



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

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This Week's Program

Guest Speakers: George Lewis, Journalist
Judy Muller, Journalist

Topic: Fake News

Introducer: **Akila Gibbs**



George Lewis was a correspondent for 42 years with NBC News. He retired from the network in 2012 and is now working on book projects and a blog.

The winner of three Emmys, the George Foster Peabody and Edward R. Murrow awards, he is no stranger to world crises.

Vietnam was his first assignment for NBC News starting in August 1970. Lewis remained there until May of 1972, returning to Vietnam in 1975 to cover the fall of Saigon.

In 1979, Lewis was in Teheran to cover the hostage crisis at the U.S. embassy. He remained in Iran for 66 days until the government expelled foreign journalists.

In 1989, Lewis was present in China for the revolt in Tiananmen Square and the revolution in Romania. During his career with NBC News, he has also covered

wars and revolutions in the Middle East, Latin America and Asia.

He was part of the NBC team that covered Operation Desert Storm. Lewis was also present in Lebanon for the 1982 Israeli invasion.

In the latter part of his NBC News career, Lewis reported on stories from his base in Los Angeles. His major domestic assignments have included covering earthquakes in California,

the O.J. Simpson criminal and civil trials and the Los Angeles Olympics.

A recurring assignment for Lewis was the technology revolution, starting with the dawn of the Internet age in the 1990's. In a series of reports called "Almost 2001," Lewis and his NBC News colleagues were among the first broadcasters to allow viewers to interact via email.



Judy Muller, professor emerita of broadcast journalism at USC's Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, has won numerous journalism awards in her career, including the Peabody, two Columbia-duPonts, two Edward R. Murrows, and numerous Emmy Awards.

Before coming to USC, Muller was a correspondent for ABC Network News, reporting for such broadcasts as Nightline, World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, Good Morning America, 20/20 and This Week.

During her 15 years at ABC, she covered such stories as the Rodney King beating trial and subsequent riots, the Presidential campaigns of Paul Tsongas and Bob Kerrey, the L.A. earthquake in 1994, the O.J. Simpson case and numerous environmental stories throughout the West.

Prior to joining ABC News, Muller spent nine years as a correspondent for CBS News, where she was a contributor to CBS Sunday Morning and CBS Weekend News on the TV side and as a commentator and reporter on the radio side. She covered the space shuttle program, both national political conventions in 1988 and the 1988 George Bush presidential campaign. Muller was previously an anchor/reporter for KHOW in Denver and WHWH in Princeton. She has been a contributing commentator for NPR, and a contributing correspondent for Al Jazeera America and PBS' News Hour.

She is the author of two books: "Now This: Radio, Television and the Real World," and "Emus Loose in Egnar: Big Stories from Small Towns." She makes her home in Norwood, Colorado.

Accompanist: **Ross Jutsum**
Song Leader: **Elisabeth Browne**
Inspiration: **Sheryl Guerrero**
Sergeant at Arms: **Anthony Shapiro**

Inspiration Station

by **President Mary Lou Byrne**

The Four-Way Speech Contest is always one of my favorite meetings of the year! It's particularly near and dear to my heart because the Four-Way Speech Contest is what brought me to Rotary! Back in 2011 my friend Greg Anderson, who was then a member of this Club, invited me to judge the contest. I attended the meeting at the Pasadena Hilton and I was just overwhelmed by the whole thing - the energy, the positivity, the do-gooding, and the fun-having. And, as I always say, you had me at the singing! It took a few years for the stars to align properly for me to join the Club, but the seed was planted that day.



And oh my gosh! Is there anything more inspirational than a fresh-faced high school student, all dressed up in a suit, sharing his or her thoughts on Being the Inspiration? I feel like I say this every year, but that's because it's true every year: This year's crop of speakers were the best yet! I was very glad to be a mere spectator and not have to try to pick a winner among four such terrific presentations.



Fun fact: this week's event was the Group Level Competition, which is the second of four levels of the Four-Way Speech Contest? Our Club selected our Club-Level representative at the preliminary judging rounds in late February. The other three contestants each participated in separate Club Level competitions at the San Marino, Pasadena After Hours, and Altadena Clubs. Our winner, representing Pasadena After-Hours Club, will go on to compete in the Regional Level round on April 17. (There she is with yours truly and Pasadena After Hours Four Way Speech Committee Chair Roger McKee.) The winner of that round will go to the District Level and compete for a \$5,000 scholarship. It's quite a journey for the contestants who make it the whole way.



As we heard from my friend and colleague Judge Darrell Mavis, who was one of our judges this week, the students who participate in the Four-Way Speech Contest never forget the experience. Darrell participated in the contest when he was in high school, and he still remembers everything about it including the topic! And what fun that our friend **Past President Kathy Meagher** participated in the Four Way Speech Contest 50 years ago!! What a wonderful program and a great example of Rotary do-gooding! (Are there any other former participants out there? If so shoot me an email or text and let me know!)



Many thanks to Four-Way Speech Contest Co-Chairs **President Elect Scott Vandrick** and **Mark Nicoletti**, emcee **Richard Gray** and Wednesday's judges **Nate Bradley** and **Anne Miskey** and timekeeper **John Cooper**. Thanks also to preliminary round judges and timekeepers **Ariel Drachenberg**, **John Tegtmeyer**, **Julie Bank**, **Justene Adamec**, **Mary Chalon**, **Edsel D'Souza**, **Angela Hawekotte**, **Deborah Lewis**, **Norma Mardelli**, and **Phyllis Crandon**. This is one of those projects that takes a village to pull off, and our village really outdid itself this year. Well done, Pasadena Rotary, well done!

As always, I love to hear from you with your comments, concerns, photos, stories, you name it. I'm just a text, call or email away: 310-710-7701 or president@pasadenarotary.com.

Yours in the stars aligning,

Mary Lou

P.S. I just realized that in my haste to adjourn Wednesday's meeting, I forgot the most important part. So here it is, Pasadena Rotary: GO OUT THERE AND BE THE INSPIRATION!!!

Scoot Zone

By **Justene Adamec**, Bureau Chief

Despite losing much of her voice, the indestructible **Marilyn Buchanan** led us in an a cappella version of the *Star Spangled Banner*. **Ellen Simon** gave the inspiration. Quoting George Bernard Shaw, "youth is wasted on the young," she gave thanks for all the young people participating in the 4-way Speech Contest.

Cyrus Afshin introduced new member, **Jim Belcher**. Despite managing the University Club, **Cyrus** had never sat on the dais! **Jim** is the President of [Providence Christian College](#), which has moved into the church building next door. Jim gave a shout out to guest Patrick Messica. Patrick is the speech and debate coach at Maranatha High School, which had a student in the 4-way Speech Contest. He's also the speech and debate coach at the college.

President Mary Lou Byrne gave Be the Inspiration coins to **Cyrus** and **Hassan Kheradmandan**, who co-sponsored Jim's application.

Past President Kathy Meagher gave \$50 to the Polio Pig because, in 1962, she won \$50 in the 4-way Speech Contest in Hampton, Iowa.

Cory Brendel announced that the Done in a Day committee will be painting the garage at the Ronald McDonald House on April 27.

First Gentleman Gary Kearney announced that there would be a social event at The Cellar. That event has moved to April. The next social event will be Happy Hour at the University Club on March 28. Board members will attend happy hour after the board meeting, but you can join the Happy Hour any time after 5 pm. It's no-host and drinks and apps are very reasonably priced.

He also announced that the next Corazon project would be on May 18. Contact **Gary** for details or watch this space for more updates.

Terry Masango announced that the collection of prom clothes for the Salvation Army's prom clothes drive will be next Wednesday. Bring dresses, suits, ties, shoes, etc.

Richard Gray moderated the 4-way Speech Contest, Club Level Round, between the Pasadena Noon, Pasadena After Hours, Altadena and San Marino Clubs. The winner will go on to the Group Level round in Montebello on April 17.

Fun fact: **President Mary Lou** first visited Pasadena Rotary when she was a judge in the 4-way Speech Contest. We had her at the singing.

Our judges this time were: Honorable Darrell Mavis, Supervising Judge at the Pasadena branch of Los Angeles Superior Court, who was a 4-way Speech Contestant in his youth, **Anne Miskey**, and **Nate Bradley**. The timekeeper was **John Cooper**. Speeches had to be between 6 and 8 minutes long, relate to the theme Be the Inspiration, and incorporate the 4-way test.

The winner was the contestant from the Pasadena After Hours Rotary, a student from Maranatha HS. (Per Rotary rules we can't publish contestants' names.) Her speech topic was racism faced by Chinese students. She began her speech with questions that are asked of students from China. Among the questions she gets asked was "do you eat dogs?" At the end of the speech, she answered the questions. Less than 0.01% of Chinese people eat dogs in accordance with their traditions.

First runner-up was from San Marino High School (representing San Marino Rotary).

Runners up were both from La Salle, one representing Altadena Rotary and the other, our defending champion, representing our Pasadena Noon Club.

While the judges were deliberating, we had a musical interlude from a quartet from LaSalle High School.

President Mary Lou thanked the co-chairs **Scott Vandrick** and **Mark Nicoletti**. **Mark** got a Be the Inspiration, coin which he has long coveted. Each of the contestants got a Be the Inspiration lapel pin.

Upcoming Events



"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 whereby we funded 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 explore a video that tells 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 website 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 participating in the global grants process is the opportunity to make a difference in the world. This year's Global Grant fundraising is only \$17,500 or less than \$88 per surgery.

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

Monthly Social Event

Happy Hour at the University Club

March 28 at 5 p.m.

No rsvp required

Just show up!

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Cyrus Afshin

March 17

Kym Pietsch

March 21

Happy Anniversary To These Rotarians!

Ellen Simon	3/19/08	11 years
Bob Martin	3/20/02	17 years

Upcoming Programs

March 27	Dan Stover Instrumental Music Competition	
April 3	Steve Mulheim, CEO of OPMD	Summer Fun
April 10	Jessica Hardin	Pasadena Film Festival
April 17	Anything Can Happen	Bacon Day

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

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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



See you on Wednesday!