

### **SPOKES NEWSLETTER**

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* July 11, 2025 \* #01-025 www.pasadenarotary.com

# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM PAST PRESIDENT KEN JOE

"The Life of a Youth Sports Commissioner"

INTRODUCER: PP Kathy Meagher



Ken is a native Californian born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay Area, which explains his devotion to the San Francisco Giants! Ken's parents were early immigrants from mainland China.

Ken hold a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bethany University and a graduate degree in Instructional Technology from San Jose State University.

His career background includes employment in the aerospace, pharmaceutical and health care industries as a learning and organizational development consultant. Ken also led his own private consulting firm for many years

specializing in management development, executive coaching and teambuilding. A lifelong learner, Ken left the corporate world and for the past 10 plus years has become a successful Realtor and specializes in residential real estate.

Ken is also an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and serves on the pastoral team at New Life Assembly of God church in Pasadena.

Ken and Marina have been married for over 35 years and have three sons, Daniel (married to Patty), Michael and Stephen (engaged to Lillian). They have two grandchildren and hopefully many more to come!

Ken joined the Rotary Club of Pasadena in 2015 and served as club president in 2020-

2021. Ken is a past commissioner for AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) and still actively referees both soccer and volleyball in the community. His hobbies include fishing, gardening and enjoying a good cup of coffee with Rotarians, so give him a call!

### WEDNESDAY – JULY 16TH, 2025

#### **UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA**

LUNCH BUFFET: 12:00 PM - MEETING: 12:30 PM 175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

### **RSVP A MUST - Deadline: 5:00 pm MONDAY**

**OVERFLOW PARKING:** Pasadena Heritage Blinn House Enter parking off Madison Ave. - Do not park in any reserved parking space

Meeting Host: President Hillary Schenk
Reception: Alan Schier & Mike Bernard
Song Leader: Jonathan Edewards
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Martha Shenkenberg
Scoot Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: PE Tammy Silver
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

### Meeting is also on ZOOM opens at 12:00 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09 Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523. - Passcode: 667356



A Sincere Thank You

My sincerest thanks to everyone who attended my first meeting as your President. I hope you left feeling inspired for the new Rotary year, enjoyed the fellowship, had a few laughs,

and maybe even gained a little insight along the way.

I was genuinely impressed by the thoughtful questions posed by our members—keep them coming! We'll be diving deeper into some of those topics in the coming weeks. I only briefly touched on my story (which, I admit, feels a bit like an Avenger origin tale). I grew up in San Antonio, Texas, and spent many summers tubing down the Guadalupe River. Just a short drive north of San Antonio—before you hit Austin—the Guadalupe is a beautiful area for camping, fishing, tubing, and soaking up the sun. Most parts are what I'd call "lazy river-esque": a relaxing day drifting down the water with good friends, good food, and plenty of sunshine.

Sadly, that peaceful setting was upended recently. Torrential rains swept through the Texas Hill Country, causing the Guadalupe River and surrounding waterways to rise rapidly—well above flood stage. Kerr County and neighboring communities experienced severe flooding, with homes, roads, and businesses underwater in a matter of hours. Entire neighborhoods were evacuated with little to no notice. Many families have been displaced, and the damage is still being assessed.

While I'm grateful to share that my own family in the area is safe, so many others are not as fortunate. And this is where our Rotary spirit matters most.

It is our empathy and commitment to service that sets us apart. I ask that each of you keep the people of Kerr County and surrounding communities in your thoughts and prayers. As the waters recede and the needs become clearer, I'll be reaching out to Rotary clubs in the affected areas to see how we can lend our support.

Thank you again for your support, your service, and your heart. Here's to a Rotary year rooted in compassion, action, and unity.

Hillary S. Schenk President 2025-2026 Rotary Club of Pasadena 805-358-8596

ATTENDING THE MEETING MEALS & SEATING ARE
PROVIDED BASED ON RSVP'S WE
RECEIVE

Please RSVP if you are attending! office@pasadenarotary.com

BUFFET opens at 12:00 pm MEETING starts at 12:30 pm



## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS



### The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

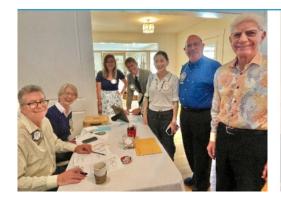
Photos by Amanda Pumilia & Tammy Silver



We had a nice big crowd for incoming President Hillary Schenk's first meeting! She rang the bell like a pro right at 12:30 and turned things over to Past President Mary Lou Byrne for the song and pledge. Mary Lou pointed out Hillary's brand new banner with her theme for the year: "Together, Building a Better Tomorrow," and led us in a fun mashup of "Together, Wherever We Go" and "There's a Great Big Beautiful Tomorrow" (from the old Carousel of Progress ride at Disneyland, for those who are old enough to remember!). Ann Louise Christensen on piano and the Four Way Test Singers (Allison Burgos, Jonathan Edewards, Past President Cory Brendel, Gary Kearney, Don Andrues, Deborah Lewis, and Dean Billman) provided fantastic backup.

After the pledge, **Past President Justene Adamec** screwed her courage to the sticking place and gave this Inspiration for the very first time in her ten years as a Rotarian! She shared her lightly edited version of Rudyard Kipling's "If," and urges us to take a look at the original:

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master; If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim; If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!" If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch. If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much; If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, Yours in the Earth and everything that's in it, And – which is more – you'll be a Rotarian!







Next up, after thanking Club Administrator **Wendy Anderson** for the detailed timeline "that makes me look good!", **President Hillary** invited **Robert Lyons**, celebrating ten years as

our Sergeant at Arms, to help introduce our guests. **Past President Howard Raff** hosted three prospective members this week, one of whom has already applied for membership! **President Hillary** introduced her husband Marty Schenk, her daughter Krysten Schenk and partner Pipo Wagner, and her son Jacob Metcalf and his Purdue University friend Cortland Bailey.

Department of Announcements Department:

**Amanda Pumilia** announced that the President's Cocktail Party, welcoming **President Hillary** to her new position, will be held on August 10 at the home of Amanda and Past President Justene. Details above. Amanda noted for the \$50 price you get food and drinks and "you get to see the koi pond!"

**Josh McCurry** made a donation to the Polio Pig and announced that the Flintridge Center, which serves people coming out of incarceration, is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> graduating class of its Apprenticeship Preparation Program, which prepares students for union construction jobs. It takes place on Thursday, July 17 at 5:30 at the Rose Bowl, and FREE tickets are available here: <a href="https://app50.funraise.org/">https://app50.funraise.org/</a>

Bridget Lawlor made a Polio Pig announcement to remind everyone that Pasadena Heritage will have its Bridge Party on the Colorado Street Bridge on Saturday, July 19. Details and tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-pasadena-heritage-bridge-party-tickets-1384629858179?aff=oddtdtcreator

We had a Rotarian visiting from the Rotary Club of Funabashi-West Japan, Junko Yamamoto with her husband Rick, and she and **President Hillary** exchanged greetings and club flags!





Next up, President Hillary read us a statement from Past President Cathy Simms about our ongoing Global Grants project, Caring Little Hearts. Last September we reached the milestone of 500 lifesaving pediatric heart surgeries performed in Chennai, India. Last month, Past President Shel Capeloto, who founded this program, had lunch with Rotarian Sridharan from our sister club in India, and they celebrated saving 600 lives! PP Shel gave Rtn. Sridharan a "coveted Rotary coin" (if you know, you know) to celebrate the occasion. More info about this amazing project here: https://www.google.com/search

q=caring+little+hearts+rotary&rlz=1C1ONGR\_enUS1033US1033&oq=caring+little+he arts+rotary&gs\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQABgWGB4yCAgCEAAYF hgeMg0IAxAAGIYDGIAEGIoFMg0IBBAAGIYDGIAEGIoFMg0IBRAAGIYDGIAEGIOFMg oIBhAAGIAEGKIEMgcIBxAAGO8FMgcICBAAGO8FMgoICRAAGIAEGKIE0gEIMzU1N GowajSoAgOwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

As we were all drying our happy tears after this presentation, **President Hillary** lightened the mood by



showing us the amazing remote-control-operated heightaugmenting electric lift she was standing on, so she can see over the lectern, and we can all see her. Tech wizard **Robert Lyons** built it for her, and it is truly a technical wonder!!

After she had some fun raising and lowering herself a few times, **President Hillary** launched into her program. First, she shared two meaningful quotes: "Leadership is service, not position" (Tim Fargo), and "Only a life lived in service to others is a life worth living" (Albert Einstein).

She was a bit shy about talking about herself, but gave us the Readers' Digest version: She is the youngest of four children (her three brothers are 14, 15, and 17 years older

than she is) and was most raised as an only child. She spent a decade as a competitive gymnast in her youth, and still coaches young gymnasts twice a week. She attended DePaul University, where she earned a BFA in Theatre. She is currently the Director of Development for CASA Treatment Center in Pasadena.

Hillary shared that she was very impressed with her recent trip to the Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. "There were more countries represented in Calgary than in the Olympics," she exclaimed.

President Hillary joined the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks in 2003, where she was named "rookie of the year" and served as the club's youth director and also chaired its wine and arts festival. She joined Pasadena Rotary in 2016 and has served on many committees including Community Grants, Demotion, Budget, Giving from the Closet, Four Way Speech, Nomination, and has served as co-chair of Shop with a Cop.



What are her goals for the coming year? President Hillary plans to focus on five areas:

- Financial Stewardship
- Membership
- Service Above Self
- Community
- Youth

Our major service emphasis this year will be Eaton Fire relief, and we are working hard to finalize a meaningful fire relief project.

**President Hillary** invited everyone to join Past President and Membership Chair**Howard Raff** in inviting nice people to Rotary meetings. "The more people you ask, the more likely someone is to come!" She went over the various types of membership in our Club – there's something for everyone, even if they can't attend our weekly lunches!

Tyros Chair **Wende Lee** and President Elect **Tammy Silver** will be leading the charge to make sure new members are integrated into the Club, and existing members are participating.

**President Hillary** led us all in reciting the Rotary Four Way Test and encouraged us all to take it to heart.

As for service, **President Hillary** encouraged us all to get involved. She has asked our Done in a Day Chair, **David McAlexander**, and our IMPACT Club Chair, **Amanda Pumilia**, to work together to do good works in the coming year. And she asks each of us to participate in two service projects and two social events in the coming Rotary year. "We have proven that when we work together, we can move mountains, and we can do it with fellowship!" she said.

Speaking of fellowship, **President Hillary** asked all the Board members to stand and be recognized. She thanked them for their service and urged everyone to contact them with any concerns or suggestions.

Finally, **President Hillary** explained that normally the incoming President receives the presidential lapel pin from the outgoing president at Demotion or the last meeting of the Rotary year. However, this year Hillary was in Calgary at the Rotary convention during **Past President Stephen Smith's** last meeting. So she showed a fun video from Calgary, in which her husband Marty pinned her with the Presidential pin. And as the grand finale, they re-enacted the moment in person.

After an interesting Q and A, **President Hillary** left us with this: When her son gave his high school commencement address, he introduced himself using the last names of all his parents and stepparents, "Because family is what you



make it." Hillary said "And to me, Rotary is family, too. I cannot wait to continue my Rotary journey along side each and every one of you, and I am truly honored to be your president for 2025-2026."

And with that, she rang the bell and adjourned the meeting like she'd been doing it all her life!



L2R: President Hillary, Krysten Schenk, Pipo Wagner, Jacob Metcalf, Courtland Bailey, Amanda Pumilia, PP Justene Adamec, Marty Schenk

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Julie Shih	July 11
Sandi Mejia-Ramirez	July 16

### **HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!**

Ross Jutsum	7/14/22	3 Years as Honorary
David McAlexander	7/14/04	21 Years
Sarah Smith Orr	7/15/87	38 Years
Mark Waterson	7/16/14	11 Years
Sandy Goodenough	7/17/19	6 Years

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

July 23, 2025 - Brandon Lamar, President Pasadena NAACP - Making a Difference Yesterday and Today

July 30, 2025 - Paul Harris Fellow Community Awards

August 6, 2025 - Sara Safari - Climb Your Everest

August 13, 2025 - Robert Shoji - When Little Tokyo was Bronzeville

August 20, 2025 - Dowell Myers - How We Got to Today's Housing Crisis

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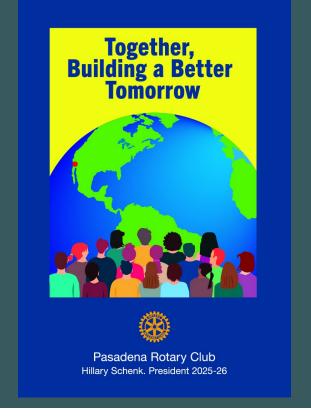
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**Pumilia** 



ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena

PRESIDENT: Hillary Schenk
PRESIDENT ELECT: Tammy Silver
SECRETARY: Wende Lee
TREASURER: Allison Burgos

CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andrues, Mike Bernard, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Deb Raupp, Nevino Rocco,

Alan Schier, Dede Venkat Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club

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