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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA

### SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* September 20, 2024 \* #01-0038  
[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

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## **CHRIS ERSKINE**

*“An L.A. Life: Bears to Baseball”*

*Introducer: JUSTENE ADAMEC*



Chris Erskine worked for 30 years at the Los Angeles Times as an editor and writer, covering sports, travel, politics, family and entertainment. He was part of three Pulitzer Prize-winning teams for breaking news. His weekly humor pieces on life in suburban Los Angeles are probably his best-known work.

In 2018, he released “Daditude,” a collection of his favorite Times columns on fatherhood. “What the Bears Know,” released Oct. 3, is his fifth book and recently made The Times’ best-seller list. He also contributed to the new Vin Scully book, “Perfect Eloquence,” in bookstores now.

He is a native of Chicago and also worked at papers in New Orleans and Miami. He still pens weekly columns for eight papers around the Los Angeles.

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**WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 25, 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:** Eric Olson - Accompanied by Ann Louise  
**Inspiration:** Parker Hayward  
**Scout Zone Reporter:** Dean Billman  
**Photographers:** Tammy Silver  
**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



### RI Commits Funds to Polio Outbreak Response in Gaza

The recent detection of variant polio virus type-2 isolates in environmental samples and the confirmation of a 10-month-old child who has contracted polio in Gaza is a stark reminder that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.

The ongoing crisis in Gaza has contributed to reduced routine immunization rates and an increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio. The crisis also poses a significant challenge to fully implementing disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers there to be a high risk for the spread of this polio strain within Gaza and internationally, particularly given the current situation's impact on public health services.

A humanitarian pause has allowed a two-round polio vaccination campaign that began in Gaza on 1 September. Initial reports indicate the campaign started successfully, with teams showing strong commitment and high levels of community participation.

Rotary is committing US\$500,000 to bolster the initiative, channeling these funds through a dedicated Polio Outbreak Response Fund. This contribution represents Rotary's sustained support to the WHO in combating polio globally.

Rotary will continue to work with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and other agencies as vaccination efforts unfold.

Financial contributions to the PolioPlus fund will help Rotary and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners achieve a world in which no child is paralyzed by polio again.

Through the exceptional work by Dean Billman, we are trying to become a 100% club. Let's bring



it to the finish line!

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

# The Scoot Zone

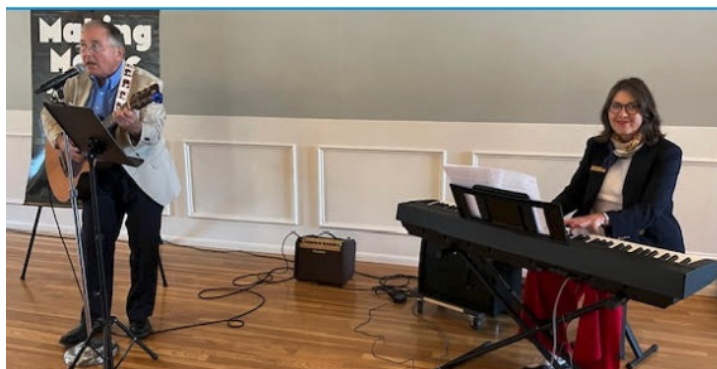
By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief

Photos by Claudia Ponce de Leon & Tammy Silver



President **Stephen Smith** rang the bell and called the meeting to order at 12:30. **Past President Phil Miles** led us in singing "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," which started out as an ad for Coca Cola and then was a hit for The New Seekers in 1972.

**Past President Ken Hill** gave the inspiration, a quote from Admiral William McRaven of the U.S. Navy: "If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed. ... If you can't do the little things right, you'll never be able to do the big things right."



**Sergeant at Arms Robert Lyons** assisted with the introduction of guests, who were hosted this week by **Mary Wilson** and **Howard Raff**.

Announcements:

We were all delighted to see **Past President Shel Capeloto** joining us after a long absence. He reminded us of Pasadena Rotary's first Global Grants project, Caring Little Hearts, which began during his presidency in 2016-2017. At this point we have paid for 500 lifesaving pediatric heart surgeries in rural India and are starting our third tranche of surgeries this month.

**Past President Mary Lou Byrne** donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of Past President Shel, explaining that being president of this Club is a hard job and Shel was her presidential mentor every step of the way. In other news, PP Mary Lou reminded everyone to order their End Polio Now t-shirts by October 4, so





they'll be here for World Polio Day on October 24. See below for details.

**Alex Rocco** announced that the Mt. Baldy event has been rescheduled for October 18. Details below.

**Dean Billman** reminded everyone of the World Polio Day Run/Walk Around the Rose Bowl on October 24. Details below. He also urged everyone to join the Polio Plus Society for a \$100 donation. Finally, he donated \$100 to the Polio Pig in honor of his wife, Karen, whose Karen Billman Designs is featured in this month's Pasadena Magazine, and another \$100 in honor of PP Shel. Back in 2016 PP Shel was on a Rotary trip to Cambodia to see the water well we installed there, and when **PP Dave Mans** was injured, Shel stayed by his side until Dave could be safely evacuated, missing the Rotary International Convention in the process.

**President Elect Hillary Shenk** announced two upcoming IMPACT Club service projects: There is an in-person trash cleanup at Eaton Canyon on September 28 at 8 a.m. President Stephen will provide post-project coffee and donuts at his house. Be sure to wear waterproof shoes! For a more low-key project, please bring Halloween donations to our next few weekly meetings for Ronald McDonald House – they are asking for candy and NEW costumes/accessories. Email Amanda Pumilia at [apumilia@yahoo.com](mailto:apumilia@yahoo.com) for more info on these projects. There is also an upcoming IMPACT Club happy hour – see below. And Hillary donated another \$20 to the Polio Pig in honor of PP Shel “for welcoming me into the Club and wrapping his arms around me.”

**Tammy Silver** donated \$50 to the Polio Pig in honor of her son Daniel's marriage in June – it was a day of joy and happiness, she said, and showed us a beautiful photo of the wedding party.

**Wende Lee** announced our Rotary directory is out – you can pick it up at Wednesday meetings for next two weeks (“only if you want one”).

**Claudia Ponce de Leon** donated \$100 to the Polio Pig and proudly announced, “my mom, my sister, and I have opened The Fountain of Youth Skin and Body Care in Glendora!” We are all invited to the grand opening on Saturday September 28th from 5:15 pm to 8:15 pm at 340 S. Glendora Ave. Ste7. contact Claudia: [ccponcedeleon@cbbank.com](mailto:ccponcedeleon@cbbank.com) for details.  
<https://www.fountainofyouthskinandbodycare.com/>

Next up, **President Stephen** treated us to a fun Autumn Quiz, including questions like “Which civilization was the first to use scarecrows?” (Answer: the Egyptians.) The table of (L to R) **Eric Olson, Parker Hayward, Past President Ken Joe, Past President Cathy Simms, Debi Kroman, Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Wende Lee, and Gary Kearney** got nine out of twelve correct answers and won Starbucks gift cards.



**Mary Wilson** introduced our speaker. Ida Puliwa is a Rotarian from Malawi and the president and founder of Othakarhaka Foundation. Malawi is a very beautiful and peaceful country in Southeast Africa. Its population more than 19 million, of which 52% are women.

Ida said she was born in a community which never believed in the power of girls' education. Girls were treated as nothing. “Do you think I'm nothing?” she asked rhetorically, and of course we all replied with a resounding “NO!” However, because her mother only had girl children, she and her parents and sisters were kicked out of her father's family home when her father refused to take a second wife in hopes of having sons.

How did Ida rise from her humble beginnings? Ida explained, “On my first trip to a city, I saw a beautiful woman, beautifully



dressed, carrying a briefcase. My teacher told me 'if you work hard in school, you can go to university, and come to the city, get a job, and look like her.' That was my first role model – I worked hard in school until I became the first girl out of a community of 24,000 to graduate from high school.” Alas, her parents were too poor to pay for university – it costs about \$5000 for four years in Malawi.

One day a professor from Virginia Tech came to Ida’s village – her interpreter was sick, so Ida interpreted for her. And as a thank-you, the professor paid for Ida’s college! Ida wanted to pay it forward and see more women and girls get educated.

In Malawi, Ida explained, you can’t start anything without getting approval from the chief. He said, “You are just a girl – you should get married, have children, and take care of your children,” But with support of many volunteers including her then-boyfriend now husband, she started the Passing on the Kindness Initiative. They agreed to work as a team to promote kindness. Everyone chipped in and the initiative started to grow and attract outside funding. Ida proudly said, “As I stand here now, we have grown from 65 to almost 6,800 volunteers and from one village to more than 57 villages and more than 500,000 people.”

Ida detailed the programs her foundation provides:

**Girls’ empowerment:** Rescue girls from illegal child marriages and send them back to school. The Foundation makes sure to find volunteers to take care of their babies. She shared the story of Chisomo, who was forced to marry at 12 and by 13 she had a baby. Now she is one of their best students who wants to be a medical doctor – if she hadn’t been rescued Malawi would have lost a doctor in the future. So far, they have supported more than 600 girls and now 58 are now studying in universities.

**Community Libraries and BloomBox Solar powered moveable computer library:** Libraries are rare in Malawi, so students don’t have access to adequate materials. They are bringing books and computers to the students.

**Sewing/tailing training and business establishment:** This is another way to empower girls who are rescued from child marriage but don’t want to go back to school. When they graduate, they are given a sewing machine and they pay the Foundation back in one year so it can support the next class. They sew school uniforms for free, which are distributed to orphans.

**Public health care:** Palliative care, cervical cancer screening, and general clinic. Malawi’s healthcare infrastructure is overburdened so there is no end-of-life care in public hospitals. The Foundation has volunteers to be caregivers to these patients in their own homes. They also have a children’s clinic and free cervical cancer screening for all women, which is often only discovered once it is advanced.

**Sustainable agriculture and irrigation:** They are supporting families who would otherwise force their daughters into illegal child marriages. The families raise enough crops to sell and for their own consumption. They have reached out to more than 11,000 families, each of whom pays back a portion of their harvest for feeding others.

**Tree planting:** They plant seeds then distribute the seedlings in order to bring back the forest in Malawian communities.

**Community development:** This is an effort to provide better housing, food, homes, to orphans who lost parents to HIV/AIDS. Many of these orphans are being raised by grandparents, but they struggle. The Foundation also provides safe water.

Summing it up, Ida said “What I have seen is that if we can invest in both boys and girls, we can have better communities in the future.”

All of the Foundations volunteers come from within the communities. Funding comes from the volunteers, who



from the beginning have each paid a minimum of \$.07/month. They also have partnerships with larger organizations who help with funding.

After a question and answer period, President Stephen presented Ida with her speaker gift, and also exchanged Rotary flags with her before adjourning the meeting at 1:30. (photo with Ida and her husband Ted Mwango)



L2R: Ida Puliwa, Mary Wilson, Catherine Hany, President-Elect Hillary Schenk, President Stephen, Alan Schier, Past President Shel Capeloto, Dr. Don Thomas, Florence Helmberger, Ted Mwango

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

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

**BUFFET MEAL**  
Chef Tony, The University Club

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

## **ALAN SCHIER, BADGE MASTER**

If you need help with your badge, see Alan Schier, Badge Master at the Reception Desk for help!



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## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

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SPOKES FORMAT WILL BE CHANGING STARTING  
OCTOBER 1ST

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# IMPACT CLUB EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

9/25

## SOCIAL MIXER/HAPPY HOUR

Bring prospective Impact Club members!

**5 pm - 7 pm** (Happy Hour prices until 6 pm)

Lucky Baldwin's Trappiste Pub

1770 E. Colorado Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91106

(At Colorado/Allen Ave, **not** Old Town location)

SATURDAY

9/28

## EATON CANYON TRASH PICKUP

**8 AM** - Meet at the Mt 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.

COLLECTION  
DRIVE

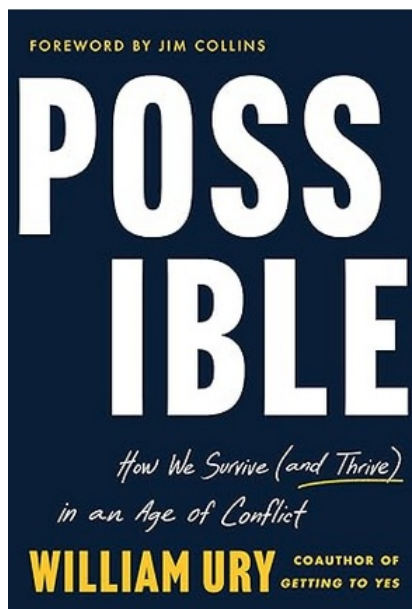
NOW UNTIL  
OCTOBER  
17TH

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HALLOWEEN COLLECTION DRIVE

Collecting Halloween candy, new costumes for families, Halloween-inspired hats, headbands, and size inclusive costumes for their Trunk or Treat. Bring to the bin at Rotary meetings or email Amanda to arrange drop-off.

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/>



## ROTARY READERS

Rotary Readers will meet October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Bob Risley will review  
Possible How We Survive (and Thrive) in an Age of  
Conflict by William Ury.

Bring something to share for dinner.  
You do not have to have read the book.

Please contact Jan Sanders  
[janinpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:janinpasadena@gmail.com) for location and  
more information.  
**Please RSVP.**





## **MT. WILSON OBSERVATORY EXCURSION**

**Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**\$80 for tour + box dinner/drinks or \$50 for tour only**

Pasadena Rotary will be going up Mt. Wilson on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to experience stars, planets and the cosmos via the 60" telescope. Through the Mount Wilson Institute guides, each attendee will look several times through the eyepiece on the telescope at chosen celestial targets that will include the planet Saturn!

But capacity of the tour is limited to 25 people so this is a "First RSVP-First Twenty-Five" Rotarians and guests are in!

There are two sign-up options—one is the tour plus a box dinner and drinks at a park just outside of the observatory grounds. Because we need to enter the observatory grounds at 6:30 PM, there is a second option for those who can get there by that time but not in time for dinner. More details will follow regarding the timing of the dinner picnic and possible ride sharing. The evening should go to around 9:00 PM although you can leave early if needed.

RSVP to Rob Fisher at [rob@fbrg.agency](mailto:rob@fbrg.agency) to see the stars!

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# 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](mailto:dabillman@icloud.com)) or Morgan Nadeau ([beck1enadeau@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:justene@gmail.com) to order and for size info. \$22 (or so) charged to your Rotary account. Unisex sizes S-4XL.

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## 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.

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## 7 DAY NOTICE

Martha Shenkenberg - Sponsor: Deb Raupp

Ben Selick - Sponsor: Howard Raff

Trina Davidian (Impact Club) - Sponsor: President Stephen

Shelley De Leon (Impact Club) - Sponsor: Howard Raff

Paul Roach (Corporate-HMRI) - Sponsors: Bill Opel & Howard Raff

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jan Sanders	September 20th
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Virginia Wilcox	September 21st
Akila Gibbs	September 22nd
Angela Hawekotte	September 23rd
Catharine Rajan	September 25th
Mary Lou Byrne	September 26th
Phil Hawkey	September 26th

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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 Recovery

**SPOKES** is the weekly newsletter published by the Rotary Club of Pasadena

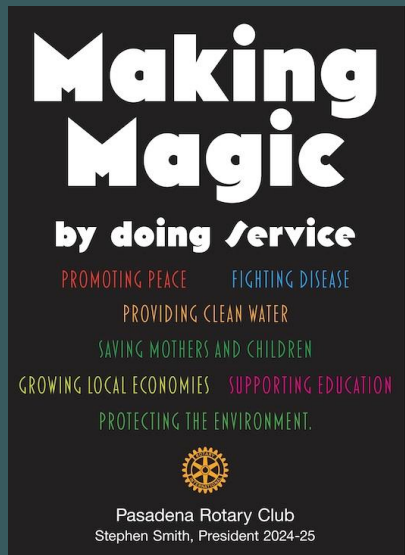
Weekly Live Wednesday Meeting by RSVP  
University Club Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave.

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

Scout Zone Reporters: Mary Lou Byrne & Dean Billman


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Tammy Silver, Matt Bookman, Ken Joe, Claudia Ponce de Leon,  
Mike Bernard, Dede Venkat & Gui Bittencourt.

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

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# Rotary Club of Pasadena

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Pasadena, CA 91105

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