
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 27, 2023 * #23-103
Stay up-to-date at www.pasadenarotary.com

This Week's Program

Jackie Broxton

Executive Director, Bidy Mason Foundation
"Who Was Bidy Mason?"

Introducer: Leah Snell



Los Angeles native, Jackie Broxton serves as the President and CEO of the Bidy Mason Charitable Foundation. The Foundation created in 2013 provides services and support to both current and former foster youth in Los Angeles County.

Educated locally in Los Angeles City Schools Jackie developed a love of history and African American History specifically in middle school. That love has grown over the years. Currently Jackie is completing a series of six one act plays on conversations between Bidy Mason and other early Los Angeles settlers.

She is a 40-year member of First AME Church in Los Angeles where she has served in a variety of leadership positions. She has been recognized by the Black Faculty and Staff of Los Angeles Community College Association for her leadership within the foster care community. She is also a Community Outreach Director for the Long Journey to Freedom, an international research project examining

the life of Bidy Mason.

Additionally, she is a founding member of 3FN, Faith Foster Families Network, an interfaith collaborative seeking to provide support to the foster youth and families impacted by the foster care system

February 1st Meeting

12:00 pm - RECEPTION & LUNCH BY RSVP ONLY

12:30-1:30 pm - Past President Howard Raff (2008)

Song Leader: Eric Olson; Ross Jutsum, piano; Barbara Bishop, Vocals

Inspiration: Sandy Goodenough

Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman

Photographer: 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



IMAGINATION

By President Justene Adamec

Past President Ken Hill (2011) took center stage yesterday. What a great job he did. I expect all of the PPs to give us a good meeting but I'm always so delighted by it.

In her speaker's introduction, **Past President Diana Peterson-More** gave us a few more facts about **PP Ken's** year. One of them was that a Rotarian was arrested for murder. I heard those gasps.

The Rotarian was never charged. In the *LA Times* article about the DA's decision not to charge the Rotarian, **then-President Ken Hill** was quoted as saying "As a Rotary club, we have to accept what the law says. We don't judge people on rumor or accusations."

I won't tell you the name of the Rotarian. To do so would violate the Four Way Test.



Speaking of the Four Way Test, the Four Way Test Speech Contest is coming up in March. (Pretty slick segue there, right?) The contest allows local high school students to present 5 – 8 minute speeches about this year's theme (Imagine Rotary) and incorporating the 4 Way Test.

The preliminary round will take place on the evenings of March 1 and March 2. We need judges. No experience required. If you haven't done this before, ask at your table during Wednesday's meeting. I bet you'll find someone who has. I also think they will tell you that it's a fun activity perhaps even one of their favorite Rotary activities.

The group round will take place during the March 22 lunch meeting. No effort needed for that round. Just sit back and prepare to be amazed.

Speaking of March 2, that is Read Across America Day. (Ok, that segue was a little less slick.) Pasadena Rotarians will go to Washington Elementary STEM Magnet and be Guest Readers for the students. Details to come.

Next week, **Past President Howard Raff** will lead the meeting. It'll be wonderful.

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

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Hillary Schenk and Tammy Silver



Past President Ken Hill rang the bell, observing "I haven't changed a bit" since he was president in 2011-2012. **Don Andruess**, playing his guitar and accompanied by **Past President Cory Brendel** on tambourine and **Immediate Past President Mary Lou Byrne** on vocals, led us in Getting to Know You, in honor of the fact that today we are going to get to know the new head of American art at the Huntington Library, Art Gallery, and Botanical Gardens.

Deborah Lewis shared some inspirational quotes about gardens, also in honor of our speaker from the Huntington. Most notably and pithily, "Great art picks up where nature ends" – Marc Chagall.



Past President Howard Raff introduced new member **Sally Spangler**. Sally grew up in Culver City and attended Culver City High (Erika Endrijonas, Culver High class of 1983, whooped her approval from the audience), and graduated from Cal State Long Beach and UC Santa Barbara. Sally went to Culver City High with PP **Shel Capeloto**. She has been in education all her life, including as a counselor at La Canada High School while **President Justene Adamec's** daughters attended. She then founded her own college consulting business. Sally has been an LMFT since 1979 and was a full-time therapist for 10 years. She has three wonderful sons, three great grandchildren, and a 16-month-old puppy named Jack. She

looks forward to retirement including golf, Pilates, golf, and remodeling her kitchen. And she wants to start an Interact Club at La Canada High!

Taking the mic, Sally said, "It's an honor to be here -- I'm excited to join Rotary. I've looked forward to doing this since my sister and brother-in-law joined Windsor Rotary Club near Santa Rosa and I got involved in their projects every time I visit. I love the spirit of giving and volunteering. My sister is district treasurer and my BIL is head of Wasteless Windsor, teaching how to properly recycle. I can't wait to send them a photo of me being inducted into Rotary tonight – I've kept it on the down low and they're going to be so happy! I'm looking forward to getting to know you."

Cyril Vergis introduced new member **Ty'riek Layne**, a former colleague. Born and raised in Lancaster and soon to be a Pasadena transplant, Ty is three-time graduate of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science University in public health and public health. He has been caregiver, schedule recruiter, and care manager supporting seniors and disabled people in the San Gabriel Valley for the last eight years. He likes to bowl and is a semi-professional DJ. In his remarks, Ty said, "Looking around I can say I am the baby of Rotary and I want to thank you all for allowing me to be here. I look forward to learning from you and participating in the volunteerism and philanthropy."



Department of Announcements Department:

Cathy Simms announced that Community Grants applications are being accepted, but we have no applicants yet! So please spread the word to nonprofits serving older adults. Information and applications are here: <https://pasadenarotary.com/community-grants/>. The deadline is February 13.

Past President Mary Lou Byrne announced that the Four Way Speech Contest, having made a dramatic return from the dead a few weeks ago, is underway. First, she needed some co-chairs/committee members, and asked for volunteers from the floor. **J.P. Harris** and **Robert Lyons** raised their hands immediately, and **Michele Ferroni** also volunteered once Mary Lou sat back down next to her at the lunch table. Hooray! Thank you! Preliminary judging will be on Wednesday and

Thursday, March 1 and 2, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Signs ups will start next Wednesday or email Mary Lou at maloby@outlook.com to volunteer for preliminary judging or to be on the committee.

Anne Miskey, CEO of Union Station Homeless Services, made a Polio Pig announcement to thank Rotary for “helping us help others in our community.” They have a lot of great events coming up this year, most notable Masters of Taste, which was listed by the LA Times as one of top two food festivals of any kind in LA County. “We knew we had arrived last year when there were scalpers,” quipped Anne. The event is all you can eat and drink (“and yes, I mean ‘drink’”) and happens on April 2. Tickets are available here: <https://mastersoftastela.com/tickets/>. “It’s our 50th anniversary,” said Anne, “and our goal is that we are not [needed to be] here for another 50 years!”

Jan Sanders, co-chair of Rotary Readers, announced that on February 6 we will discuss The Book of Lost Names inspired by true stories from WW11, a young Jewish woman who flees Paris with her mother after the arrest of her father finds herself committing to a forgery ring whose primary goal is to create documents that will help hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. But the forger wanted to keep the children’s real names in this book so when they were found later they would know their real name. Details below.

Gail Scanlan made a donation to the Polio Pig and announced, “today is my actual birthday and I am 71! I’m proud to be 71 because it’s better to be up than down!” We all sang Happy Birthday to Gail.

Past President Ken Joe announced, “Pasadena Rotary is a great place to serve and a great place to fellowship.” Toward that end, he is organizing a Dim Sum outing on February 18 at 10:30 a.m. It’s limited to 10 people but, he said, we will do it again and again. Full House Seafood in Arcadia and the cost is \$30 per person. Please come and bring a guest. (Vegetarians, you might want to skip it unless you want to come for the fellowship!) Sign up with Ken at kenjoerealtor@gmail.com.



Past President Cory Brendel proudly announced, “Due to certain decisions in my misguided youth I had resigned myself to missing this experience, but yesterday in Nashville Tennessee I became a grandfather!” He showed us a photo of the lovely newborn Aspen Rae Duckworth and said, “I had nothing to do with her beauty but I’m donating \$50 to the Polio Pig in her honor (the rest of my \$1,000 is going to her 529 college fund and the pink ukelele I am taking to her in a few days!)”

After all those exciting announcements, we introduced our guests: **Phyllis Mueller** brought her brother John, who has been here before and was a guest speaker on terrorism some time ago.

George Falardeau brought Ann Marie Hickambottom, field rep for Assembly

Member Chris Holden.

Howard Raff brought Rob Henry, Marine Corps vet and Fuller Seminary student, and Jonny Stockton, who will be applying to our club shortly.

Cyrus Afshin brought Gary Floyd, sound engineer, checking how loud we are with his fancy equipment. Gary cautioned us all to guard our hearing!

Past President Diana Peterson-More introduced our speaker. But first she said **Past President Ken Hill** had some challenges with some Rotarians during his year, including a member being arrested for homicide! But, she said, **Ken**, with his friendly, calm, and low-key manner handled it well. Also, she told us that Ken played in the band at PCC before becoming a professor of organizational management at USC and then a yoga teacher in his retirement.

Our speaker, Dennis Scott Carr, is the Virginia Steele Scott Curator of American Art at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. He has a special passion for pre-Columbian art and when he went to Guatemala to learn to speak Spanish to support that passion, also met and married a Guatemalan woman!



Dennis began by noting that he has lectured all over the U.S. and all over the world and has never been

serenaded, “so thank you for the song!” How did he get to Pasadena? “My wife and I were visitors at the Huntington about eight years ago and my wife said, ‘this is where I want to live.’ I said “good luck with that,’ but some years later, lo and behold it happened!” However, he confessed, “we moved here from Boston right before the Pandemic so it’s been a little strange.”

Turning to the topic at hand, he said the Huntington has 31 galleries of American art. It’s a fairly young collection started in the late 70s and 80s by Virginia Steele Scott, a Pasadena resident who was a major art patron and collector.



One of the most newsworthy acquisitions is a 1989 painting by Thomas Cole with funds from Ahmanson Foundation, called Portage Falls on the Genessee. Dennis explained, “we didn’t have a major piece by the founder of the Hudson River School until now. This was a gift in 2021.” He noted that the “the landscape paintings we’re surrounded by here at the University Club descend from Thomas Cole.” This painting was commissioned by owners of the canal system in upstate New York who were building an offshoot of the Erie Canal and hired him to paint a portrait of what he saw before it was bulldozed. “So it was an early environmental painting,” Dennis said.” It was given in 1840 to William Seward, then governor of New York. (Fun fact: Seward was attacked the night Lincoln was assassinated, he survived, and the knife he was attacked with is in the Huntington collection, too!)

The painting hung in the executive mansion in Albany, then in Seward’s house, then in the Seward House Museum in Albany until it was appraised for \$18 million, and the Seward House realized they were not equipped to insure or properly protect and display such a valuable piece. They decided to sell it and now they display a reproduction. The Ahmanson Foundation bought it and donated it to Huntington as a “game changing acquisition.” The money went from a charitable foundation to the charitable Seward House Foundation which made it a real win win for everyone. And there’s a coda, said Dennis: They tried desperately to build a canal through this gorge and eventually gave up and abandoned it, so thank goodness the wilderness is preserved and is now a state park!

The Huntington has also recently added a series of new galleries with the theme of Borderlands. “We also started to think about landscapes in our part of the world, and works by indigenous artists, including Tongva artists,” said Dennis. L.A. has the largest number of indigenous people of any city in the country, but the Tongva are not federally recognized and don’t have any communal land. Mercedes Dorame, a photographer who grew up in L.A., has a photo of a sacred site that is on private land and the Tongva have to get permission to visit. The L.A. Times wrote a long article about this photograph in the spring, which you can read here: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2022-07-06/mercedes-dorame-huntington-borderlands>

Dennis also reached out to indigenous artist Sandy Rodriguez, who created You are Here, an 8 x 8 image of L.A. from indigenous perspective on amata paper made from bark of fig tree. Dennis explained that this paper was outlawed by the Spanish as a way of suppressing indigenous knowledge: “They burned all the indigenous maps and not a single one survives.” Interestingly, unlike a western map where N is at the top, in an indigenous map E is at the top because that’s where the sun rises. Dennis showed us photos of Sandy Rodriguez working – she collects all her own pigments including red ochres and brown pigments from the ground. He said, “we have 100,000s of printed books but few printed materials from this part of the world. They help us teach about different ways of representing nature and the space.” He also showed us a photo of a gallery with screen-fold Mesoamerican book plus an educational space showing sources of inks and pigments.

The Huntington has also installed a new film space for the first time. It is in partnership with Ghetto Film School, founded in New York with offices now in LA and London, to teach high school age filmmakers. “We bring them to the Huntington and teach them about American art, then they go off and make films,” said Dennis. This year they are using mid-20th century film cameras. “It’s as much a social justice org as a filmmaking org,” Dennis explained. “The kids come out extremely well trained and understanding how competitive the industry is. The films are stunningly beautiful. They help me see our artworks in completely different ways.”

The next gallery over is an old favorite: The gallery of architecture and woodwork of Charles and Henry

Greene. In partnership with Gamble House, the Huntington created two separate galleries with its own pieces and pieces on loan from Gamble House and other places. The Greene brothers were from the Midwest and went to MIT for grad school. Their first job was in downtown Boston, and they had to pass right in front of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) every day, at a time when the MFA was building one of the first collections of Japanese art. They were highly influenced by that, for example in a high chest based on a sword guard they saw at the MFA in Boston. "It's a great east coast/west coast story," said Dennis. "And it helps us think about east and west across the Pacific, as well."

One last thing: The painted murals along the windows by Enrique Martinez Celaya. He was a physics student and turned to art. Dennis explained, "we wanted to rethink the entryway and link inside to outside, and he proposed painting the windows as though they were stained glass. It's a mural of migratory birds, a metaphor for his peripatetic life as well as meditation on borders. There are 12-13 different species. There are red lines across the paintings and they are the LA freeway systems, and the green lines are the migratory bird patterns."

Q: Current events by **Jim Osterling** – last year a very generous property owner in Altadena donated a small parcel of land to the Tongva – a wooded property that overlooks Eaton Canyon.

Q: **Dave McAlexander** -- Tongva isn't really the name of the tribe, it should be Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians. I urge you all to check out that there's no such name as Tongva. Dennis: good point – the name of Sandy's map includes various names and histories of what people call it. And I'm glad you mentioned the naming conventions which are very difficult to grapple with.

Q: **Helen Baatz**: I was a docent at the Huntington. Can you say a word about the docent program now? Dennis: Thank You for your service. We have a very dedicated docent corps of more than 30. For many years they weren't in the American Art Galleries and since I've been there we've recharged the program. My way of working is to broaden the narrative widely to welcome more people in and to tell more stories. The docent training course is very helpful.

Q: **Fred Soldwedel**, Does SDNY have any interest in the Genessee river painting and could you work out an exchange like you did with Blue Boy? Dennis: We're always very interested in partnering. We're sending our Mary Cassatt to Toronto soon and thence to Spain. We were never anxious to lend but that's changing. The Thomas Cole painting is going to be featured next year in an exhibit focusing on environmentalism.

At 1:30 **Past President Ken** thanked Dennis for his presentation and told him we have a gift for him but it's not around. Oops! "I'll be sure we get it to you," he promised before ringing the bell to adjourn.



L: President Justene, PP Diana Peterson-More, Dennis Carr, John Cushman, Jan Sanders, Helen Baatz, Phil Miles and PP Ken Hill





**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

**To attend the 2-1-23 meeting
RSVP by 5:00 pm MONDAY**

MENU:

Lechon Asado – Cuban Roast Pork with Garlic Mojo, Rice, Black Beans, Fried Plantains

Cobb Salad with Choice of Blue Cheese or Italian Vinaigrette

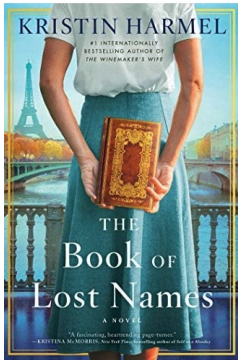
Vegetable Enchilada – Black beans, corn, roasted yams, sweet peppers and onions wrapped in corn tortillas, red enchilada sauce, shredded cheese, rice and black beans. (v)

Join Us Wednesday!

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

office@pasadenarotary.com - 626-683-8243

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR



ROTARY READERS

February 6th at 6:00 pm - Home of Colleen Carey
The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel, discussion led by Phyllis Crandon.

Zoom is available for those who cannot come in person.
**RSVP: Jan Sanders at janinpasadena@gmail.com or
Cathy Simms at simmsie1@pacbell.net**

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/>



BUSINESS ALLIANCE COMMITTEE
DIM SUM with KEN JOE
Saturday
February 18, 2023
10:30 AM
Full House Seafood, Arcadia
10 Seats Available
Must RSVP to Ken Joe -
[**kenjoerealtor@gmail.com**](mailto:kenjoerealtor@gmail.com)

PHOTO OF THE WEEK - BEHIND THE SCENES!
Who's Got the Caption? Send to: Office@PasadenaRotary.com



**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 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.

Happy Birthday!

Russ Guiney	Jan. 28th
Tamia Hope	Jan. 30th
Nancy Kozakar	Jan. 30th

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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
March 8th - Al Osborne - Profesor & Faculty Director Emeritus, Price School of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, UCLA :
March 15th - Dr. Dean Thompson Mentoring and Being Mentored: What I learned and taught at Sing Sing Prison

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

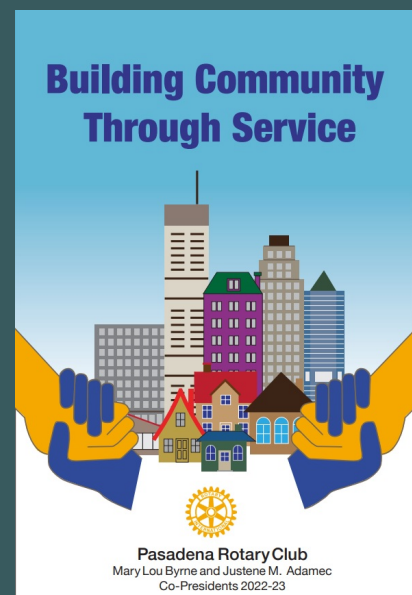
**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm
The University Club Pasadena
175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101**

Scot Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman

Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher

**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver.
Back-up: Barbara Bishop & Desiree Alvarado**

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



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: Desire Alvarado, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, Mary Chalon, Sandy Goodenough, Mic Hansen, J.P. Harris, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver, Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.

Rotary Club of Pasadena

MAILING ADDRESS: 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379
Pasadena, CA 91105

Wendy Anderson, Administrator - 626-683-8243 - office@pasadenarotary.com
Sandi Mejia-Ramirez, Accountant - 626-272-3424 - sandimejia@sbcglobal.net
www.pasadenarotary.com

Pasadena Rotary Club | 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379, Pasadena, CA 91105

[Unsubscribe office@pasadenarotary.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@pasadenarotary.com in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!