
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * September 6, 2024 * #01-0036
www.pasadenarotary.com

Dr. Daniel Lewis

“Twelve Trees: The Deep Roots of our Future”

Introducer: SANDY GOODENOUGH



Daniel Lewis is the Huntington Library's Senior Curator for the History of Science and Technology. He's had a 28-year career at the Huntington.

Before coming to the San Gabriel Valley, he was the Company Historian for the *Los Angeles Times*. He holds the PhD in History, and has had post-doctoral appointments at Oxford University, the Smithsonian, and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich.

He oversees the Huntington's relevant rare books and manuscripts. Dan also served as the Chief Curator of Manuscripts at the Huntington for six years, between 2010 and 2016. He was also

responsible for the exhibition “Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World,” which opened in 2008, and ran until 2020. More than three million people visited the show, which was named as the best exhibit in America by the American Association of Museums the year after it opened.

He is also an environmental historian and college professor, with a faculty appointment at Caltech, where he teaches courses in environmental history and humanities. He has also had previous faculty appointments at USC, Art Center, and NYU Abu Dhabi.

His tree book, which came out this past March, was published by Simon & Schuster. Chapters have been excerpted in *Time* magazine, the *Smithsonian* magazine, *Scientific American*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere. There are also two different Chinese

translations of the book underway. This is his fourth book.

WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 11, 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: Ellen Batzel Palm-Leis
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

Registration is now open for the 2025 Rotary International Convention which will be held in Calgary, Canada from June 21-25. It will be Rotary International's 116th annual convention. Calgary is the largest city in the Canadian province of Alberta and has a population of 1.6 million. In 2022, Calgary was ranked alongside Zurich as the third most livable city in the world, ranking first in Canada and in North America. In 1988, it became the first Canadian city to host the Olympic Winter Games.

Three centuries ago the Blackfoot Indians called this place Moh'kinstsis, meaning "elbow", as it is situated at the confluence of the Bow River and the Elbow River between the Rocky Mountain Foothills and the Canadian Prairies. Calgary was named after Calgary Castle on the isle of Mull in Scotland in 1876.

There are numerous sites to see in Calgary as there are six UNESCO World Heritage sites. Some of these places are Dinosaur Provincial Park, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, and Wood Buffalo National Park. The city is bike and pedestrian friendly, with more miles of bike and walking trails than any other city in North America. It is also a cattle city, so those of you that are carnivore leaning, you should feel right at home.

December 15, 2024 is the last day for early-registration discount so please give some consideration to attending. If Calgary is anything like Singapore was, this is a must-see event. It will be life altering and unforgettable. <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>

Stephen D. Smith
President 2024 - 2025
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Cell 310.908.1779

The Scoot Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Michael Bernard



President Stephen Smith rang the bell and called the meeting to order at 12:30. **Past President Mary Lou Byrne**, accompanied by Ann Louise Christensen on piano and the Ad Hoc Rotary Singers (**Don Andruess, Allison Burgos, Marilyn Buchanan** (*not pictured*), **Phyllis Currie, PP Cory Brendel** and **Gary Kearney**), led us in the Elton John classic Rocket Man, in honor of our space-expert speaker. After the Pledge of Allegiance, **Debi Kroman** gave the inspiration, focusing on climate change right here on Earth and what we can do to help. The conclusion: "The time to act is now!"



Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons helped introduce our guests, who this week were hosted by **Past President Howard Raff, Phyllis Currie, Desiree Alvarado, and Tammy Silver.**

President Stephen had a bunch of announcements: The September 14 Mt. Baldy Moonlight Hike (details below) is coming right up! He is also planning a Mount Wilson Observatory tour on October 11 or 12: watch this space for



further details. Our holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 4 in the evening at Jacob Maarse Florist (no lunch meeting that day) so mark your calendars. Looking further ahead, Stephen is hoping to do a dinner at the Magic Castle in Hollywood in the first quarter of 2025 and also an event at the home of a major car collector in South Pasadena. Lots to look forward to!

And speaking of major car collectors, **Armida Baylon** donated to the Polio Pig and announced that the HEAR Center is celebrating its 70th anniversary with a gala event featuring the amazing collection of classic cars at the Flying A Garage in Pasadena on September 29. Details here:

<https://www.instagram.com/hearcenter1954/p/C-GH3hHtNGI/>

Past President Howard Raff reminded everyone of the Rotary Business Alliance Mixer on Thursday (yesterday), which was undoubtedly a great success!

Dede Venkat introduced this week's speaker. Dr. Moogega "Moo" Cooper is a real life "Guardian of the Galaxy" who is the planetary protection lead for JPL's Mars 2020 mission that landed in February 2021. She is surprisingly young to hold such an important post, but she graduated from high school at age 16 and got her Ph.D. at 24, so she has always been on the fast track in science!



When Dr. Cooper took the stage, she first made sure everyone on Zoom could see her slides before stepping out from behind the lectern, saying "My name is Moo and I'm free range!" She began by explaining that although Mars is our closest neighbor, the song Rocket Man was correct in its lyric "Mars ain't the kind of place to raise your kids," so we send robotic rovers to explore in our stead.



What have we discovered so far? Mars used to have drinkable water! Currently we are looking for signs of past life in the Jezero Crater, which used to be a giant lake "If life ever existed," said Dr. Cooper, "this is the place to find it."

Dr. Cooper showed us a photo of the four rovers that have been sent to Mars over the years. Fun fact: Each and every one of them has been named by children via a K-12 naming contest. The latest rover was named Perseverance, and Dr. Cooper confided that at first many on the team weren't terribly fond of that name, "because we felt like we hadn't persevered through anything." But, she explained, "that was right before the pandemic so by launch time it had earned its name!"

Dr. Cooper shared a bit of her personal background. She was born to a Korean mother and an African American father and confided that when she was young, she was terrible in math and science. The thing that turned her around was when she rented

a VHS tape of Carl Sagan's Cosmos TV series at the public library and was enthralled by how it used science to explain the universe. "That gave me the 'why' behind paying attention in math and science," said Dr. Cooper. And ultimately, she got her Ph.D. and became a planetary protection scientist. Her personal motto is an African proverb: "Success in life depends largely on how you handle your failures."

A little science: Microbes are the oldest form of life on Earth and can survive in the most extreme of conditions. They can cause significant ecological damage in the wrong place. And fun fact: Nothing you eat is free of microbes and you have more microbes in your body than human cells! Normally your body can handle the microbes in your food, but if you get too many of the wrong kind, you end up with food poisoning and that is a bad thing!

If you extrapolate that to a planetary level, we try to keep contamination of planets to a low enough level that it doesn't interfere with past or present life. Hence the clean rooms at JPL, where the people who work on the Mars landers wear "bunny suits" to avoid contamination.

Dr. Cooper shared some lessons she has learned over her career in space exploration:

1. Maintain your childlike curiosity
2. Rules are meant to be... questioned
3. Trust your team
4. Take calculated risks
5. Have a common goal

To illustrate, she explained that we have a helicopter on Mars because someone had childlike curiosity about how a helicopter could fly on Mars, which has only 1% of the atmosphere of the earth. And fun fact: There is a secret "Easter egg" on the Mars helicopter – a piece of the Wright Brothers' original aircraft was sterilized and attached to the Mars helicopter, making it part of the first flight on two different planets! Although the helicopter is no longer functional as of this past February, it was built for five flights and it managed to make 72!

The Mars rover is still working, and we are still collecting samples. Dr. Cooper and her team hope that the samples will be returned to Earth in a joint project with the European Space Agency, and she showed us a video of how such a retrieval and return project would work.

Finally, Dr. Cooper showed us a photo of a starry sky above a barren plain. It looked like a view from Earth into the sky, but in reality, it was a photo from the surface of Mars, showing the Earth as a star in the sky. Dr. Cooper said "It shows how small we are, but also how significant and amazingly lucky we are to live on the only place that we know for sure has life!"

Dr. Cooper concluded by saying "I am designating you all planetary protectors. We should all take care of one another!"

After a very lively question and answer period, **President Stephen** presented Dr. Cooper with her speaker gift and the meeting adjourned at 1:30.



L2R: President Stephen, Deborah Lewis, Nevino Rocco, Young Lee Hertig, Dede Venkat, Moo Cooper, Casey Marticorena, Kelly White, Gui Bittencourt, Jim Graunke

**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

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

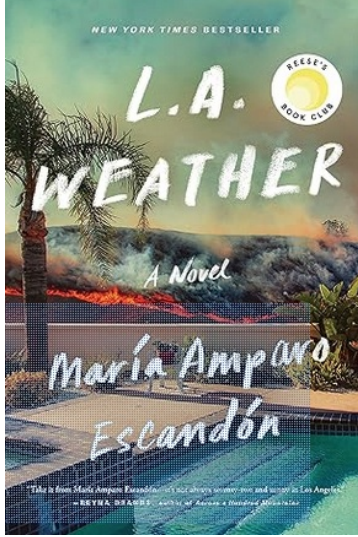


ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet September 9th 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 for location and more information. Please RSVP.



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!!

Charles Kiu	September 7th
Marsha Rood	September 10th
Mel Cohen	September 10th
Shel Capeloto	September 12th

ROTAVERSARY

Pushpa Nagaraj	9/7/16	8 Years
John Cooper	9/10/08	16 Years
Desiree Alvarado	9/10/14	10 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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 Recfovery

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

Rotary Club of Pasadena

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