
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * August 9, 2024 * #01-0032
www.pasadenarotary.com

PATRICK CONNER

Mai Tai Magic!

Introducer: TAMMY SILVER



Patrick Connor is a cocktail enthusiast whose passion for mixology was ignited during his college years as a bartender. Although he set aside these skills to complete his education and launch a successful career, the COVID-19 lockdown inspired him to revisit and share his craft with friends.

Patrick began bartending in the summer of 1979, a time when both New York and London were vibrant with the energy of disco. In New York, the iconic Studio 54 was the epicenter, while in London, it was The Embassy Club. Patrick worked as a bartender in The Embassy Club's exclusive lounge, a haven for VIPs and celebrities, after completing his freshman year at Northwestern University. Although the allure of staying in London and continuing at The Embassy Club was strong, his dedication to education brought him back to

Northwestern University, where he graduated.

After earning his degree, Patrick started his professional journey as a sales manager at Procter & Gamble. He then pursued an MBA from Northwestern University, which propelled him into a career as a brand manager with Pillsbury and Johnson & Johnson. His expertise and leadership led him to become a sales executive with Warner Home Video, where he managed \$2.8 billion in domestic sales. A cancer survivor and five-time Ironman finisher, Patrick later transitioned into managing endurance cycling events, raising over \$120 million for cancer research.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Patrick's passion for mixology resurfaced. He dedicated himself to perfecting classic cocktails and developed a keen interest in Tiki cocktails.

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 14, 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
Enter parking off Madison Ave. - Do not park in any reserved parking space

Reception: Jane Waas & Alan Schier
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Don Andrues - Accompanied by Ann Louise
Inspiration: Josh McCurry
Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: Tammy Silver & Hans Rosenberger
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 4th of 7 Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus, Saving Mothers and Children. An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented.

Rotary provides education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

The **Rotary Foundation** reaches mothers and children in need by giving communities the help and training they need to take control of their own maternal and infant health care.

Haiti has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate of any country in the western hemisphere. **Rotary provided a fully equipped medical Jeep** to volunteers and midwives to reach mothers and children in remote areas. Rotarians provided a mobile cancer screening unit and awareness training around Chennai, India, where there is a high mortality rate of women with breast and cervical cancer due to late diagnosis. Rotary members launched a \$3 million, five-year pilot to **save the lives of mothers and children** during home deliveries in Nigeria. Since 2005, they've also repaired 1,500 obstetric fistulas — 500 more than their initial goal — restoring dignity and hope to vulnerable mothers.

If anyone is interested in donating, please sign in to My Rotary to donate and receive recognition.

Stephen D. Smith



The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Mike Bernard and Ken Joe



President **Stephen Smith** rang the bell at 12:30 and **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, accompanied by Ann Louise Christensen on keyboard, led us in a rousing version of our National Anthem, "in the key of G for Gold Medals," with which we were all super familiar after watching a week and a half of the Olympic Games! After the Pledge of Allegiance, **David McAlexander** gave a fun inspiration in the form of John Godfrey Saxe's poem The Blind Man and the Elephant.



Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons facilitated the introduction of our guests, who this week were hosted by **PP Mary Lou Byrne**, **PP Ken Hill**, **PP Howard Raff**, and **Anthony Rezik**. **George Ricciardella** even hosted a guest, and he wasn't even there!

In the Announcements Department, **Curtis Smith** made a Polio Pig donation and announced the Pasadena Jaycees Bowling Fundraiser on Wednesday, September 20. Proceeds will go to support the Jaycees' projects including the Operation Gobbler Thanksgiving food drive, and Operation Santa toy drive. Details here: <https://pasadenajaycees.org/bowling/>

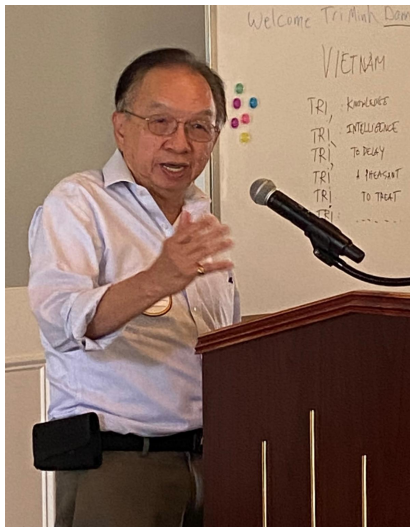
Dean Billman, the District 5300 Rotary Polio Eradication Chair, explained that he is passionate about his cause because his father, his father-in-law, and the priest who performed his wedding were all polio survivors. Sadly, wild polio is making a modest comeback, with 18 cases so far this year, up from only six this time last year. More worrisome, the polio virus has been detected in wastewater in Gaza! Please keep donating to Rotary's polio eradication efforts, which support

wastewater testing as well as research on a vaccine that will not cause (rare) vaccine injuries. More info here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio> and donate: <https://my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund>

Past President Rob Fisher made a special appeal to those who are on the fence about attending the President's Party on August 18: It will be THREE HOURS of the best part of Rotary, which is fellowship with our fellow Rotarians. Plus, there will be food and alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages. Don't delay! Details on how to RSVP below.

President Stephen gave details about a proposed fundraiser, which will be the screening of a new biopic about legendary musician Herb Alpert. This not-yet-seen film was made by documentarian David Leaf, who is best known for the 2006 film *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*. Details to follow but it's sure to be a special event!

Past President Mary Lou Byrne, resplendent in a Vietnamese áo dài (the national costume of silk tunic over pants), introduced our speaker. However, she first took advantage of her time at the mic to make a \$100 Polio Pig donation in honor of our tech team, **Frank Fish** and **Scott Carlson**, (see photo right) who rose to the occasion and manage to put our speaker, white board and all, on Zoom and put the Zoom feed on the screen in the room so everybody could easily see it. Hooray! Our speaker, Tri Minh Dam, first came to the U.S. as a Vietnamese exchange student in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam War, then returned for college and ultimately became a citizen and has worked as a Vietnamese interpreter at the Los Angeles Superior Court and also for the U.S. Department of State for many years.



Tri began by noting that in 1969, when he was 17, he spoke to the Rotary Club of Huntington Park. He said his English is much better now, and he is honored to be speaking to the Rotary Club of Pasadena. Fun fact: Vietnamese is a one-syllable-at-a-time language. In fact, the name of the country itself, Viet Nam, is most properly written as two separate words.

Making use of that white board, Tri demonstrated that Vietnamese makes use of five different accent marks, which affect how a word is pronounced. Therefore, his name "Tri" can be pronounced six different ways (with the five accent marks or none at all), and mean six different things. The proper way to pronounce it, with a rising inflection, means "intelligent." Alas, he said, the way most Americans pronounce it, with a falling inflection, it means "hemorrhoids."

Why is Vietnamese written using Latin script? Tri explained that a Portuguese missionary came over in the 17th Century and practically single-handedly invented the written language, using the alphabet he was used to.

Tri shared his own journey: He came to the U.S. in 1969 at the height of the war, under the auspices of AFS, the American Field Service. He said, "I had very limited English so my speech to the Rotarians was more like a comedy show!" He returned to Viet Nam in 1970, but was back to the U.S. in 1971, to Cochise College in Douglas, Arizona, which had offered him a scholarship. He became an interpreter for the Los Angeles Superior Court in 1984, and "moonlights" as an interpreter for the State Department.

His biggest assignment for the State Department was in 2006, when he was chosen to interpret for President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Hanoi. He interpreted for the President when he met with the Vietnamese leaders, but when President Bush was meeting with other world leaders, Tri interpreted for Mrs. Bush while she was out and about. One memorable experience was when she attended the famous water puppet show in Hanoi. "Imagine you're at a Broadway show," said Tri. "And you're trying to interpret it and whispering the interpretation in somebody's ear!"

Tri came away from the experience with a very positive impression (heh) of the Bushes. “They were super down-to-earth and friendly,” he said. “President Bush was eloquent, if you can believe it!” Tri noted that George W. Bush was easy to interpret for because “he speaks in simple terms.” One challenging part of the job was interpreting at a fancy state dinner: “I sat behind them, on a little stool, watching them eat the best food in Viet Nam. They gave me a bottle of water!”

Another challenging aspect was moving around the city: President Bush had a big motorcade in Hanoi, and they would often get stuck in traffic on the very narrow streets, Tri was in the last car and it would be scary because people would swarm around Tri’s car while all the Secret Service personnel were concentrating on the President’s car, way up front! Then, when they got to the destination, he explained, “I’d have to jump out of my car and dash to the President’s side!”

The best part of the trip? “I got to fly on Air Force One from Hanoi to Saigon. It was the best plane ride of my life! EVERYTHING had the presidential seal on it – paper plates, cups, you name it. I looked around and I was the only Asian guy on the plane! Everybody else was saving the plates, cups, and so on, so I did, too!” Fun fact: There are several identical planes, and Air Force One is only Air Force One when the president is actually on it. There are also other planes for other people and equipment. “The President could run the country from that plane!” Tri said wonderingly.

After regaling us with his tale of traveling with the President of the United States, Tri turned to his recent 17-day trip back to Viet Nam with the (past) President of Pasadena Rotary, **Mary Lou Byrne** and husband **Gary Kearney**, and others (including another Past President, **Frank Nicholas!**). “We were on every means of transportation,” he said. “Rickshaw, cable car, sampan, scooter, boat – you name it!”

After he wrapped up to a rousing ovation, there was a fascinating Q and A, including Tri’s thoughts on what the Vietnamese call “The American War.” “It’s over now and everybody is moving on.” Tri provided his (ed. note VERY FUN) YouTube channel to check out: <https://www.youtube.com/@MinhTriVietUSA> (See if you recognize anybody in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdk86t0XCOK>) **President Stephen** presented him with his “magical” speaker gift and we adjourned right on time.



L2R: Paul Martin, Mary Lou Byrne, Tri Minh Dam (hidden), Tram Dam, Don Andruess, Gary Kearney,

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

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!
office@pasadenarotary.com

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

BUFFET MEAL

Chef Tony, The University Club

Asian Cabbage Salad with Soy Sesame
Dressing (v)

Teriyaki Chicken Skewers

Oven Baked Whitefish with Ginger and
Scallions

Egg Fried Rice (v)

Stir Fried Yakisoba Noodles with Vegetables
(v)



**ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
& EVENTS**



Thank you to all our wonderful Rotarians who have generously contributed \$20 towards our Rotary tent, allowing us to showcase who we are and support our community projects. We are excited to share that we have raised **\$1,000 towards our \$1,500 goal!** If you haven't yet had the chance to donate, there's still time to help us reach our target. Every little bit helps, and additional contributions from those who have already donated are greatly appreciated.

Together, we can make a difference! Thank you for your continued support.

Cyrus Afshin
Desiree Alvarado
Armida Baylon
Mike Bernard
Dean Billman
Marilyn Buchanan
Allison Burgos
Mary Lou Byrne
Scott Carlson
Lisa Cavelier
Carmen Choy-Surdam
Becky Happach Detrick

George Falardeau
Mike Farrand
Fred Findley
Janelle Hack
Catherine Hany
Parker Hayward
Ken Hill
Ken Joe
Gary Kearney
Lisa Kroese
Debi Kroman
Wende Lee

Deborah Lewis
Paul Martin
David McAlexander
John McDannel
Sandi Mejia
Jan Moscaret
Phyllis Mueller
Eric Olson
Alex Oscco
Jim Osterling
Antonio Rezik
Nevino Rocco

Jan Sanders
Alan Schier
Ellen Simon
Stephen Smith
Judy Taylor
Jane Waas
Kelly White

did we miss your name? can you donate a little bit more to reach our goal! Contact Wendy A. at office@pasadenarotary.com

IMPACT CLUB EVENTS



SATURDAY

8/17

GARDENING DAY AT A LOCAL PUSD SCHOOL

Save the Date to help maintain one of the beautiful gardens at our local PUSD schools. Location to be finalized based on garden needs but we'll be meeting in the morning to beat the heat!



**MORE DATES FOR
UPCOMING SOCIAL MIXERS
AND SERVICE PROJECTS TO
BE ANNOUNCED SOON**

Contact Impact Club Chair Amanda Pumilia with any questions at
apumilia@yahoo.com

Want to be notified about upcoming service and social events?
Join <https://www.meetup.com/pasadena-rotary-impact-club/>

PRESIDENT

Stephen Smith



105 Pasadena Rotary

PRESIDENT'S PARTY

PLEASE JOIN US PASADENA ROTARY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

2087 N ALTADENA DR
3:00pm-6:00pm

Food & Drink to be provided

RSVP TO ROB@FBRG.AGENCY

RSVP DEADLINE 8/14

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Business Alliance Meeting

Please join us
Food & drink will be provided



Alexander Oscco
@alex.oscco

September 5th @ 5:30pm
800 E Colorado Blvd. STE 150
Pasadena, CA 91101





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
- ▶ TICKETS MAY SELL OUT. PURCHASE THE ROUND-TRIP LIFT + DINNER AND A PARKING PASS (PER CAR).

Email Justene Adamec at 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 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!!

J.P. Harris	August 11th
Sarah Smith Orr	August 11th
Gui Bittencourt	August 12th

ROTAVERSARY

Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn	8/9/23	1 Year
Carmen Choy-Surdam	8/14/19	5 Years
Elizabeth Blanco	8/15/23	1 Year

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Aug. 21 - Jai Raquel Partida. IG Influencer - How I Have Over 643,000 Followers
Aug. 28 - Danny Parker, 710 Commission - Status Report on the 710 Freeway "Stub"
Sept. 4 - Dr. Moogega Cooper, JPL - Keeping Mars Safe - From Us!
Sept. 11 - Dr. Daniel Lewis, Sr. Curator, The Huntington - His recent book: "Twelve Trees; the Deep Roots of our Future"

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.**

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

Scout Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman

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

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 Andrues, 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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