

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * June 28, 2024 * #01-0026

www.pasadenarotary.com

PRESIDENT STEPHEN DAVID SMITH ***2024 - 2025***



Stephen Smith in his own words: I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have four brothers, Robert Paul, Peter, Mark, and James. I primarily grew up in the midwest. I received an AA degree from Broward Community College in Florida and a Bachelors of Business Administration in the Field of Real Estate from Bernard Baruch College (part of the CUNY system) in New York City.

After graduating from Bernard Baruch I worked for a National Real Estate Appraising & Consulting firm, called Joseph J. Blake, in Manhattan for a couple years and ultimately transferred to their office in Century City, California. After working a couple years for Joseph Blake in west LA, I worked for California Federal Bank in their Mid-Wilshire Headquarters in their REO Department. After a few months I was promoted to run their Income Appraisal Division for the County of San Diego as well as their Maricopa County, Arizona locations.

After receiving my MAI designation (similar to getting a CPA in the accounting profession), I

ended up starting my own firm, Meridian Professional Real Estate Appraising & Consulting, Inc., in La Jolla, CA. I married on February 1, 1992 and had one son, Clayton, who was born on November 1, 1992. I ended up moving to the West Los Angeles area and bought a house in Cheviot Hills. Although the marriage did not last, I have a wonderful son, who graduated with an undergraduate degree at Cal Berkeley and received his Law Degree from GW. He has been licensed as an attorney in the State of Utah for about 5 years and is sitting for the California bar in July.

I am also a licensed Class B General Contractor and have been a real estate broker in the States of Florida, New York, and California (mostly California). In addition to real estate appraising, I have bought my share of apartments and SFR's, done remodels and additions and sold them.

Currently residing in Altadena with my wife Adriana. She was previously married and has two wonderful sons, Michael and Brandon. All three boys (and Adriana) are expected to be at my July 3 inaugural luncheon. Very much looking forward to serving as President of your Pasadena Rotary.

WEDNESDAY – JuLY 3, 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 aka Badge Master
Lunchtime Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Eric Olson
Inspiration: Gary Kearney
Scout Zone Reporter: Dean Billman
Photographer: Tammy Silver
Technical: Frank Fish
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

UPDATE: EMAIL ADDRESSES
Justene Adamec - justene@gmail.com
Stephen Smith - President@pasadenarotary.com

Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks

Greetings Pasadena Rotarians.

It is an honor to be your 105th President and hopefully I can carry on the wonderful trend that my predecessors have set. I think it is fitting to talk about our (my wife Adriana and me) trip to Singapore in May to attend the Rotary International Convention. First of all, the non-stop flight from LAX via Singapore Airlines took about 16 hours. Thankfully, we slept about half that time. Singapore Air is rated one of the best airlines for a reason. Singapore is the only island city-state in the world and is about 1 degree from the equator. That means it is incredibly humid (think Florida x 10) and rains a lot.




The Rotary International Convention was outstanding. About 30,000 Rotarians from all around the globe attended. It was a festive, educational, uplifting event that made me feel good about our planet. It was magical. Now some fun facts about Singapore. The population is 5.5 million and is the 2nd most populated country in the world, after Monaco. There are four official languages; English, Mala, Mandarin, and Tanil. The most followed religion is Buddhism (40%), followed by Islam, and Christianity. It is the most expensive city in the world to buy a car. It has the world's largest collection of orchids. Stay tuned for next week's episode.

Stephen Smith
President@pasadenarotary.com
310-908-1779

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Michael Bernard



It was a very special evening as Pasadena Rotary sent **President Justene Adamec** off in style and welcomed new **President Stephen Smith** at our annual Demotion celebration! Almost 90 Rotarians and guests gathered in the University Club for drinks, a delicious dinner, and pre-dinner music from the Mighty Rotary Band: Ann Louse Christensen on piano, Geno Escarrega on percussion, Leo Valenzuela on Bass, and Geoff Nudell on sax and clarinet.



Just after 8:00, a disembodied voice welcomed

everyone to the Demotion Program, and the video screen suddenly showed the opening of Star Trek: The Original Series with the following voiceover:

“Rotary, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Pasadena Rotary. Its one-year mission, to look toward the future, to bring hope to strange new worlds, to make life better for civilizations, to boldly go where no Rotarian has gone before!”

PP Mary Lou Byrne and **Michele Ferroni** entered from opposite sides of the room, dressed as Star Trek Captain Justene and First Officer Michele (with Vulcan ears!), and took the stage. After a brief explanation of the USS Pasadena Rotary’s mission, a whole

crew of aspiring crew members entered, singing “I Hope I Get It” from A Chorus Line while practicing their spacefaring martial arts moves. After some initial confusion about whether **Hillary Schenk** was in the Star Wars or Star Trek sci fi universe, they were all welcomed to the crew and assigned them all important jobs:

Robert Lyons, Chief Security Officer

Cory Brendel, Chief Ukelele Officer

Dean Billman, Chief Medical Officer (“Dammit, Captain, Justene, I’m a finance guy, not a doctor!”)

Allison Burgos, Chief Communications Officer

Amanda Pumilia, Chief Red Shirt Officer (the one who gets killed on every away mission)

Gary Kearney, Chief Legal Officer

Hillary Schenk, First First Officer (“What’s that?” “Well, the first officer takes over for the captain, and the first first officer takes over after that!” Kind of like the President Elect Elect!)

Don Andruess, Chief Musical Officer



Don asked to make an announcement to recruit more committee members, but Captain Justene reminded him to keep it short because she had a schedule to keep, whereupon Don burst into song: “If I Only Had the Time,” to the tune of “If I Only Had a Brain” from The Wizard of Oz. (And the song was so cute that Amanda died from the cuteness, right there on stage!)

Suddenly, Allison announced a visit from the Rotary Intergalactic President Gordon McNally (**Jonathan Edwards**), who beamed aboard with his wife Heather (**Marilyn Buchanan**) and gave the crew a musical inspiration by singing “The Impossible Dream.” Amanda, who had magically come back to life, was again overcome and died.

Medical Officer Dean diagnosed an overdose of emotion, whereupon Hillary piped up “Did someone say DEMOTION?” and she and Don sang a rousing version of “I Second That [D]emotion” with apologies to Smokey Robinson.

And Amanda? Her heart couldn't take two awesome songs in a row, and she died. There was no time to waste, however, because President Justene was signed up for a 5K race on Planet Rigel IV. She and Allison and Amanda (who was magically restored to life) transported to the planet, where they ran the race while singing "Ain't Nothin' Gonna Break My Stride." Sadly, the race was too much for Amanda and (you guessed it) she died.

Back on board the ship, Robert the security officer reported there had been a fire in the kitchen "but we have moved our crew meetings to the holodeck for the time being and everything is fine." Legal Officer Gary reported that negotiations with the insurance company were ongoing.



Suddenly, First Officer Michele reported an unknown phenomenon approaching rapidly as the viewscreen was filled with strange time warp visual and sound effects! The next thing we knew, **Past President Scott Vandrick** appeared, apparently delivered by his Centennial Year Time Machine!

"Whoa," said Centennial PP Scott. "I want wayyyy far forward!" Once he figured out he was in Rotary's far future, he gave President/Captain Justene some sage advice in the form of a song: "If I Could Turn Back Time," urging her to cherish every moment of her time with the Club, before disappearing as dramatically as he had appeared.

Sadly, Amanda (who had miraculously come back to life) was overcome by the fumes from the time machine and died.

Meanwhile, Cory attempted to make an unauthorized announcement and was promptly thrown in the brig, from which he sang a musical lament: "Justene," to the tune of Dolly Parton's "Jolene." "Justene, Justene, Justene, Justene, don't turn my mic off just because you can!"

At the conclusion of the song, his confiscated mic gave off such loud feedback that Amanda (who was, yes, back to life), clutched her ears and died

Undeterred, Captain Justene announced that the USS Pasadena Rotary's mission had been successful:

"After 18 months, we are wrapping up our mission. We have grown the size of our crew, we have funded service projects on planets near and far, we have recognized teachers and students on various planets, we have sent scholars to other planets to study, and we have made friends and supported one another in the process. And all the while, we were looking toward the future. Let's keep it up, everybody!"

The crew (Amanda having come back to life) responded with a hearty "Aye, Captain," and dispersed into the audience for the rousing final song: "Fly Like An Eagle," featuring the lyrics "let's keep on looking, looking, looking into the future!"

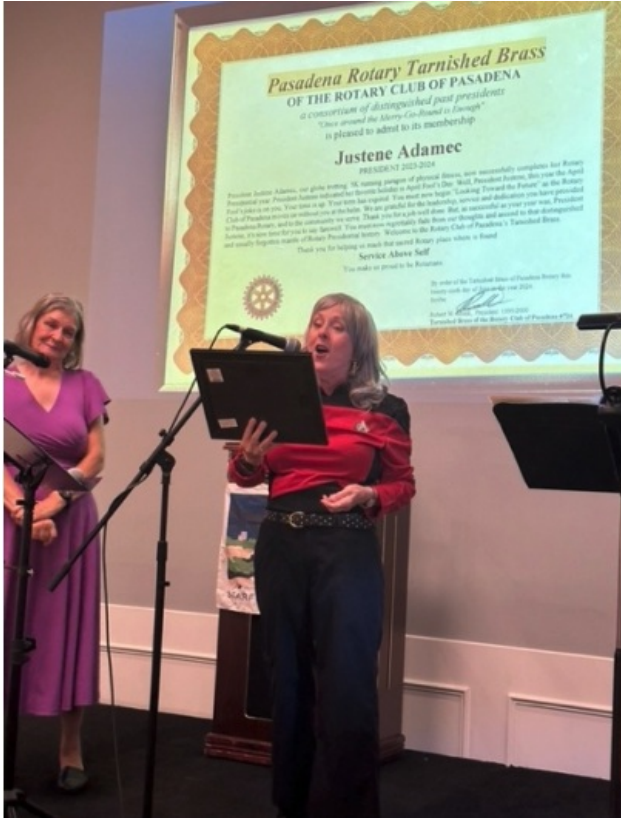
After **Don Andruess** introduced the cast and band, and **PP Mary Lou** thanked Don for his musical direction and **PP Scott** and **Curtis Smith** for their work on the audio/visuals, it was time for the Tarnished Brass Ceremony.

The real **President Justene** joined **PP Mary Lou** on the stage and Mary Lou read the Tarnished Brass certificate (courtesy, as always, of **Past President Bob Monk**):

"President Justene Adamec, our globe trotting, 5K running paragon of physical fitness, now



successfully completes her Presidential year. President Justene indicated her favorite holiday is April Fool's Day. Well, President Justene, this year the April Fool's joke is on you. Your time is up. Your term has expired. You must now begin "looking Toward the Future" as the Rotary Club of Pasadena moves on without you at the helm. We are grateful for the leadership, service and dedication you have provided to Pasadena Rotary, and to the community we serve. Thank you for a job well done. But, as successful as your year was, President Justene, it's now time for you to say farewell. You must now regrettably fade from our thoughts and ascent to that distinguished and usually forgotten mantle of Rotary Presidential history. Welcome to the Rotary Club of Pasadena's Tarnished Brass. Thank you for helping us reach that sacred Rotary place where is found Service Above Self. You make us proud to be Rotarians."



President Justene was given her Past President pin and thanked everyone for a great evening and a great year. Then it was time for new President Stephen Smith to join Justene on the stage. Justene pinned him with the President pin, and Stephen promised us a magical year of fun and service, in keeping with the new Rotary International theme of The Magic of Rotary.

The music changed to the song "Magic to Do" as we all finished the evening excitedly chatting about a wonderful year and evening behind us, and an exciting year ahead!



L2R:Gilda Moshir, Liza Nicoletti, Mark Nicoletti, Justene, Howard Raff, Amanda Pumilia, Hillary Schenk, Michele Ferroni

BUFFET MEAL PROVIDED BY

Chef Tony, The University Club

Indicate if you'll be dining as Vegetarian only

**MEALS ARE PROVIDED BASED ON RSVP'S WE RECEIVE
PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!**

Or office@pasadenarotary.com

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

**School Supply Drive for
Friends In Deed
FILL the Purple Container!**

ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR PASADENA
ROTARY IMPACT CLUB'S 1ST SERVICE PROJECT
A word for the Impact Club Chair Amanda Pumilia



Thank you to everyone who has donated to our school supply drive for Friends in Deed. If you are able, please consider donating to help benefit students in our community.

Let's fill the purple bin each week before the drive ends on July 24th!!

Donations can be dropped off in the purple bin by the sign-in desk at the weekly rotary meetings or you can ship them or drop them off at Amanda and Justene's house - Reach out to Impact Club Chair, Amanda Pumilia, at apumilia@yahoo.com with any questions!

A list of needed school supplies is at this link: <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/Food-Pantry-Back-to-School-Event.html?soid=1102402691632&aid=OVif0dHULcA>

and an Amazon Wish List that delivers directly to Friends in Deed is here: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DGFRX5F9MXJW>.

Amanda

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!!

John Gordon	June 29th
Judy Taylor	July 3rd
Bernadette Espinoza	July 3rd

ROTAVERSARY

Armida Baylon	6/29/23	1 Years as Corporate Alternate
Howard Raff	6/30/01	23 + 19 Years = 42 Years
J.P. Harris	7/1/15	9 Years
Angela Hawekotte	7/1/95	29 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 10 - Nicole Purcell, Huntington Medical Research Institutes (HMRI) - Teens and Nicotine: The Latest Findings

July 17 - Stephan Margolis, Margolis Solutions - Crisis Decision Making: From Terrorism to the Boardroom

July 24 - Eddie Rivera, PasadenaNow.com - Heart Disease Doesn't Have to Kill You. Actual Save-Your-Own-Life Advice to Keep You Around a Lot Longer

July 31 - Deborah Ferrington, Doheny Eye Institute

August 7 - Tri Dam - US State Dept. Interpreter - From Vietnam to the US and Back Again

August 14 - Patrick Connor, Mixologist - Mai Tai Magic

August 21 - Jai Raquel Partida. IG Influencer - How I Have Over 643,000 Followers

**SPOKES is the weekly newsletter published by the
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**Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP
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**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, Dede Venkat**

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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