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SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * July 25, 2025 * #01-027 www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW COMMUNITY AWARDS

Pasadena Police Department, Pasadena Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit Captain Trey Sorensen and U.S. Justice Department, Bureau of ATF and Special Agent Blake R. MacLearnsberry

CO-Chairs: MIKE FARRAND & CATHERINE HANY

The focus of this year's 2025 Paul Harris Fellow Community Awardees centered on recognizing the efforts of those individuals engaged in the Eaton Canyon Fire community relief and assistance efforts. The awardees selected this year are the Pasadena Police Department, Pasadena Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit Captain Trey Sorensen and U.S. Justice Department, Bureau of ATF and Special Agent Blake R. MacLearnsberry. Law enforcement is often described as a profession devoted to "serve and protect." On the night of January 7, 2025, during the raging Eaton Canyon Fire, the Pasadena Police Department, Fire Investigation Unit Captain Sorensen and Special Agent MacLearnsberry elevated this calling to extraordinary heights as with resources stretched thin due to the



simultaneous fires going on in Los Angeles County they responded to an urgent plea for assistance to rescue the bedridden residents of two senior residential facilities.

In the first facility, 92 residents required evacuation. Operating in pairs, the officers worked tirelessly, moving one patient at a time. Some beds rolled, others did not, forcing the teams to carry patients using only their bed sheets. Through thick smoke and falling embers, they transported each patient two blocks to a safe outdoor staging area before rushing back for another patient.

One officer later shared his prayer during the ordeal: "One more, Lord." This mantra sustained them as they completed 24 trips to ensure that every resident was saved. The second facility housed 25 residents and presented an even greater challenge – it was already on fire. Despite the flames and the extreme danger, the officers pressed on, rescued every resident, one at a time. By God's grace, all 117 seniors from both facilities were brought to safety.

Each of the individuals involved in this rescue operation exemplified humanitarian service demonstrating active participation in helping others through their actions that night. They represent the qualities and ideals of Rotary and have contributed to their community and world in a way that demonstrates that they share our motto "Service Above Self." The Paul Harris Fellowship Award is one of the most distinguished honors that Rotary can give to an individual. It recognizes a recipient who exemplifies the highest ideals of Rotary. This year's Paul Harris Fellow Community Awardees certainly deserve this honor. Please join us on Wednesday, July 30 as we recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Pasadena Police Department. 10 Pasadena Police Officers will be there to represent their department colleagues as well as Chief Harris. Plus, Fire Investigation Unit Captain Sorensen and Special Agent MacLearnsberry will also be in attendance.

Paul Harris Fellows, don't forget to wear your pins!

WEDNESDAY – JULY 30th, 2025 UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA

LUNCH BUFFET: 12:00 PM - MEETING: 12:30 PM 175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101

Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

CLICK ON: RSVP - 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 Hillary Schenk Reception: Alan Schier & Mike Bernard Song Leader: Don Andrues Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen

Inspiration: Jonathan Edewards

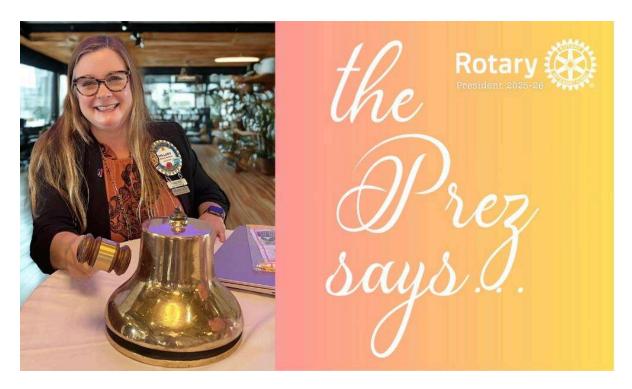
Scoot Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: PE Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons

Meeting is also on ZOOM opens at 12:00 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09

Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523. - Passcode: 667356



How Different Generations View Community Service—With Their Own Twist

Community service might be a timeless tradition, but each generation has its own spin on lending a hand—and their own favorite ways to make an impact.

Baby Boomers often treat volunteering like a well-worn recipe: tried, true, and shared with friends. They're drawn to long-term commitments and steady community building—think food banks, hospitals, and mentoring programs where relationships grow over time.



Gen Xers? They're multitaskers. Between kids' soccer games and work deadlines, they squeeze in service wherever it fits. You'll often find them involved in local schools, neighborhood projects, or fundraising events—practical efforts with visible, local results.

Millennials bring their own flavor: social justice meets social media. Causes like equality, environmental protection, and mental health awareness, and many other causes speak to them. Whether it's organizing a cleanup or launching an online petition, Millennials focus on causes that aim to shift bigger systems.

And Gen Z—never ones to follow a script—mix activism with community service. They gravitate toward global issues with immediate urgency: climate action, racial justice, and mental health support. Digital platforms let them create quick, widespread impact, sometimes with a viral twist.

The great news is Rotary has it all! We offer a veritable buffet of service and ways to engage with our community. No matter the age or approach, the heart of community service stays the same: showing up, helping out, and making things a little better—with your own personal touch. **Do you have a service project recommendation?**

Photo: President Hillary with Corporate Member joining Rotary - Khanh Russo, New CEO, Pasadena Community Foundation

Hillary S. Schenk
President 2025-2026
Rotary Club of Pasadena
President@pasadenarotary.com
805-358-8596



ATTENDING THE MEETING MEALS & SEATING ARE
PROVIDED BASED
ON THE RSVP'S WE RECEIVE

BUFFET opens at 12:00 pm - MEETING starts at 12:30 pm

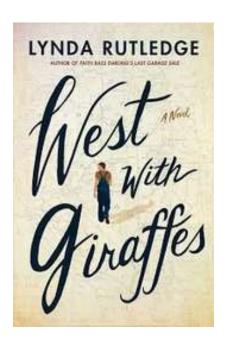
ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

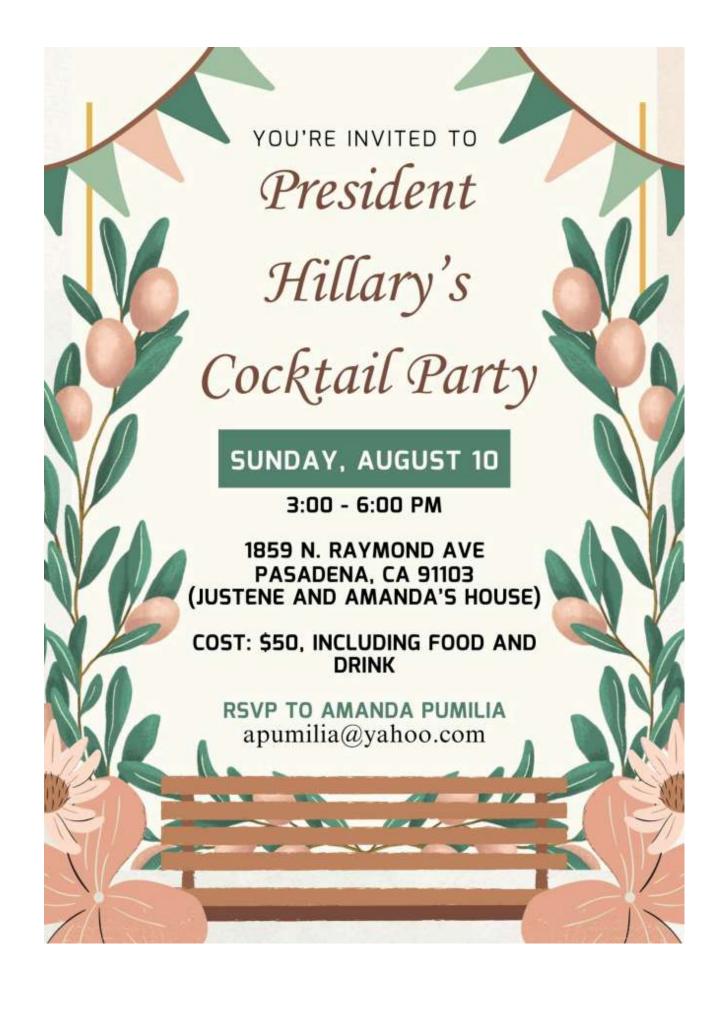
ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet August 4 at 6 pm to review West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.

Please RSVP to Helen Baatz at mhbaatz@gmail.com.

We will also announce the selection of books for this new Rotary year starting with September





YON THE NIGHT' WITH ANGEL CITY FOOTBALL CLUB GAME



Have a fun evening cheering on Angel City Football Club with fellow Rotarians. We have a block of seats right above the spirited Supporters' Section. **Goooooal!** One row will be padded leather seats and the row above are high-top stools in front of a small countertop. All seats include beer, wine, soda, water, nachos, popcorn, and hot dogs.

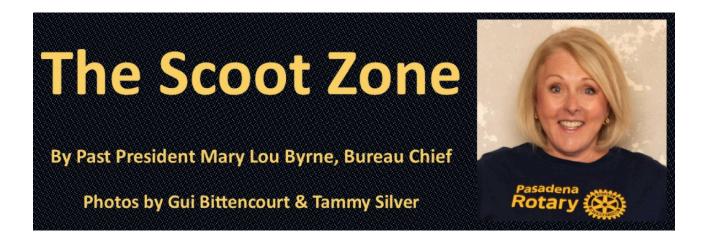
Date: Thursday, September 18

Game Time: 7:30pm

Place: BMO Stadium, 3939 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles

Cost: \$80/ticket

RSVP: Tammy Silver, tamaramsilver@gmail.com



President Hillary Schenk rang the bell at 12:30 and turned things over to **Past President Phil Miles** for our opening song. Accompanied by Ann Louise Christensen on piano and the Four Way Test Singers (**Don Andrues, Marilyn Buchanan, Past President Mary Lou Byrne,** and **Jonathan Edewards**), Phil led us in the protest classic *If I Had a Hammer*. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mary Lou gave the inspiration, consisting of quotes inspired

by our speaker and concluding with this from Angela Davis: "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."





Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons helped introduce our guests, who this week were hosted by Venice Dunn, President Elect Tammy Silver, Martha Shenkenberg, Howard Raff, Hassan Kheradmandan, and Past President Ken Hill.

Department of Announcements Department:

President Elect Tammy Silver invited everyone to join in a trip to see an Angel City Football Club game on Thursday, September 18. We'll have great seats including yummy snacks. Details above.

Pat Wright gave a Polio Pig announcement commending Josh McCurry and the Flintridge Center for receiving a "five-signature scroll" from the County of Los Angeles to celebrate the graduation of the 50th cohort of its Apprenticeship Preparation Program. Read all about it here: https://pasadenanow.com/main/barger-champions-second-chances-honors-flintridge-centers-50th-apprenticeship-cohort

Catherine Hany reminded us all that next week is the Paul Harris Fellows event and all you Paul Harris Fellows out there should wear your pins!

Mike Bernard gave us a heads up on upcoming Rotary training courses: Rotary Essentials and the Rotary Training Institute. If you are interested in signing up for either of these amazing courses, contact Mike at mike.bernard@stovercompetition.com and he will help you! He can also help you with a **www.DACdb.com** cheat sheet to help you navigate the Rotary administrative web site.

President Hillary reminded everyone of the upcoming President's Cocktail Party on August 10. Details above.

Hillary also reminded us that our club administrator, the amazing **Wendy Anderson**, is very very busy at the moment. So PLEASE use the Google form to RSVP for our Wednesday meetings instead of calling or emailing Wendy directly. You can get to it by clicking the "RSVP TODAY" button above.

Next up, **President Hillary** rolled up her sleeves and laid some Rotary Education on us. Did you know there is an app to help you keep track of and communicate with your fellow Rotarians, and more? It's called Ignite and it's super easy to use! You can download it on Google Play or the Apple App Store, and sign in with your DACdb password. (If you, like

this reporter, can't remember your DACdb password, it will let you pick a new one using your email address – easy-peasy!) Here is a short summary of how to get it and how to use it: **chrome-**

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6710/assets/lgnite App Info Sheet.pdf

Finally, in last week's Spokes **President Hillary** promised a special prize drawing for those who emailed her with their favorite song. She called **Robert Lyons** up to the lectern and he helped her spin the wheel and the winner was... **Wende Lee!** Hooray!

Venice Dunn introduced our speaker. Brandon Lamar is the president of the Pasadena chapter of the NAACP, vice-chair of the Pasadena Rental Housing Board, and founder of Merge Black Pasadena, the Young Kings Mentoring Retreat, and the Dena Relief Drive.

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded in February 1909, in response to a violent riot in Springfield, Illinois, in which a white mob looted and destroyed Black homes and businesses and lynched two prominent members of the Black community. The mission of the NAACP is "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination."



Brandon began by inviting us all to close our eyes and imagine a community where you can walk to school every day, where everyone knows your first and last name, where you attend the church on the corner with our family. Now, he said, imagine in four hours it's all gone. "That," he said, "is what happened on January 7."



On January 8, Brandon and the NAACP set up at the Flintridge Center to start providing fire relief for families in Altadena. It was supposed to be for one day, but it's been going on for almost seven months. They have given over one million pounds of goods to the community, as well as arranging extended housing for more than 250 families and helping other families avoid foreclosure.

The key, said Brandon, is to take an intergenerational approach to solving community problems. He noted that one relief organization was handing out cards with QR codes, but Brandon's father didn't know how to use QR codes and didn't have a phone that could use them, so he needed

help from younger members of the community.

The NAACP has more than 2000 branches and Brandon is the youngest branch president at age 33. He said, "I saw we needed to get more young people into the conversation or we'd be obsolete!" He also paraphrased Proverbs, noting "The Lord calls the young because of their strength and the old because of their wisdom!"

When Brandon took over in January, the chapter had 800 members and only two were under age 30. Now, he said, "we have 1400 members and 325 are under 30!"

Brandon shared three techniques he has used to get young people involved in his organization:

- 1. Make sure they have a sense of belonging. Brandon emphasized that it's essential to not fear going up against the status quo. In his case, the chapter a game truck and charged young people \$1.00 per game, which was then applied to their NAACP membership.
- 2. Let the youth be involved and invested in the organization's vision. The NAACP has created youth councils to get the young members' input.
- 3. Most important, said Brandon, is providing a seat at the table. "If you don't invite us to the table," he said, "we will create our own table!" He implored us to not just look at the next generation as younger people, but as people we can pour ourselves and our experiences into.

How can we, as Rotarians, help? Brandon explained that the easiest way to help is to join! EVERYBODY is welcome and you can join online here:

https://naacppasadena.org/membership/ He noted that the more members they have, the more clout they have with City Hall and other organizations, which is always a great thing. They also always need volunteers so if you have a free Saturday morning, please show up and help!

After a wonderful Q and A session (during which it turned out that Brandon knew many of the people in the room including **Josh McCurry**, **Tammy Silver**, and **Jim Osterling**), **President Hillary** presented him with his cozy Rotary socks and adjourned the meeting at 1:30.



L2R: Amanda Green, Raqiyah Mays, Venice Dunn, Brandon Lamar, Khanh Russo, President Hillary, Quinn Bebb, Dean Billman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

| Hans Rosenberger | July 25 |
|------------------|---------|
| Scott Carlson | July 29 |

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!

| Estela Richeda | 7/27/06 | 19 Years |
|-------------------|---------|----------|
| Alan Schier | 7/27/22 | 3 Years |
| Don Schweitzer | 7/30/24 | 1 Year |
| Ali Smyser | 7/31/24 | 1 Year |
| Casey Marticorens | 7/31/24 | 1 Year |
| Brooke Mulligan | 7/31/24 | 1 Year |

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 6, 2025 - Sara Safari - Climb Your Everest

August 13, 2025 - Robert Shoji - When Little Tokyo was Bronzeville

August 20, 2025 - Dowell Myers - How We Got to Today's Housing Crisis

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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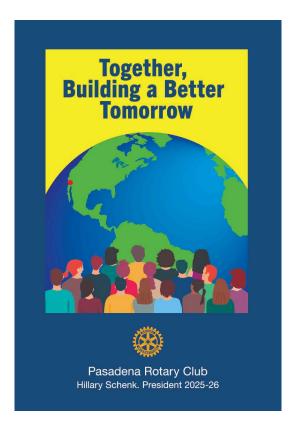
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Graphic Design: Wende Lee

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ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena

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SECRETARY: Wende Lee
TREASURER: Allison Burgos

CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andrues, Mike Bernard, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, J.P. Harris,

Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Deb Raupp, Nevino Rocco,

Alan Schier. Dede Venkat

Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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