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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA

### SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* September 2, 2022 \* #22-186  
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### This Week's Program

## CYNTHIA KURTZ

### *City Hall Then and City Hall Now - what has changed and what's the same*

#### Introducer: Colleen Carey



Cynthia Kurtz most recently served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Pasadena.

Before returning to Pasadena, she partnered with Philip Hawkey representing National CORE Affordable Housing Developers in the San Gabriel Valley. They were responsible for finding opportunities to expand the supply of housing and supportive services for all those needing housing assistance.

Cynthia has held a number of positions in the public and non-profit sectors including City Manager for the City of Pasadena, Interim City Managers for the cities of Covina and Santa Ana and President of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

She has taught Public Sector Ethics and Collaborative Decision Making at the University of La Verne Graduate Program for Public Administration.

Cynthia currently serves as Vice Chair for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California representing the City of Pasadena.

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# September 7th Meeting

12:00 pm - RECEPTION & LUNCH BYRSVP ONLY

12:30-1:30 pm - MEETING: President Elect Justene Adamec

Song Leader: Phil Miles

Inspiration: Josh Betta

Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman

Photographers: Hans Rosenberger & Tammy Silver

Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Tech: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson

To attend LIVE - RSVP Below

By ZOOM on the One-way "Zoomcast"

Wednesday, -- Zoom opens at 12:15 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957991086?pwd=SINHQWhGTnVjY1I5dVBmU1IwaG1IUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 5799 1086 - Passcode: 783239

**IF LINK doesn't work, cut and paste link in your browser**

## IMAGINATION STATION

By President Mary Lou Byrne



Buongiorno, Pasadena Rotary!

I will be on vacation in sunny Tuscany for the next two weeks, and President Elect Justene Adamec will be presiding over the September 7 and 14 lunch meetings. I am certain that you and she will make me proud by continuing our quest to build community through service!

I don't know about you, but I was walking on air as I left last Wednesday's meeting! Weren't Judge Mitchell and Brian Langston of the Skid Row Running Club inspirational? Wowzers! And how about that bumper crop of visitors? They all were so delighted to be with us, and so impressed with our Club. (Fun fact: We had Zoom visitors from as far away as the United Kingdom!) It was just great and as always, I was so excited, and so proud of each and every one of you for making it

happen. (In fact, I was so excited that I totally forgot to give Imagine Rotary challenge coins to President Elect Justene and Past President Howard Raff, who brought some of those visitors we were talking about! I am chagrined but PE Justene will rectify that oversight next Wednesday.)

As I rush around getting ready for my vacation, let me leave you with these reminders:

- As far as I know we haven't had any COVID transmission at our Wednesday meetings, but let's not get complacent and let up on our precautions: Please do a rapid test before the Wednesday lunch meeting, and regardless of the result, don't attend if you have even the slightest cold-like symptoms. Also consider masking up when not eating, and especially when we're singing.
- The Presidents' Cocktail Party is coming right up! Please sign up at a Wednesday meeting or by email to [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com). Margaritas! Tacos! Mariachis! \$50 per person, charged to your Rotary account, and worth every penny! Note to Tyros members: Please



sign up to help set up, clean up, or bartend. It's a great way to get to know your fellow Rotarians!

- You can sign up for your Pasadena Rotary/Rotarian at Work tees for the next three weeks. I'll be placing the order on September 21 after the Wednesday meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to make a fashion statement while building community through service – as you can see, they're so fab they make you want to dance! They're \$20(ish), charged to your Rotary account.

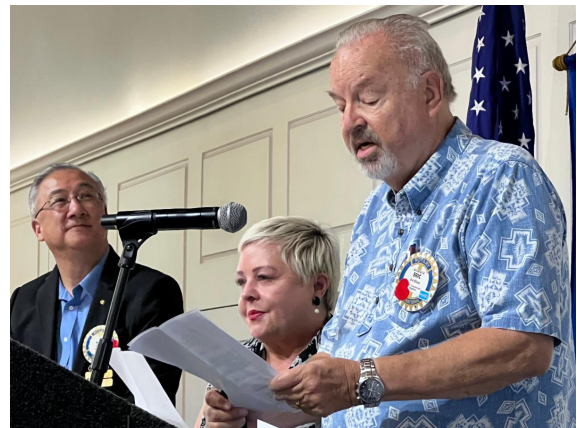
Pasadena Rotary, I'll miss you but I know you'll be in good hands while I'm away. I'll be including some vacation photos in the lunchtime slide show when I get back and I encourage you to do the same. Send those photos, plus your comments, and suggestions, to 310-710-7701 or [president@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:president@pasadenarotary.com). And don't stop imagining what we can do, together, to build community through service!

Yours in vacations, parties, and Rotary fashion statements,  
**Mary Lou**

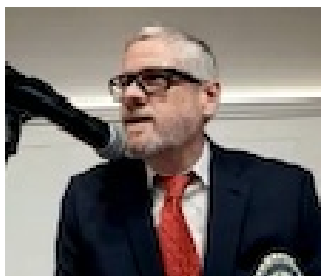
## THE SCOOT ZONE

By President Elect Justene Adamec  
Photographers: Desiree Alvarado & Barbara Bishop

**President Mary Lou Byrne** called the meeting to order. **Eric Olsen** and **Barbara Bishop** led the room in singing *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, complete with the sides of the room singing different parts. Let's just say that it wasn't up to our usual standards. After we were done, President Mary Lou gently suggested that we all go up and "brush up on Sunny Side of the Street."



**Past President Ken Joe** inspired us with several running related quotes including this old African Proverb – "if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." You don't have to guess which one would apply to Rotary.



**President Mary Lou** inducted a "new member", who is actually a returning member. Welcome back **Sean Cain**. Sean has taken on the role of Treasurer for the Pasadena Rotary Foundation.

**President Mary Lou** also awarded a very large and very shiny Service Star to **Past President Howard Raff** who has chaired the Membership Committee and is responsible for most of our new members over the past decade.

**Past President Cathy Simms** announced that the Book Club will meet on September 12 to discuss *Stealing Home*, about why Dodger Stadium shouldn't have been built.

**Hillary Schenk** donated to the Polio Pig to make a non-Rotary announcement. The fight to eradicate polio has taken a hit – there was a new case in New York, the first in the US in decades. Hillary's announcement: CASA, a residential treatment program for women, is losing their chef. They need someone part time for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday.



**President Mary Lou** introduced a plethora of guests who came to see Judge Craig Mitchell (see

photo below). Then she introduced our speaker!



A fuller presentation of the Skid Row Running Club is available through the documentary *Skid Row Marathon*, available at Amazon Prime, Apple TV and other outlets. That documentary was entered in to 25 film festivals worldwide. In 21 of those festivals, it won either Best Documentary or Fan Favorite.

The filmmaker, Gabi Hayes, (5th from right in photo above) saw an article about the running club in the LA Times. She then spent the next 5 years filming 300 hours of footage that she edited into the award-winning documentary.

The documentary focuses on several of the running club members, all of whom were homeless and battled addiction. Ben went on to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Rebecca went on to become a surgical nurse.

Here's how it started: A man that Judge Mitchell had sentenced returned to his courtroom and asked him to visit the Midnight Mission on Skid Row. When he did, the head of the program asked what the judge could contribute.

Judge Mitchell thought he could share his love of running. The members of the club run every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

How it's going: the club has run in many international marathons. Judge Mitchell thought it was important to take the members, many of whom had never been out of LA, to see the wider world. In Ghana, they visited the place where 2-300 years ago, people were kept before being shipped off into slavery. In Rome, they met with Pope Francis. In Jerusalem, Christian, Jewish and Muslim members watched the sun set over the tomb of Aaron, Moses' brother.

Then, as if Judge Mitchell wasn't inspiring enough, he introduced his tech person, who had gone through the program. Brian Langston grew up in an abusive home and, when he was 8, he stopped engaging in school. He never learned to read well and he dropped out in HS. He ended up living in his car in a gang infested area. After one frightening night, where people unsuccessfully tried to break into his car, he decided he needed to do something. He got a job and enrolled in school but still had to live in his car. Then he heard Judge Mitchell speak in a class. Brian ran after him and asked what he could do to turn his life around. Judge Mitchell told him to come to the club.



In the club, he surrounded himself with positive people and cut ties with the negative influences from his old life. In time, the VP of the LA Tourism Bureau hired him to work in their IT department. Brian still can't believe the direction his life has taken.



Judge Mitchell reminded us that Albert Einstein said: A life not lived for others is a life not worth living.

Both Brian and Judge Mitchell got a long standing ovation, a rarity in Pasadena Rotary.

President Mary Lou closed the meeting with: Imagine what YOU can do this week, to build community through service!



***BENCH OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:*** Judge Craig Mitchell, Judge Lance Ito (ret.), Superior Court Commissioner and Rotary President Mary Lou Byrne and Superior Court Commissioner Nichole Butler (Pasadena Courthouse)

***---Scoot Zone Polio Pig Announcement Correction:***

*University Club of Pasadena Friendraiser is to raise money for the UClub Education Foundation Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 4-6 pm*

*Educational Foundation Inaugural Honorees: John & Ginny Cushman*

**To attend the 9-7-22 meeting**

**RSVP!**

**by MONDAY 9-5-22 at 5:00 pm**

***Join Us Wednesday!***

***Check In with Jane Waas,  
Frank Fish & Barbara Bishop***

## **THIS WEEK'S MENU**

*Rotarian Meal choices - Please select from the following Lunch options. No substitutes. If you have allergies or food restrictions contact Wendy and we can work with it so you have a meal and can attend the meetings.*

### **MENU**

- Homestyle Baked Beef Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables Medley
- Cobb Salad with Choice of Blue Cheese or Italian Vinaigrette
- Tempura Avocado Grain Bowl (v)



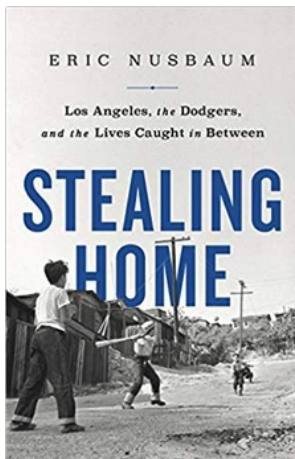
**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

You may also RSVP by emailing Wendy at [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) or 626-683-8243 and remember to give your menu selection

You will always receive a **CONFIRMATION** of your reservation.

**\*\* Note:** If you can't make the meeting -make sure you contact Wendy to cancel your meal.

## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR



### ROTARY READERS Monday, 9/12/22 - 6:00pm

The next meeting is Monday, Sept. 12th at 6 pm.  
For location and zoom info please contact Jan Sanders at [janinpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:janinpasadena@gmail.com) or Cathy Simms at [simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net).

Cathy Simms will review the book Stealing Home by Eric Nusbaum.



### BUSINESS ALLIANCE COMMITTEE Wednesday, 9/14/22 at 4:00pm, University Club

**NETWORKING - PEER CONSULTATION - SERVICE**

***Special Meeting Date Change - Everyone invited to attend.***

INVITE a friend or colleague to learn about Rotary in a networking environment  
Short meeting upstairs in the Sun Room, followed by networking, drinks & complimentary appetizers in the University Club 1922 Lounge.

**RSVP to Co-chairs:**

Cyril Vergis-[cyril@arosacare.com](mailto:cyril@arosacare.com) - Wendy Anderson-[wowproductions2@gmail.com](mailto:wowproductions2@gmail.com)

### A MOMENT ON ZOOM

Jeff and Joan Palmer just returned from a trip to Juno Alaska. They have now visited all 50 states in the United States. They made a ferry trip from Juno to Bellingham WA.

In talking planes: they shared with Bob Monk the group of float planes they saw.



## Pasadena Media is now a Corporate Member

Welcome Chris Miller, COO and Bobbie Ferguson, Director of Production  
with George Falardeau, Executive Director/CEO



## PASADENA ROTARY T-SHIRTS!

Did you notice how awesome everybody looked in the Shop With a Cop photos? Were you a bit envious of the members rocking their Pasadena Rotary t-shirts? Envy no more, because now is your chance to have one of your very own! We'll be ordering Pasadena Rotary "Rotarian at Work" tees within the next month or so, so get your order in!

They will be charged to your Rotary account and will cost \$18 plus shipping and tax, so probably about \$20-21 total. You can sign up at the next three Wednesday meetings, or email [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) with the size you want and whether you want the men's or women's style. (Measurements are with shirts laid flat) See Size charts.

If you can't wait that long and you're the right size, remember Past President Kathy Meagher has a brand-new men's size XL, long sleeve, Pasadena Rotarian at Work tee that she will sell you for \$18. She also has two men's short sleeve Pasadena Rotarian at Work tees, size large, gently used, that she will give (that's GIVE – for FREE!) to the first takers! Contact Kathy at [kathy@kmeagher.com](mailto:kathy@kmeagher.com) if you're interested.

### WOMEN

	CHEST WIDTH	LENGTH
Small	18	25
Medium	20	26
Large	22	27
X Large	24	28
2X Large	26	29

### MEN

	WIDTH	LENGTH
Small	18	28
Medium	20	29
Large	22	30
X Large	24	31
2X Large	26	32
3X Large	28	33
4X Large	30	34





# ROTARY PRESIDENTS' PARTY

SUN SEPT 25

6 PM TO 8 PM

Home of Mary Lou Byrne and Gary Kearney  
539 Catalpa Road, Arcadia

**MARY LOU  
BYRNE**



**JUSTENE  
ADAMEC**



**RSVP BY JULY 13 TO [ARMIDABAYLON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARMIDABAYLON@GMAIL.COM)**  
**TACO LADIES, MARGARITAS AND BEER! \$50**

## **POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING**

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement 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: \$20.00 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



## Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Mike Bradley	Sept. 4
Deb Raupp	Sept. 4
Grant Wilcox	Sept. 4
Prakash Shrivastava	Sept. 5
Erika Endrijonas	Sept. 6
Charles Kiu	Sept. 7
Leah Snell	Sept. 7

## Happy Rotaversary!

Jane Imai	9/2/09	13 years
Jim Osterling	9/5/07	14 years
Elaine Silberman	9/5/18	4 years
Pushpa Nagaraj	9/7/16	6 years

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 14h - Phil Hetteema, The Hetteema Group - "Everyday Creativity"

September 21st - Nani Sinha - "Living with Alzheimers"

October 5th - John Mulcahy, "What's New In the Sky", Carnegie Observatories

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

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

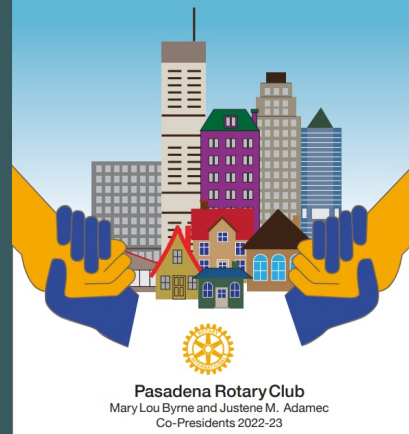
**Scout Zone Reporters: Justene Adamec & Dean Billman**

**Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher**

**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver.  
Back-up: Barbara Bishop & Desiree Alvarado**

**Editor: Wendy Anderson  
Bureau Chief: Justene Adamec  
Bureau Chief Emeritus: Mary Lou Byrne**

**Building Community  
Through Service**



**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

***Meets: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00pm-UniversityClub***

**PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Byrne**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT: Justene Adamec**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Cory Brendel**

**SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni**

**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Desire Alvarado, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, Mary Chalon, Sandy Goodenough, Mic Hansen, J.P. Harris, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver, Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.**

**Note:** *The September meeting of the Pasadena Rotary Board of Directors has been moved from the second to the fourth Thursday of the month, and will take place on September 22, 2022, at 5 p.m. at the University Club.*

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## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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

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

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