
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * April 4, 2025 * #01-011

www.pasadenarotary.com

Robert Kleinhenz, Ph.D.

Kleinhenz Economics

"The Economy of the San Gabriel Valley, What to Expect"

INTRODUCER: Tammy Silver



Robert Kleinhenz, Ph.D. is the Principal Economist and Founder of the firm Kleinhenz Economics. A leading voice on the economy, Dr. Kleinhenz has over 30 years of experience in urban and regional economics. He has worked with clients in the private sector, the public sector, and academia. His expertise includes economic forecasting, economic impact analysis, real estate studies, and public policy analyses.

A regular contributor to the media, Robert has been interviewed by NPR, CNBC, the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, local radio and television stations, the Los Angeles Times, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and its sister organizations, the San Francisco Chronicle, and numerous other news outlets.

In addition to his duties with Kleinhenz Economics, he is the Director of the Cal State Long Beach Office of Economic Research, and holds research positions with the Lowe Institute at Claremont McKenna College and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership. Previously, he held positions at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), the California Association of Realtors, and Beacon Economics, and academic positions at Cal State Fullerton and USC.

Kleinhenz holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California and a B.A. from the University of Michigan, all in Economics. He and his wife have three sons and a grandson.

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 9, 2025
UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA - 12:00 pm
175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101
RSVP A MUST - Deadline: 5:00 pm MONDAY

OVERFLOW PARKING: Pasadena Heritage Blinn House
Enter parking off Madison Ave. - Do not park in any reserved parking space

Reception: Alan Schier & Mike Bernard
Song Leader: Phil Miles
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Inspiration: Patrick Dinan
Scout Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt
Technical: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons
Non-members are welcome - \$45.00 includes lunch

ZOOM is back and opens at 12:15 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09>
Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523. - Passcode: 667356

Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks



WASTE NOT

As I typically find myself doing these days, I like to see what Rotary articles I enjoy reading. One such article was "The real reasons we still trash so much food and what it will take to change."

In landfills across the U.S., nearly a quarter of the solid waste is food, mingled with discarded furniture, clothing, etc. As the food rots, it releases methane gas which, while shorter-lived than carbon dioxide, is far better at trapping heat during its 10 years or so in the atmosphere. Reducing food waste has been recognized by "Project Drawdown" as one of the most effective ways we can slow our planet's heating.

Reducing food waste is one concrete action we can take as individuals at home to contribute to solutions for this unwieldy world problem. A third

of the food that's sold in the U.S. goes to waste, and about half of all wasted food comes from our homes, with the rest from restaurants, factories, farms, and other sources. Decaying food and drinks produces nearly 60% of the methane released by U.S. landfills. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average American family of four forks over \$1,500 every year for food they never eat. Globally, 1 in 11 people go hungry, which is the equivalent of over 1 billion meals that go uneaten every day.

One suggestion is to resist psychological signals that drive us to buy more food than we need. Sometimes we throw away food because we mistakenly believe it's unsafe. Date labels are not expiration dates but simply when foods will be freshest. If in doubt, search the USDA's ask.usda.gov to clear things up.

Meal planning is another way to move lower on the food waste spectrum. Another is composting. Many are finding that backyard composting helps turn unused food and scraps into a soil amendment.

A growing number of states and cities have passed laws to keep food out of the trash, with many focused on supermarkets, restaurants, and other commercial waste generators. I have made it a priority of mine to ask the University Club what they are doing to minimize food waste. Perhaps a parking lot compost container, or sending unused food to Pasadena shelters is a way to help minimize waste. What can we, as Pasadena Rotarians, do to minimize our food waste at home?

**** ABOVE PHOTO: President Stephen presented a \$2,500 District Grant Check to Lisa Cavelier, CEO, The Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena on 4/2/25.**

Stephen D. Smith

President 2024 - 2025
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Cell 310.908.1779

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

BUFFET LUNCH by Chef Tony Lu



Please **RSVP** if you are attending!
office@pasadenarotary.com

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

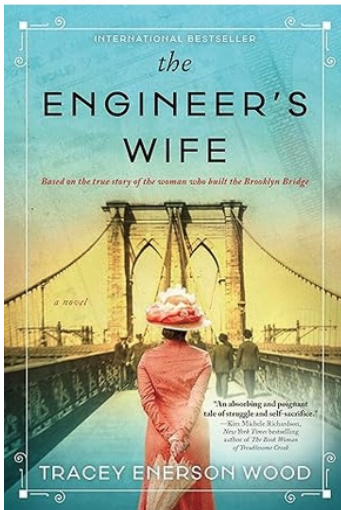
Newest Member of our club who
was inducted Wed.

Speechwriter, Storyteller &
Speaker Sneha Villalva

Pictured with her Sponsor



ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS



ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet at 6 pm on April 7th

Judy Taylor will lead us in the discussion of
The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Enerson Wood.

Please RSVP to Phyllis Specht and Jan Sanders as
Cathy will be out of town.

Phyllis may be reached via email
at chesterspecht@icloud.com.

Volunteer to help staff the 2025 Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts!

Enjoy this beautifully decorated house, support Showcase's mission to fundraise for the arts, and earn donations for our club in the process. For every shift completed by one of our members, Pasadena Rotary will receive \$50.



KEY DETAILS

- Shifts are 3 and 1/2 hours long (inside or outside) and you must stand the whole time (other than during a 15 minute break for water/snacks/bathroom).
- Parking for volunteers is at Santa Anita Park with shuttles to and from the house. If you can't get dropped off and picked up in the blocks surrounding the Showcase House, you should also factor in around 40 minutes to an hour for that process **each way**.
- Your job will be to greet guests, answer basic questions, and direct traffic through the house.
- If you complete TWO separate shifts, you will receive a **free ticket** to tour the Showcase House any day after 1:30 p.m.

If you'd like to volunteer, let our coordinator, Amanda Pumilia, know which days you're available for and which shifts you'd prefer. She will schedule your shift(s) and send a confirmation with the date and time.

Email: apumilia@yahoo.com or text: (818) 693-0331

Shifts are available on Tuesdays - Sundays from April 20th to May 18th

9:00 - 12:30

12:15 - 4:00

3:45 - 7:00

Join Mayor Victor M. Gordo, Community Members, Pasadena Residents, Civic, Business, Student, and Educational Leaders, and the Interfaith Community

52ND ANNUAL PASADENA MAYOR'S

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

HOSTED BY FRIENDS IN DEED

THURSDAY

May 1

7:30-9:00 AM

PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER | DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 AM

Resilient Pasadena: Rebuilding our Community's Future

JOIN THE ROTARY TABLE AT THE MAYOR'S BREAKFAST

Breakfast Chair: George Falardeau

Cost of Ticket: \$45.00

RSVP: Committee Member Wendy Anderson

office@pasadenarotary.com



**MT. WILSON
OBSERVATORY
STAR GAZING
EXCURSION REDUX!
Friday, May 9th**

**\$80 for telescope
observation + dinner/drinks
or \$50 for observation only**

Pasadena Rotary will be making its second attempt at going up to Mt. Wilson on Friday, May 9th to experience stars, planets and the cosmos through the 60" telescope. Through the Mount Wilson Institute guides, each attendee will look several times through the eyepiece on the telescope at chosen celestial targets.

But capacity of the tour is limited to 25 people so this is a "First RSVP-First Twenty-Five" Rotarians and guests are in!

There are two sign-up options—one is the observation session plus dinner and drinks or just the observation session. More details will follow regarding the timing and location of the dinner and possible ride sharing. The evening should go to

around 10:00 PM although you can leave early if needed.

RSVP to Rob Fisher at rob@fbrg.agency or sign up at a Rotary meeting to see the stars!



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

What brings you Happiness? Today's speaker, Ed "Fast Eddie" Shorer, brought an eye-opening presentation on how racing slot cars with old and new friends while zipping around a model racetrack at simulated speeds approaching 200 mph brings joy and camaraderie – "Happiness is not Passive... the best moments usually occur if a person's body or mind is stretched to its limits."

President Stephen Smith rang the Rotary Brass Bell at 12:30 pm, as the Pasadena Four-Way Test Chorus looked raring to go – they were lined up behind pianist Ann Louise Christensen waiting for the flag to drop by music master Board Member **Don Andruess**, and they launched into a flaming version of Roger Miller's King of the Road.

Gui Bittencourt was also inspired by our speaker, and instead of slot cars, found his grandmother's old camera and started a photography hobby that turned into his vocation, and noting that "you never know where your passions will take you."



PP **Howard Raff** inducted our new member, **Ms. Sneha Villalva**, who has an undergrad degree in African American Studies from Scripps College and a Masters in English and Journalism from USC. Her accolades include NPR stories and speech writing experience. She is married and looking forward to meeting us – and just learned today that her grandfather was a past Rotary President! Welcome to the club, Sneha!

Today's guest was the wife of our speaker, Julie Simon, a retired educator and current performance artist with a local Balinese music group, which brings her happiness – today's theme.

Announcements:

- PP **Ken Joe** directed us to the voting ballots to elect four (4) new Pasadena Rotary Board members at our tables, and all active members marked their ballots – the vote count would be announced at the end of the meeting today (see end of this report).
- PP **Rob Fisher** is taking reservations for members and their guests to tour the Mt. Wilson Observatory, which had been postponed from last October. Dinner will be available, see announcement above.
- **Armida Baylon** is organizing our club's annual outing to cheer the World-Series winning Dodgers – details coming soon – club members prefer Sunday, April 27th.
- Board Member **David McAlexander** is leading our Rotary Service Project for April with a call to help women at Elizabeth House who are organizing wardrobe choices for upcoming job interviews. There will be sign-up sheets next week on the tables. We need your help.
- **George Falardeau** is organizing our Rotary Table for the 52nd Annual Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on May 1st. Last year, Mayor Gordo remarked how humbled he was that we all turned out. See above to RSVP.
- **President Stephen** had several announcements:
 - o The much-anticipated documentary on Herb Alpert's life was further postponed, due to lack of proper auditorium befitting the world-premier of this movie. This is a passion project for his Presidential year, and he hopes things can get ironed out before his Rotary year is over.
 - o A Summer Fundraiser that features one of the largest private collections of classic vehicles in California - More information coming soon.

Reporter **Dean Billman** introduced our speaker today, **Eddie Shorer**, titled "Back to being a Kid: How Slot Car Racing Brings Happiness". Dean preceded Eddie's presentation by explaining both he and Ed had attended Bowling Green State University (Ohio), and the Popular Culture curriculum under Dr. Gene Poor, one of the first of its kind in the early 1970's. Eddie graduated with an MA in Popular Culture, was a retired LAUSD middle-school teacher, and Ed had invited Dean to join him in racing slot cars, both on Eddie's home racetrack and also in a converted garage, which was a huge European-model racetrack – and Dean said that it was a natural "high" racing these little cars at scale speeds that seemed like going 200 mph.

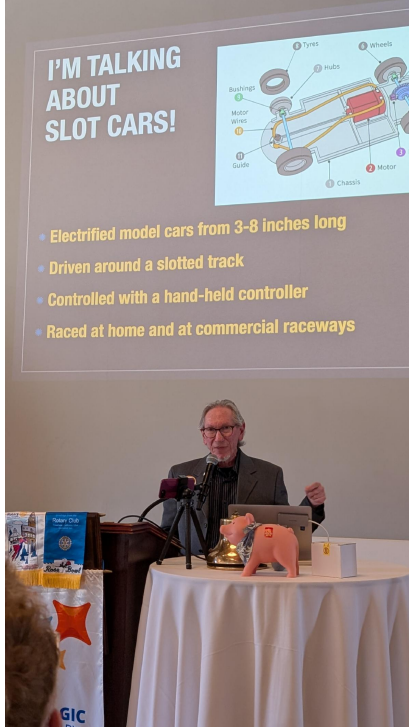


The audience was not sure what to expect – slot car racing? – but by the end of the presentation, everyone had questions, and Don Andruess wanted to stop by this Saturday to try his hand at racing.

Eddie gave two presentations. The first was on the need for all of us in these current times to find our own happiness – and how do we define happiness? When his friends say they found happiness, how did they find it and how did it make them feel, with survey feedback and peer-group studies.

The second was on how racing model-sized slot cars had grown in the 1950's through the 1960's, but to almost disappear for years, only to resurface as a great retirement

sport lately, to a worldwide competition.



Today's world headlines before the meeting were worrisome, and Eddie explained that today's slot car racing, in friends' garages and in professional organized racing tracks, brought diverse people together to share an exciting sport that demanded concentration and good eye-to-hand coordination, and a feeling of exhilaration. The real world was left behind, and "driving" race cars around a track against others was competitive and fun. He did a survey of over 75 racers, asking them "What about slot car racing brings you happiness?" and the most popular answers were, "Hanging out with my friends" and "Improving as a driver/builder." He also asked, "What positive emotions do you experience when you are involved with slot car racing?" and the phrases included, "accomplishment, my happy place, pumps the adrenaline, satisfaction, contentment, being in the zone, pride, thrill, enjoyment, joviality, teamwork, release of tension, settling anxiety, laughter, excitement, improvement, success, revved up, the

fellowship, ecstasy." All antidotes to today's crazy world.

Finally, both as a graduate student of Japanese and American culture, and his time living and racing in Japan, Eddie learned the concept of Ikigai: A Life + Worth, meaning Whatever Brings Joy. It may be family, interest, hobby, it is something to look forward to, a sense of purpose, "and with Ikigai, one can face adversity and conquer it!" He summed up Happiness Flavors in Racing as "sharing passion with friends, a perfect retirement hobby, pride in making a car better, and keeps me feeling young."

Eddie shared the special shared language and culture of slot car racers, and reflected on fellow slot car racers and their special achievements, including one young woman in Finland who was the World Champion of the fastest class of slot cars in May 2023. He played a clip of the fastest lap recorded by another racer, at 1.28 seconds, and the car whizzed by in a blur – amazing!



He concluded with his list for his happiness: A return to what he does best, a way to enjoy his time, a life of discovering new things, enjoyable reminiscences, and a path to excel, now and in the future. May we all discover our path to happiness, our Ikigai.

Our club had a long list of questions. Is it like driving a real car? Can a great race car driver also race a slot car well? Like Formula One Racing, are there groupies? (Julie Simon, Eddie's wife sitting next to me, said "Yes, me!") (So cute!) Are there budgets? Are there rules and regulations? Any monetary rewards? (No, but there seems to be betting on the drag-strip version of straight-line dragsters). And Don Andruess complimented Eddie on his super-good talk, and "I'll be there Saturday!"

It seems our club was captivated by both the fun and camaraderie of Eddie's group of slot car racers, or maybe we all yearn for a fun way to forget the world and its stresses and spend a day with friends.

**Eddie's You Tube Presentation to share; https://youtu.be/Sx6EvKtkkcc?si=aRCWW400o_Fsg6s7

News Flash! PP **Ken Joe** announced the four new Rotary Board members: **Deb Raupp, Mike Bernard, Alan Schier, and Robert Lyons**. Congratulations!



L2R: Dean Billman, Eddie Shorer, Julie Simon, George Falardeau, Mel Cohen, Rob Fisher, President Stephen, David McAlexander, Susie Cohen

SEVEN DAY NOTICE

Bridget Lawlor - Corporate Membership - Sponsor: Mic Hansen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Royce Gilder	April 4
Stewart Rydman Espinosa	April 8
Catherine Hany	April 9
Lily Goldfarb	April 10
Phyllis Currie	April 10
Mike Davis	April 10

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

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Fred Findley	4/5/17	8 Years
Phyllis Crandon	4/6/16	9 Years
Roy Rico	4/7/10	15 Years
Bill Opel	4/9/75	50 Years
Joshua Levine Grater	4/10/19	6 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 16, 2025 - Zoot Velasco - Rotary/Pasadena Heritage - 120 Years of Rotary, Unabridged
April 23, 2025 - Liza & Pat Pattison, Best of California Show - Top 10 Hidden Gems for Summer Travel
April 30, 2025 - Teachers of Excellence Program
May 7, 2025 - Sara Safari, Climb Your Everest

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

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

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Making Magic

by doing Service

PROMOTING PEACE FIGHTING DISEASE

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES SUPPORTING EDUCATION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.



Pasadena Rotary Club
Stephen Smith, President 2024-25

**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm - University Club of Pasadena**

PRESIDENT: Stephen Smith

PRESIDENT ELECT: Hillary Schenk

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec

SECRETARY: Wende Lee

TREASURER: Tony Phillips

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, Sandy Goodenough,
J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman, Robert Lyons, David McAlexander, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Nevino
Rocco, Tammy Silver, (President Elect Elect), 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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