



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 25, 2019 * Number 562
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This Week's Program

Guest Speaker: Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director, Pasadena Playhouse

Topic: Arts

Introducer: **Scott Vandrick**



Danny Feldman (Producing Artistic Director) joined Pasadena Playhouse in 2016. Overseeing both the artistic and administrative operations of the organization, Feldman has worked to stabilize operations while ensuring the highest quality programming season of programming, including *Our Town*, *King Charles III*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Belleville* and *Bordertown*. His efforts have pleased audiences 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 his first Broadway production, instituted an audience development plan that doubled the audience, and increased revenue to resolve the organization's long standing debt. As Managing Director at Reprise Theatre Company, he increased programming, created a city-wide festival, launched a concert series featuring lesser known Broadway musicals, and an education program, giving at-risk high school students an introduction to classic American musicals.

Over the past century, the Pasadena Playhouse has been regarded as one of the top theaters in America. Its impact on producing more plays than any other theater in the world, serving millions of patrons, being designated the State Theater of California, creating one of the top acting schools in the country, and being a leader in the production of new plays and dramas, the Pasadena Playhouse's recent past has been marked by its share of struggles. Two years ago, a new vision was

engaged to bring a bold vision, infuse new energy, and to return the Pasadena Playhouse to its rightful place as leading theater in America. Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman provides insight into the Playhouse's progress, and provides an insider view on the future of this cherished community treasure.

Accompanist: **Ross Jutsum**
Song Leader: **Phyllis Currie**
Sergeant at Arms: **Anthony Shapiro**

Inspiration Station

by **President Mary Lou Byrne**



The other day my lovely husband **Gary Kearney** was having lunch with some of the lads at the University Club, and mentioned how excited he is about the [Humanitarian STAR Awards](#), which are coming up in less than a week. Someone at the table asked "what are the [RH STAR Awards](#) again? And how much is [\\$125 per person to attend](#)?"

Pasadena Rotary, I'm glad you asked.

The Rotary Humanitarian STAR (Science, Technology, Aerospace, Robotics) Awards recognize outstanding scientific and technological achievement that has resulted in a significant humanitarian benefit.

The [RH STAR Awards](#) honor one scientist in each of four categories: Health and Medical, Environmental Improvement, Improved Sharing of Knowledge, and Disaster Relief and Recovery. We also present the [Helios Award](#) to a person who exemplifies our mission through an outstanding scientific or technological achievement which has clearly and significantly benefited humanity in one of those four areas of focus.

So... why should you attend our gala awards banquet on Thursday, January 31 at the University Club?

- If you are a science nerd, this is your chance to geek out by rubbing shoulders with [our illustrious winners and nominees](#). Everyone is invited to a reception before the dinner so you can get to know these extraordinary scientists/humanitarians. Remember, one of [last year's winners](#) subsequently won the [Prize in Chemistry](#) so these folks are the real deal!

- If you are an internet maven, you will get to see Larry Sanger, co-founder of [Wikipedia](#), accept the Helios Award and give our keynote address!
- If you love to hang out with Rotary dignitaries, our [District Governor John Chase](#) will be in attendance and give a greeting!
- And if you love to meet Rotarians from neighboring clubs, you will get to meet the entire [Rotary Club of Sierra Madre](#), who founded the RH STAR Awards and are our co-sponsors. (Every single one of their members will be there so don't let them make us look bad!)
- If you are a fun-haver who loves good food and a great experience, you can't do better than a shindig at the U Club. We'll begin with a wine and cheese reception in the lounge hosted by Altadena Rotarian Nick Santangelo, then adjourn to the dining room for a fabulous dinner (including hosted wine service and live music courtesy of our own Ross Jutsum). Ross will host the program, which will feature each of the awardees (who hail from all over the U.S. and beyond) briefly describing their winning projects.

- If you are a do-gooder, you get a three-for-one deal here: You get to support our fellow Rotarians who have worked so hard to put on this event including the event sponsors in order to support the incredible scientists being honored, and you get to help support our club because any funds raised will be split between our Club and the Sierra Madre Rotary Club.
- If you like shiny objects, check out the amazing shiny trophies that actually have moving parts!

The time is now, Pasadena Rotary. Click [here](#) and buy your tickets. Let's make this the fun-having and do-gooding event of the new year! I know you won't let me and the hardworking

I am counting on you to step up and support this fabulous project. In the meantime, keep in touch! I'm only an email or text or phone call away at 310-710-7701 and president@pasadenarotary.org. Keep those photos and constructive criticisms and I don't know what-alls coming!

Yours in science serving humanity,

Mary Lou

P.S. We are preparing to recommend new board members. The process includes the current president, president-elect, three past presidents and four members at large to offer up recommendations to the club members.

At the meeting next week, January 30th, we will have a ballot at every table for each member to select members at large to help make recommendations for future board members.

Scout Zone

By **Justene Adamec**, Bureau Chief

Past President Phil Miles took the microphone and apologized for not having the words to today's song, *Singing in the Rain*, on the screen. He forgot he was leading the song to the Spokes last week and it was his daughter's birthday and his 42nd anniversary with his wife Shelley and... Ross Jutsum cut in with a flourish on the piano. We sang the song and, although the words were wrong, we got along.

Don Andruess inspired us with some good news on climate change, in his usual inimitable style. The percentage of people who believe that climate change is real and caused by humans has risen in the last 3 years. The only thing rising faster is the ocean level. The bee colony collapses are ending with colonies up 3%. That has scientists buzzing. Since 2005, the ozone hole has shrunk largely due to banning fluorocarbons, which were the main ingredients in hairspray - and our hair still looks great.

President Mary Lou Byrne stepped up and led off with an invitation to Rotary Humanitarian Stars. She asked **Paul Martin** to describe it in 25 words or less. It is our attempt, along with the Club of Sierra Madre, to honor scientists and technologists who are doing good works and contributing to humanity. The list of award winners and the chance to buy tickets for the JPL at the University Club is [here](#). \$125 gets you a wine and cheese reception where you can hobnob with the award winners and then an elegant dinner. Recall that Frances Arnold was a recipient and after that, she received Nobel Prize.

Jim Oesterling got a Be the Inspiration Coin for bringing in an outstanding group of sponsors.

Then, President Mary Lou moved on to **Armand Ohan** and prompted him to tell us that, on Sunday, he and his wife found out they are having a baby girl in July. Armand got a Be the Inspiration and had to donate \$20 to the polio pig.

Edsel D'Souza had a very important favor to ask. His spouse, Eric Gunter, is having his 40th birthday soon. Edsel is making a video with birthday wishes from 6 continents (so far) for his own birthday greeting to Eric.

On behalf of **Past President Cathy Simms** and **Past President Shel Capeloto**, President Mary Lou reminded us that fundraising for Caring Little Heart is in full swing. Click [here](#) to see how you can be saving lives in India.

Deb Lewis reminded us that the Community Grants applications are due February 11. The focus this year is physical and mental health. Applications can be found on [our website](#).

Each week, President Mary Lou tells us to Go Out There and Be the Inspiration. She asked **Ellen Simon** what she did this week to be the inspiration. Ellen got a Be the Inspiration and motivating her staff.

Past President Diana Peterson-Moore introduced our speaker, Dr. Josh Fisher. Last summer, when it was 114 degrees, Diana decided to put in air-conditioning for her upstairs. That, according to Josh, 114 degrees will be a cool summer day in 20 years if climate change continues unabated.

Josh's work at JPL focuses on terrestrial ecosystems, water, carbon, and nutrient cycling. This was *not* an official JPL talk.

What is climate? Climate is long-term average weather. Temperature has changed over the history of the earth and climate scientists project what it will do in the future. There are many factors changing climate. Earth gets closer to, and then further away from, the sun every 100,000 years. There is a solar output cycle of 11 years. These result in natural fluctuations in climate.

Humans are an outside force pushing temperatures to levels not seen in a million years. Population increases the release of greenhouse gases. CO2 levels and human population increase like fire. It cooks our food, it makes our cars faster and many other things we do individually and as a society.

Methane rises rises correlatively. It comes from cows. We like our beef. It is a byproduct of rice production. It also comes from landfills and fracking. Methane is locked in the permafrost and create methane bubbles. As the ice melts, methane is released.

Nitrous oxide is a result of the agricultural revolution. We use lots of fertilizers.

The planet is too cold without CO2. CO2 is like a blanket at night but piling on more blankets causes overheating. That is what is happening to the planet.

Greenhouse gases add energy that is the equivalent to 400,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs every day. Energy is like giving a child too much candy at Halloween. The planet has more energy than it used to and, as a result, it is producing more major weather events. Rainstorms are more extreme and other areas dry out. The extra energy causes storms like Katrina and Irene and was a record 3 category 4 hurricanes spinning in Pacific simultaneously. We also had a record of 9 simultaneous tropical storms last year. There is more cold and snow. Floods are more frequent. There was a drought, affecting 80% of GDP, in the Midwest since was the largest since the Dust Bowl.

Can humans survive? The infrastructure is strong but is it strong enough? We have one year of surface water. Hydropower can no longer generate enough power. The cold years are hotter than hot years now. To make fire, we need oxygen and oxygen is going down. Chocolate, coffee and beer production is impacted. Aircraft face more turbulence.

Humans evolved a couple of hundred thousand years ago but civilization didn't take hold until 10,000 years ago when it exploded with the agricultural revolution. Between 200,000 years ago, there was turbulent climate. Once the climate stabilized, the great civilizations thrived. Now we're pushing it back to instability.

There is and always has been the politicization of science. The heliocentric theory wasn't accepted until two centuries after Copernicus' death. We don't necessarily have a couple of centuries for this science to be accepted.

NASA measures the changes. The Amazon River breathes when viewed from space. Josh spends time in the Amazon and the Arctic, studying the lungs of the earth. On the most recent earth, Easter Island, there are no trees. The inhabitants cut them all down and then the population died out. If the Easter Islanders had known what would have happened, would they have acted differently?

There are some solutions. There are large solar generation facilities. In an ironic move, the Kentucky Coal Museum went to solar. CO2 emissions have decreased. The empowerment of women stabilizes population levels.

We had time left for one question and Don Andruess asked it.

President Mary Lou presented our speaker with a fitting gift of a solar light. Then she adjourned the meeting and sent us away to Go Out There and Be the Inspiration. Who knows, she'll put you on the spot and ask how you were the inspiration.

Upcoming Events



RHSTAR AWARDS - 1/31/19

The Pasadena & Sierra Madre Rotary Clubs present the Third Annual Rotary Humanitarian STAR Awards to be held on January 31, 2019 at the Club of Pasadena.

Shining light upon those achievements contributing to the wellbeing of people and planet, the 2018 Rotary Humanitarian STAR Awards will recognize scientific and technological accomplishments in four categories: Health and Medical, Environmental Improvement, Knowledge Sharing and Recovery. Join us for an exciting evening!

TICKETS go to <https://www.rhstar.org/>



"Caring Little Hearts"

Over the last two years, Rotary Club of Pasadena has joined hands with the Rotary Club of Madras South, in Chennai, India for a project that has performed more than 200 heart surgeries to needy children with congenital heart disease.

We Rotarians embrace this opportunity to do good deeds half way around the world. If you visit www.caringlittlehearts.com, you can read and tell a compelling story of the challenge to give infants and children in India a chance to live healthy lives. If you cannot give, please share the story with others on your social media page.

By working together to respond to real community needs, clubs and districts strengthen their global partnerships. The most compelling aspect of the global grants process is the opportunity to make a difference in the world. This year's Global Grant fundraising is only \$17,500 and a heart surgery.

DONATE TODAY: <https://www.gofundme.com/caring-little-hearts>

February 4, Rotary Readers, 6:15 p.m., *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, at the home of Kathy and Jim Meagher, 330 Cordova Street, Rec Room

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Russ Guiney	January 28
Tamia Hope & Jim Meagher	January 30
Steve Reed	January 31

Happy Anniversary To These Rotarians!

Dennis Juett	2/01/94	25 years
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Potential Member Guests

Wendy Luttrell, Vistage Worldwide, guest of **Howard Raff**

7-Day Notice

Juliana Goswick, MUSE/IQUE, Sponsored by **Howard Raff**

Sean Leahy, Fully Seminary, Sponsored by **Anthony Shapiro**

Upcoming Programs

February 6 Dr. Julia Bradsher Huntington Medical Research Institute

February 13 David Lockington Pasadena Symphony

February 13	David Lockington	Pasadena Symphony
February 20	Scott Jenkins	Chair of the Rose Bowl Management Committee
February 27	Val Zavala	The Future of Public Media

SPOKES is a weekly newsletter published by the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

Rotary Club of Pasadena
556 S. Fair Oaks Ave. Suite 101 #379
Pasadena CA 91105

Should you have questions regarding this publication, please call us at 626-400-6750 or send us an email to office@pasadenarotary.com.

Visit our website www.pasadenarotary.com

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