

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* June 13, 2025 \* #01-021

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

## THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

### DAVID NAIDITCH

*"I Ain't Got No Respect"*

**Introducer: JIM GRAUNKE**



The highlights of David Naiditch's life have been playing harmonica and guitar, teaching, and working as a computer scientist.

As a teenager, David took up both guitar and blues harmonica. Over the years, his focus moved to progressive bluegrass and eventually traditional jazz, including Django Reinhardt-inspired Gypsy jazz. David honed his skills by attending numerous music jams, teaching music, and performing at various venues.

David started recording music in 2005 and has released seven albums--mostly bluegrass but also swing and Gypsy jazz instrumentals. These albums feature some of the top virtuosos. David believes he plays his best when playing with the best.

David always loved to teach. At the Area H Alternative School in Los Angeles, he taught all levels of mathematics, computer programming, astronomy, philosophy, and other topics requested by students and parents. David even offered noncredit blues harmonica lessons during lunch hours.

For most of his career, David worked as a software scientist at various aerospace companies. He eventually ended up at The Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo. Although he did a lot of computer programming and software design, much of

his Aerospace career was devoted to teaching—especially the Ada Programming Language. David wrote the textbook, *Rendezvous with Ada*. He also enjoyed lecturing at aerospace companies on topics such as the Big Bang Theory and the Large Hadron Collider. David has hosted science salons at his home, some of which featured eminent scientists such as theoretical physicist Kip Thorne, cosmologist Lisa Randall, astronomy professor Janna Levin, and cosmologist Lawrence Krauss.

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**WEDNESDAY – JUNE 18, 2025**  
**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA**  
**LUNCH BUFFET: 12:00 PM - MEETING: 12:30 PM**  
**175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101**  
**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 Stephen Smith  
**Reception:** Alan Schier & Mike Bernard  
**Song Leader:** Phil Miles  
**Lunchtime Pianist:** Ann Louise Christensen  
**Inspiration:** Eric Olson  
**Scoot Zone Reporter:** Marilyn Buchanan  
**Photographer:** Gui Bittencourt & PP Ken Joe  
**Technical:** Frank Fish & Scott Carlson  
**Sergeant At Arms:** Robert Lyons  
Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

**ZOOM opens at 12:00 pm**

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

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**Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks**



The City of Calgary is the 3rd largest city and 5th largest metropolitan area in terms of population in Canada. It is now one of Canada's most diverse cities, with 240 ethnic communities and 165 languages. It is anticipated that more than 15,000 members and participants from over 120 countries will gather in Calgary from June 21 to June 25, 2025.

As most people in Rotary know, RI's conventions are held in a different city each year, and serve as a hub for members and participants to connect and learn from each other and a range of experts on how to take action to address issues in their communities.

This year's event will be the largest to be held in the newly expanded BMO Centre. It is expected to account for more than 30,000 hotel room nights, inject \$81 million CAD to the local economy, and drive significant business for Calgary's hotels, restaurants, retailers, and tourism attractions.

Considered by some to be a "mini United Nations", this convention will transform the BMO Centre and Scotiabank Saddledome at Stampede Park into an energized hub and cultural mosaic. If it is anything like the Singapore RI Convention last year, which my wife and I were graciously allowed to attend by the kindness of Pasadena Rotary, it should be an unforgettable experience.

If any Pasadena Rotarians have not registered yet for this event and are sitting on the fence about attending, I would not hesitate to say that you should go, as it will be a life changing memory.

**Stephen D. Smith**

President 2024 - 2025  
Rotary Club of Pasadena  
Cell 310.908.1779



Checking in with Alan Schier is Sarah Smith Orr, Sonya Sharifard and Phil Miles.

Sarah was one of the first women "elected to membership" to the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

Read the story of the Rotary Women of 1987 here:

<https://conta.cc/3HBDF7Z>

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

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

Please **RSVP** if you are attending!  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

*GETTING READY TO SING - Lyrics in Hand*

*L2R: Eric Olson, PP Ken Joe, John Gordon, Don Andruess, Hassan Kheradmandan, Dean Billman*



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## **ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS**

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PASADENA ROTARY IMPACT CLUB

# HAPPY HOUR + MIXER

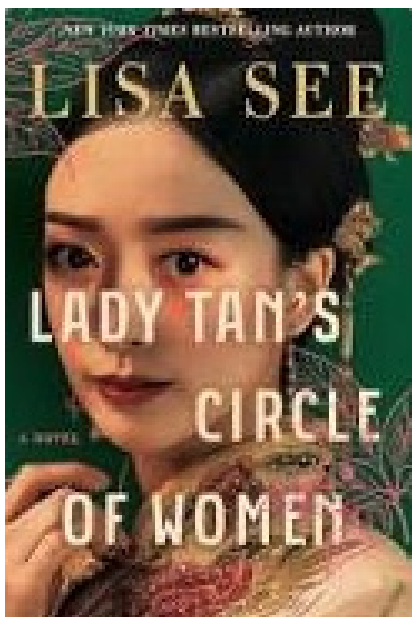
OPEN TO ALL PASADENA ROTARIANS!  
BRING PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

5:30 - 7:30 PM

EL PATRON MEXICAN  
RESTAURANT

2555 N. Lake Ave  
Altadena, CA 91001



## ROTARY READERS

Our next meeting, July 7th, at 6 pm, will be at the home of Bob and Rosemary Risley. Jan Copley will lead us in the review of Phyllis Crandon's recommended book Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See.

PLEASE RSVP to [bob@risleylaw.com](mailto:bob@risleylaw.com) and Rosemary at [rosemaryrisley@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryrisley@gmail.com).

This is the time of year that we submit recommendations for books **You Have Read** to read next Rotary year starting September. All members of the Rotary Readers received a form to submit by no later than June 25th to Jan at [janinpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:janinpasadena@gmail.com) and Cathy at [simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net). At the July 7 meeting we will be discussing the recommendations made and an email vote will follow the July 7th meeting.





# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

Our speaker today, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Carnegie Science Observatories, provided more questions than answers, and that is what keeps her interested in the riddle of the cosmos – what is out there that we don't even realize exists – yet. We saw a traditional photo of the Milky Way galaxy, then an infrared one with more stars, and a scary blob with angry arms radiating from the core – a version from a radio telescope.

**President Stephen Smith** rang the big brass Rotary Bell at 12:30pm and called song meister **Eric Olson** to lead the ever-growing Four Way Test Singers to a rousing America (My Country Tis of Thee) sung to the tune God Save the Queen he noted, but “our version is better!” He meant to tell us the back story, but decided to move forward (The backstory, as he told me later: In 1939, the famous contralto Marian Anderson made history when was denied by the DAR to sing, and Eleanor Roosevelt stepped in: Denied A Stage, She Sang For A Nation (NPR)

Pasadena Rotary Impact Club Chair **Amanda Pumilia** gave our inspiration, commenting on how Voyager One is 46 years away, leaving the solar system, but a picture it sent at that time showed Earth as a little pale blue dot – and she said we should all strive to do our best and make a difference here – it's all we got.



New member induction: **Past President Howard Raff** welcomed **Greg Wilber**, a proud Marine (Ret.) and a practicing attorney specializing in small business and labor law. Greg was previously a member of the Santa Barbara Rotary Club. Welcome Greg! (Photo below with Howard and President Stephen)

**President Stephen** introduced new Corporate Alternate member **Lisa Turallo**, Managing Director of Pasadena Heritage Foundation – welcome to the Rotary Family! (Photo below)



#### Guests:

- **President Stephen** also welcomed a guest of the speaker today, Dr. Jack Piotrowski, who specializes in designing and integrating advanced telescopes for the Carnegie Institution for Science.
- **PP Howard Raff** introduced Larry Weiss, who has a best friend in Rotary and wanted to see what we have to offer. Come again!
- **Sarah Smith Orr** introduced Sonya Sharifard, who studied small business entrepreneur innovation in the social sector at Pepperdine University.

#### Announcements:

- **Amanda Pumilia** invited us to the after-hours Happy Hour in support at local Altadena business, El Patron to connect with members and meet new people.
- **President Stephen** showed photos of Altadena Rotary organized Fire Relief “Giveaway” last Saturday: **President Stephen, PP Phil Miles, David McAlexander, Amanda Pumilia and Dean Billman** all helped provide fire survivors lots of donated food, toiletries, and air purifiers.

**President Stephen** has become known as the Trivia Contest President and had lunchtime fun with members on a Father's Day Trivia Contest with the winning table winning \$10 Starbucks cards.

**Paul Roach** introduced our wonderful guest speaker today, **Dr. Allison Matthews**, currently a Carnegie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, where she has lived for the past four years. “As a radio astronomer, she studies the faint radio signals emitted by galaxies – signals that help us understand how galaxies form, evolve, and transport cosmic rays across vast cosmic distances. Her work bridges physics, data science, and astronomy to model these hidden processes.”



I had to quote her biography above because it encapsulates her whole presentation as a “quest” – they really don’t know what they are looking at as they receive the data, and her team’s whole role is to find a way to learn new physics that help us understand what we can’t see or explain. It all started when early 1900’s radio-transmitted telephones were invented, but the static was overwhelming. A Bell Labs scientist (she was enamored with the scientists that discovered so many inventions during its long history) created in his mom’s backyard the first radio

telescope to find out where the noise was coming from, and discovered it came from the center of our Milky Way galaxy!



Meanwhile, in Chicago, another independent astronomer in the 1930's created a rotating radio telescope to map the signals, and again he discovered patterns, which led to research on where and when these signals emanated. Both pioneers are heralded by today's radio astronomers as who created the field, but even with all the research to date, it still consists of generating confirmation of cosmic theories like the expanding universe and star creation history. Several Nobel Prizes have been awarded for the breakthroughs in understanding the universe, especially since they are confirming theories, but leading to "more crazy questions", which heralds further science progress.

Currently, Carnegie operates the MeerKAT radio telescopes in Chile, looking at pulsars, black holes and trying to answer the question, "Why are galaxies growing larger and faster than previously thought?"

Our members had questions: Is the Speed of Light constant? (Yes). Does AI help with the research? (Sort of, but not asking questions – maybe in aggregating the information in new ways). If Speed of Light is constant, then is there an equal "constant" in radio waves? (Maybe a new research project?); can pulsars with their constant pulse, be used as beacons or an "astro-lighthouse"? (Maybe) Don Andruess asked, "If two black holes crash into each other, will they become super-strong and pull in all the stars and create a giant reaction?" (Maybe – Don wanted to make sure); and how did she become interested in radio telescopes? (she loved math growing up, and it just led her to wonder about solving big questions); later, Mike Bernard made a friend when he discovered that Allison also played the Oboe through graduate school but had to give it up to study. Mike gave out his oboe challenge card and they talked about their love of making reeds.

All in all, not your typical science lecture, as we all discovered that sometimes it is not the answer but the questions that drive us. And the field of astrophysics, where radio telescopes are a tool to understand the cosmos, seems very new and exciting. We were impressed that there are still lots of mysteries out there, and Allison and her team are busy learning.

President Stephen gave Allison his famous non-microwavable magic mug and rang the meeting to an end at 1:30pm.



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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Ellen Simon	June 16
Bill Tilney	June 16
Pushpa Nagaraj	June 19

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## HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!

Kathy Meagher	6/17/87	38 Years
George Falardeau	6/17/15	10 Years
Scott Vandrick	6/17/24 as Honorary Member	Past President 2020-2021
Ginny Cushman	6/17/24	1 Year
Sheri Bonner	6/19/19	6 Years
Wendy Anderson	6/19/19	6 Years plus 4 previous years =10 Years

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 25, 2025 - <b>President Stephen's Last Meeting</b>
July 2, 2025 - DARK - No Meeting
July 9, 2025 - <b>President Hillary Schenk's First Meeting</b>
July 16, 2025 - PP Ken Joe - Life of a Youth Sports Commissioner
July 23, 2025 - Brandon Lamar, President Pasadena NAACP - Making a Difference Yesterday and Today
July 30, 2025 - Robert Shoji - ShowG Productions - When Little Tokyo was Bronzeville

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

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP**  
University Club Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave.

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

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

**Photographers: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt.**

**Ba**

**Graphic Design: Wende Lee**

**Proofers: Kathy Meagher & Amanda Pumilia**

# Making Magic

**by doing service**

PROMOTING PEACE

FIGHTING DISEASE

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.



Pasadena Rotary Club  
Stephen Smith, President 2024-25

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

**PRESIDENT: Stephen Smith**

**PRESIDENT ELECT: Hillary Schenk**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec**

**SECRETARY: Wende Lee**

**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Nevino Rocco, Tammy Silver, (President Elect Elect), Dede Venkat**

**Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club**

## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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