

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * June 6, 2025 * #01-020

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

ALLISON MATTHEWS,

CARNEGIE SCIENCE OBSERVATORIES

"Exploring Cosmic Mysteries with Radio Waves"

Introducer: PAUL ROACH



Allison is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Carnegie Science Observatories and has lived in Pasadena for nearly 4 years.

Allison grew up along the coast of Maine, where she developed a love of nature and mathematics. This curiosity about how the world works drove her to study physics at Lafayette College for her undergraduate degree. She later obtained a PhD in astrophysics at the University of Virginia.

Allison uses radio observations to create a cosmic timeline of when most of the stars in our universe formed. From its inception, radio astronomy has revealed a universe full of surprises: black holes billions of light-years away, rapidly spinning neutron stars, and

remnant light from the primordial universe (to name a few).

This talk will recount the origins and history of radio astronomy, its current puzzles, and how, in her research, synthesizing the radio picture with that taken at other wavelengths can transform our understanding of how galaxies grew over cosmic time.

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 11, 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: Eric Olson
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Amanda Pumilia
Scoot Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt
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

Father's Day is soon approaching. As a parent I can say that there is no greater joy than the birth of your child. Father's Day serves as a dedicated occasion to honor and appreciate fathers and father figures for their contributions to family and societies.

Father's Day and Rotary International can work together in several impactful, meaningful, and community-driven ways. Listed below are some ideas for collaboration.

1. Celebrate Fathers Who Serve. Host a Father's Day luncheon celebrating Rotarian fathers and community dads who exemplify "Service above Self."
2. Father-Child Service Projects. Organize family-inclusive service projects the weekend of Father's Day.
3. Fatherhood & Mentorship Campaign. Rotary could sponsor mentorship programs pairing Rotarians with at-risk youth. Run public awareness campaigns around positive fatherhood.
4. Fundraiser for Family-Focused Initiative. Host a Father's Day charity run, or BBQ to raise funds for Fatherhood education, Domestic violence prevention, Boys & Girls Clubs or parenting programs.
5. Joint Media Campaign. Use social media, local newspapers, or radio to highlight stories of fathers in Rotary who've made a difference.
6. Father's Day Rotary Club Open House. Invite community fathers to a special club meeting or event to introduce them to Rotary's mission.

As Rotarian Fathers we can effectively convey appreciation and strengthen the bond with the Rotary community.

Stephen D. Smith

President 2024 - 2025

Rotary Club of Pasadena

Cell 310.908.1779

**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

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

L2R: Ben Sellick, Deborah Lewis, Robert Lyons, Don Andruess, Gui Bittencourt, Phyllis Crandon



**ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
& EVENTS**



DONE IN A DAY VOLUNTEERS

Altadena Fire Recovery Event

Need Volunteers to help distribute supplies to those affected by the Fire. 400 vetted families invited along with 300 additional in the afternoon.

Altadena Rotary Club thanks everyone for their help and donations

this Sat. amounting to almost \$150K in distributions. (store certificates, gift cards, household goods, clothing, shoes, food, etc. Questions: Peter Huisking
peterhuisking4077@gmail.com

SATURDAY - JUNE 7TH

1st Shift: 7:30 am - 11:00 am or 11:00 am to 2:00 pm



SATURDAY

JUN 14

2025

7:00 PM PT

BMO STADIUM
LOS ANGELES, CA

SIGN UP NOW

SIGN UP NOW to attend the Angel City FC Women's Soccer game on **June 14th (Saturday)**.

Held at BMO Stadium and the game starts at 7:00. Angel City FC will be playing the North Carolina Courage. To get a discount, we need at least

ten (10) people to go. Special ticket price for total of \$440 for ten, or **\$44 per person**.

There were five people (including President Stephen) that raised their hand on Wednesday, so we would need at least five more to attend.

EMAIL now if you wish to attend: president@pasadenarotary.com

BMO STADIUM: Located in historic Exposition Park, BMO Stadium is conveniently located near

the convergence of the 110 and 10 Freeways and accessible via the Metro Expo line.

GENERAL PARKING. Faster entry, purchase a parking pass prior to your arrival and have it ready to scan. Enter via 39th & Figueroa St or Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd & Hoover St. and you will be directed to a general lot.



PASADENA ROTARY IMPACT CLUB

HAPPY HOUR + MIXER

OPEN TO ALL PASADENA ROTARIANS!
BRING PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

5:30 - 7:30 PM

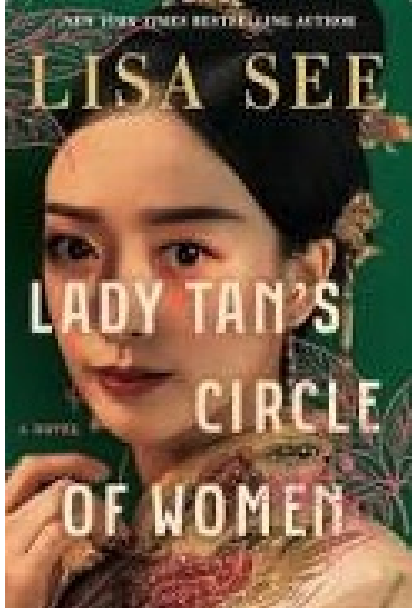
EL PATRON MEXICAN
RESTAURANT

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 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: Paul Roach

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

President **Stephen Smith** called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM and **Eric Olson** led a rousing rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Don Andruess provided an uplifting moment of inspiration, speaking about the act of giving—not only as a gift to others but as a proven benefit to the giver. Drawing from research in positive psychology, he described the “helper’s high,” noting how acts of service can release feel-good hormones, lower blood pressure, and even extend life expectancy. His remarks were punctuated by humor and memorable quotes, including, “Don’t give until it hurts—give until it feels good.”

Following the inspiration, President Stephen took a moment to recognize **John Gordon**, who is celebrating his 40th anniversary as a member of Pasadena Rotary. The room applauded as John stood to be honored for his dedication and service.



There were no guests to introduce this week. President Stephen invited several individuals

to the podium for announcements:

- Cathy Simms encouraged members to participate in the upcoming Rotary Readers. This session will feature Lady Tan's *Circle of Women* by Lisa See and will also ask for recommendations for the reading list for the upcoming Rotary year. (see above)
- David McAlexander invited members to sign up online for this Saturday's *Done In A Day* project, giving away much needed aid in partnership with Altadena Rotary. (See above)
- Amanda Pumilia announced a mixer on June 17th at El Patron, hosted by the Impact Club to support Altadena businesses. The event is open to anyone interested in Rotary, including prospective members. (See flyer)
- Paul Roach again shared that the "Automotive Dreams" fundraiser, originally planned for the end of June, is being postponed due to a scheduling conflict with the host. A new date will be announced soon and Paul encouraged those who've already signed up to stay committed—the event promises to be worth the wait.
- Stephen Smith made a final announcement inviting members to attend an Angel City FC women's soccer match on Friday, June 14, at BMO Stadium. If ten members sign up, the group will qualify for a discount on tickets. Interest was strong, please sign up via information on flyer above.

President Stephen then invited PE **Hillary Schenk** to introduce our speaker, **Amanda Pumilia**, a veteran kindergarten teacher and chair of the club's Impact Club. Introduced with affection as both a friend and the daughter of a longtime Rotarian, Amanda brought laughter, insight, and candid reflections on the joys and challenges of early childhood education.

Amanda opened with a lively overview of the modern kindergarten classroom—a far cry from the naps and juice boxes many attendees remembered. Today's five-year-olds, she explained, are navigating increasingly complex academic and social expectations. Amanda gave the audience a behind-the-scenes look at her day-to-day teaching, using photos, student work samples, and even interactive worksheets from her viral "Kindergarten Worksheets for Adults" series, which originally gained popularity during the pandemic.



Her classroom, she explained, is centered on two things: high expectations and play-based learning. Through projects like engineering beaver dams, building model airports, and interactive storytelling, students develop foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking—all while learning how to work together, manage emotions, and build confidence. She shared touching stories of progress: from students who couldn't write their name in August to reading full sentences by spring.

Throughout her talk, Amanda emphasized the importance of differentiation in education. In any given class, she said, she has students reading at a third-grade level alongside children still learning their letters. To meet each child where they are, she scaffolds learning with games, peer models, small groups, and a daily dose of humor. Her goal, she told the crowd, is not perfection—but confidence and a love of learning.

Amanda opened the floor for questions and fielded inquiries ranging from classroom supplies and school funding to early childhood language acquisition, inclusion of students with special needs, and the rollout of California's Universal TK (transitional kindergarten) program. She shared her perspective on equity in education, noting disparities between schools and emphasizing the role teachers can play in giving all students a strong start.



As the meeting concluded, Amanda reflected on the resilience and creativity of her students—especially English learners and children with learning differences. With warmth and wit, she reminded the room that even in the age of state standards and digital testing, joy and curiosity still have a place in the classroom.



L2R: Amanda Pumilia, David McAlexander, Quinn Bebb, President Stephen Smith, George Riccardella, Vivian Kambe, Kelly White, PE Hillary Schenk

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Diana Peterson-More	June 11
Gordon O'Neill	June 11
Hassan Kheradmandan	June 12

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!

Gwen Strong	6/8/22	3 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 16, 2025 - David Naiditch, Harmonica Player - "I Ain't Got No Respect"
June 25, 2025 - President Stephen's Last Meeting
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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Ba

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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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