
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * March 7, 2025 * #01-007

www.pasadenarotary.com

DAN STOVER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COMPETITION Chair: Mike Bernard - Co-Chair: Allison Burgos



Don't miss this week's program. Some of the most talented instrumentalists from our local high schools compete in this annual district wide musical scholarship competition. Cash awards will be given to the winner and runners up.

14 talented musicians were heard at the Audition Round that took place Thursday evening, 3/6/25 at 6:00PM in the chapel at the Salvation Army Tabernacle of Pasadena. The top 3 competitors will be heard next Wednesday, March 12th. Three

independent judges will select the winner, who will move on to the Regional final on 3/27/2025. The winner of the Regional Final will move on to District Final at the District Conference on April 12.

*Note: Our Club has produced more Dan Stover winners than any other club in the district.

HISTORY: Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship: The Rotary Club of Alhambra, in the year following the death of Rotarian, Educator and Musician, Dan Stover in 1997 established a Music Scholarship Program in his name. The program was proposed, organized, and championed by a new Rotarian, Christine Montan, who was Alhambra's first woman Rotarian. Ms. Montan recognized and appreciated the contribution that Dan Stover had made as a Rotarian, musician and person. From these beginnings, the Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship program, "graduated" into a District program. A generation of talented, young musicians have participated and had the opportunity, in the name of Dan Stover, to compete against their peers and earn funds to further their

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 12, 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
Lunchtime Interlude: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Jonathan Edwards
Inspiration: Deb Raupp
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



Rotary Clubs all over do fun events every month of the year. My weekly column will mention two Rotarian events which will occur in March in California.

The first event is entitled "Race for the Cakes". It is held by the Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise. It benefits local schools and will be held on March 8th. The club partners with the LAX Coastal Education Foundation, which hosts a morning of family-friendly races on the campus of Loyola Marymount University, with live music along the route. Club members serve pancakes, orange wedges, coffee and juice to the participants, including hundreds of students who compete to raise money for their schools.

The second event is entitled "Mix and Match". It is held by the Rotary Club of Cambria. It benefits Local and International projects. The club's annual gala dinner returns to the oceanfront San Simeon Lodge with the theme Black-Tie Tie-Dye. Guests are invited to show up in a formal gown

or tuxedo, a Grateful Dead T-shirt or possibly a combination of the two styles. Background music ranges from Jefferson Airplane to Johann Strauss. Organizers expect to raise tens of thousands of dollars through ticket sales, raffles, and a live auction.

How invigorating is it to belong to such a wonderful service club that has fun and exciting monthly events throughout the world that help raise money for various projects.

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



Alan Schier, Jane Waas, Janine Thompson, PE Hillary Schenk, Martha Shenkenberg

**ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
& EVENTS**

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 Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

Over one and a half million people visit our world-class LA Zoo each year, and our speaker today, Denise Verret, the CEO and Executive Director of the LA Zoo, sees her mission to promote “a just and sustainable world where people and animals exist together.” Over 140,000 school group visits per year bring the students unique experiences and a connection to nature they cannot get anywhere else.

President Stephen Smith rang the loud brass Rotary Bell at 12:30pm and called the meeting to order by asking Song Meister **Don Andruess**, accompanied by pianist Ann Louise Christensen, to lead us in song – Don couldn’t think of an zoo or animal song, but in honor of upcoming St. Patrick’s Day he drafted a large rowdy crew of the Four-Way Test Singers to join him in a sea shanty song called “What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor” – the whole room sang lustily to the tune made famous by The Irish Rovers. Certainly got us into the mood!

Our inspirator was absent, and as everyone was in a rowdy mood from our song, they began loudly suggesting to President Stephen to “Just Inspire Us!” and other suggestions – the whole room was rowdy – but then **George Falardeau** stepped forward and asked us to think about the survivors of the Eaton Fire and to have a moment of silence for them and bow our heads. George must have experience with rowdy drunken sailors.



We had several special guests (all guests are special):

- **Howard Raff** introduced a soon to be inducted member, Ms. Sneha Villalva, a professional speech writer.
- **Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons** jubilantly introduced beloved now Honorary member Jane Waas, and her husband Curtis, and daughter Janine.
- **Robert Lyons** also welcomed his friend Dr. Aaron Levy, an M&A Strategic Business Development manager.

Announcements:

- **President Stephen** alerted us to the opportunity to directly help unhoused survivors of the Eaton Fires through the Union Station Service facility this, and every Wednesday, from 10am to 3pm.
- **President Stephen** asked how many members enjoyed the Speed Rotary event last week - and because it was popular, he wants to keep the event each month going forward.
- **PP Ken Joe**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, facilitated the voting of the three "at large" committee positions. The three members of our club selected were **Deb Raupp**, **Alan Schier** and **Michael Bernard**.
- **President Elect Hillary Schenk** asked for volunteers to represent our club at the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts this April-May, with each full day of docent ushering at the house raising \$50 per person for our Club Foundation. Many of our members are involved, and this would be an excellent way to represent for Rotary (and a fun way to get to see the house for free). Your reporter’s wife, Karen Billman, is also a

2025 Showcase House Designer. (see above flyer)

- **PP Phil Miles** donated \$50 to the Polio Pig to celebrate his famous professional singer daughter known as B. Miles for her fundraising concert in Brooklyn for Eaton Fire as reported in The New York Times on February 21st.
- **PP Mel Cohen**, a professional insurance agent, encouraged everyone affected by the wildfires to attend the meeting with the CA Insurance Commissioner at John Muir H.S. on March 15th; and if anyone needs help understanding their insurance policies, please see him.
- **Robert Lyons** is spearheading what was the Community Grants Committee – now known as the “Eaton Fire Relief Committee” – and he asked every table to take five minutes today and brainstorm ideas of the best way we can allocate the relief monies we have raised. A scribe at each table took notes: Our table thought that the immediate need might be legal advice concerning if the Altadena home owners’ legal property titles are in order, especially since lawsuits and insurance payouts will be determined soon.



PP Justene Adamec introduced our speaker today, **Ms. Denise Verret**, and she was very clear on the LA Zoo mission in our busy world, and especially on the need to promote and sustain the world’s wildlife for us all to enjoy. An Altadena native, personally affected by the destruction of the wildfires on so many of her friends and neighbors, Ms. Verret said that the city can rebuild, just like her work to rebuild natural habitats for her animals. Her presentation was centered around three themes: saving wildlife, enriching our local communities, and bringing students closer to the world of animals and nature.



Our LA Zoo is in the top 20 of our nation’s zoos, with thousands of people visiting it every day. Funding is always a concern, but the attendance and research income helps offset the city financing, and the fact that hundreds of students visit, volunteer, and even attend Zoo Summer Camp, helps incorporate its services and education into many young student’s experiences with nature.

The zoo is very committed to bringing back endangered species, like the California Condor (almost extinct, now breeding successfully), the Baja Peninsula Pronghorn, and the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog; the successful re-introduction in North America of the New Mexico Ridgenose rattlesnake, and the Giant River Otter, once extinct in Argentina but breeding in our zoo, soon to be re-introduced to Argentina. They partner with many other zoos to trade and mate different animals, hoping to stop extinctions – our



members were curious of recent efforts to re-create the Woolly Mammoth, extinct thousands of years ago – not LA Zoo work, yet.

The zoo is committed to Conservation and well-being through proper animal husbandry, medical care, and recent advances in animal health – actual human doctors volunteering time to operate on ailing wild animals, even eye doctors helping with animal vision ailments. This work fascinated students, and there is an LA Magnet High School on the zoo grounds, and some students may receive scholarships from the Betty White Animal Foundation for Animals.

One final comment on the Zoo was promoted in the media to use some of its open spaces to generate extra income through some kind of “Entertainment Venue” theme park, like Zip line tours or carnival rides – all rejected by serious zoo leadership dedicated to promoting a serious educational and sustainable environment where generations of curious and committed young people can learn of the wild world around them, right in their backyard.

Let’s plan a Rotary Day at the Zoo!



L2R: PP Justene Adamec, Max Pulsinelli, Denise Verret, Phil Hawkey, Jan Adams, Chuck O’Neill, Mike Farrand, President Stephen, Ben Sellick, Phil Miles, Parker Hayward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

John McDannel

March 10

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

Gary Kearney	3/8/06	19 Years
Hillary Schenk	3/9/16	9 Years
Cory Brendel	3/9/05	20 Years
Justene Adamec	3/11/15	10 Years
Cyrus Afshin	3/11/09	16 Years
Don Andruess	3/11/15	10 Years
David Covell	3/11/15	10 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 19, 2025 - To Be Announced

March 26, 2025 - Alex Santamaria, President/CEO, LAist - The Future of LAist

April 2, 2025 - Ed Shorer, Slot Car Racing - Back to Being a Kid: How Slot Car Racing Brings Happiness

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

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

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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