

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

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www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



**WE ARE DARK THIS
WEEK - July 2nd!**

***NO MEETING DUE TO
INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION!***

See you back on 7/9/25

Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks

**THE END OF THE ROAD....OR JUST A
NEW BEGINNING!**

Well, this is it! End of the road. My tenure as your President comes to a close in four days. While the road has been undulating, and meandering at times, it has also been an incredible year



through the lens of the road we've traveled together.

When I first took the wheel, I knew the road ahead would have its share of twists and turns. There were moments when the fog of uncertainty rolled in, when we had to slow down, signal carefully, and trust each other. But together, we navigated every curve, - with purpose, unity, and a shared destination in mind.

We hit a few potholes, no doubt - some unexpected bumps that tested our suspension and our patience. But we never lost traction. We kept moving forward, fueled by service, fellowship, and a commitment to our community.

Along the way, we made some amazing pit stops - meaningful service projects, inspiring speakers, and unforgettable events. We even took a few scenic detours that reminded us why the journey matters just as much as the destination.

And now, as I pass the keys to the next President, I do so with gratitude and pride. The road doesn't end here. We're just approaching a new on-ramp, accelerating toward the future with even more momentum.

To my fellow Rotarians: thank you for riding shotgun, for steering with heart, and for helping keep our mission on course. May you all continue down this Rotary road - guided by the Four-Way Test, led by service above self, and always for the next mile.

Photo: President Stephen, wife Adriana Lim and son Michael Georgian

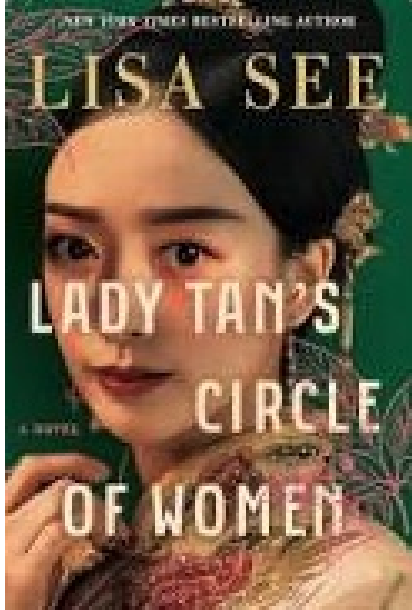
Stephen D. Smith
President 2024 - 2025
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Cell 310.908.1779

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

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

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: PP Ken Joe & Alan Schier

President Stephen rang the Big Brass Rotary Bell to open his last official Pasadena Rotary Club meeting at exactly 12:30 pm and introduced music master and Board Member **Don Andruess** to begin our meeting with song. Accompanying Don were our Rotary Variety Players, Ann Louise Christensen on piano, her husband Geno Escarrega on harmonica and percussion, and Leo Valenzuela on bass guitar.



After we gave our Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Don introduced his special guest members to perform an



unofficial Demotion set of skits and music – Ms. **Allison Burgos** who wrote and performed a tribute poem to President Stephen who had a magical year as Rotary President, alluding to his personal club theme, “The Magic of Rotary” – how he transformed routine into wonder through his leadership and service initiatives. She expressed gratitude for his impactful year, which included growth, fellowship, and successful projects, all while amazing us with her witty rhymes.

Then Don introduced us to the most humorous part of the meeting, a send-up of three songs that highlighted President Stephen’s year, and they were hilarious!

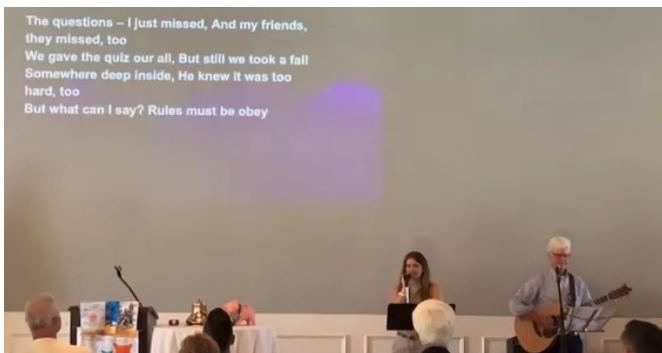
- **Dean Billman**, dressed in a backyard chef’s apron and giant spatula, noted that President Stephen held many Rotary BBQs at his house over the year, and then burst into “King of the Grill” (with apologies to Roger Miller’s King of the Road), accompanied by the Rotary Jazz Band playing back-up hobo harmonica, piano and walking bass line – “Grill for sale or rent, Charcoal Bags, fifty cents... King of the Grill!”



- **Allison Burgos** then sang the ABBA song, “The Winner Takes It All” with lyrics penned by **PP Mary Lou Byrne**, who gave Allison two days to practice when she fell ill, and Allison brought down the house! Her singing was delightful as she gave a rousing, soulful and spot-on performance, lamenting that **President Stephen’s** weekly trivia quizzes were too difficult to master, leading to her losing the coveted Starbucks gift card to another table who got all the right answers. “I don’t mean to complain, but the quizzes hurt my brain – Are pumpkins like a fruit? Which places grow the most corn? I guessed Kalamazoo, but the answer was just... two!”

- Then **Don Andruess** finished the trio of songs with “Mr. Stephen” (with apologies to Mr. Sandman): “Mr. Stephen of Rotary, we’d like to thank you for your Presidency... Congratulation on no incidents, no ptomaine poisoning or parking lot dents, there were no food fights or hostages taken, Every Wednesday was like a vacation - All the speakers, we thought they were great, especially the ones where we stayed awake; how could they not want to give you a hug, when you handed them that Rotary mug!”

The smiles in the audience really told the story – we had a great year and President Stephen enjoyed the clever songsters – and Alison got a well-deserved standing ovation for her performance!



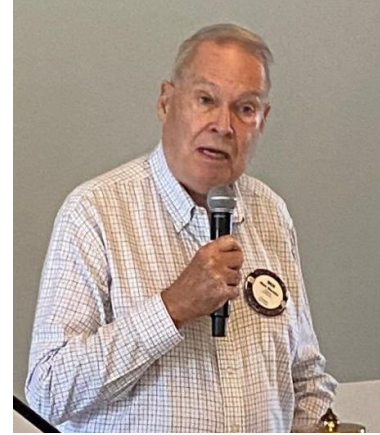
Nick Duretta had to follow all that with his inspiration, and he offered the best version of our club’s ideals with a Chinese

proverb: "If you want happiness for a day, go fishing; if you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else."

We had three guests today: **President Stephen** welcomed his wife, First Lady Adriana Lim, her son Michael Georgian and Morgan Nadeau introduced her guest, Gordon Solomonyan, of the Irvine Rotary Club, who wore his official jersey. We should get cool club jerseys, too?

President Stephen then made an announcement for Union Station Homeless Services (USHS) that they are looking for volunteers for their goodbye BBQ at the Tiny Village in Eagle Rock.

PP Cathy Simms announced that the book selections for the next Rotary year will soon close – see announcement above.



President Stephen's Last Trivia Contest

When **President Stephen** announced his last Trivia Contest, he was met with laughter since it was the subject of one of the Demotion songs. He asked Adriana to join him on stage, and they took turns asking questions on American Fourth of July history and on fun facts about President Stephen. Did you know, for instance, that there were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence? (no one got that one). Or that President Stephen's favorite ice cream is Rum Raisin, his favorite drink is a Dirty Martini, he was born in Cincinnati, and he puts catsup on everything, according to Adriana, even steak? Meet him at your local Shake Shack for a burger and wash it down with Pinot Noir.

The winning table was the President's table, and winner Adriana announced that she was giving her prized Starbucks card to **PP Mary Lou Byrnes** since she coined the lyrics about never winning the Trivia contest prize.

Then President Stephen read his farewell address to the club He was teary-eyed over his admiration of the help he received throughout this challenging year, and thanked the Board and **Wendy Anderson**, our administrator and hard-working organizer of each meeting this year and accountant **Sandi Mejia**.

We watched a home video that Adriana recorded on her cellphone as the Altadena fire on January 7th was starting across the street, as **President Stephen** stood on the roof with a garden hose watering down his roof, and the roofs of their neighbors on either side – saving all three houses. He mentioned that his fundraiser that was planned for February had to be postponed when his two co-chairs had to drop out as the Altadena Fire had ravaged their homes, too.

He was most proud of his creating and shepherding the new Pasadena Rotary Impact Club, for busy new members to join after hours and only pay for the meals they attended, keeping costs lower for them. This allowed lots of new members to join our local Rotary service projects and get involved on their terms while being a great benefit to the community.

He thanked **Wendy Anderson** again, and the club erupted with applause for all she does. **President Stephen** ended his speech with a pledge to help the incoming new **President Hillary** any way he can and hopes that the fundraising efforts for the Altadena Fire Relief through the special car museum event will finally happen in the fall – not in his term, but for the benefit of the community.

He was grateful to be our leader over this past crazy Rotary year, and truly learned the embodiment of our motto, "Service Above Self!"

President Stephen then introduced **PP Ken Joe** who introduced **PP Bob Monk** from his really cool Pasadena Rotary Club north man cave in Wisconsin via Zoom. **PP Ken** shared that Bob roared in on his motorcycle for his first meeting as Rotary President (1999-2000). **Bob** is the Chair of the Tarnished Brass Committee - he created and read the praising Tarnished Brass Certificate for **President Stephen**. **PP Ken** presented **President Stephen** with the Certificate.

Then **PP Ken** asked everyone to lift their champagne flutes to toast **President**, and soon to be **Past President Smith** and thanked him on behalf of the club for his service and to every Pasadena Rotarian for their service in making it an amazing year.





L2R: Scott Vandrick, Deborah Lewis, Michael Georgian, Adriana Lim, President Stephen, Jan Adams, Trina Davidian

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Kathy Meagher	June 27
John Gordon	June 29
Nick Helms	July 1
Ali Smyser	July 2
Bernadette Espinoza	July 3

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!

Curtis Smith	6/29/24	1 Year
Armida Baylon	6/29/23	2 Years
Howard Raff	6/30/01	24 Years + 19 Years = 43
J.P. Harris	7/1/15	10 Years
Angela Hawekotte	7/1/95	30 Years
William Hoyman	7/2/24	1 Year

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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 - Paul Harris Fellow Community Awards
August 6, 2025 - Sara Safari - Climb Your Everest
August 13, 2025 - Robert Shoji - When Little Tokyo was Bronzeville

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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

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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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