked us to sponsor a Rotaract Club at her La Canada High School and Rob Henry, a graduate student at Fuller Theological. This was Jonathan Stockton's 2nd meeting attending - he was a Rotarian in Hawaii and told Howard he is signing up.
- **Tammy Silver** brought her friend Patty Tavera, who appeared to enjoy our speaker so much that we would not be surprised if she might try out at the amateur night at the Ice House – she had stage presence.
- Andy Gomez is involved in Pasadena’s Sister-City program.
- Mel Werbach was hosted by **Mike Bradley** as his guest today.
- Cara Cockrum, guest of Johnny Buss (our speaker today).

**Very-Past President Cathy** then reminisced about her time as President she was the “Fine-Master” and now that she had her gavel back today, she thought it would be a great time to fine **Marshall Fuss**, successful attorney, and a legal specialist on coffee-related enterprises. She noted that **Marshall** was also on the Pasadena Rotary Foundation, and so she asked him to explain more. He noted that since the donations to the Pasadena Rotary Club are not tax-deductible, the Foundation is a true 501-3C non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible to the giver. He noted and recognized the hard-working Foundation board members. **Cathy** then levied him fine of \$100 (the crowd gasped - \$100! - and then applauded **Marshall** for being





such a good sport.

**Marsha Rood** was her next person in the hot seat, and **PP Cathy** introduced **Marsha** as a long-time Rotary Club program chair throughout the years, and was a driving force within Pasadena, focused on “urban reinventions.” She asked **Marsha**, “What inspires you?” and **Marsha** noted her love of Pasadena, her pride in all the things within almost walking distance, including Cal Tech, the Civic Center, the revitalized Old Town Pasadena, and the leadership of **Gene** and **Marilyn Buchanan**. She has always “focused on making the place better, towards a common goal” and noted that it is unique in not being an island of privilege, but how it is all connected in an organized complexity, offering something for everyone. **PP Cathy** levied **Marsha** a fine of \$100 also.

**PP Cathy** then introduced **Phil Hawkey**, who is on the Board of several institutions here in Pasadena, and one of those is the Board of the Playhouse Village, and that area includes the country’s first comedy club, the “New” Ice House on Mentor Avenue. It has been said to be The Mount Rushmore for comedians to perform there, and it now has a new owner, Johnny Buss of the LA Laker-owners Buss family. **Phil** noted that Johnny bought it in 2019, and was refurbishing it when the 2020 Pandemic hit, and he used the opportunity to really upgrade it, to where the LA Times even called it “swanky.” We will have to wait for the imminent grand opening. **Phil** noted that Johnny was an accomplished County Western singer and former professional race car driver.

\*\*\* *The room of over 80 guests had their hand raised when **Phil** asked how many people have been to the Ice House.*



Johnny welcomed everyone with a booming “Hello!” and we greeting him right back, excited to hear what was next for another Pride of Pasadena landmark. He was born and raised in Inglewood, CA, near the area that his dad, Dr. Jerry Buss, began his career in real estate development, and had a front row with the development of the LA Forum, with LA Lakers and Kings franchises, and World Team Tennis before that. He went to USC and is still a proud Trojan, so he attended the Rose Parade as a youngster, and a few Rose Bowl games over the years (he remembers the USC beating Michigan) but all he remembers of Pasadena was it had a lot of old buildings at the time. He and his dad enjoyed comedy and variety shows, and a dream was that one

day they would both own a club socializing in fun entertainment, and dad kept saying, “Johnny, you should start a club”, especially after their teams would lose a championship or two.

After racing cars professionally, a friend of a friend mentioned that the Ice House was for sale, and since he was actively looking for a comedy venue to buy, decided to out-bid the escrow buyers and become the new owner of The First Comedy Club in the Country. He closed the deal with the previous owner, Bob Fisher (a previous speaker at our club) at Smitty’s on Lake Avenue, and as they were finishing the details over lunch, Bob was cracking joke after joke – Bob noted that “Once you own the Ice House, you become funny.”

Johnny suddenly felt closer to his father because “things you will see are things he and my dad spoke about for years and years and will be coming to the New Ice House.”

He also noted that he wants to give back to the community, much like the Buss’ did with all their other professional organizations, because it is the right thing to do, and people often will support an organization that supports others in need – our club members applauded him for his vision, as we are also a service-first organization. Earlier in the meeting, we mentioned that we have done Rotary comedy nights at the Ice House, where the entrance fee was waved but we made up for it with refreshments and food, and there was a thinking that we need to support the Ice House and do this again as soon as it was open.

Questions: **Tammy Silver** asked about the cloud of dust and all the commotion that she observed the past year, and what kind of remodeling was being done – and Johnny said that the building was old and needed a new remodel to bring it up to code and to also bring it back to its roots, including room by room rehab, and taking the restrooms from three to 12 (this was widely applauded by all the women in the room). He felt that he wanted to make a good impression on all the tourists to Pasadena, and that included bringing back the vintage wooden floors, returning the entrance to Mentor Avenue, and “removing all the plaster and restoring the fabulous old brick inside and outside. This is Pasadena – bricks and arches, etc.”

**David McAlexander** asked, as a motor race fan, what kind of racing did he do? He proudly said he raced circuit and road track races, and then went to the safer (his family urged) off-road racing, winning the Las Vegas to Reno Race, over 600 grueling miles. He also raced the Baja circuit races and still had a gleam in his eye when he described the many famous events.

There was a scramble at the end as **PP Cathy** suddenly realized she didn't have a speaker gift at the lectern, but **President Justene** magically produced one from her table. **PP Cathy** thanked Johnny for speaking today, and presented him the speaker gift, a Pasadena Rotary shiny pen, engraved with our motto, Service Beyond Self. And the meeting adjourned right on time with the clang of the Rotary Bell by **PP Cathy Simms**.

*By 2023 Rose Bowl Half-Marathon Runner Reporter Dean Billman  
"Let us go to the Ice House!"*



*L: Johnny Buss, Cara Cockrum, David Minasian, Phil Hawkey, George Falardeau, PP Cathy Simms, Colleen Carey, Marsha Rood*

[CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY](#)

To attend the 1-25-23 meeting  
**RSVP by 5:00 pm MONDAY**

**MENU:**





**Angus Beef Burgundy** with Carrots, Mushrooms, and Onions, served with Mashed Potatoes

**Caesar Salad** with Roasted Chicken Breast

**Roasted Cauliflower** in Thai Red Curry Sauce, Sautéed Kale, Cherry Tomatoes, Brown Rice and Quinoa (vegetarian)\*\*

**Join Us Wednesday!**

**Check In with Jane Waas, Frank Fish,  
Scott Carlson or Barbara Bishop**

[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) - 626-683-8243

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## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

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### BUSINESS ALLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING



**In the Rotary Hot Seat  
John Burt**

**Monday – January 23, 2023 at 4:00 PM  
via Zoom**

**RSVP:**

**Wendy - [wowproductions2@gmail.com](mailto:wowproductions2@gmail.com)**

**Cyril - [cyril.vergis@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.vergis@gmail.com)**

**Everyone is Welcome - just RSVP**

**February 18th - Dim Sum with Ken Joe  
January 23rd will also discuss planning of the  
March Mixer**

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### MEGA BUSINESS EXPO: HELP SHOWCASE ROTARY

**San Gabriel Hilton in the City of San Gabriel on Thursday Feb. 2nd.**

**Gilda Moshir, Assistant Governor, Area 1**

4 clubs: Altadena, Pasadena, San Marino and South Pasadena are participating in the 2nd Annual SGV MEGAMIX BUSINESS EXPO - great opportunity for us to showcase ROTARY.

There are 3 workshops from 3 - 5 pm open to all participants by experts in the industry:

- 1) Program and Grant Opportunities - Sheryl Turner, CEO of Friends of the Miracle Mile
- 2) Choosing a Business Entity - is an LLC right for me? - Matthew Murillo, Griffin a Professional Law Group

3) Grant Writing - How to Secure Grants for Your Cause, Michelle Freridge, Attorney at law  
The expo floor opens up at 5 - 8:30 pm. Last year's event drew close to 1000 attendees with over 120 exhibitors. This year they are estimating close to 1200 attendees.

RSVP to Gilda at [gmoshir@gmail.com](mailto:gmoshir@gmail.com) or **818-807-6060** by Wednesday January 18th whether you can help us at the table. The 1st 25 people who rsvp to Gilda get free admission (\$35 value). **They need 5 volunteers from each club to help with the table.** To increase Rotary's visibility, regardless of whether you are at the table, please wear your Rotary shirt or something else to identify you as a Rotarian.

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## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA FOUNDATION WILL AWARD  
COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE OLDER ADULTS**

**Co-chairs: Akila Gibbs & Cathy Simms**

**PLEASE HELP OUTREACH AND SPREAD THE NEWS!**

The Rotary Club of Pasadena Foundation is accepting applications for 2023 grants from nonprofit organizations that serve Pasadena-area residents.

Each grant, which will range from \$2,000 to \$6,000, will be awarded for programs and services that enrich the lives of older adults, such as those that address food insecurity, encourage exercise, offer food planning and preparation, educate about health practices and provide direct services such as flu shots, oral examinations, physical examinations, blood pressure checks and hearing tests.

For a printable 2023 grant application, official guidelines and other information about the application process, visit <https://pasadenarotary.com/community-grants/>  
The application deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13. Late submissions will not be considered.

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## POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement 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+ you receive a special sticker, 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!

Jennifer DeVoll	Jan. 20th
Josh Betta	Jan. 20th
David McAlexander	Jan. 23rd
Gail Scanlan	Jan. 25th
Bob Risley	Jan. 26th



Roy Rico

Jan. 26th

## Happy Rotaversary!

Victor Gordo

1/20/21

2 Years

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 1st - Jackie Broxton, Executive Director, Bidy Mason Foundation

February 8th - Miguel Marquez, City Manager, City of Pasadena

February 15th - Dr. Ron White, Presidential Historian

February 22nd - PP Scott Vandrick - POP CULTURE BONANZA! A Pasadena Rotary Club Game Show

March 1st - Karen Hofman, President, Art Center College of Design

**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**

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

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Bureau Chief Emeritus: Mary Lou Byrne**

### Building Community Through Service



**Pasadena Rotary Club**  
Mary Lou Byrne and Justene M. Adamec  
Co-Presidents 2022-23

**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
*Meets: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00pm-University Club*

**PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec**  
**PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Mary Lou Byrne**  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Cory Brendel**  
**SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni**  
**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Desiree Alvarado, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, Mary Chalon, Sandy  
Goodenough, Mic Hansen, J.P. Harris, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver,**

## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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