
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 23, 2026 * #01-049

www.pasadenarotary.com

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

RANDY SHULMAN

Senior Vice President for Advancement and External Relations

“Keeping up with The Huntington: Three Fascinating Stories You Don’t Know About”

INTRODUCER: Bob Risley



A San Marino native, Randy is The Huntington’s Senior Vice President for Advancement and External Relations. The Huntington is a world-class institution. With over 2,000 scholars annually, the humanities research being conducted at The Huntington makes it one of the most active in the nation. In addition, the collections help K-12 teachers engage their students and new and expanded gardens and galleries serve an expanding set of diverse audiences.

"The Huntington is something we in the San Gabriel Valley should be very proud of," says Shulman, "Aside from being the stewards of the DNA of California's social history for scholars, on the public side we immerse students,

teachers, and casual visitors in the beauty of nature, art, and humanities. We offer many fine examples of what makes life worth living."

His own history is intertwined in the story. "I came to The Huntington as a 12-year-old volunteer with a dream -- to have a chance to someday make a difference in this special place." He joined the staff full time in 1999 and assumed his current role in 2009. Annually,

he teaches a class titled Huntington 101 that helps to explain the international significance of the research being done at The Huntington.

Randy is a graduate of San Marino Schools, Pasadena City College, Cal Poly Pomona, and USC, where he earned an MPA in Public Administration. He has also been involved on the Board of Union Station Homeless Services, where he was the Board Chair. Randy and his wife Mona reside in Pasadena.

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 28, 2026
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: Across street behind Pasadena Heritage
Enter parking off Madison Ave.

OKAY to park in reserved parking space

ADDITIONAL PARKING: 221 N. El Molino - Northwest corner of El Molino & Walnut.
2 block walk to UClub. Cost: \$1.00/2 hours

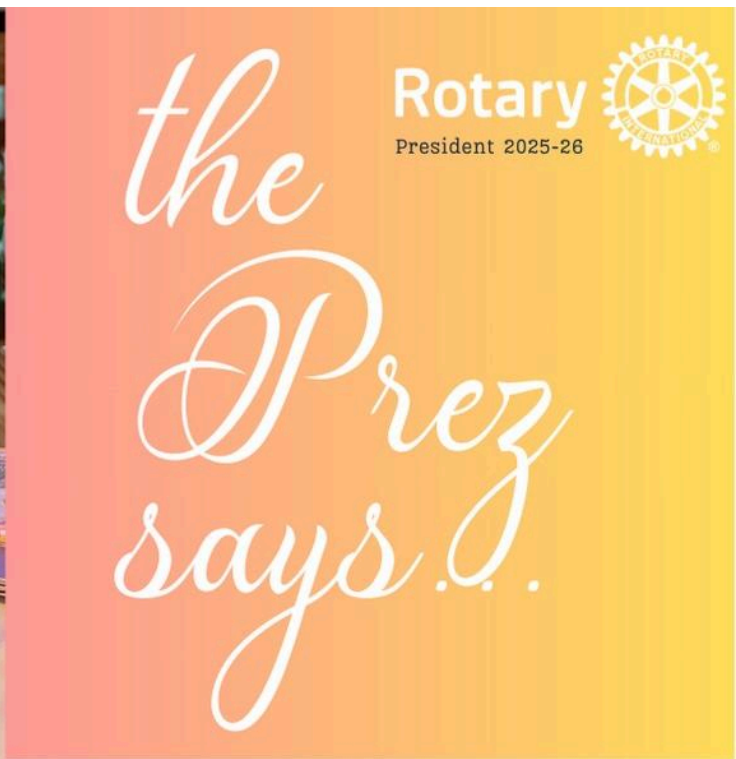
Meeting Host: President Hillary Schenk
Reception: Alan Schier & Mike Bernard
Song Leader: Jonathan Edwards
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Sandy Goodenough
Scout Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: PE Tammy Silver
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: PE-E Robert Lyons

Meeting is also on ZOOM opens at 12:15 pm

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?
pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09)**

Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523

Passcode: 667356



A Front-Row Seat at FAR (Friends of Amateur Rocketry)

Some weekends unfold quietly. Others find you standing in an open field, watching a rocket on the launch pad, and marveling at what human curiosity can accomplish. My recent visit to Friends of Amateur Rocketry (FAR) was very much the latter.

I had the pleasure of attending a launch with my son, Jacob, and from the moment we arrived, it was clear this was no ordinary gathering. FAR's wide skies, concrete bunkers, and focused calm created an atmosphere of purpose and preparation. Volunteers and rocketeers moved with confidence, each playing a role in something much larger than any one individual—an idea that resonates strongly with Rotary values.

As launch time approached, conversations softened and attention shifted to the pad. The rocket stood motionless, moments away from transforming months of planning, testing, and teamwork into action. When the countdown began, the anticipation was palpable. Then came ignition—an unforgettable burst of sound and energy that reminded everyone present just how powerful collaboration and ingenuity can be.

What stood out most was the deeply human side of the experience. While rockets may symbolize advanced technology, FAR is ultimately about people—builders, engineers, problem-solvers, and volunteers who learn from setbacks and continuously improve. Here, success is not defined by perfection, but by persistence. Every launch carries lessons from the past and insights for the future.

When the sky finally grew quiet again, the shared excitement lingered. Smiles, laughter, and animated conversations filled the field as people reflected on what they had just witnessed together. I left with ringing ears, a full heart, and a renewed appreciation for what can be achieved when curiosity, learning, and determination align.

Watching a launch at FAR was inspiring and grounding—a powerful reminder that bold ideas, supported by teamwork and a willingness to learn, can quite literally move the sky.

Hillary S. Schenk
President 2025-2026



**ATTENDING THE MEETING
MEALS & SEATS ARE
PROVIDED
BASED ON RSVP'S.**

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Rotary
District 5280



END
POLIO
NOW

Rotary
District 5300



PONIES TO END POLIO



Fellow Rotarians:

Even if you can't make it to Ponies to End Polio, you can still be part of the race to the finish line!

While you may not be on the track with us, we invite you to place your bet on a world without polio by supporting PolioPlus. Every contribution helps keep Rotary in the lead and moves us one stride closer to victory.

Consider joining the PolioPlus Society—it's a winning commitment that keeps the momentum strong, lap after lap, until we cross the finish line and polio is declared gone for good.

You don't have to be in the saddle to help us win this race—cheer us on with your gift and help carry Rotary to the winner's circle.

Here is a link you can use to make your contribution:

Gilda Moshir
District 5300 Governor



Garbis Der-Yeghian
36th Annual Peace Conference
Saturday, January 24, 2026 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum



Habitat for Humanity February Volunteering

Habitat for Humanity has started rebuilding homes in Altadena, and they're looking for volunteers to help with their February build! **No construction experience is required** — just a willingness to learn, work together, and be part of something meaningful. Weekday dates are available throughout the month of February directly on their website's calendar.

Altadena Construction: Glenrose Build - Various **Weekdays** are available throughout February from **7:45 AM to 3:30 PM**- check the calendar for specific dates (<https://sgvhabitat.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Calendar>)

If you're not available on a weekday to help with the rebuild, they're also looking for volunteers on **Saturdays** from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** or **2:00 PM to 6:00 PM** or **Sundays** from **12:00 PM to 5:00 PM** at the Pasadena ReStore.

Sign up for Weekday (Altadena Construction) or Weekend (Pasadena ReStore) volunteer shifts at
<https://sgvhabitat.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Calendar>

Contact Impact Chair, Amanda Pumilia, with any questions at apumilia@yahoo.com.

PROJECT: EATON FIRE RELIEF REBUILDING FARNSWORTH PARK HISTORIC AMPHITHEATER

BE A DONOR for the Eaton Fire Relief Project. In partnership with the County of Los Angeles, Parks & Recreations, we are rebuilding Farnsworth Park's historic amphitheater. Tell a friend! Earmark your donation to the Pasadena Rotary Foundation for Eaton Fire Relief and all the funds will go directly to the build.

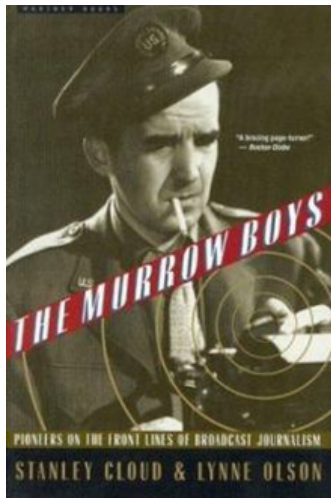
To donate: Contact Wendy office@pasadenarotary.com
or mail check made out to Pasadena Rotary Foundation and earmarked Eaton Fire Relief Project to: Pasadena Rotary Club,
556 S. Fair Oaks Ave., Ste. 101 #379, Pasadena, CA 91105

Thank you!

Chair: PE-E Robert Lyons

robert@lyonsdesignandbuild.com

626.676.8066



ROTARY READERS

Feb. 6th at 6:00 pm

Phyllis Crandon will review *The Murrow Boys: Pioneers on the Front Lines of Broadcast Journalism* by Stanley Cloud and Lynne Olson

Please RSVP to maloby@outlook.com. We meet at 6 pm for a potluck dinner and start the discussion at 6:30 pm.



The Scoot Zone

By Cub Reporter Nick Duretta

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Hans Rosenberger

The natural splendor of Pasadena and the surrounding area was the focus of this week's meeting. **President Hillary Schenk** rang the bell at 12:30 and turned things over to **Past**

President Phil Miles, who (accompanied by **Ann Louise Christensen** on piano) and the Four Way Test Singers led attendees in singing a song he surmised might be on the minds of those in other parts of our country experiencing a harsh winter, “California Dreamin’.”

Ben Sellick’s inspiration addressed his lifelong enjoyment of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, from visits as a child with his grandmother to finding it a special place for reflection, study, peace and perspective as an adult. “Let’s continue to support efforts that bring people together, protect what is shared and extend access for learning and discovery,” he noted.



Past President Diana Peterson-More gave a memorial to her “good, loyal friend” **Mary Wilson**, who had passed away the previous week. Mary was one of the first women to join Pasadena Rotary (she joined in 1988, shortly after rules were changed to admit women). Raised in Minnesota, Mary moved to California as a young woman, where she married and raised a family as a stay-at-home mom before entering a career in finance. Among many other affiliations, Mary was the first woman Chief Executive Officer of Pasadena Federal Credit Union.

Guests in attendance included **Sandy Goodenough’s** husband, Richard Schulhof; **PP Phil Miles’** wife of 49 years, Shelley Miles; **PP Howard Raff’s** guests Andre Vizcocho and Cy-Min Chanel; speaker Sue Oh’s guest Sandra Choi, and **Ben Sellick’s** guest Claris Barg.

Department of Announcements Department:

- **Bob Risley** mentioned the upcoming Garbis Der-Yeghian Peace Conference, to be held this upcoming Saturday at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda.
- **PP Phil Miles** donated to the Polio Pig in honor of his wife Shelley’s retirement from the Singleton Foundation for Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship.
- **Dean Billman** reminded everyone of the opportunity to engage “horse power” at the upcoming Ponies for Polo.
- **Paul Roach** pitched the upcoming car-themed fundraiser, slated for March 8 in San Marino, a great opportunity for car lovers to support our club’s activities.

President Hillary presented a special pin, given to Rotary for its efforts in Eaton Fire recovery efforts, to **President-Elect Robert Lyons** for his involvement in these efforts, particularly in regard to Farnsworth Park restoration. Hillary said “there is no one better in our club to receive the pin” but Robert stressed it has truly been a group effort.





Sandy Goodenough introduced this week's speaker, Su Oh, Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Under the theme, "From Our Mission to the Future," Su spoke of the many ways the Arboretum has served not only the San Gabriel Valley, but also the broader Los Angeles area, in cultivating knowledge and appreciation of local horticulture through a number of private and public partnerships. The Arboretum draws more than 550,000 annual visitors to its 127 acres.

"Some people claim there are no seasons in Southern California, but there definitely are, and you can see them at places like the Arboretum," Su said, remarking on the spectrum of colors to be seen in the Mediterranean-climate plants on view throughout the year.



Stressing the Arboretum's mission to cultivate our area's natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration, Su pointed to the site's diversity of bird and animal life, including the famous peacocks that came from an original breeding pair, as well as its historic structures, which include the Queen Anne cottage (recently renovated) and Reid-Baldwin adobe.

One significant project about to begin is the restoration of Baldwin Lake, the "historic heart of the Arboretum," which has fallen into decline. Over the next year, the lake will be deepened and cleansed, and its shoreline walls stabilized.

Su reminded everyone that the Arboretum is not only a beautiful place to visit, it offers a host of volunteer opportunities, including those to educate local residents on native and non-native plants. "Our climate is changing, and we may have to welcome non-native plants more into our environment," she said, pointing out that research into fire-retardant plants was conducted at the Arboretum many years ago, and will be a continuing focus.

Under Su's leadership, the Arboretum is poised to expand its service to the community. "We want to help people make memories and find their inner child," she said.





L2R: Su Oh, Sandra Choi, Pat Wright, Russ Guiney, President Hillary, Ken Hill, Richard Schulhof, Sandy Goodenough

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DAVID McALEXANDER - January 23rd

ROY RICO - January 26th

BOB RISLEY - January 26th

ANTONIO REZIK - January 27th

RUSS GUINEY - January 28th

ROTAVERSARIES

Bill Tilney	1/29/24	2 Years
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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 4th - David Kelley, Art Center College of Design - Our Abyssal Kin

February 11th - Julia Long, Pasadena Museum of History - Pasadena on the Silver Screen

February 18th - Chief Gene Harris, Pasadena Police Department

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.

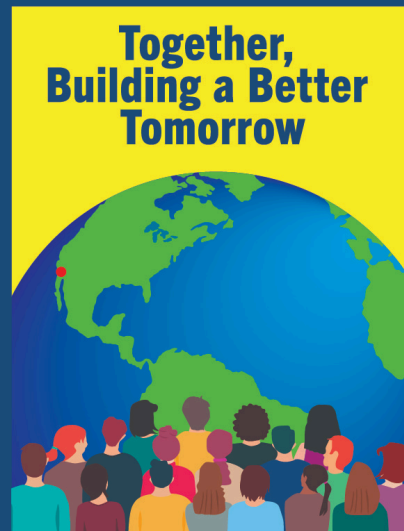
Bureau Chief Emeritus: Mary Lou Byrne
Chair/Publisher/Editor: Wendy Anderson

Scot Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne,
Nick Duretta & Sonya Sharififard

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Photo Team:
Hans Rosenberger, Larry Weiss & Paul Roach. Back-up: PP Ken Joe

Graphic Design: Wende Lee

Proofers: Kathy Meagher & Amanda Pumilia



Pasadena Rotary Club
Hillary Schenk, President 2025-26

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

PRESIDENT: Hillary Schenk
PRESIDENT ELECT: Tammy Silver
SECRETARY: Wende Lee
TREASURER: Allison Burgos

CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, 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

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

Wendy Anderson, Administrator - 626-683-8243 - office@pasadenarotary.com
Sandi Mejia-Ramirez, Accountant - 626-272-3424 - sandimejia@sbcglobal.net
www.pasadenarotary.com

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

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