

Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * December 13, 2024 * #01-0048

www.pasadenarotary.com



SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 2004

Presented by Past President Mary Lou Byrne



A Million Thanks is a nonprofit organization that provides support and appreciation to our active and veteran military men and women through sending letters. This year we are partnering with them to write letters to be delivered to our brave men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces to arrive **AFTER THE HOLIDAYS**.

We will be treated to live holiday music by the Rotary Badcats Band (Ann Louise Christensen on piano, Joe Tortomasi on bass, Don Andruess on guitar, and Geno Escarrega on percussion), while we enjoy visiting with our fellow Rotarians

and writing our letters.

Shauna Fleming founded A Million Thanks in 2004, when she was just 15 years old. The campaign began as a community service project in Orange County, California, with the goal of sending one million cards and letters of appreciation. Within six months of starting, Shauna and her team of volunteers reached the initial goal of one million letters. To date, A Million Thanks has distributed more than seven million letters to U.S. troops stationed around the world

The goal of A Million Thanks is to provide support to service members and their families for as long as the United States has a military. "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." — William Arthur Ward

Please note: Paper and writing implements will be provided. If you'd like to bring your own stationery, that's great, but **NO COMMERCIAL OR STORE-BOUGHT CARDS** and **NO ENVELOPES**. Ideas about what to write will be provided.

A Million Thanks depends on donations to support its programs, so we will have envelopes on the tables so you can contribute a dollar or two if you are so inclined.

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 18, 2024
UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA - 12:00 pm
175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101
RSVP A MUST - Deadline: 5:00 pm MONDAY

OVERFLOW PARKING: Pasadena Heritage Blinn House
Enter parking off Madison Ave. - Do not park in any reserved parking space

Reception: Alan Schier
Lunchtime Interlude: Ann Louise Christensen, keyboard & Mike Bernard, oboe
Song Leader: Don Andruess
Inspiration: Alan Schier
Scout Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: Tammy Silver
Technical: 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

As we close out this year, let us reflect on the moments that shaped us, the challenges that strengthened us, and the accomplishments that brought us closer to our goals. With the arrival of a new year, let's embrace opportunities, fresh perspectives, and the chance to continue growing together.

As we reflect on the year, let us take a moment to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives - our health, our families, our friends, and the opportunities we've had to grow and give back.

Wishing all Rotarians a joyful and peaceful holiday season. May this time of year bring you happiness, reflection, and renewed inspiration as we continue our mission to make a positive impact in the world. Here's to a season filled with love, service and fellowship, and a new year full of opportunities to serve and lead with compassion.

Safe travels to all those journeying near and far this holiday season. May your trips be smooth, and may you find joy and warmth in the company of family and loved ones. Here's to creating beautiful memories together and cherishing the moments that make this season so special.



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

**MEALS & SEATING ARE PROVIDED
BASED ON RSVPS WE RECEIVE**

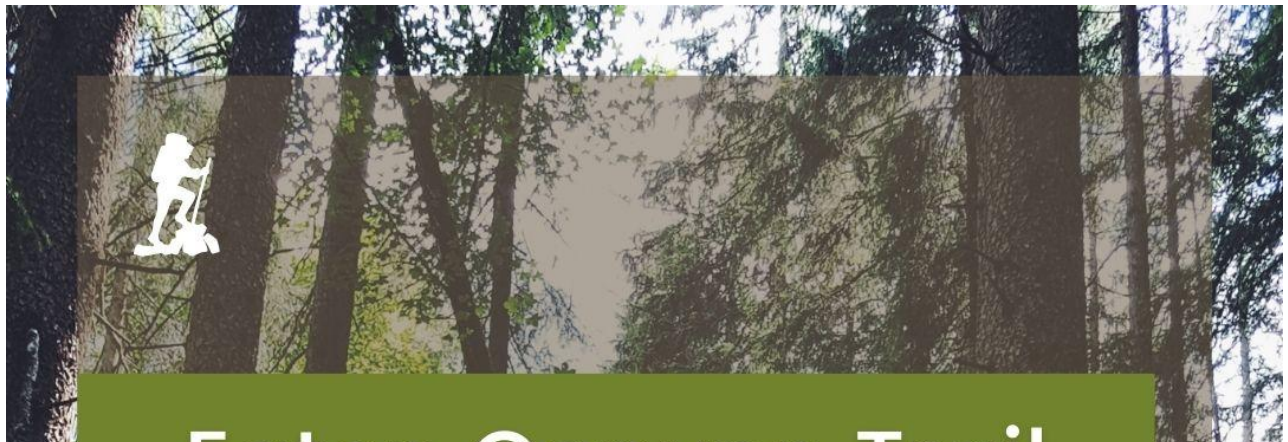
**PLEASE RSVP
IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!**
office@pasadenarotary.com


BUFFET MEAL
Chef Tony, The University Club

**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**



ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS





Eaton Canyon Trail Clean-Up Followed by a Rotary Roamers Hike

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH @ 10 AM

- ▶ MEET AT THE MOUNT 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.



Email Amanda Pumilia at
apumilia@yahoo.com with questions



The Scoot Zone

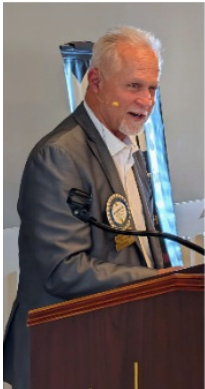
By Staff Reporter Dean Billman

Photographers: Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt

Our guest speaker today, The Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts's President Matt McIntyre, pointed out that the Pasadena Showcase House is the most successful in the country with over 25,000 viewing guests and donated over \$1 million to local San Gabriel music programs just this past year. He promised to go over the history, the design process, and some gossip.

President Stephen Smith opened our meeting promptly at 12:30 pm and introduced **PP Phil Miles** on guitar and **Ann Louise Christensen** on piano. PP Phil decided that he had enough of Christmas carols and that since the Showcase House raises money for music programs, then it must be a friend of music, so let's sing You've Got a Friend by Carole King.

Russ Guiney read quotes about Giving and Service (penned by **Gary Kearney**, stuck at home with maintenance issues), notably "The meaning of life is to find your gift... the purpose of life is to give it away" - Shakespeare.



We then were treated to our old friend **Ross Jutsum**, of Florida now, but coming back to visit friends in Pasadena, as he sat down at the piano and led us on a holiday favorite and then a song he wrote for the 1987 Tournament of Roses President and Rotarian PP Fred Soldwedel, Sr., about a world of roses and beauty all around us entitled "A World of Wonders". **PP Mel Cohen** asked him if he considered coming back as a member for weekly visits, instead of just an annual visit.

New member inductions: **PP Howard Raff** inducted **Stan Parkhurst**, (Impact Club member) whom we met at the Holiday Party with his wife Debbie last week. Stan is a retired CPA and said he was impressed with what he saw "as the four pillars of Rotary: Community, Connections, Fellowship and Service" (a twist on our own Four-Way Test). *Photo Left Below.*

Steward Rydman Espinosa welcomed **Shelly De Leon** as an Impact Club member, noting her accomplishments, Star Trek interests and her fascinating career as a data-scientist at City of Hope while pursuing an Executive MBA. Welcome Shelly and Stan! *Photo Right Below.*



Guests:

- **President Stephen's** lovely wife Adriana Lim Smith
- **PP Mary Lou Byrne** introduced our speaker's guests, spouse Garrett Collins, of LA Center Theater Group downtown, and Pasadena Showcase House's past president Vicki Sung.
- **Dean Billman** introduced his stylish wife, Interior Designer Karen Billman, who has been invited to her fourth year as a Showcase Designer; and Karen's best friend from Michigan, Kathy Mullens, a home healthcare nurse with University of Michigan's Healthcare System.
- **Howard Raff** introduced Greg Wilner, a litigation lawyer, and Amy Torrez, Executive Director with Amy's Place.
- **Deborah Lewis** welcomed Dee Taylor and Susan Miller Kotses of LA Children's Chorus
- **Captain Nick Helms** of the Salvation Army introduced Cadet Samuel Alacar

Announcements:

- **PP Rob Fisher** gave us a festive photo slideshow of the successful Rotary Holiday Party – what fun we had at Jacob Maarse Florists!
- **Stewart Rydman Espinosa** announced the next service project sponsored by the Impact Club up in Eaton Canyon, followed by the Rotary Roamers hiking beyond the Falls (see announcement below from the Impact Club and **PE Hillary Schenk**).
- **Lisa Cavalier** made a future Save the Date announcement for a "Fun Fundraiser" at the University Club in February 2025.
- **Bob Risley** made a humorous announcement: Someone left some hideous oven gloves at his house from the last book club meeting, and he was looking to return them to the owner, "for the same reason they left them at our house."
- **Desiree Alvarado**, chair of the Salvation Army's Toy Drive, gave us one last chance to purchase gift cards today to complete the Drive.

PP Mary Lou Byrne began her introduction of our speaker, Matt McIntyre, by saying that she was contacted by Garrett, looking for a judge to marry him and Matt, and she welcomed the chance to perform the ceremony herself – they have been friends ever since. Mary Lou mentioned that Matt is a third-generation Pasadenan whose parents met at Canterbury Records.

Matt started out by giving us the history of the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, which really started as a project by the Pasadena Junior Philharmonic to raise funds to bring the LA Phil to Pasadena in 1948 with casino nights and "television watching parties." They became an independent nonprofit entity in 1997, and now specifically to youth music programs in the San Gabriel Valley. The focus of the House is to raise funds for the local music programs, and since 1985 they have also held Instrumental Competitions for emerging young pre-professional talent, judged by LA Phil professionals – they have distributed over \$700,000 in prize money over the years. In total, over \$1 million was given to local charities in 2024 alone.





The idea for the Showcase House of Design (which is the benefit put on annually by the organization, the Showcase House for the Arts) began in 1965, with the first House in the Four Oaks section of San Marino – and this year's House features The Bower Estate and Gardens, a 1928 Reginald Johnson estate design with extensive gardens that extend down a grand hillside to the pool below. The House is over 10,000 square feet, and will feature 30 rooms with individual designers, and five landscape architects.

Past Houses in the area include The Wayne Manor (of Batman fame) and the house that burned down (that people thought was the Wayne Manor, although it had been a Showcase House twice). The house that was The Beverly Hillbillies house of TV fame was the House one year, but then that house burned down and was rebuilt to a grand home still under construction.

Matt then went into the “behind the scenes” of how Houses are chosen (there is a secret book of all the qualifying homes, with two staircases, over ten thousand square feet in size, and an empty flat acre for the Showcase shops – only 2% of all homes in the Greater Pasadena area qualify), how designers are chosen, and how the House committee of 240 volunteers work for months tying the whole design and events together into one seamless experience that hosts over 25,000 guests annually. He gave one example of the designer competition for the rooms, where over seven designers vied for the dining room this year, including Karen Billman, but that once all gave their presentation, the committee chose the designer that best represented what they were looking for as an overall “look.” This went on over and over for each of the rooms, and the best designs won. Karen agreed that this was the process (as she won the maid's quarters downstairs) and it represented a lot of work to find the style and materials that everyone could agree on. “Nothing comes overnight” said Matt.

A special editorial note: Our own Rotarian Judy Taylor has done over 17 Showcase Houses as a designer.

We had questions: What happens to the owners? Who pays for it? How do you choose the vendors in the Village? Does being the Showcase House raise its market value? How do you get the house designs to be consistent? Do you practice sustainability in the choice of materials and the use of up-cycled products?

Basically, the House is rented from January to June, and the owners move out. The homeowners have to contribute funds for the labor in certain rooms, like the kitchen and master bedroom, but the designers provide the rest through vendor donations and marketing budgets. The Vendors in the Village go through the same vetting process as the designers, with variety and quality as the main points.

On sustainability, the world is asking for non-toxic products and up-cycled and recycled ideas, and the designers know that creating a smaller environmental footprint is what many clients want these days. Even the garden designers are building water-wise features and benefits into the landscaping design.

Everyone agreed this was an excellent program and we look forward to visiting the Pasadena Showcase House of Design next April 2025.



L2R: Adriana Lim Smith, PP Mary Lou Byrne, Matt McIntyre, Garrett Collins, Vikki Sung, Kathy Mullen, Karen Billman, Dean Billman

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 at the Registration table or hand-out at end of the meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Howard Raff	Dec. 15
Hillary Schenk	Dec. 16
Sonia Lagomarsino	Dec. 18

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!

Marilyn Buchanan	12/13/00	24 Years
Gene Buchanan	12/13/00	24 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Dec. 25, 2024 - DARK - MERRY CHRISTMAS
JAN. 1, 2025 - DARK - HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan. 8, 2025 - Ed Morales, President, Tournament of Roses
Jan. 15, 2025 - Naomi Hirahara - " <i>Pasadena Girl Investigates: How Japanese Influences and Immigrants Transformed a City</i> "
Jan. 22, 2025 - Dan Stover Instrumental Music Competition
Jan. 29, 2025 - Miguel Marquez, Pasadena City Manager - Housing in Pasadena

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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Mike Bernard, Dede Venkat & Gui Bittencourt.

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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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