

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* September 15, 2023 \* #23-1337

[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

*THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER*

**DANNY FELDMAN**

*"Taking a Victory Lap: Why Theatre Can Change the World"*

**Introducer: PP Scott Vandrick**



Danny Feldman joined Pasadena Playhouse in 2016. Overseeing both the artistic and business operations of the organization, he has worked to stabilize operations while ensuring the highest quality productions. His first season of programming, including *Our Town*, *King Charles III*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Belleville* and *Bordertown Now* was lauded by audience members and critics alike, receiving the company's first Ovation nomination for Best Season.

Prior to the Playhouse, Feldman was Executive Director at Labyrinth Theater in New York City, where he oversaw the

company's first Broadway production, instituted an audience development plan that doubled the audience, and increased contributed income to resolve the organization's long-standing debt. As Managing Director at Reprise Theatre Company, he increased artistic programming, created a city-wide festival, launched a concert series featuring lesser-known Broadway musicals, and created education program, giving at-risk high school students an introduction to classic American musicals.

Under Feldman's leadership, the Pasadena Playhouse was recently awarded the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award. "We are thrilled to present the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award to Pasadena Playhouse," said Heather Hitchens, President and CEO of the American Theatre Wing and Charlotte St. Martin, President of The Broadway League. "Pasadena Playhouse has made a significant impact – on both a local and global level, by developing some of the most innovative and inspiring works and artists."

**WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**  
**ALTADENA TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB**  
2290 Country Club Drive, Altadena - *Complimentary Parking*

**Must RSVP to attend!**

**DEADLINE TO RSVP IS 11:00 am - MONDAY 9/18/23**  
*If you RSVP, you'll receive a confirmation!*

**Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier**  
**Song Leader: Don Andruess**  
**Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen**  
**Inspiration: George Falardeau**  
**Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman**  
**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards & Matt Bookman**  
**Technical/Sound: Scott Carlson**  
**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



Our Rotary Club has a President Elect position. The Board chooses the President Elect. The only criterion is that the candidate has to have served on the Board. Having only one minimum requirement opens up a larger pool of candidates. The President for any Rotary year, which runs from July 1 through June 30, takes the position 18 months before. We announce it at the Annual Holiday Party.

That long lead time gives the potential President time to get up to speed on everything that has to be done. There's never enough time, because something unexpected will happen. You know, like COVID or the University Club fire, or another President resigning. Not to scare you off. We do have a lot of things in place to help.

1. Unlike most clubs, we have paid staff.
2. We pay for you to attend Rotary's weekend President Elect Training Session during your President Elect year.
3. Past Presidents, board members and pretty much everyone else in the club is eager to help you.

I think that you – each of you- would bring your own strengths to the Presidency. It is a wonderfully good thing to have potential Presidents a few years out so each of them can be brought into leadership for as long as possible. I would like to hear about your interest and your plans. You could change your mind. Some people say "I'm interested" and when they start looking at it, realize it's not for them. Others express interest and don't settle on "when."

If you are interested in running for President 2025-2026, you *must* contact me in the usual ways -





call, text, email, accost me at a meeting. If you are interested in being President in any future year, you *should* contact me; the methods are the same.

Justene Adamec  
626-806-2529

# The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Matt Bookman and Hillary Schenk



Everybody was having such a good time chatting over lunch that they didn't even hear **President Justene Adamec** ring the bell at 12:30! She finally got them all to their feet, and **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, with **Don Andruess** on guitar and **Major Roy Wild** on tambourine, led everyone in singing "76 Trombones" from the musical "The Music Man," in honor of our guest speaker who is himself a very prominent music man. **Claudia Ponce de Leon** continued the theme with her inspiration, a poem entitled "Conductor of Life" by Ruth Rayment. (photo left)

Our guests were all in the family this week: **Past President Howard Raff** hosted prospective member Josh McCurry, son of **Stephen McCurry**; **PP Mary Lou Byrne** hosted her daughter Dora Byrne; **Jan Moscarel** hosted her daughter Lisa Moscarel Burr (a former San Francisco Rotarian); and **Cyrus Afshin** hosted Rotary "family" member Frank Guerrero, the sorely-missed banquet manager of the sorely-missed University Club. (See *Photo of the Week* below)

**Hillary Schenk** led off the announcements by waving around a straw hat and pair of sunglasses that somebody left at her house after the President's Cocktail Party over the weekend. **Scott Carlson** sheepishly claimed them, and **Hillary** said she'd give them back in exchange for a donation to the Polio Pig!

**Michele Ferroni** gave a report on the aforementioned President's Cocktail Party, thanking everyone who attended and quoting **President Justene** as saying, "It was a really perfect party!" Special thanks to co-chairs **Michele**, **Claudia Ponce de Leon**, and **Dede Venkat**. Also big thanks to **Hillary Schenk** for the use of her house, and to **President Elect Stephen Smith** for buying the booze. Photos below.

**Gwen Strong** made a Polio Pig announcement on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley: They are celebrating 90 years at their fall benefit on September 30!

**Past President Ken Joe**: 9/11 Memorial founder **John McDannel** and Tyros planted two oak trees on 9/11. Photo and write up below.

**Past President Mary Lou Byrne** pitched the October 24 Run/Walk to End Polio for World Polio Day. Details below.

**President Justene** reminded us (although certainly we shouldn't need reminding) that if we



need to get our servers' attention at lunchtime, we should use our words. "Please don't touch the servers," she said. "It violates the third part of the Four Way Test."

On a lighter note, **President Justene** announced that many Rotarians are taking part in Arroyofest on Sunday, October 29. The 110 Freeway will be closed, and you can walk/run a 10K on it starting at 7 a.m. We'll be going to brunch afterwards and would love to have any Rotarians join us. Email [president@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:president@pasadenarotary.com) or [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) if you're interested.

Big news: The Holiday Party will be on Wednesday, December 6, in the evening at the Altadena Town and Country Club. There will be no lunch meeting that day.



**PP Mary Lou** introduced our speaker. Larry Livingston is the chair of the conducting department at the USC Thornton School of Music. He lives in Altadena, so he was right at home in our venue.

Larry started by showing us some pictures of early conductors and shared a fun fact: The conductor's baton is a shrunk-down version of a violin bow because early conductors often were the violinists. More fun facts:

- Beethoven was deaf but insisted on conducting anyway, even though he couldn't stay on the beat. So the orchestra watched the concertmaster instead.
- Verdi conducted facing the stage with his back to the orchestra. Over time that's changed and conductors now face the orchestra.

What do you think the conductor is doing? Larry asked. Using the Socratic method, he elicited the following:

- The conductor keeps time ("But all great orchestras respond *after* the beat.")
- The conductor raises and lowers the dynamics (loudness and softness). Fun fact: According to Larry, pop music has no dynamic change.
- The conductor does "cuing" (telling each instrument when to come in) because the musician's score (the sheet music) only shows their instrument's part and not the whole.
- Finally, "audiences come to concerts and listen with their ears and their eyes." The conductor uses his/her hands, arms, and body to illuminate what makes the music interesting. "You should do the pre-concert talk *during* the concert."

"You need to know the score," said Larry. "Ideally, you could write it from memory." He conducts without the score and says there are two kinds of conductors: Those with the score in their head, and those with their head in the score!

As far as working with musicians, Larry says "It's easy – you have to know exactly what you want, and then you get it!" The rehearsal, he said, "is where you massage the reality." In the old days, conductors were tyrants. These days, the conductor must assuage, encourage, and inspire – more psychologist than tyrant.



Conductors also have to be linguists – scores are written in Italian, French, German, and increasingly in English. You need to be able to read it in any language – Italian is the most common. Larry shared a funny anecdote when he was trying to show off his German skills in Germany and said "breastfeeding" when he meant to say "quiet!"

And with all that in mind, it was time for us to give it a try! Larry showed us a few of his batons, including one his son made from a stick found in the woods when he was seven, and another that same son made on the occasion of his recent marriage. He passes out chopsticks for us to use, and showed us how to hold them. He taught us how to count in 3/4, 2/4, and 4/4 time, and then played some music and let us have at it, walking around the room and coaching us as we

went.

The result? "I think you should all become electricians because you're all natural conductors!"

We were all having so much fun that we barely noticed that 1:30 had come and gone. Alas, it was time to go but a very very fine time was had by all!

---



*L2R: Fred Findley, Michele Ferroni, Dora Byrne, Mary Lou Byrne, Larry Livingston, President Justene, Hillary Schenk*

---

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Cyrus Afshin brought Frankie Gurrola from the University Club to the meeting! Everyone was delighted to see Frankie! Shown here with George Falardeau and PP Ken Joe.





*Check in with Alan & Jane*

**FIRM DEADLINE TO RSVP**  
**MONDAY 9/18/23 at 11:00 am**

**RSVP:** [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

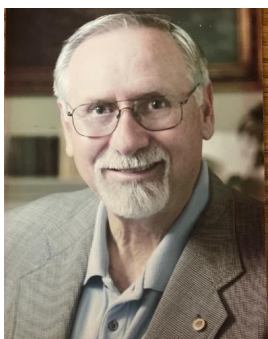
**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

### **MENU**

**Chicken Pasta Pomodoro**, Grilled Rosemary Chicken, Oven Roasted Tomatoes, Garlic, Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Fresh Basil

**Pasta Pomodoro**, Oven Roasted Tomatoes, Garlic, Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Fresh Basil

**Quinoa Tabbouleh Salad**, Ripe Tomatoes, Hummus, Feta, Kalamata Olives, Marcona Almonds, Bibb Lettuce, Lemon & Arbequina Extra Virgin Olive Oil



## **SERVICES FOR JOHN CUSHMAN**

Services will be held at Pasadena Presbyterian Church September 23, at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a list of organizations including the Rotary Club of Pasadena. John was Rotary President in 1966 and a member for 57 years.

**Pasadena Presbyterian Church**  
585 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91101

## **PRESIDENT'S COCKTAIL PARTY**





## 9/11 TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

A Rotarian since 1973, John McDannel is the founder of the 9/11 memorial on New York Drive and Eaton Canyon Drive, which is dedicated to our first responders and the many people that lost their lives on 9/11. For the past 20 years, with permission from the City of Pasadena, John has planted 200+ oak trees, many of which are full grown that line the streets.

John McDannel, served our country as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam and flew many years as a commercial pilot including pilot for President Ronald and Nancy Reagan. One of the planes that hit the World Trade Center was one that John had personally flown.

Tyros met for lunch this past Monday, which happened to be 9/11. As a service project, they planted two more oak saplings with John in symbolic remembrance of the Twin Towers.





---

## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

---

World Polio Day Run/Walk Around  
the Rose Bowl  
Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 a.m.  
And don't forget to wear your



### End Polio Now T-Shirt

Pre-shrunk 6.0 ounce 100% cotton red t-shirt with double-needle stitched neckline, sleeves and bottom hem. Shoulder-to-shoulder taping and seamless collar. Rotary International emblem with the words "END POLIO NOW" imprinted on the full front of the tee. Unisex sizes S-4XL.

To order email Mary Lou Byrne at  
[maloby@outlook.com](mailto:maloby@outlook.com)  
about \$20 billed to your Rotary account

---

**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](mailto: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.

---

## 7 Day Notice

Josh McCurry,  
Executive Director, Flintridge Center - Corporate Membership  
**SPONSOR: Stephen McCurry**

---

## Happy Birthday!

Mario Hess-Winburn	Sept. 19th
Jan Sanders	Sept. 20th
Virginia Wilcox	Sept. 21st

---

## Happy Rotaversary!

Bobbi Abram	9/15/20	3 Years
John Tegtmeyer	9/17/97	26+2 = 28 Years
Pat Wright	9/17/14	9 Years
Mary Lou Byrne	9/18/13	10 Years

---

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sept. 27th - Troy Anderson (former Pasadena Rotarian) - Speak Up For the Poor - Preventing Child Marriage
Oct. 4th - Dr. Elizabeth Blanco, PUSD Interim Superintendent, 100 Day Plan
Oct. 11th - Peter Dills - Food Critic
Oct. 18th - Lisa Derderian, Public Information Officer, City of Pasadena - Disaster Preparedness

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

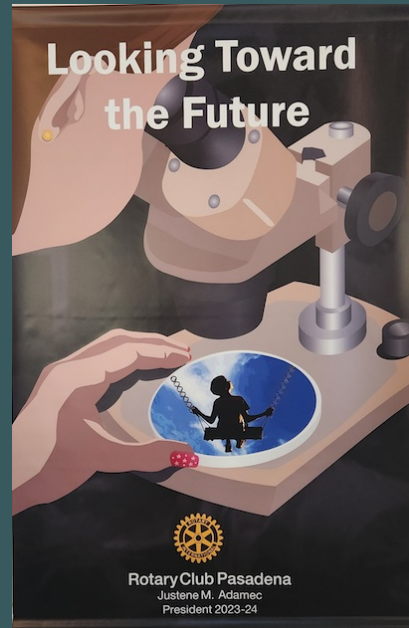
**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm**  
Altadena Town and Country Club  
2290 Country Club Drive, Altadena

**Spokes Chair/Publisher/Editor:** Wendy Anderson  
**Bureau Chief:** Justene Adamec  
**Bureau Chief Emeritus:** Mary Lou Byrne

**Scoot Zone Reporters:** Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman

**Photographers:** Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans  
Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver, Matt  
Bookman, Ken Joe & Dede Venkat.

**Proofers:** Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher



**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

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379  
Pasadena, CA 91105

Wendy Anderson, Administrator - 626-683-8243 - [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

Sandi Mejia-Ramirez, Accountant - 626-272-3424 - [sandimejia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandimejia@sbcglobal.net)

[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

Pasadena Rotary Club | 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379, Pasadena, CA 91105

[Unsubscribe office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) powered by





