

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* May 5, 2023 \* #23-116

Stay up-to-date at [www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

### This Week's Program

# TEACHERS

## *of Excellence*



#### Co-chairs

Lisa Cavelier & Sandy Goodenough

#### Special Guest

Brian McDonald, PUSD Superintendent

#### Honored Teachers

Michael McNeely, Rose City High School

Isabel Reynoso, Blair High School

Donna Tucker, John Muir High School Early College Magnet

Ashley Webb, Altadena Arts Academy

Marion Yamada, Alexander Hamilton Elementary School

Pasadena Rotary is proud to present the 33rd annual Teachers of Excellence Program. This program started in 1990, a product of hard work and dedication on the part of Pasadena Rotary's members Joe Lonergan, Al Lowe and Christle Balvin, among others. Their inspiration came from Jaime Escalante, the former East Los Angeles high school teacher who believed inner-city students could master subjects as demanding as calculus.

# May 10th Meeting

12:00 pm - RECEPTION & LUNCH BYRSVP ONLY  
12:30-1:30 pm - President Justene Adamec Presiding  
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen  
Song Leader: PP Phil Miles  
Inspiration: PP Mel Cohen  
Scoot Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne  
Photographer: Wende Lee & Tammy Silver  
Sergeant At Arms: Robert Lyons  
Tech: Frank Fish & Scott Carlson

To attend LIVE - RSVP Below  
Non-members are welcome - \$40.00 includes lunch

Or by the One-way "Zoomcast"  
Zoom opens at 12:15 pm - Meeting begins at 12:30 pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86515101523?pwd=dHhNZnV5c2ZqbzNQbWthbDNhYTladz09>  
Meeting ID: 865 1510 1523  
Passcode: 667356

**IF LINK doesn't work, cut and paste link in your browser**



**IMAGINATION**  
*By President Justene Adamec*



It's been a lifelong dream of mine to be a game show contestant. Well, not quite lifelong but since I was around 8. I might just be getting that wish come true. The Game Show Network, which produces new game shows as well as showing old classics, is looking for contestants for its game show, *Switch*. It's a trivia game show which doesn't

have an element of luck to it. No spinning wheel or buzzing in. I had the first interview this morning and I'm set up for the second round on Monday.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, besides sharing my excitement? During my interview I told them about being President of Pasadena Rotary. The casting director said "please share our information with your Rotary club. If they're like you, we want to hear from them." Of course, the members of this club are a large part of why I have such a positive outlook on life.

So, if it's your lifelong dream to be on a game show, or if it just sparked your interest right now, let me know and I will send you the information.

Yours in Rotary service – and in Rotary fun,

*Justene*

If you wish to contact me, you can do so by calling 626-806-2529 or emailing me at [president@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:president@pasadenarotary.com) or catch me before or after a meeting.

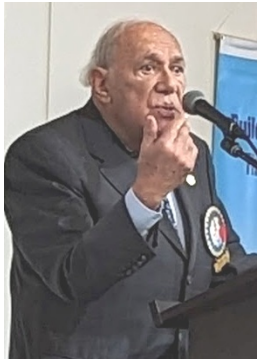




# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Hans Rosenberger & Tammy Silver



**Past President Mel Cohen** rang the Rotary Bell today and relived his 2013 Rotary Year as Past President – “2013 was a good year, but NOT as GREAT as 1965” – the year that he married his wonderful German wife, Renate. She took her turn at the podium and recounted how her dad kept trying to stall this insistent American sax player from the US Army Band stationed down the road in Stuttgart from proposing to marry his daughter, and how they finally convinced dad that they were going to get married anyway – so he finally gave his blessing. And – ever the jokester, Mel remembers how his future father-in-law said, “You can’t afford her” – and he was right about that!

Our song leader **Don Andruess** was inspired by our main speaker today, discussing retirement homes management, led us with a wistful Gordon Lightfoot tune, “Sundown”- probably meaning about Sundowners syndrome that besets older seniors with dementia, but the lyrics were about your girlfriend sneaking out after dark to date other men – maybe that’s why they lock the doors at night in the Senior Living facilities?



**PP Mel** then introduced **Jim Osterling** for the Inspiration, and he inspired us with living examples of seniors who have accomplished great things later in life, like Julia Childs of Pasadena, who started writing cookbooks at age 50, or John Glenn who became the oldest person to fly in space at 87.

**PP Mel** asked us for a moment of silence on the passing of **Past President Joe Lonergan (1990)**, who was the original organizer of our club’s Teachers of Excellence – Joe was a great presence in the club for many years joining in 10/1/1960 - a **Pasadena Rotarian for 63 years**.

#### Announcements:

- **Mary Chalon** of Parsons Nose Theater announced their new play “A Complete History of the American Musical in 90 Minutes...or Less!” by Barry Gordon and Gary Lamb on May 20, 21, 27 & 28. With cookies served at intermission baked by Judy Graunke! She highly recommends the play and the cookies!
- **President Justene** announced the “Taste of South Pasadena” on May 9<sup>th</sup>, with 30 restaurants participating. See flyer below.
- **Stephen McCurry** of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, inspired by today’s speaker of senior living experiences, did a shout-out of his own Conservatory that offers music training and band experience, playing at venues like MonteCedro and The Palms.

#### Guests today:

**Mel Cohen** brought his wonderful wife, Renate; Speaker **Jim Graunke** brought his wife, Judy; **PP Howard Raff** introduced potential member Claudia Ponce de Leon of Citizens Bank; Ken Hill brought potential member Bill Tilney, President of the Ambassador Foundation; **Cathy Simms** brought her husband Garrett Bell; and **Mary Chalon** brought her talented husband Lance Davis

**PP Mel** then took a few minutes to reflect on his years within the club and Pasadena – from his 1976 Group Rotary Exchange to Fiji with other business leaders from District 5300, which led

him to join Pasadena Rotary in 1976. He became President of the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce (the JCs) in 1980, but felt the Rotary was a better fit with its more welcoming members and was active from then on, becoming President of the club in 2013.



**Renate Cohen** took the stage and recounted how Ken Hill (with red hair then) would be a frequent guest at their home, and the tent cards on our tables showed pictures of Ken with red hair, Susanne their daughter and a celebratory Renate and Mel opening Christmas presents, Mel playing sax in the Rose Bowl for UCLA, and a striking picture of Renate and Mel looking very fresh and beautiful. She recounted how Mel was put to the test to win Renate's hand, where a single rose in his hand and pleading outside her door finally won her over, and they were married six months later in a German Monastery, and how his Orthodox Rabbi wouldn't sign off on the certificate. Fifty years later, love still wins!

Then Mel told his joke about the three Samurai warriors who walked into a bar, a Chinese one, Japanese one, and Hiroshi Cohen...

**Tammy Silver** had to follow that act, and she did a good job introducing our speaker, **PP Jim Graunke** (2001-2002), who spent his entire professional career of 43 years in senior living communities' administration, both in Altadena and across the country. But first, inspired by Mel and Renate's love story, he recounted his courtship of Miss Judy, through chance encounters at Pasadena's Pie and Burger, to tennis and cycling trips throughout Europe as a fun-loving married couple, and on several charitable organizations across the country. And he had to remind us how good of a baker she is, supporting Parsons Nose Repertory Theater with free cookies to support the show!



Jim reflected on his 43 years, and how the Long-Term Care and Senior Living Centers get such a bad media rap when things go wrong, but that they serve a seriously useful place in our society, and people thrive and grow, even in their later years. Although 90% of people, when asked, would prefer to stay in their own homes until the end, the need is there for a senior community that supports active seniors.

He did a roll call of Pasadena Rotary members who are currently in local senior active facilities: Don Fedde, Kathy and Jim Meagher, Bill and Claire Bogaard, and soon Jeff and Joan Palmer - that he sees smart, pro-active seniors who have changed his life, and the lives of others around him through their life work. People like Dr. Dean Thompson, who started a mentoring program for incarcerated people in Sing Sing prison.

He told stories of several residents, who through their years were quite accomplished and creative, and even though they lived in a senior center, they showed spark and initiative to bring joy and life to all those around them. He felt the senior world is not depressing, even though people do live their last days there, they have so much to share and live, and he shared several stories of remarkable pioneers in our society who invented the laser, made history by defending freedom of the press, and changing healthcare.

**PP Mel** brought the meeting to a close with one of his signature jokes, (not a blonde joke, those were outlawed after his administration), so "a red-headed gal arrives at a castaway's island on a surfboard..."



CLICK HERE TO  
**RSVP TODAY**





### RECEPTION

*Jane Waas, Special Rotary Greeter "Remi"  
& Alan Schier greet Rotarians*

**RSVP by 5:00 pm MONDAY**

### MENU:

- **Chicken shawarma bowl** w/ saffron rice, hummus, tahini, cucumbers & tomatoes, and pita
- **Salmon cake salad** w/ mix greens, cucumbers & tomatoes, fennel, and green goddess dressing
- **Falafel bowl** w/ saffron rice, hummus, tahini, cucumbers & tomatoes, and pita (Vegetarian)

## MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

**PASADENA ROTARIANS TURNED OUT EARLY THURSDAY MORNING  
IN THE RAIN TO SUPPORT THE  
MAYOR'S 50TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST  
HOSTED BY ROTARIAN MEMBER FRIENDS IN DEED**





Lead by George Falardeau, Rotarians who attended or made a ticket donation included: Fred Findley, Marsha Rood, Catherine Hany, Cathy Simms, Tammy Silver, Mary Lou Byrne, Gary Kearney, Mic Hansen, Sandy Goodenough, Hillary Schenk, Chris Miller, Phil Miles, John Burt, Robin Salzer, Pushpa Nagaraj, Jim Graunke, Dean Billman, Jim Osterling, John Cushman & Shammah Waller referred to us from Dave Mans.



## ADOPT A MEAL COMMITTEE Thanks to April's Participating Restaurant

**Tavo**, owner of **Quiquita Bonita**, a long time family-run Pasadena eatery, provided a feast for Adopt a Meal on April 21, 2023 of Enchiladas, Taquitos, Fajitas, Potato Tacos (for the vegetarians), Rice & Beans & Chips, Salsa, and Guacamole.

Many thanks to Committee Member **J.P. Harris** for pick up and delivering this wonderful dinner to the good people at **Union Station Homeless Services**. Committee Chair: **Sandi Mejia-Ramirez**.

**QUIQUITA BONITA - 3563 E. Colorado Blvd. (west of Rosemead Blvd.)**  
**Hours: 8 am to 9 pm 626-796-5592**





**TUESDAY**  
**MAY 2023**  
**9TH**  
**6:00PM-9:00PM**  
**EATS**  
**ON THE**  
**STREETS**

---

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **TYROS CELEBRATION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST - 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

**CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN (CPK)**

**Appetizers - Cash Bar - Networking - Fun**

**The R2R Committee (Rotarian 2 Rotarian)  
will join the celebration!!**

**Tyros Co-Chairs: Ellen Simon & Judy Taylor**  
**R2R Co-Chairs: Cyril Vergis & Wendy Anderson**  
*(formerly the Business Alliance Committee/R2R)*

---



*Appreciation  
Extravaganza!*

**JUNE 28, 2023**

**BEGINNING AT 6PM**

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA INVITES YOU TO  
SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB FOR  
PAST PRESIDENT MARY LOU BYRNE &  
CURRENT PRESIDENT JUSTENE ADAMEC.

MORE EVENT INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON.  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## **POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING**

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement about your family, business or a favorite nonprofit or a Committee announcement? Email Wendy at [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) by **Tues at noon**. Minimum donation for Polio Pig Announcement: \$20 or for \$30+ you receive a special sticker, which is billed to your account. Additional \$20 If you wish to leave flyers (in a stack on the table not individual) or a hand-out at end of meeting.

## **Happy Birthday!**

Bill Opel	May 9th
Dick Ward	May 10th

## **Happy Rotaversay!**

Robert Lyons	5/5/10	13 Years
Akila Gibbs	6/6/09	14 Years



Chet Specht	5/6/20	3 Years as Honorary Member Reg Member since 11/11/92
Debbie Loveland	5/11/05	18 Years
Liz Algermissen	5/11/22	1 Year

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 17th - Dr. Mark Schuster - Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine Update. Dr. Schuster's presentation starts at 12:30 pm

May 24th - Dr. Caroline Heldman, Professor, Critical Theory and Social Justice, Occidental College, "Impact of Women in Politics"

May 31st - Jens Weiden, CEO Rose Bowl

June 7th - Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, President, Fuller Theological Seminary

June 14th - Cynthia Kurtz - Chasing the Eclipse

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

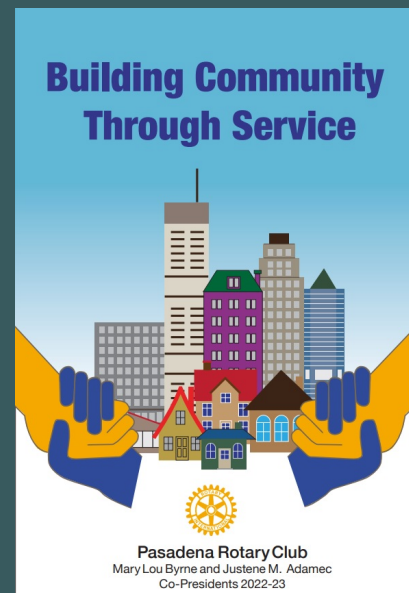
**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP at 12pm**  
The University Club Pasadena  
175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

**Scoot Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman**

**Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher**

**Photographers: Jonathan Edwards, Wende Lee, Hans  
Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk & Tammy Silver.**  
**Back-up: Desiree Alvarado & PP Ken Joe**

**Publisher/Editor: Wendy Anderson**  
**Bureau Chief: Justene Adamec**  
**Bureau Chief Emeritus: Mary Lou Byrne**



**ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETS the 2nd Thursday of every month at the University Club Pasadena at 5pm**

**PRESIDENT: Justene Adamec**  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Cory Brendel**  
**SECRETARY: Michele Ferroni**  
**TREASURER: Tony Phillips**  
**PRESIDENT ELECT: Stephen Smith**  
**PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Mary Lou Byrne**

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Desire Alvarado, John Burt, Lisa Cavelier, Mary Chalon, Sandy  
Goodenough, Mic Hansen, J.P. Harris, Wende Lee, Hillary Schenk, Tammy Silver,  
Cyril Vergis, Mark Waterson.**

# 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](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

Sandi Mejia-Ramirez, Accountant - 626-272-3424 - [sandimejia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandimejia@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

Pasadena Rotary Club | 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379, Pasadena, CA 91105

[Unsubscribe office@pasadenarotary.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com) in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!