
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * June 20, 2025 * #01-022

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



***JOIN US AS PRESIDENT STEPHEN
IS HOSTING HIS LAST ROTARY
MEETING - 2024-2025***

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 25, 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: Don Andruess & the Rotary Variety Players
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Nick Duretta
Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
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



Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks

Dear Rotarians,

When I stepped into my leadership role, I was enthusiastic and had a clear vision for introducing new initiatives to our club. Various unforeseen factors, alas, quickly transformed my initial excitement into a test of patience, strategy, and personal growth. However I end the year proud of what we have accomplished together, most notably the successful launch of our Impact Club.

In July 2024, at the start of my term, DACdb reported our membership at approximately 220. This number was inaccurate, as about a third of these members had not attended a luncheon in years. Earlier this week, DACdb reported our membership at 142, with 61% considered "active" members. Of these 142 members, 72% are over 60 years old, indicating that we, like so many Rotary Clubs, are an aging club.

To address this, drawing from numerous Rotary-sponsored seminars and online training I introduced the "Impact Club" program. This program has been in existence for decades, and my intention was to infuse our club with younger members who are ready, willing, and able to participate in service projects. These projects would, to some extent, supplement

the work of our Done in a Day Committee. For those unfamiliar with the "Impact Club," it typically consists of younger members who may not be able to afford the monthly membership costs and are often employees who cannot take time off work for a couple of hours each week. They only pay for the lunches they attend but are considered "regular members" by Rotary International as they pay monthly dues. Most importantly, their primary role is to perform service projects for the club. Although there have been some bumps along the way, I am proud of how our Impact Club is shaping up.

As we all know, the Eaton Fire occurred on January 7th, 2025. It started basically in front of my house, under a Transformer, along the foothills in Altadena. I ended up on my roof, with my garden hose, for many hours, putting out embers not only on my house but my neighbors to the north and south, who were not home. It was quite the Apocalyptic evening. One I will never forget.

The irony is that the day before, The Co-chairs of the Fundraising Committee, Lisa Cavalier, Deb Lewis and I, sent out invitations about the Fundraiser that was to be held at the end of February. Both women had to resign from their respective posts as Deb Lewis lost her house and Lisa Cavalier got swamped with the aftereffects of the Eaton Fire.

In its place, I pivoted and set up a Fundraiser to be held at the end of June, with Karl, whose father was James Powers, the car designer who came up with the T-Bird concept when he worked at Ford. James was also a Retro-futuristic illustrator whose designs have been exhibited in the Smithsonian. His car collection consisted of 37 classic vehicles as well as 3,000 model cars, not to mention his artwork. Karl, a real estate developer, had spent \$2 million on his father's property to update it. He was under the gun to complete the work by the end of June as he was also selling his homes in Beverly Hills and moving into a portion of the property.

Peggy Kelly and Paul Roach stepped into the shoes of my previous Fundraising Chairs and did a spectacular job in attempting to set up this event by the end of June. Bottom line, through no Rotarian's fault, a few weeks ago Karl apologetically asked if we could move this Fundraiser event to September. He was also amenable to making copies of some of his Fathers illustrations to auction off. It was a big blow, but I am hoping we can still make this event happen in the next Rotary year.

Despite the frustrations and disappointments that I have dealt with during my term, I want to say that Pasadena Rotarians are incredibly wonderful, kind, and generous people and I will miss the kindness and professionalism that so many of you have exhibited to me and my wife.

I wish Pasadena Rotary nothing but the Best. It is a wonderful service club with a very bright future.

Sincerely,
Pasadena Rotary President

Stephen D. Smith
President 2024 - 2025
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Cell 310.908.1779

**ATTENDING THE MEETING -
MEALS & SEATING ARE**

BUFFET opens at 12:00 pm

PROVIDED BASED ON RSVP'S WE
RECEIVE

MEETING starts at 12:30 pm

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

CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

THE IMPACT CLUB ROTARY MIXER

Great time was had by all at the newly re-opened Altadena Restaurant El Patron Mexican Restaurant. Jim Osterling and wife, Scarlett, David McAlexander, Stanley Parkhurst's wife, Debi (first picture), and Paul Roach, Justene Adamec, Amanda Pumilia, Stanley Parkhurst, and Quinn Bebb (second picture).

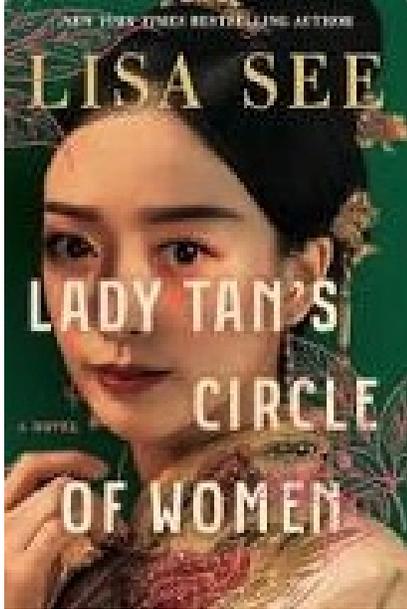


ROTARY READERS

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 and Rosemary at 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 and Cathy at



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

Cub Reporter: Marilyn Buchanan

**Photographers: Ken Joe &
Amanda Pumilia**

President Stephen Smith started off the day with calling us all order and bringing on Song Leader **PP Phil Miles** and a smaller group of Four Way Singers, who couldn't resist a tribute to The Beach Boys with their rendition of Sloop John B, with everyone joining in. **Eric Olson** provided today's inspiration.



Our "Trivia" **President Stephen** did his 'game show' today - all about Summer Trivia. The winning table won a \$10 Starbucks card each. They were: **Howard Raff, Marilyn Buchanan, Sneha Villalva, Mel Cohen, Phyllis Crandon, Dean Billman, Peggy Kelley** and **George Falardeau** (photo below)



We moved on into the meeting with the introduction of our speaker, David Naiditch. There were a few hiccups with the technical aspects of the speakers computer, so while the crew attended to the mechanical aspects, our esteem President helped us all along with guessing games, it is amazing how many people can come up with some of the silliest questions, however, we all played along to give our crew time to help get the set up properly done and allow our speaker to begin. **PP Phil Miles** introduced our speaker.

Mr. Naiditch, our speaker, has an amazing background, working as a computer scientist but playing and entertaining by playing the harmonica and guitar. He spoke about his work in the music industry and relayed his focus on the blues harmonica, along with the guitar. I do not believe that any of us, well maybe some of you, have seen so many different styles, and or sizes of harmonicas. And Mr. Naiditch was able to produce some beautiful sounds which were just amazing. Obviously, it takes skill and not just breathe to provide those sounds, let alone an entire song. I'm just sorry that we didn't get to hear a little bit more of his playing, as what he did play was really beautiful.

That's the end of Scoot for this week.



L2R: PP Phil Miles, David Naiditch, President Stephen, Evelyn Espinosa, Agnes Bollinger, John McDannel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jim Osterling	June 23
Ariel Drachenberg	June 26

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!

Megan Foker	6/20/18	7 Years
James Macpherson	6/24/21	4 Years
Diana Sedenquist	6/17/24	12 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 2, 2025 - DARK - No Meeting
July 9, 2025 - President Hillary Schenk's First Meeting
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

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.

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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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