

# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA



## SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* August 2, 2024 \* #01-0031  
[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

### ***TRI MINH DAM***

#### ***From Saigon to Air Force One: Tri Minh Dam's Cross-Cultural Journey***

***Introducer: PP MARY LOU BYRNE***



Tri Minh Dam is a court-certified interpreter based in Pasadena, California. His remarkable journey began when he left Vietnam in 1969 to become an AFS foreign exchange student at Huntington Park High School. Tri gave his first speech about Vietnam at the Rotary Club of Huntington Park during this time. After completing his exchange year, he returned to Vietnam in 1970.

Tri's academic pursuits took him back to the U.S., where he attended Cochise College in Douglas, Arizona, on a scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Cal State L.A. in 1977. His professional career as an interpreter began in 1984, primarily working for the Superior Courts of Los Angeles County and as a conference, diplomatic interpreter for the U.S. State Department.

One of Tri's most notable experiences was interpreting for President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush during the Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (A.P.E.C.) Summit in Hanoi. He had the unique opportunity to fly aboard Air Force One from Hanoi to Saigon during the President's visit to Vietnam. Tri has also frequently returned to Vietnam to work with the U.S. State Department and the FDA, inspecting Vietnamese seafood processing plants exporting to the U.S.

Most recently, Tri embarked on a memorable 17-day journey through Vietnam, visiting Hanoi, Hoi An, Phu Quoc, and Saigon with Commissioner Mary Lou Byrne and her husband Gary. His extensive experience and dedication to his craft have made him a distinguished figure in the field of interpretation.

**WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 7 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:** David McAlexander  
**Scout Zone Reporter:** Mary Lou Byrne  
**Photographer:** Mike Bernard  
**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

Today I will write about the 3rd Rotary Foundation's Areas of Focus, Providing Clean Water. More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. Two million children die every year from diarrhea diseases caused by unsafe water. The Rotary Foundation's projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.

Rotary brings together community leaders, governments, and agencies to plan policies and funding and ensures permanent access to water. When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne diseases decrease, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly, and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families.

Jack Sim, who spoke in Singapore, is the founder and director of the World Toilet Organization (WTO). He has stated that 40% of the world's population do not have toilets. Along with Bill Gates, who initiated Reinventing the Toilet, great progress has been made in sanitation. It is important to remember that prevention is cheaper than a cure. As Rotarians, we need to be part of the solution.

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

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# The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

Dr. Deborah Ferrington, PhD, of the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena was our speaker today, and her discussion on Age-Related Macular Degeneration had our whole club's attention, especially at the Q&A when the most pressing question was, "How can we avoid AMD?"

**President Stephen Smith** rang the brass Rotary bell at 12:30pm today and introduced **Eric Olson** and **Don Andrues** and the famous Four-Way Test Singers who led us in When Irish Eyes are Smiling, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **Lisa Kroese** followed up with our Inspiration, inspired by our speaker, quoting an almost blind Georgia O-Keefe at the end of her life, "The eye never forgets what the eye has seen."



**PP Howard Raff** led our newest corporate member induction, introducing attorney **Don Schweitzer** and his Corporate Alternates, **Alexandra "Ali" Smyser** and **Casey Marticorena**. Don has a long relationship with Pasadena, including as a former police officer and as a past board member of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. Don said he had been watching our club as he volunteered throughout Pasadena and "is honored to be part of our community and looking forward to be partners with you."



Introduction of Guests:

- **PP Howard Raff** welcomed Stanley and Denis Parkhurst to our club
- **Colleen Cary** introduced our speaker's guest, Molly Ann Woods, Chief Development Officer,

Announcements:

- **Amanda Pumilia** (Chair of Pasadena Rotary Impact Club) announced that with school starting, she was back to teaching in a few days and would be devoting her time to the after-hours Impact Club, and thank us for the school supplies project. The upcoming Impact Club project is working in the garden of a local public school. Details below
- Tyros' member **Alex Oscco** reminded us of the upcoming President's Party by referring to a more timely song than Ricky Nelson's 1970's hit Garden Party, with Pink's 2001 "Let Get the Party Started." RSVP to [rob@fbrc.agency](mailto:rob@fbrc.agency) - See below.
- **JP Harris**, back from an extended vacation, announced the next "Shop with a Cop" school student community service project sponsored by our club, where Pasadena Police join up with local kids on a shopping experience at the East Target store on Colorado on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. JP encourages us to attend, but the main experience is the kids getting to know the police officers in a new way, and for the officers to bond with the kids.

**Colleen Carey** introduced our speaker, Dr. Deborah (Deb) Ferrington, PhD, with the Doheny Eye Institute and the UCLA Stein Eye Institute located here in Pasadena at the old Avery Dennison headquarters. She gave an overview of the Institute, its current goals and science projects, and a glimpse into the future of eye disease and care.



At the Institute, which was formed by Mrs. Doheny after she had a "blinding incident" in 1940 and realized there were no "eye banks" on the west coast, they have worked for years in the forefront of eye science, creating the first OCT machine which is now standard in eye exams, as it takes eye-imaging pictures of the eye's retina. Other successful "firsts" are retinal prosthesis, a hot field, that lets blind people see light through a computer chip implanted in the eye itself. They are currently working on stimulating a body's own cells to return to the original stem cell of birth, and then using that stem cell to repair damaged retina and neuron cells to restore sight.



If you suffer from Macular Degeneration in the eye cells, it is inherited from your mother, caused by a mutation that causes inflammation disease. Age-related Macular Degeneration is the #1 cause of vision loss and blindness in people over 60 years old, and the room sat upright in their chairs, since some of the diseases are preventable if caught early.

First, some definitions. The Macula in your eye is the size of the tip of your little finger, but it is the most "high-end real estate" in your eye – that is where all the nerves and cells come together so you eye can see. Wet-AMD (about 10% of disease) is when a blood vessel protrudes through the macula (You suddenly have sight distortion overnight) and is highly treatable if you rush to the eye doctor right away – drugs lower your blood pressure and reverse the problem.

The other 90% is Dry AMD, where the cells in the retina die, and is complicated. There are drugs in the pipeline now, and Doheny is among the many research departments working on prevention and cure. An example of Dry AMD was a picture of a young boy, and how the wavy lines and then the center of your vision field becomes dark, then black, "and then you can't recognize your own grandson's face." With that, it hit home that this is a serious problem and Doheny is striving to find ways to help us discover and maybe cure the problem. She recommended putting a graph page (Amsler Grid Test, look it up) on your wall and when the straight lines become wavy, seek help.



Our members were worried: **PP Howard Raff** asked, “If it happens in one eye, will it spread?” and yes, it will happen eventually to both eyes. She recommended seeing an ophthalmologist once a year.

Board member **Don Andrues** asked how Doheny was different from basic science research, and she said that Doheny has two dedicated eye research groups, Stein and Doheny, and they research different problems but share research data. **PP Mel Cohen** asked how they were funded, and Dr. Ferrington said that was Molly Ann’s department, to find foundation and research grants, but that most of the funding came from the NIH (National Institute of Health), but that it was not always dependable.

We asked about eye exercises or other recommended habits to avoid AMD, and she said to 1) Eat our vegetables and lots of colorful veggies, 2) stop smoking (bad for your eyes) and 3) whatever is good for your heart is good for your eyes, diet-wise. **Colleen Carey** asked if wearing sunglasses was important, and what about eye vitamins, and Dr. Ferrington said the science behind the vitamins is solid and if your told to use them, then your doctor knows best for you.



L2R: Bob Risley, Marsha Rood, Lisa Kroese, President Stephen, Venice Dunn, Parker Hayward, Colleen Carey, Deobrah Ferrington, Molly Ann Woods

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

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

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

**7-31-24 BUFFET MEAL**  
Chef Tony, The University Club  
**Indicate if you'll be dining as Vegetarian only**

Italian Garden Salad  
Meatballs Marinara  
Chicken Marsala  
Mushroom Ravioli (Vegetarian)  
Penne Pasta  
Vegetables Medley



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## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

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# 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](mailto:apumilia@yahoo.com)

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

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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](mailto:ROB@FBRG.AGENCY)



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](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!!

Allen Webb	August 3rd
Kevin Moore	August 5th
David Covell, Jr.	August 7th
Frank Fish	August 8th

# ROTAVERSARY

Estela Richeda	7/27/06	18 Yrs
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# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Aug. 14 - Patrick Connor, Mixologist - Mai Tai Magic
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,  
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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 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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