

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * May 23, 2025 * #01-018

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Julie Uhrman

Angel City Football Club – An LA Success Story

INTRODUCER: Alex Boekelheide



Julie Uhrman is the CEO and Co-Founder of Angel City Football Club (ACFC), Los Angeles' professional women's soccer team that debuted in 2022 in the National Women's Soccer League. ACFC is one of the world's only majority female-founded and run professional sports teams and was recently named the world's most valuable women's sports team with a \$250 million valuation. Julie co-founded ACFC with Academy Award-winning actress and activist Natalie Portman and technology venture capitalist Kara Nortman.

Under Julie's leadership, Angel City Football Club has also achieved significant recognition. Most recently, the club was honored by ESPN as the Humanitarian Team of the Year at the 2024 ESPY Awards, in recognition of its incredible community impact work. In May 2023, ACFC was named

Sports Team of the Year by Sports Business Journal, making history as the first women's team to win the category. Fast Company has also recognized the team with several honors, including Most Innovative Companies of 2024, Brands that Matter Awards, and Best Place to Work for Innovators. Furthermore, in 2024, the club received accolades from the Inc. Best in Business Awards in 2024.

Julie is active in the Los Angeles sports and technology communities. She is a board member of the LA Sports and Entertainment Council, The Rose Bowl Institute, and the LA Sports Council. She is also an active executive in the LA Chapter of WISE (Women in Sports and Events). Additionally, Julie is part of the DraftKings' All-Star Network as an

Advisor to Drive by DraftKings and earned her FIFA Diploma in Club Management in 2024.

Before co-founding ACFC, Julie was the EVP and General Manager of OTT Ventures at Lionsgate, Head of Platform Business Development at Jaunt, a virtual reality content startup, and founder of OUYA, a pioneering Android-based game console.

She is a proud mom of two and resides in Los Angeles.

WEDNESDAY – MAY 28, 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
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Nick Helms
Scoot Zone Cub Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt
Technical: 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

This past Wednesday I had yet another Trivia contest at our luncheon, with the topic being about Memorial Day. Yes, learning can be fun!

I attempted to uncover some past undertakings of what some Rotary clubs have done to honor our Military. I came across an article about a Past President of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Club. His name is Rick Clark and he was a Vietnam veteran who served as a Seabee, as members of the U.S. Navy's construction battalion are called.

He enlisted District 5340 leaders to recruit 400 volunteers to participate in a project,

dubbed 2024 Operation Flags for Vets. They placed American flags beside headstones at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego. It was a powerful event that had impacted many people, including countless survivors who expressed their gratitude. The District plans to repeat the event this Memorial Day. Additionally, a new district committee was formed to coordinate projects related to military members and veterans, which ultimately raised \$14,000.

Listed below are some common activities that Rotary Clubs have performed in relation to Memorial Day over the years.

1. Parades. Rotary clubs often take part in Memorial Day parades.
2. Flag Displays. Rotary clubs have coordinated volunteer efforts to place flags at cemeteries or military memorials.
3. Community Projects. Some clubs support veterans and military families with food drives, care package drives and fundraisers.
4. Veteran Recognition Programs. Some Rotary clubs have hosted events that recognize the service of veterans in their communities by providing them with a platform to share their experiences or stories.
5. Partnerships with Veterans Organizations. Many Rotary clubs partner with local veterans' organizations to support events, offer resources, and foster connections for veterans and families.

These activities not only serve to honor the memory of those who have served but also strengthen community ties, promote the importance of service, and offer tangible support. What can we do as Pasadena Rotarians?

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



ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

PHOTO OF THE WEEK!
Rotarian Cedrick Jihanian



Super Volunteer!

Pasadena Rotarians volunteered their time to help make the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts a huge success. The Showcase House needed many people to make the event run smoothly and Rotarians provided helping hands. Rotarians greeted visitors, told them about the beautiful rooms, and kept everyone safe. To thank us for volunteering, Showcase House donated \$50 per shift Rotarians covered.

Our volunteers earned a total of \$1,000 for Pasadena Rotary. Besides earning funds for our club, volunteers got access to special half-price tickets available only to volunteers. Keep in mind for next year!

Organized by Amanda Pumilia, we thank Adam Kawasaki, Elisabeth Browne, Martha Shenkenberg, J.P. Harris, Diane Harris, Morgan Nadeau, Adriana

Lim, Tammy Silver, Armida Baylon, Taleen Hindoyan, Nick Duretta and Cedrick Jihanian for volunteering. **And a special thanks to our super volunteer, Cedrick Jihanian, who took on an amazing SIX shifts!** (*pictured above*)

Automotive Dreams 31 Tickets Reserved and Counting! June 28, 2025 | 4–7 PM

Momentum is building! As of this week, **31 Rotarians and guests** have signed up to join us for *Automotive Dreams*: an unforgettable evening of classic cars, delightful drinks, and community spirit—hosted at an exclusive private residence in support of **Eaton Fire Relief**.

Marvel at a curated collection of vintage automobiles

Enjoy light bites, wine, beer, and signature cocktails

Tickets: \$150: Proceeds will benefit recovery efforts for those impacted by the fire.

Sign up at this week's lunch—and invite your friends!

Interested in sponsoring?
Fuel your dreams—email Paul Roach at

SAVE THE DATE

AUTOMOTIVE

DREAMS

JUNE 28, 2025

Help us raise \$18,000 for Eaton Canyon Fire Relief!

Join us at an exclusive private residence featuring a remarkable collection of classic cars

Tickets \$150 includes light bites, wine, beer, and signature cocktails



PASADENA ROTARY

peggy@timelesscelebrations.com

paul.roach@hmri.org.

Have something great for the opportunity drawing? Contact Peggy Kelley at



The Scoot Zone

Cub Reporter: Fred Soldwedel

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

President Stephen Smith presided over Pasadena Rotary's inaugural George R. Hensel Ethics Contest, a venue for high school students to publicly address ethical dilemmas personally faced by them.

Appearances – Song, Inspiration & Announcements

Song Leader **Eric Olson** ("America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates); Inspiration by **Becky Detrick** ("All of You" by Becky Detrick)



Announcements:

- **PP Ken Joe** announced the Tyros hosted Club Social Mixer on 5/22/25;
- **PP Phil Miles** for \$100 Polio Pig contribution in gratitude for wife Shelley's safe return from bomb-riddled Palm Springs;
- **President Elect Hillary Schenk** announced \$885 raised by our club for the now-scheduled replacement of the incinerated Altadena Rotary Club's badges and badge box; and
- **Paul Roach** announced a \$500 challenge donation if 10 people signed up for the June 28, 2025 Automotive Dreams fundraiser before the end of lunch. **President Stephen Smith** matched Paul's challenge, bringing the total potential donation to \$1,000 if the challenge was met

President Stephen then put on his Game Host Hat to see how much our club members knew about Memorial Day with 12 often difficult questions. One table was able to answer 9 of the 12 questions and won Starbucks Gift Cards. They know their history!

Co-chair **Alan Schier** was introduced to present our four speakers today. He also introduced Co-chair **Vivian Kambe** and two teachers Darlene Osmonson and Paola Bisharat.

George R. Hensel

Rotary International District 5300 George R. Hensel Ethics Essay Contest is designed to challenge high school students to analyze ethical issues and concerns confronting them in today's complex world. Our fellow Rotarian, businessman, and philanthropist, George R. Hensel, Ph.D., privately funded this contest before his death in 2010, our club provided a \$500 first place and three \$250 second place awards. The recipients were determined earlier by a committee co-chaired by **Alan Schier** and **Vivian Kambe**.



The dilemmas, means of resolution and outcomes are discussed below:



I to R: President Stephen, Alan Schier (co-chair), Zalea Nunes, Serene Nunez, Andreas Peterson, Darlene Osmonson (teacher), Nicole Tseng, Paola Bisharat (teacher), Vivian Kambe (co-chair)

Zalea Nunes, Pasadena High School

Is it ethical to be ethical? Citing charity projects undertaken for self-serving reasons such as for college admission, Zalea described a charity that she founded which fosters the development of language skills. Zalea's discussion showing the work benefiting the students and her essay took first place. (photo right)



Serena Nuñez, Pasadena High School

What do you do you do when you realize that your parents have faults and shortcomings too? Faced with an alcoholic and controlling father, Serena decided at an early age that what was best for all concerned was for her to take care of herself first, and to not allow anyone to ever drag her down. The transformation changed her life.

Nicole Tseng, Arcadia High School

What happens when at the age of ten your grandmother is charged more for using a large plate for a small portion at her favorite restaurant when the difference in plate prices had not been disclosed? You speak up. Dad smiled as Nicole reported the discount. To Nicole, the essence of living an ethical life is being fair to all concerned.

Andreas Peterson, Pasadena High School

How can I best help a person dwelling on the street? Yes, that is what Andreas was thinking as he stopped at a red light in L.A. He bought a sandwich, returned and was thanked by the recipient. But Andreas felt empty and overwhelmed that he could not help more. Then Andreas realized that for him, being able to serve more did not matter. What mattered is that he did the best that he could at that moment.

The students were given their cash prize, certificate and one of **President Stephen's** Magic Mugs.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned.



L2R: PP Phil Miles, Ellen Simon, Mel Cohen, President Stephen, Venice Dunn, Fred Soldwedel, Hassan Kheradmandan, Cathy Simms

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Allison Burgos	May 24
Elizabeth Blanco	May 28
Jose Gomez	May 29

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 4, 2025 - Paul Harris Fellow Award
June 11, 2025 - Allison Matthews, Carnegie Institute, Exploring Cosmic Mysteries with Radio Waves
June 16, 2025 - David Naiditch, Harmonica Player - "I Ain't Got No Respect"
June 25, 2025 - President Stephen's Last Meeting

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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

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