

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * September 1, 2023 * #23-1335

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

EDSEL D'SOUZA

"You Never Know: An Immigrant Story"

Introducer: Jonathan Edwards



Edsel D'souza is a partner at Citrust Insurance Agency based in Los Angeles. He has been a licensed broker in California since 2017. He specializes in health insurance for individuals, families, Medicare enrollments, in addition to assisting clients with home, auto, business insurance and workers compensation. Prior to partnering at Citrust Insurance Agency, Edsel immigrated from India to study at Johnson & Wales University's hospitality program. He has nearly 20 years of hospitality experience and served in several Executive Food & Beverage positions at properties that include The Ritz-Carlton Boston, Hyatt Hotels in Los Angeles before becoming Assistant Director of Food and Beverage at the flagship Park Hyatt in New York City.

Edsel is currently on the Board at the LAX Coastal Chamber which services the communities of Westchester, Los Angeles International Airport, Marina del Rey, Playa Vista, and the

surrounding beach cities of Los Angeles. Additionally, he created and chairs LAX Coastal Connections, a monthly networking meeting that's designed to pull professional leaders together to showcase their businesses.

Besides insurance, Edsel is involved at St. Monica's Church in Santa Monica. Also, he's passionate about cooking Indian food and promoting it to everyone since it's healthy, tantalizing and nutritious.

WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

MEETING LOCATION

ALTADENA TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB

2290 Country Club Drive, Altadena

Complimentary Parking

PARKING: As you are aware, parking at the Altadena Town & Country Club is limited, and we want to address this issue with some parking considerations to ensure a pleasant experience for all members:

1. Arrive Early: If you have specific accessibility needs to park closer to the club's facilities, plan to arrive early. By doing so, you increase the chances of securing a parking spot in close proximity to the main building.

2. Consider Walking: For those members who enjoy walking or are keeping track of their daily steps, we encourage you to park in the farther sections of the parking lot or along the street. This thoughtful gesture not only allows members who need closer parking to find a spot more easily but also contributes to your own physical activity goals.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping one another.

Must RSVP to attend!

DEADLINE TO RSVP IS 11:00 am - MONDAY 9/4/23

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier

Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen

Song Leader: Eric Olson

Inspiration: Janine Hamner Holman

Scout Zone Reporter: PP Mary Lou Byrne

Photographer: Hans Rosenberger & Tammy Silver

Technical/Sound: Frank Fish, Scott Carlson, Robert Lyons

Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

To attend LIVE - RSVP Below

Non-members are welcome - \$40.00 includes lunch

NO ZOOM CAST ON WEDNESDAY

Future Flash



By President Justene Adamec

The speech this past week, Restoring the Blue Boy, is something Program Committee co-chair and Past President Mary Lou Byrne has wanted for quite some time. Thanks to Mary Chalon, it finally happened.

So, I am going to keep mentioning my dream speech topics. At some point, one of you will run into someone who can speak on one of these topics and my plea will just magically pop into your head.

Longevity

The zoo's efforts to save species from extinction.

Bringing a mammoth back from extinction

UAPs, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, formerly known as UFOs.

The speaker has to be utterly charming and know their topic. They don't need a particular viewpoint. They could, for example, be completely against reviving a mammoth.

My chosen theme, which is actually on the banner, is Looking Toward the Future. Unofficially,

and out of necessity, my theme for the year is “roll with the punches” because there’s always something going wrong. Both those themes could apply to reviving a mammoth.

To DONATE to Rotary District 5300 Maui Fire Relief Fund - [Click here!](#)

Justene Adamec
626-806-2529

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Matt Bookman and Tammy Silver



Where was the bell? It was missing, so **Past President Mary Lou Byrne** helpfully shouted “ding” into the too-hot mic and nearly blasted everybody’s eardrums out. **President Justene Adamec** got the crowd under control, the mics adjusted, and called the meeting to order at 12:31. **PP Mary Lou**, accompanied by **Don Andruess** on guitar, **Past President Cory Brendel** on the “live shakers,” and guest Gino Escarrega on bongos, led us in singing the Elvis classic “Suspicious Minds,” followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **Don** gave the inspiration, sharing a variety of humorous quotes about happiness, concluding with “happiness is like the common cold – it’s catching!”



We remained standing while **Past President Ken Hill** gave a tribute to Jack Gurley, a former Pasadena Rotarian who passed away on August 15 at age 90. Jack attended PCC, graduated from USC, and served in the U.S. Army in Kreuznach, Germany. He was a banker with Sanwa Bank and its predecessors as well as Citizens Business Bank in Pasadena. He joined Pasadena Rotary in 1990. And, said, **Ken**, he was born and passed away in the same years as his friend and ours, John Cushman.



At that point we all sat down, but **Ken** remained standing to introduce our newest member. **Michael Desplaines** was born and raised in Boston and graduated from the University of Rhode Island and the University of New Hampshire. He started his career in gardening with the YMCA and worked in various gardens on the East Coast before being the winner of a nationwide search for the new CEO of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. And, more to the point, he is a longtime Rotarian and was the President of the Norfolk, Virginia Rotary Club in 2022-2023! “I’ve

always been a big fan of service above self,” said Michael. “It’s a mantra I carry daily. I’m excited to be in a big club and to meet all of you!”

Next up, we introduced the guests: **President Justene**, **Cathy Simms**, and **Howard Raff** all brought guests, and Professor Eric Doehne from Scripps College came on his own because he read about the program online!

President Justene remarked ruefully that “if we had the bell, we’d see it was bright and shiny!” After it was blackened in the U Club fire, **Paul Martin** took it home and scrubbed it with his Dremel tool and electric screwdriver to make it shiny and reveal the previously tarnished-over engraving! **President Justene** presented him with a Rotary re-usable drinking straw to thank him for his efforts.

There were so many announcements!

President Justene donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of her daughter, Maddy Pumilia, being nominated for an Emmy Award for the seventh time (she’s already won twice)!

Past President Kathy Meagher donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of our late Past President John Cushman, who passed away this month. She also donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of **Leah Snell’s** grandmother, who was a “Rosie the Riveter” back in the day.

Past President Ken Joe donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of his wife’s getting the best birthday gift ever last week: the couple’s first grandson! grandbaby Joe weighed 8 lbs.11 oz and is, **Ken** assured us, “not your average Joe!”

Wende Lee donated to the Polio Pig in honor of **Paul Martin**, who, upon finding out that Sycamores youth welfare organization needed the use of a 3d printer, invited four 14-year-olds to his home office to use his! Thanks, **Paul**!

Past President Phil Miles made the following announcement on behalf of **Past President Frank Nicholas**, who has retired and moved to Portland, Oregon: “A tribute to John Cushman – I regarded him as a mentor and was proud to call him a friend.” In John’s honor, **Frank** donated \$200 to the Pasadena Rotary Foundation, and \$100 to become a member of the Polio Plus Society. And that’s not all! In memory of the time **Frank** brought and shared a bottle of Irish whiskey at a Pasadena Rotary meeting during his presidency, **Frank** donated a bottle of Jameson Irish whiskey to “the newest member of Tyros present at today’s meeting.” Well, that was obviously **Michael Desplaines**, who had been inducted moments before! Finally, Phil extended a \$30 polio pig donation and congratulations to **Lynne Sullivan** on her recent wedding.



Fun fact: **President Justene** and **Don Andruess** were both inducted on the day **PP Frank** brought Irish whiskey to the meeting and, she said, “it’s been down hill ever since!”

Done in a Day Co-Chair **Stephen Smith** and **Lisa Kroese** recapped last Saturday’s successful Done in a Day project at Don Benito School, at which Rotarians and Don Benito parents cleared planting beds and planted trees and plants. **Lisa** quipped that her big lesson from the day was “Rotarians are more obedient than parent volunteers!”

Tammy Silver recapped last Friday night’s Rotary Roamers outing to the Mt. Baldy ski lift and Top of the Notch restaurant. A good time was had by all!

PP Mary Lou Byrne introduced our speaker, Christina O’Connell of the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Christina is the Mary Ann and John Sturgeon Senior Paintings Conservator at the Huntington, and she single-handedly restored Thomas Gainsborough’s The Blue Boy, beginning in 2017.

Christina began with a bit of surprising news: Although the Blue Boy’s subject was long thought to be a portrait



of one Jonathan Buttall, the son of a wealthy merchant, the new theory is that the real subject was Gainsborough's nephew, Gainsborough Dupont! Either way, the painting was first exhibited in 1770 in the Royal Academy in London, in only the second year of the Academy's existence.

California railroad magnate Henry Huntington purchased the painting in 1921, which created quite a stir because the Blue Boy had been widely exhibited in England and was very very famous! The people in England were not happy to see their treasure shipped off to California. After its restoration, the painting was returned to London for a visit to the National Gallery last year, on the 100th anniversary of its last exhibition

at the National Gallery.

When Christina was hired at the Huntington, she examined all the paintings and determined the Blue Boy was a priority because there was a significant amount of flaking paint, and also cracks and splits in the wood stretcher bars.

She used various imaging techniques to analyze the condition of the painting:

- Ultraviolet light showed layers of old varnish, and where restorers had "overpainted."
- X-rays showed there had originally been a dog next to the boy, but Gainsborough decided to cover it up before the painting was completed. X-rays also showed the canvas had been used before, for a different portrait, and revealed a tear in the canvas that is estimated to be 200 years old.
- Infrared reflectology revealed how Gainsborough used dark paint to cover the old portrait before beginning the new portrait.

Christina explained that "from the early stages we knew we wanted to share this process with our visitors, so we established a satellite conservation space in the gallery" where visitors could observe the work being done. Christina also gave regular "gallery talks" and took questions from visitors.

The Huntington has a very detailed web site where you can see the details of the project, along with fantastic visuals: <https://huntington.org/exhibition/project-blue-boy>

Christina left a lot of time for questions, which was good because the audience was bursting with them! The meeting adjourned at 1:30 and everyone filed out happy and a little more educated than when it began.



L2R: President Justene, Debbie Saxe, Eric Doehne, Christina O'Connell, Mary Lou Byrne, Gary Kearney, and Debbie Loveland.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The Famous Ice Tea Toast

NEVINO ROCCO - CYRIL VERGIS - ROBERT EARNEST



CHECK IN with Alan & Jane

FIRM DEADLINE TO RSVP

MONDAY 9/4/23 at 11:00 am

**NO RSVP'S accepted after
the Deadline.**

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

MENU

**Chicken Salad Croissant, Sun-Dried
Apricots, Tarragon and Golden Raisins**

Roasted Salmon, Pasilla Cream Sauce

**Super Food Salad, Kale, Cabbage, Apple,
Fresh Herbs, Hemp Seeds, Activated
Turmeric Vinaigrette**

RSVP: office@pasadenarotary.com

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

**9/11/23 - Monday
11-11:30 am**

**TYROS 9/11 TREE
PLANTING**

Eaton Canyon Drive

SHOP WITH A COP

August 24, 2023

**Rotary Club of Pasadena, Pasadena Police Department, Girls
and Boys Club of Pasadena, East Pasadena Target**



PASADENA MEDIA NEWS UPDATE



**Done in A Day
Don Benito Elemenary School
Campus Beautification Day - 9/26/23
Thanks!**

**Stephen Smith, Lisa Kroese,
Sandy Goodenough,
Alan Schier, Adriana Lim**



ROTARY ROAMERS - 8/26/23
Moonlight Hike on Mt. Baldy

Back row: Corey Brendel, Liza Billington,
Tammy Silver, Hillary Schenk, Adriana
Lim-Smith, Cathy Simms

Middle row: Alan Schier, Michele Ferroni,
Justene Adamec, Sandy Goodenough,
Garrett Simms, Stephen Smith, Pat
Wright, Russ Guiney

Front row: Michael Silver, Richard Schulhof

SURPRISE!
Happy Birthday Cake for
President Justene!





PRESIDENTS COCKTAIL *Party*

Save the Date

September 10

4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

In Honor of
President Justene
Adamec

2023 - 2024

Location:



5917 Satsuma.
No. Hollywood



Ticket Price \$50

RSVP: Mferroni818@gmail.com
or Cpponcedeleon@cbbank.com

ROTARY READERS

MONDAY - September 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm
MEMPHIS, Tara M. Stringfellow

Cathy Simms will lead the discussion of Memphis by
Tara M. Stringfellow at 6 pm September 11, 2023.

Contact Cathy Simms at simmsie1@pacbell.net to
RSVP or with any questions



POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED!

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement (30 seconds) about your family, business or a favorite nonprofit or a Committee announcement? Email Wendy at office@pasadenarotary.com by Tues at noon. Minimum donation for Polio Pig Announcement: \$20 or for \$30+ which is billed to your account. Additional \$20 If you wish to leave flyers (in a stack on the table not individual) or a hand-out at end of meeting.

Happy Birthday!

Tammy Duke	Sept. 1st
Mike Bradley	Sept. 4th
Grant Wilcox	Sept. 4th
Leah Snell	Sept. 7th
Charles Kiu	Sept. 7th

Happy Rotaversary!

Dick Ward	9/1/82	41 Years
Tony Phillips	9/1/84	39 Years
Jane Waas	9/1/87	36 Years

Christle Balvin	9/1/87	36 Years
Eric Olson	9/1/95	28 Years
Chris Miller	9/1/22	1 Year
Bobbie Ferguson	9/1/22	1 Year
Jane Imai	9/2/09	14 Years
Jim Osterling	9/5/07	16 + 10 = 26 Years
Pushpa Nagaraj	9/7/16	7 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sept. 13th - Larry Livingston, USC Dept.of Music (Retired) - Be Your Own Conductor

Sept. 20th - Danny Feldman, Pasadena Playhouse,"Victory Lap"

Sept. 27th - Troy Anderson (former Pasadena Rotarian) - Speak Up For the Poor

Oct. 4th - Dr. Elizabeth Blanco, PUSD Interim Superintendent,100 Day Plan

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

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm
The University Club Pasadena
175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101**

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**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5pm**

**PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec
PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne
SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni**

TREASURER: Tony Phillips

CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver, Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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