
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * March 28, 2025 * #01-010

www.pasadenarotary.com

EDDIE SHORER

Slot Car Racing

"Back to Being A Kid: How Slot Car Racing Brings Happiness"

INTRODUCER: Dean Billman



Eddie Shorer, a 27-year veteran of Slot Car Racing, offers an insider's view of the hobby/sport in a very personal narrative. He will take you from its history to present-day slot car racing. Learn about the Golden Age of the hobby, its rise and fall, rebirth and growth, and profiles of racers, collectors, and builders in both club and commercial racing. The talk will be accompanied by photos and examples of slot cars and awards.

He has raced throughout the US, as well as in the UK, Italy, Mexico, and Japan. Between 2007 and 2023 "Fast Eddie" presented papers at Popular Culture Association National Conferences in San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Eddie is a retired middle-school teacher from Los Angeles. He has a BA degree in Japanese and English Intercultural Studies, and an MA degree in Popular Culture Studies. He lived in Japan for six years where he taught English and was a tofu-maker. Back in LA he owned a bohemian Internet coffeehouse, and currently drives around in old Saabs. And he races slot cars. A lot! A t-shirt his wife got him says it all: "Warning: May Randomly Talk about Slot Car Racing!"

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 2, 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: Don Andrues

Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen

Inspiration: Gui Bittencourt

Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman

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



Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award

As I was perusing the Rotary.org website, I came across an article that piqued my interest. Ayda Orezen, a member of the Rotary Club of Izmir-Gundogdu, Izmir, Turkey, is an author, mediator, and professional speaker whose work has touched the lives of as many as 11,000 women and girls.

Ozeren spent years conducting financial literacy workshops for women as well as organizing mentorship opportunities and tutoring programs for girls. She published a book and donated all the proceeds to funding girls' scholarships. In 2023-24, as governor of Rotary District 2440, she took the lead in relief efforts for the victims of the 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquakes.

Ozeren studied political science, international relations, and marketing but pursued a career in the banking industry. She began conducting financial literacy seminars after her bank developed a program to provide startup funding to female entrepreneurs. Through Rotary, she led similar classes for women in rural areas, factories, and schools. She visited more than 100 factories and small manufacturing companies, educating around 8,000 women about finances and economic empowerment.

She decided to try writing a blog, called Diary of a Banker, and in 2021 published a book,

"Aziz Coguz Biziz" (which translates to "We are more when we are together"). She donated her royalties to pay for scholarships for girls, funding around 1,000 scholarships.

Through a project called The Golden Needle, she helped women find work making traditional textiles. She also collaborated with city governments to distribute olive and sumac saplings to women in the farming sector.

Rotary has honored her with being the recipient of the 2025 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award, a well deserved honor for dedicating her career to helping women in Turkey. It should be noted that she got her start in Rotaract and to this day still maintains a close relationship with her Rotaract friends.

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

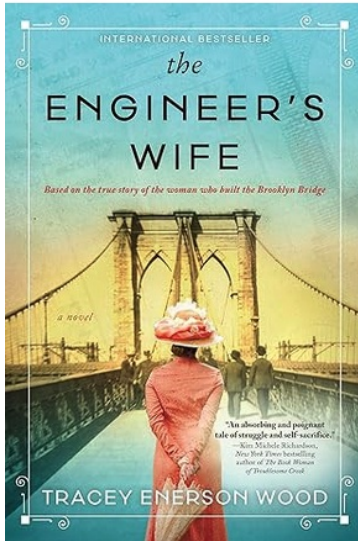
**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

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



Gui Bittencourt and Martha Shenkenberg checking in

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

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Gui Bittencourt & Tammy Silver



President Stephen Smith rang the bell at 12:30 and turned things over to **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, who led us in singing “I Love LA,” in honor of our guests from The LAist radio, accompanied by piano wizard Ann Louise Christensen (who magically managed to cover all the parts from Randy Newman’s full band!) and the Four Way Test Singers (**Don Andrues, Jonathan Edwards, J.P. Harris, Gary Kearney, Deborah Lewis, and President Elect Hillary Schenk**). After the Pledge of Allegiance, **Stewart Espinosa** gave the inspiration, an inspiring story about how being rich or poor is a matter of perspective: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/9780531094990> .



Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons helped with our guests, who were introduced this week by **Past President Howard Raff, Stewart Espinosa, Marsha Rood, Venice Dunn, and President Elect Hillary Schenk**.

In the Department of Announcements Department, **President Stephen** proudly announced that a photo of our Pasadena Rotary pop-up tent, which we all pitched in to buy earlier in the Rotary year, made its way into an article about fire relief in the latest edition of the Rotary International magazine! He also announced that **Past President Phil Miles** took a tumble in the Music Center parking lot over the weekend and broke his wrist. **PP Phil** was present at the meeting, sporting a cast on his wrist, and seemed to appreciate our good wishes for a speedy recovery.



Deb Raupp announced that Speed Rotary was such a success that it will return on April 9. She thanked the facilitators from the last session and solicited facilitators for the next go-around. Ten people volunteered on the spot, so we are all set!

Jan Sanders announced that Rotary Readers will meet on April 7 at Phyllis Specht's house, and we will discuss *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood. Details above.

Mike Bernard announced that the regional round of the Dan Stover Music Competition is/was Thursday, March 28 (yesterday as you read this). Hopefully, our accordionist did well!

Robert Lyons, on behalf of the Eaton Fire Relief Committee, announced that the big fundraiser concert is tomorrow/yesterday, March 28, t-shirts are coming soon, and the committee is working on a big project to be announced soon.

President Stephen announced that Union Station Homeless Services is looking for volunteers for its April 6 (4:30 pm - 9:30 pm) fundraising dinner at the Rose Bowl. For information: info@mastersoftastela.com. <https://events.humanitix.com/masters-of-taste-presents-generous-plates/> **President Stephen** also announced that the twice-postponed Mount Wilson tour has been rescheduled to May 9, so save the date and look for an announcement of the details by Social Committee Co-Chair **PP Rob Fisher** next week. He also announced that **Peggy Kelley** and **Paul Roach** have been named co-chairs for our Fundraising Committee and they are working on a very special event for June 21. Stay tuned!

Finally, **President Stephen** announced that next week we will vote on four new members for our Club's Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee met this week and has come up with a great slate of nominees so don't miss the election!

Dr. Jose Gomez introduced our speaker. Alex Santamaria is the president and CEO of Southern California Public Radio (KPCC/the LAist), which he called an organization that is "so historic and central to our Pasadena community." Alex has deep roots in Los Angeles media, having risen from an intern to the President and General Manager of Univision Los Angeles!



Alex started by asking us all to give ourselves a round of applause for everything Rotary does for the community. Next, she asked all the LAist members to raise their hands, and this reporter estimates it was at least 20% of those present. (If you'd like to become a member, you can do that here: <https://support.laist.com/secure/social?ms=donate>). She reminded us that "public media" is not synonymous with "government funded media." Most of the funding for the LAist comes from members' donations.

Why did The LAist re-brand from KPCC? Alex explained that it's to reflect their multi-media orientation. They have an app, social media, podcasts, and newsletters in addition to the flagship radio station at KPCC 89.3. She emphasized that LAist wants to meet its consumers where they are: "LAist is here for you," she emphasized.

She said that "Southern California's largest conversation" is Larry Mantle's beloved AirTalk show, which will celebrate its



fortieth anniversary on April 1! AirTalk helped our community through the pandemic and more recently through the Eaton Fire. And fun fact: AirTalk started in a small janitor's closet at KPCC way back in 1985!

Not-so-fun fact: There are almost 9.7 people in Los Angeles County and fewer than 2,000 full-time journalists. The Los Angeles Times is down to 300 reporters from a high of 12,000! "For us," said Alex, "it's not about headlines, it's about trust and covering what matters to you. When emergencies occur, access to clear and accurate information makes all the difference. We don't want to leave people feeling hopeless – we want to empower you to act!"

Alex then turned the lectern over to Megan Garvey, LAist's Senior Vice President of News. She was with the Los Angeles Times for 20 years, and has been with LAist for seven years. Megan explained that the newsroom makes a lot of use of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. She recommended the newsletter, The FOIA Files, by journalist Jason Leopold.



Megan explained that local journalism like that done by The LAist is vital in uncovering government corruption. She shared the story of disgraced Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do who in October pleaded guilty to bribery charges and is awaiting sentencing. Read about it here:

<https://laist.com/news/politics/andrew-do-explained-fraud-conspiracy-viet-america-society>

How did the story start? "We got a tip, a rumor that county contractors were under pressure to give contracts to a nonprofit run by Do's daughter, who was a law student at the time." They searched through county agendas and videos of Supervisors' meetings for evidence, and published the first story in November, 2023. Megan noted that "we were super careful with our wording and worked with First Amendment counsel" to make sure everything was truthful and non-libelous.

The LAist did multiple stories over the course of a year, and the key question was "how did this daughter, who was a young law student, have the ability to manage millions of dollars of taxpayer funds? And where was the money going? At this point there is \$13,000,000 still unaccounted for!" Notably, although Andrew Do wrote an op-ed piece calling for the LAist reporter to be fired, he never asked for a retraction and never said anything that was reported was incorrect. And he ultimately pled guilty and resigned.

Moreover, said Megan, "our reporting inspired three new reform laws, including one prohibiting elected officials from knowingly benefiting their adult children via government contracts."

She finished by saying that although The LAist's newsroom is still robust (85 reporters and 200 total employees), "I am increasingly concerned about our ability to continue doing what we do."

After a robust Q and A session, **President Stephen** presented both Megan and Alex with magic Rotary mugs, and the meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Correction on Scoot Zone 3/21/25: PE Hillary Schenk will coordinate (not buy) dinner for all Pasadena Rotarians who join her at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada on June 21-25. Many of our club members have attended in the past and can share wonderful stories of the event in the host country.



L2R: Alex Boekelheide, Frank Cardenas, Alex Santamaria, Jose Gomez, Tammy Silver, Hassan Kheradmandan, Cathy Simms, President Stephen, Deborah Lewis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Peter Boyle	March 30
Elizabeth Browne	March 31
Fred Soldwedel	March 31
Marilyn Buchanan	April 1

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

Eszyllfie Taylor	3/30/16	9 + 2 = 11 Years
Mel Cohen	4/1/87	38 + 12 = 50 Years
Frank Fish	4/1/96	29 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 9, 2025 - Robert Kleinhertz, Kleinhertz Economics - The Economy of the San Gabriel Valley, What to Expect

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

**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP
University Club Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave.**

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

Scout Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman

**Photographers: Hans Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk,
Tammy Silver, Ken Joe, Claudia Ponce de Leon, Mike
Bernard, Dede Venkat & Gui Bittencourt.**

Proofers: Kathy Meagher & Amanda Pumilia

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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

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