
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA



SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * January 10, 2025 * #01-0052

www.pasadenarotary.com

NAOMI HIRAHARA

"Pasadena Girl Investigates: How Japanese Influences and Immigrants Transformed a City"



Naomi Hirahara was born in Pasadena, California. Her father, Isamu (known as "Sam"), was also born in California, but was taken to Hiroshima, Japan, as an infant. He was only miles away from the epicenter of the atomic-bombing in 1945, yet survived. Naomi's mother, Mayumi, or "May," was born in Hiroshima and lost her father in the blast. Shortly after the end of World War II, Sam returned to California and eventually established himself in the gardening and landscaping trade in the Los Angeles area. After Sam

married May in Hiroshima in 1960, the couple made their new home in Altadena and then South Pasadena, where Naomi and her younger brother Jimmy grew up.

Naomi is an Edgar Award-winning author of multiple traditional mystery series and noir short stories. Her Mas Arai mysteries, which have been published in Japanese, Korean and French, to feature an Altadena gardener and Hiroshima survivor who solves crimes.

Her first historical mystery, *Clark and Division*, which won a Mary Higgins Clark Award, follows a Japanese American family's move to Chicago in 1944 after being released from a California wartime detention center. A former journalist with *The Rafu Shimpō* newspaper, Naomi has also written numerous non-fiction history books including the award-winning *Terminal Island: Lost Communities on America's Edge* and curated exhibitions. She has also written a middle-grade novel, *1001 Cranes*. Her follow-up to *Clark and Division*, *Evergreen*, was released in August 2023 and was on the USA Today bestseller list for two weeks.

Her next Japantown mystery, set in 1903 Pasadena, will be released in February 2026.

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 15, 2025
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 & Mike Bernard
Lunchtime Interlude: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Mary Lou Byrne
Inspiration: Hans Rosenberger
Scout Zone Reporter: Mary Lou Byrne
Photographer: Tammy Silver & Ken Joe
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

The recent apocalyptic fires that occurred in Altadena, portions of Pasadena, and elsewhere in Southern California are certainly a challenging situation, and it's important to remain calm and stay informed. Authorities are working hard to contain the fire, and many dedicated firefighters and first responders are doing everything they can to protect people and property. If you are in or near the areas, please follow local updates and evacuation orders from trusted sources. For those outside the immediate danger zone, sending positive thoughts and support to those affected can make a meaningful difference.

I have been made aware that two of our Pasadena Rotarians and eight of our Altadena Rotarians have lost their homes. I have left messages with the Pasadena Rotarians that my wife and I have opened up our house to them. If any other Rotarians can offer accommodations, or additional help, please email Tammy Silver. I have left messages with our DIAD and Impact Chairs to see what they can suggest in terms of assisting others. I know the UC has opened their doors to those that need food and beverages. I am in the process of putting together an ad hoc group to present information to our Pasadena and Altadena Rotarians in terms of public and private resources available to them. I will try to have this published by Friday afternoon. I know that District 5300 has established a dedicated Relief Fund to provide assistance to those affected. The link is as follows:

<https://www.district5300.org/ca-wild-fires/>

Stay safe, stay informed, and remember that this moment will pass, with the community coming together to heal and rebuild.

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

**ATTENDING THE MEETING -
MEALS & SEATING ARE
PROVIDED BASED ON RSVP'S WE
RECEIVE**

BUFFET LUNCH by Chef Tony Lu

Please **RSVP** if you are attending!
office@pasadenarotary.com



**CLICK HERE TO
RSVP TODAY**

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

GIVE HELP – GET HELP!

As we watch in disbelief at the fires consuming our beautiful, vibrant community, our hearts go out to those who are evacuated and especially to those who have lost homes and businesses. Let us take a collective deep breath and do what Rotarians do best, be of service.

Let's come together and support each other. If you have any resources that may be of help to Rotarians in need, please let us know. If you are a Rotarian in need of anything: a place to stay, a place to share a snack with others for a few hours, a home to go to for a meal, clothes, food, anything at all, please let us know. For now, I will be the hub and will match Rotarian resources with Rotarian needs. Please email me at tamaramsilver@gmail.com or call or text me at 626-722-4272 with your resources or your needs.

As you know we had our first request from fellow Rotarian George Ricciardella of Impact Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center - Thanks to all who helped!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Tammy Silver
President Elect-Elect



GARBIS DER-YEGHIAN 35TH ANNUAL PEACE Conference



Saturday, January 25, 2025

Registration Check-in/Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Conference Begins Promptly at 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, CA

Keynote Speaker:

Helen Peacock

Rotary Action Group for Peace Board Member
Chair of Organizing Committee Ending War
101 Founder of Pivot2Peace
Positive Peace Ambassador for the Institute of Economics
and Peace and Justice Network
Chapter Coordinator for World BEYOND War
Distinguished peace advocate and speaker



Engaging Panel of Expert Panelists:



Helen Peacock
Our distinguished
Keynote Speaker



Joe "Peppy" Sciarra
Decorated World
War II Army
Veteran
66 year Rotarian



Paulette Britton
Founder of Autism
Legacy Fund
Rotarian
and Speaker



NJ Yazon
Marketing
professional
NAMI volunteer



Jennie Liang
Student
Engagement
Manager—Child
Mind Institute's
Youth Mental
Health Academy



Lee MacNaughton
ASU Student
NAMI Volunteer
and Intern

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
(includes continental breakfast and a museum tour)

Early bird rates:

Adults: \$45 (\$50 at the door)

Students: \$20 (\$25 at the door)

To **REGISTER** and for more information, visit the event website at:

<http://district5300.org/peace-conference/>

Scan for
Event Page
and
Registration



Rotary District 5300
District Governor
Michael Driebe



Rotary District 5330
District Governor
Judy Zulficar



Conference Chair and
Emcee
Rotary District 5330
Past District Governor
Jamie Zinn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Melissa Froehlich	Jan. 5
Stephen McCurry	Jan. 7

Estela Richeda	Jan 9
Kelly White	Jan. 10
Curtis Smith	Jan. 10
Fred Findley	Jan. 16

HAPPY ROTAVERSARY!!!

Richard Cornfield	1/3/18	7 Years
Tammy Silver	1/8/20	5 Years
Sam Gopinathan	1/8/24	1 Year
Ellen Batzel Palm-Leis	1/8/24	1 Year
Lisa Cavelier	1/9/19	6 Years
Debb Raupp	1/9/24	1 Year
Sonia Lagomarsino	1/10/90	35 Years
Royce Gilder	1/10/24	1 Year
Becky Happach	1/10/24	1 Year
Angie Pizano	1/10/24	1 Year
Mike Farrand	1/15/97	28 Years
Phil Miles	1/15/97	28 Years

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan. 22, 2025 - Dan Stover Instrumental Music Competition
Jan. 29, 2025 - Miguel Marquez, Pasadena City Manager - Housing in Pasadena
Feb. 5, 2025 - Jose Gomez, PCC President/Superintendent - The History & Future of PCC

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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: Sandy Goodenough

TREASURER: Tony Phillips

**CLUB DIRECTORS: Don Andruess, George Falardeau, Frank Fish, J.P. Harris, Debi Kroman,
Wende Lee, 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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