
Rotary

Club of Pasadena, CA

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * October 11, 2024 * #01-0041

www.pasadenarotary.com

VIN CHEE

Journey to USA (with a magic performance)

Introducer: PP JUSTENE ADAMEC



Vin Chee is a professional magician and actor born in Brunei, raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia who attended the McBride Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas. He performs at Hollywood's Magic Castle and has a residency at Black Rabbit Rose. Vin has performed magic internationally and even taken part in Asia's Got Talent television show. He has been featured in local and international press, including TheSun, Free Malaysia Today, Yahoo! News, Financial Times, just to name a few.

In addition to his work as a magician, Vin Chee does some acting. His acting career began in 2013, with uncredited parts in the films Blackhat, Skyfire, Netflix's Marco Polo, and Amazon series Expats.

Vin Chee had previously left acting behind due to lack of opportunities. In 2018, he made a short appearance in Crazy Rich Asians. The film would become the highest-grossing romantic comedy in years. It made him want to

get back in front of the camera.

In September 2022, Vin Chee bought his one-way ticket to the U.S. and now resides in Los Angeles, California.

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 23, 2024
UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PASADENA - 12:00 pm
175 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena 91101
RSVP 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 Pianist: Ann Louise Christensen
Song Leader: Phil Miles - Accompanied by Ann Louise
Inspiration: Jonathan Edwards
Scout Zone Reporter: Wende Lee
Photographer: Gui Bittencourt
Technical: Scott Carlson
Sergeant At Arms: Don Andruess

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

**END
POLIO
NOW** **WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER**

World Polio Day is October 24th. The good news and the bad news. The good news is that polio continues to be beaten back to an ever smaller number of countries. The bad news is that as long as it exists anywhere, it's a threat everywhere. Exactly how does Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) prioritize where to direct their resources?

Remaining high on the list are two remaining endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since 1988, the GPEI has reduced caes of wild poliovirus around the world by 99.9%. Outside of these two endemic countries, the GPEI has identified four (4) "most consequential geographies" - places where poliovirus variants continue to circulate.

These areas are Northern Nigeria, the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Northern Yemen, and South-central Somalia. By prioritizing resources to these four geographies, the GPEI hopes to turn off the tap to prevent further spread.

On a similar note, WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus tweeted that it had been "a massive success amidst a tragic daily reality of life" for more than two million Gazans who have been caught up in the intense fighting since last October's terrorist attacks from Hamas unleashed the war in Gaza. In three phases over twelve days, from September 1 to September 12, UN agencies and partners provided oral polio vaccine type 2 to some 558,963 children, reaching families living in shelters, tents and camps for the displaced. Swift action by the GPEI, from the moment the virus was detected to the launch of the campaign - speaks to the effectiveness of the polio programme.

JOIN US on Pasadena Rotary's 3rd Annual World Polio Day for a walk/run/ride around the Rose

Bowl on October 24th - see information below.

Stephen D. Smith

President 2024 - 2025

Rotary Club of Pasadena

Cell 310.908.1779

**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**



*They are showing you that they all have the RED WRIST BAND from Dean Billman.
Wende Lee, Alan Schier, Sandi Mejia-Ramirez and Charles Kiu all gave to the Polio Plus Society.*

**ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
& EVENTS**

WORLD POLIO DAY

24 OCTOBER



Third Annual Pasadena Rotary World Polio Day Run/Walk/Ride 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. Walk, run, ride your bike, skateboard, or scooter! 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) or Morgan Nadeau (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 to order and for size info. \$22 (or so) charged to your Rotary account. Unisex sizes S-4XL.

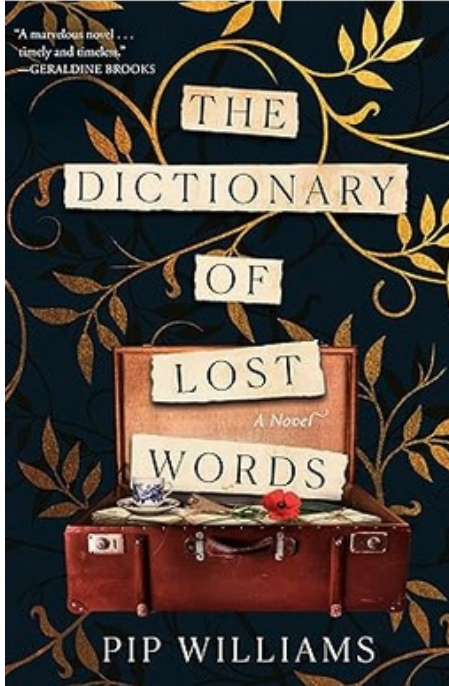
ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet
November 4th at 6 pm.

MaryLou Byrne will review Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams.

Bring something to share for dinner.

You do not have to have read the



book. Please contact Cathy Simms at simmsie1@pacbell.net for location and more information.

Please RSVP



The Scoot Zone

By Staff Reporter Dean Billman
Photographer: Gui Bittencourt

On Dementia: “Where memory fades, but Love remains,” was our inspiration from **Kelly White** today, and our speaker gave a presentation how we might be able to help those family members with dementia be able to afford living in a care facility without selling the family home, through creative finance.

President Stephen Smith rang the mighty brass bell at 12:30pm, and asked **Don Andruess**, accompanied by our terrific piano musician Ann Louise Christensen, to begin our song, and Don observed that since the topic today was about finances, maybe we could sing the standard, “Pennies from Heaven”, but the words changed to “Funding from Heaven”, much to the delight of the singers.

Kelly White recited a poem about dementia, and the one phrase that stood out was, “the Mind Forgets, but the Heart Remains.” **Agnes Bollinger**, friend of **John McDaniel**, mentioned that this was a welcome reflection on giving all of us patience when we are frustrated with family forgetfulness.



Guests (Seems like we are soon to have new members):

- **PP Howard Raff** welcomed Susan Perez, a mortgage banker; and Claire Avakehan, an HMRI corporate member.
- **PP Howard Raff** also welcomed Stanley Parkhurst, a retired CPA, who has applied for membership.
- **Jan Moscaret** introduced her friend Tammy Bumbalow.
- **Lisa Cavalier** was pleased to announce her guest, Alyssa Martinez, the Boys and Girls Club's new Area Club Director.
- **Antonio Rezik** announced his guest, Leilani Nickel, who works in his office and has applied for membership.
- **Bob Risley** was pleased to be joined by Rosemary Risley for lunch.

Announcements:

- **President Stephen** started off the announcements with a Big Announcement: **Jan Moscaret** was 94 years young today, and on cue, Don and Ann Louise led us in a rousing Happy Birthday song! Jan pulled the mic close and thanked everyone for the happy wishes, and knew that her late husband, Gene, would have been so happy.

- **President Stephen** announced that the search for the next Rotary President Elect-Elect will begin soon and if you are interested, "please throw your hat in the ring!" President-Elect **Hillary Schenk's** term is next year, so you will have lots of time to figure out what to do. Join!

- **Dean Billman**, District 5300 Rotary Polio Plus Chair, encouraged everyone to join the Polio Plus Society with a simple one-time \$100 donation to Rotary International's Polio Eradication efforts. Earlier he had distributed the distinctive red wrist bands to all the attendees who had already joined, and Dean encouraged all who wish to join to contact **Wendy Anderson** or **Sandi Mejia**, to add the \$100 to your bill for easy payment.

Wende Lee kicked off her Polio Pig announcement by first spelling out her name: W.E.N.D.E. She clarified who she is **not** by saying, "I'm not W.E.N.D.Y" (referring to **Wendy Anderson**, our fantastic club administrator, Wendy with a 'Y'). Wende with an 'E' is the Co-Chair of the Tyros Committee, and she's here to invite all Rotarians and Impact members to join the TYROS HAPPY HOUR on Tues, October 29th **Time:** 4:30 to 6:00 PM at El Torito, Pasadena. Appetizers are included, but drinks are on you—unless you're a Tyros member! In that case, your first drink is on us. The appetizers are plentiful, but only until 6:00 PM (that's when Wende plans to pay the bill and close out the complimentary appetizers), so don't be late!

- **President Stephen** asked for a co-chair to help **Desiree Alvarado** for the Rotary Toy Drive for the Salvation Army – TYRO member **Antonio Rezik** stepped up and volunteered. Way to go Antonio – getting involved has the upside of showing your spirit - Thank you!

- Corporate member **George Ricciardella** had a Polio Pig announcement (\$20-30 allows anyone to make a non-Rotary announcement, and all proceeds go to Rotary International's Polio Eradication efforts) – George's non-profit Impact Treatment Center helps over 130 men and women recover from addiction, and they are looking for sponsors and awareness of their upcoming fundraiser.

- **David McAlexander** is asking for fun-having volunteers to help set up the Don Benito Middle School Carnival on Saturday, November 9th. david_mcalexander@onebox.com

- **David** and co-chair **Alex Oscoco** also reminded us of the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner service that we as a club will participate in November, and a truly giving experience to serve beyond self – and feel good doing it. You can be the perfect Rotarian. More info coming.

- **President Stephen** reminded us of the upcoming Mt. Wilson very special extracurricular event this Friday – the box dinner and telescope facility onsite visit to Mt. Wilson Observatory. He is offering to carpool up to three extra people if you want to meet in the U-Club parking lot at 4pm. Dinner is at 5pm and viewing soon after dark. I am going – are you? Note: the last time the club did this event was the summer of 2009, and we think we saved Mt. Wilson from the Station Fire because we cleared brush from around the buildings. We did that.



President Stephen introduced our speaker, **Preston Howard** of Rose City Realty, Inc. in Pasadena. While Preston started out by saying his firm

offers funding for housing projects and industrial programs, they also specialize in helping anyone who can't get a traditional loan at a big bank because of several situations: problem balance sheets, short timeline to receive needed funds, and the worst problem sometimes, squabbling siblings.

Preston discussed several scenarios, and he held the room in rapt attention because these were local stories. One family near Lake and Colorado owned an expensive block of commercial real estate and were ill-advised to move the property from family-held, to another legal holding that would allow tax-managed estate advantage. The problem was, the current lender was not included in the planning and sued the family, and they demanded immediate repayment of the loan, causing a cash crunch.



Preston's firm finally offered a short-term solution, and immediate cash to pay the lender and keep the real estate in the family name. The interest might have been higher than a big or local bank would normally offer, but the fact that the property was held up in court and the lender was going to win the suit prompted the family to agree to terms and settle the bill.

Preston then told his story of his loving family and mother - they had to deal with dementia within their own family. A huge crisis of a quickly declining family member, the beloved mother, necessitated finding a dementia facility which Preston was able to fund it without selling the home through a third-party private lending team. They had to pay a higher interest rate, but the funds were quickly raised, and the house was saved for his family's next generation to live in. All while not raising the 50-year-old property tax base.

This seems to be the solution for many seniors who have family members who wish to care for mom or dad, but do not have ready cash immediately. Several Pasadena Rotarians in the legal field help with conservatorships as fiduciaries for the family in need, thereby bypassing the inevitable fight for control for the family money before mom passes away. Preston thanked several club members, including **Robert Earnest, Bob Risley, Suzanne Cohen, Jan Copley, and Eric Olson.**

It was a great meeting, with the weaving of different Rotarians of several practices, all coming together to help local citizens in need with their combined knowledge, wisdom, and resources. The crowd around Preston after the meeting shows there is a need for his kind of services and knowledge, and he would make a great addition to our club. Send him an application!

President Stephen awarded Preston with a Magic Mug and called the meeting at 1:30pm.



L2R: Becky Happach Detrick, Tammy Duke Don Schweitzer, Preston Howard, Jennifer DeVoll, President Stephen, George Falardeau, Charles Kiu, Ali Smyser, PP Ken Hill

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.

7 DAY NOTICE

Leilani Nickel - Active - Sponsor: Antonio Rizek
Cedrick Jihanian - Active - Sponsor: Tammy Silver
Jan Adams - Impact Club - Sponsor: President Stephen
Chuck O'Neill - Impact Club - Sponsor: President Stephen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Debbie Loveland	Oct. 18th
Sean Cain	Oct. 18th
Carmen Choy Surdam	Oct. 21st
Ken Joe	Oct. 22nd

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Oct. 30 - Marsha Rood - The Rebirth of Old Pasadena: The Untold Story
Nov. 5 - Brian Wong, CEO SGV Habitat for Humanity - Building Low Cost Housing in Pasadena
Nov. 13 - Stacie Takeguchi, Assistant General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power
Nov. 20, 2024 - Ellen Snortland - Storyteller/Humorist
Nov. 27, 2024 - DARK - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Dec. 4, 2024 - DARK - No Lunch Meeting
Dec. 4, 2024 - HOLIDAY PARTY - Jacob Maarse

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Bureau Chief: Mary Lou Byrne
Spokes Chair/Publisher/Editor: Wendy Anderson

Scout Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman

Photographers: Hans Rosenberger, Hillary Schenk,
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Proofers: Mary Wilson & Kathy Meagher

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

MAILING ADDRESS: 556 South Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 101, #379
Pasadena, CA 91105

Wendy Anderson, Administrator - 626-683-8243 - office@pasadenarotary.com
Sandi Mejia-Ramirez, Accountant - 626-272-3424 - sandimejia@sbcglobal.net
www.pasadenarotary.com

Pasadena Rotary Club | 556 South Fair Oaks Ave. Suite 101, #379 | Pasadena, CA 91105 US

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