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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA

### **SPOKES NEWSLETTER**

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* August 30, 2024 \* #01-0035

[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

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### ***Dr. Moogega "Moo" Cooper***

Limitless: Lessons in Space Exploration, Perseverance,  
and Bringing Those Lessons Down to Earth

***Introducer: DEDE VENKAT***



A real life “Guardian of the Galaxy,” Dr. Moogega “Moo” Cooper holds the responsibility of keeping the red planet safe from the Earth’s contaminants. Moo is the planetary protection lead of the Mars 2020 mission—with it’s highly viewed landing on February 18, 2021. Her work with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory is integral to the ongoing mission to discern whether Mars had life and that we don’t harm what’s already there—a job she has been working up to for most of her life.

After graduating from high school at 16, Cooper studied physics as an undergraduate at Hampton University, received a master’s degree and went on to earn her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Drexel University at 24 years old with a dissertation on sterilizing spacecraft materials

from extremophile microorganisms.

Moo is passionate about empowering organizations and others to achieve their dreams and overcome obstacles that she conveys through her life story and love of her work

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**WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA - 12:00 pm**

**175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101**

**RSVP Deadline: 4:00 pm MONDAY**

**OVERFLOW PARKING:** Pasadena Heritage Blinn House

**Reception:** Jane Waas & Alan Schier  
**Lunchtime Pianist:** Ann Louise Christensen  
**Song Leader:** Mary Lou Byrne - Accompanied by Ann Louise  
**Inspiration:** Debi Kroman  
**Scout Zone Reporter:** Mary Lou Byrne  
**Photographer:** Tammy Silver  
**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

Today I will write about the 7th and final Area of Focus from the Rotary Foundation with primary focus on the butterfly. Seventy five percent of the world's plant species are dependent on pollinators, such as the monarch, to survive. Without the help of pollinators, 30 percent of the food in any grocery store would disappear.

Depending on the year, between seven and 14 colonies of monarch butterflies overwinter in Mexico. Partly because of habitat loss — caused by illegal logging in Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve; by modern agricultural practices in the United States and Canada, where corn and soybeans no longer share space with milkweed plants; by climate change; by pesticide use on farms and in residential and commercial landscapes; and by urban sprawl and other development — numbers have dropped from an estimated 682 million of the insects in 1997 to 59 million last year. The western monarch population, which migrates primarily within the state of California, has fared even worse, with 29,000 remaining, down from a population of 4.5 million in the 1980s.

Nearly a decade ago, a District Governor from Minnesota started **Operation Pollination**, a broad effort that was open to anyone interested in increasing pollinator habitat. To date, much of the Operation Pollination activity has taken place within District 5960, at the northern end of the monarchs' route. I believe that Pasadena Rotary would be a wonderful partner to sign on to the National Heritage Areas' resolution, to sign a pollinator pledge, and to do some habitat restoration.

Listed below are some interesting facts about monarch butterflies.

**25 miles** - Average daily distance migrating monarchs travel en route to Mexico

**55 degrees Fahrenheit** - Temperature below which monarchs cannot fly

**6-9 months** - Life span of monarch "super generation," eight times longer than the other generations

**< 1%** - Current population of western monarchs as compared with the historic population

**53%** - Decrease in the population of monarchs over-wintering in Mexico in 2019-20 from the previous year.

**Stephen D. Smith**  
President 2024 - 2025  
Rotary Club of Pasadena



# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Matt Bookman & Tammy Silver

**President Stephen Smith** rang the big brass Rotary bell at 12:30pm and opened our meeting by saying we had a packed schedule. He welcomed **Eric Olson** as song leader, accompanied by Ann Louise Christensen and the Rotary Four-Way Test Singers (**Don Andruess, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Gary Kearney, Phyllis Currie, and Marilyn Buchanan**), and Eric commented that in all his years as song leader he never had a guest request – until today. At our speaker's request, we all sang Sugar Pie Honey Bunch ("Can't Help Myself" by the Four Tops), and Ann Louise sparkled with her piano skills and flourishes.

Pasadena Police Officer **Anthony Russo** gave a nice inspiration, focusing on our speaker's topic on re-imagining a freeway to a new community use, reading the story of the captive elephants tethered at birth to never test their strength, and therefore were doomed to never know their true potential – we should always be curious about what we dream to do, and try harder to do it.



We had three inductions!

- **PP Howard Raff** introduced Major Nick Helms, the new Salvation Army leader, to our club. Nick and his wife Becky are both SA officers and ordained ministers and he was a member of Washington State Rotary. He plays trumpet, guitar, and sings – and plays pickleball! What a great fit for our club.
- **Stewart Espinoza** welcomed James Doherty to our Pasadena Rotary Impact Club. James is a personal injury attorney and California native, and will fit right in with our many successful attorneys in the club.
- **Sandi Mejia-Ramirez**, our fantastic accounting consultant and financial wizard, also welcomed Dr. Jose Gomez of PCC as the lead member for PCC Corporate membership. He previously was a Cal State Superintendent, former LA Rotarian, and lives and works in Pasadena, ready to further join the community. Sandi announced, "You can have a conversation with him about anything."





### Guests, and we had quite a few!

- **President Stephen** proudly announced his wife Adriana Lim, and David Barulich, CEO of Profundia Community Bank and a new author.
- **George Falardeau** introduced Alan Clelland, who has a video blog on Pasadena traffic called "Mobility in Pasadena"
- **Mic Hansen** introduced Pete Ewing, President of WPRA, the West Pasadena homeowner's association.
- **Sandi Mejia-Ramirez** introduced Julie Gutierrez, retired assistant city manager, serves on PCC Foundation Board and Interim VP of Facilities & Engineering for the Pasadena Playhouse
- **Phyllis Mueller** introduced Lauren Cory, whom she met at the Shakespeare Club and is new to Pasadena
- **PP Howard Raff** introduced two prospective members, Brianna Lopez and Ben Sellick
- Tyros member **Steward Espinosa** introduced his co-worker at NY Life, Sara Wang

### Announcements (Please see individual event details below):

- **President Stephen** is thinking ahead – he is asking for a meeting soon to round up volunteers to work on the Rotary International Rose Parade Float. Check out the information here: <https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/5300/Club/803/2024-25NewsletterAugust.pdf>
- **Tammy Silver** encouraged us all to open our phones and "get linked and liked" to our own Pasadena TikTok and Instagram accounts – she showed our recent Shop with a Cop event with area school kids shopping through Target with Rotary gift cards picking out new school clothes and items – a double plus, heart-warming presentation.
- **PP Justene Adamec** (in full-PP Justene-energy form!) was promoting new Pasadena Rotary shirts to wear with pride at the next Done in a Day events – she has committed to President Stephen that we will do thirty (30) DIAD events this Rotary Year, and she wants total participation and looking good in our new Rotary shirts. She also is leading the charge on the Rotary Float committee.
- Pasadena Rotary Business Alliance Networking Meeting - **Alex Oscco** will host the next meeting on Sept. 5th at 5:30 pm . Details below to RSVP and attend.
- **PP Cathy Simms** announced the Rotary Book Club at 6:30pm on September 9<sup>th</sup> – see details below.
- **Angie Pizano** co-chair for the Rotary Roamers, announced an Awesome Hike to the Mt. Baldy Lodge in two weeks – the chair lift is available for those who prefer to take in our Southern California Alpine beauty from above – but it will be a great time. Sign me up!
- **Dean Billman**, District 5300 Polio Plus Chair (and your reporter) gave an impassioned challenge to have every single member sign up as a Polio-Plus member in President Stephen's year - \$100 paid personally or through a pledge on your Rotary invoice. Dozens of members signed up, and many more expressed interest. As of this week, 27 children have been struck down with polio in the rugged areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and more are at risk.
- **JP Harris** (who gave twice to the Polio Plus drive, once online on the RI website, and again today) recapped the Shop with a Cop, and how much everyone was moved and enjoyed the event.

**Phyllis Currie** (Rotary Band singer and today's Speaker Introduction!) gave us a quick background of our speaker, Danny Parker, who leads the group of concerned local and state citizens and government officials to determine the future uses of the land that Cal-Trans has returned to the City of Pasadena. He is a local graduate of our schools and Pasadena native, and he grew up in the world before the Cal-Trans -710 freeway construction and has family whose churches and homes were demolished for the freeway.





He spends hours at the Pasadena Historical Museum poring over old photographs of the city, and using the past as a guide to how we might use the land for the future. As you can imagine, there are many opportunities and stakeholders who have ideas on how to develop the land, from business parks, to low- or high- income housing, to returning the land to nature.

Danny went over his presentation, giving us an idea of how many people are involved in the decision process, which went on for almost the whole presentation – many formal government, university and community organizations within the city and state, and lots of personal wishes within the community who lost their homes to the freeway expansion through “eminent domain” forced sales. The main issues: Restorative Justice, Transportation and Traffic, Affordable Housing, Increasing the Tax Base through Retail Spaces, and Open Space – how to balance the needs of the community with the opportunities that could benefit the people of Pasadena?

He asked us to join the conversation and attend the community meetings, all found here: [www.cityofpasadena.net/city-manager/reconnecting-communities-710-advisory-group/](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-manager/reconnecting-communities-710-advisory-group/)



L2R: Debi Kroman, David Barulich, Adriana Lim, President Stephen, Gary Kearney, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Danny Parker, Phyllis Currie, Mic Hansen, Pete Ewing.

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**MEALS & SEATING ARE PROVIDED  
BASED ON RSVP'S WE RECEIVE**

**PLEASE RSVP  
IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!**  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)

**BUFFET MEAL**  
Chef Tony, The University Club

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**





## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

### Business Alliance Meeting

Please join us

Food & drink will be provided

RSVP to wendy [wowproductions2@gmail.com](mailto:wowproductions2@gmail.com)

RSVP deadline: 9/3/24



Alexander Oscco  
@alex.oscco

September 5th @ 5:30pm

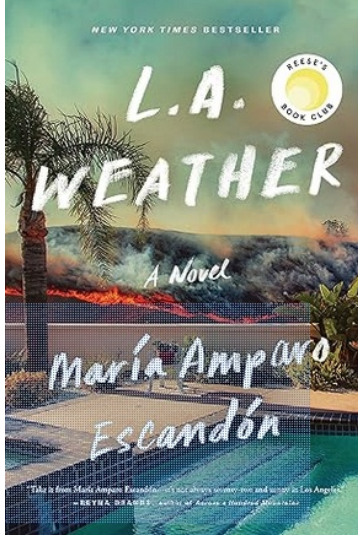
800 E Colorado Blvd. STE 150  
Pasadena, CA 91101



## ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Helen Baatz will review LA Weather by Maria Amparo Escandon. This was the summer read selection by the City



of Pasadena.

Bring something to share for dinner. You do not have to have read the book.

Please contact Cathy Simms [simmsie1@pacbell.net](mailto:simmsie1@pacbell.net) for location and more information. Please RSVP.

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Rotary Roamers

# Mt. Baldy Moonlight Hike w/ D'Santi

BBQ AND MUSIC AT TOP OF THE NOTCH

- ▶ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH @ 5 PM
- ▶ PURCHASE TICKETS DIRECTLY FROM [WWW.MTBALDYRESORT.COM/TICKETS](http://WWW.MTBALDYRESORT.COM/TICKETS)
- ▶ TICKETS MAY SELL OUT. PURCHASE THE ROUND-TRIP LIFT + DINNER AND A PARKING PASS (PER CAR).

Email Justene Adamec at [justene@gmail.com](mailto:justene@gmail.com) after buying tickets

## POLIO PIG & COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

### **ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED!**

Wish to "Show & Tell" us what you are up to or make an announcement (30 seconds) 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+ 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!!

Ken Hill	August 30th
Mario Galeano	August 30th
Ellen Batzel Palm-Leis	August 31st
Tammy Duke	September 1st
Mike Bradley	September 4th
Deb Raupp	September 4th
Grant Wilcox	September 4th

## ROTAVERSARY

Sean Cain	8/31/22	2 Years
Eric Olson	9/1/95	29 Years
Tony Phillips	8/1/84	40 Years
Jane Waas	9/1/87	37 Years
Chris Miller	9/1/22	2 Years
Jane Imai	9/2/09	15 Years
Jim Osterling	9/5/07	17 Years

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sept. 11 - Dr. Daniel Lewis, Sr. Curator, The Huntington - His recent book: "Twelve Trees; the Deep Roots of our Future"

Sept. 18 - Ida Puiwa, Othakarhaka Foundation - How a Strangers Kindness Transformed a Village in Malawi

Sept. 25 - Chris Erskine, Author/Columnist

Oct. 2 - Dr. Lawton Gray, Principal, John Muir High School

Oct. 9 - Michael Driebe, District 5300 Governor

Oct. 16 - Susie Kasielke, LA Zoo Curator of Birds, Retired - The California Condor: A Long Road to Recovery

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

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**by doing Service**

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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, Dede Venkat**

**Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club**

## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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