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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* September 13, 2024 \* #01-0037

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

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### **IDA PULIWA**

*“How a Stranger's Kindness Transformed a Village in Malawi”*

**Introducer: MARY WILSON**



Ida Puliwa was born in a rural Malawian village where girls were undervalued. Despite this, she walked barefoot to school every day, determined to learn. When her friends dropped out due to distance, hunger, pregnancy, and forced marriages, Ida persisted, becoming the first girl in her village to graduate from secondary school.

Discouraged that her parents could not afford to send her to university, a fortunate turn of events led to a visiting American professor, who, upon seeing Ida's gifts, supported Ida's university education. Determined to pay back the generosity, Ida returned to her village and, despite the opposition of the male leaders who said "No, Ida, you can't. You are just a girl", she started Othakarhaka ("passing on the kindness") so other girls could be educated.

Ida's passion for girls' equality gave hope to impoverished girls who had no chance in life due to forced child marriages. She developed her skills as a social entrepreneur and visionary community organizer, transforming poor villages into self-reliant communities.

Under her leadership, Othakarhaka grew from 65 to 6,700 volunteers, revitalizing villages through education scholarships, community health, food security, agroforestry, economic empowerment, and community development. Ida's journey from village girl to advocate for girls' education exemplifies resilience and the transformative power of education and kindness.

Ida's ideals of voluntarism, self-sustainability, equality, and kindness permeate Othakarhaka. Her story inspires hope for a brighter future, proving that one person can make a difference in the lives of many.

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**WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 18, 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:** Phil Miles - Accompanied by Ann Louise  
**Inspiration:** Ken Hill  
**Scout Zone Reporter:** Mary Lou Byrne  
**Photographers:** Tammy Silver & Claudia Ponce de Leon  
**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

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## Simply Stephen Smith's Spokes Speaks

As we are segueing out of the summer (finally), I am thankful for, among other things, the cooler weather. I don't know how you feel about the temperature the last week or so, but the fall season couldn't come soon enough. I enjoy the changing of the colors, pumpkin lattes, trips to New England, and watching football.

The one thing I will miss about the summer, however, is that it stays lighter out later. For whatever reason I feel more energized and happier. It seems my circadian clock gets out of rhythm. I feel like I should be going to bed at 5:30 in the evening, as it is so dark out.

The one thing that is constant though, is that Pasadena Rotary is always a fun place to be. Seeing old friends, making new ones, getting involved with service projects, going to fun social events. That never gets old.



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



# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Hans Rosenberger

“Trees do move, and trees can move. Trees and our ecosystem are evolving”, said our featured speaker today, Dr. Daniel Lewis, Huntington Library’s Senior Curator for the History of Science and Technology.

**President Stephen Smith** rang the big brass Rotary bell at 12:30pm and invited us to stand as he introduced song leader **Don Andruess**, who quipped he was inspired by today’s topic that science is working on extending a man’s life but can’t figure out to make it last as long as his wife’s to-do list. With that, he led us on the old 1970’s chestnut from Tony Orlando and Dawn, Tie a Yellow Ribbon Around the Old Oak Tree.

**PP Ken Joe** noted the solemn 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary date of 9/11 terror attacks in New York and how our own **John McDannel** had started a memorial tree planting project on New York Drive in Altadena on the tenth anniversary; PP Ken had led a Tyros project last year on the anniversary to plant two trees in honor of the date. He quoted Wangari Maathai, “A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky.”



#### Guests:

- **Sandy Goodenough** introduced her husband, Richard Schulhof, a botanist, and retired CEO of the LA Arboretum
- **PP Howard Raff** introduced Ben Selick, who has applied for membership – welcome Ben!

#### Announcements:

- **Wende Lee** held up brand new member directories, available to everyone who asks her for one.
- **PP Justene Adamec** had triple announcements: She is offering Rotarians at Work shirts for sale; The Moonlight hike to Mt. Baldy has been postponed due to the wildfires that caused an evacuation of Mt. Baldy Village (we wish them the best); and a Polio Pig announcement, that her daughter was up for her 8<sup>th</sup> Emmy, having already won two (that announcement gave \$100 to the RI Polio Plus initiative to end Polio).
- **Dean Billman** (your scribe, and District 5300 Polio Plus chair) made a \$100 Polio Pig grateful gift for successfully surviving minor heart surgery last week. He is feeling good.

- **PP Rob Fisher**, entertaining as usual, is organizing a fun work day at Mt. Wilson, followed by a view through the famous Mt. Wilson telescope – limited to only 25 attendees, so sign up quickly.
- **Mike Bernard** made a \$100 Polio Pig announcement for a dinner, Whiskey, Bourbon tasting and Cigars to support FATE, a non-profit supporting professional child services.
- **PP Mary Lou Byrne**, wearing a bright red End Polio Now T-shirt, announced our annual Walk Around the Rose Bowl fund raiser for Rotary International World Polio Day on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Her co-chairs to organize the walk (since PP Mary Lou will be flying home from Paris – Oh La La) will be **Morgan Nadeau** and **Dean Billman**.  
**PP Mary Lou** also contributed \$20 to the Polio Pig in honor of her husband **Gary Kearney**, who recently won a big case in the California Court of Appeal.

**Sandy Goodenough** introduced our speaker today, Dr. Daniel Lewis, and his new book he has been promoting, *Twelve Trees, The Deep Roots of Our Future*. Dr. Lewis is a noted author already, with several books on birds, his specialty, and there is even a rare hawk with the trees on the cover, since raptors use the tall trees to nest and hunt from. This book came about as he was pursuing his passion for botanical diversity worldwide during the Pandemic, and he has twelve chapters, each devoted to what he considers a special tree, out of 57,000 species and counting on our planet.



As he was discussing with us the twelve trees that he researched, each had a chapter devoted to that tree and its individual local and special ecosystem. Traveling the world as part of his work with the Huntington Botanical Garden, and the on-going research propagating rare and endangered species, he noted the biodiversity that made not only the tree but the surrounding animal and plants that live with and support that habitat.

The first chapter is about the Bristlecone Pine, the oldest living thing on the planet, which grows right here in California. Dr. Lewis noted that some years ago an unfortunate fellow named Donald Currey accidentally cut down the oldest tree ever recorded, which was almost 5,000 years old. Fortunately, an even older tree has since been discovered, but – whew!

The second tree is a California native: the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), some of which grow to just shy of four hundred feet, making them the tallest carbon-bearing organisms on Earth.

Next up, we traveled all the way to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), to discuss the *Sophora toromiro*. Strangely, it is no longer present on the island where it evolves because the soil is no longer hospitable for it. However, it is growing in other countries and there is talk of bringing a specimen to the Huntington Gardens right here in Pasadena.

Dr. Lewis then shifted from tree talk to animal talk and showed us a rather terrifying photo of the microscopic tardigrade, which can live anywhere from the hottest hot springs to under the polar ice. This brought him around to discussing the *H. protera*, a tree that lived about 25 million years ago and was responsible for the amber in which so many living things, including tardigrades, have been encased with their entire biology intact. Amazing!

Our fifth tree is the longleaf pine, which amazingly requires the presence of fire for its cones to open and disgorge their seeds. Sometimes by lightning, sometimes by forest-management controlled burns. We learned a lot about forest management in the discussion of controlled

burns.

Dr. Lewis wanted to include a medicinal tree in his book, and he chose the East Indian Sandalwood tree, which is so valuable that in India specimens are protected by barbed wire, brick walls, and other protective fences. And each tree has its own ID number on a reflective sticker and metal plate. Don't even think about tampering with one – it's a serious offense! The next tree is similarly valuable, and similarly closely tracked: The Central African Forest Ebony. It's dense enough to sink in water and breathtakingly gorgeous in its polished form. Scientists still aren't sure what gives it its amazing color and we still have only a rudimentary grasp of its biology.

Next, we came back to another tree that is very familiar to us Southern Californians: the Blue Gum Eucalyptus. They make big messes and are ridiculously flammable, but they are second to none as windbreaks and also useful in making guitars. Dr. Lewis drew an interesting comparison between historic hostile attitudes toward foreign trees and foreign humans.

From a widely-derided tree, we turned to one of almost everyone's favorites: The olive tree, beloved for its fruit and oil, and present on every continent including Antarctica (the fruit and oil, not the trees).

The next chapter posed the question: What do you do when an endangered animal and an endangered tree are in conflict? That's the case with the African Baobab, which is being damaged by African elephants. If you leave the elephants in place, the trees are harmed. If you move the elephants, they are harmed. A dilemma for sure.

The Bald Cypress in South Florida grows in swamps and is undeterred by the presence of salt in the water. Indeed, it is evolving to tolerate even greater amounts of salt which is a rare bright spot in the rising-seas-due-to-climate-change story.

Dr. Lewis was speaking to us on September 11, and on September 11, 2021, he was in Amazonian Peru in search of the mighty Ceiba tree, the tallest life form in South America. It is home to giant harpy eagles whose chicks have three-foot wingspans as well as many other birds.

Dr. Lewis signed copies of his book after the meeting, but sold out quickly, since he is research author first and didn't want to lug too many books around – his books are available locally at Vroman's Bookstore, which supports our local bookstore and Dr. Lewis' efforts.



*L2R: President Stephen, Gary Kearney, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Richard Schulhof, Nat Read, Dr. Daniel Lewis, Mary Chalon, Susanne Cohen, Mel Cohen*

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

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

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

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**



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## **ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS**

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# IMPACT CLUB EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

9/25

## SOCIAL MIXER/HAPPY HOUR

Bring prospective Impact Club members!

**5 pm - 7 pm** (Happy Hour prices until 6 pm)

Lucky Baldwin's Trappiste Pub

1770 E. Colorado Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91106

(At Colorado/Allen Ave, **not** Old Town location)

SATURDAY

9/28

## EATON CANYON TRASH PICKUP

**8 AM** - Meet at the Mt Wilson/Pinecrest Gate, Mt Wilson Toll Rd, Altadena, CA (by the bridge to the Falls). Street Parking can be limited, so watch no parking signs and arrive early! Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet.

COLLECTION  
DRIVE

NOW UNTIL  
OCTOBER  
17TH

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HALLOWEEN COLLECTION DRIVE

Collecting Halloween candy, new costumes for families, Halloween-inspired hats, headbands, and size inclusive costumes for their Trunk or Treat. Bring to the bin at Rotary meetings or email Amanda to arrange drop-off.

Contact Impact Club Chair Amanda Pumilia with any questions at  
[apumilia@yahoo.com](mailto:apumilia@yahoo.com)

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



## MT. WILSON OBSERVATORY EXCURSION

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

\$80 for tour + box dinner/drinks or \$50 for tour only

Pasadena Rotary will be going up Mt. Wilson on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to experience stars, planets and

the cosmos via the 60" telescope. Through the Mount Wilson Institute guides, each attendee will look several times through the eyepiece on the telescope at chosen celestial targets that will include the planet Saturn!

But capacity of the tour is limited to 25 people so this is a "First RSVP-First Twenty-Five" Rotarians and guests are in!

There are two sign-up options—one is the tour plus a box dinner and drinks at a park just outside of the observatory grounds. Because we need to enter the observatory grounds at 6:30 PM, there is a second option for those who can get there by that time but not in time for dinner. More details will follow regarding the timing of the dinner picnic and possible ride sharing. The evening should go to around 9:00 PM although you can leave early if needed.

RSVP to Rob Fisher at [rob@fbrg.agency](mailto:rob@fbrg.agency) to see the stars!

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## Third Annual Pasadena Rotary World Polio Day Run/Walk Around the Rose Bowl Thursday, October 24, 2024 Meet at Brookside Clubhouse 7:00 a.m.

We're doing 3 miles/5K to raise money for polio eradication. Pledge per mile, per step, per minute — it's up to you! Ask your friends to participate or pledge, too! BIG FUN !!



Contact Dean Billman ([dabillman@icloud.com](mailto:dabillman@icloud.com)) or Morgan Nadeau ([beck1enadeau@yahoo.com](mailto:beck1enadeau@yahoo.com)) to sign up or for more information

Order Your End Polio Now tee on or before October 4 — email [justene@gmail.com](mailto:justene@gmail.com) to order and for size info. \$22 (or so) charged to your Rotary account. Unisex sizes S-4XL.

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## 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.

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Gwen Strong	September 14th
Don Schweitzer	September 16th

## ROTAVERSARY

David Minasian	9/13/17	7 Years
John Tegtmeyer	9/17/97	27 Years
Pat Wright	9/17/14	10 Years
Mary Lou Byrne	9/18/13	11 Years

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP  
University Club Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave.

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

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## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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