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# Rotary

## Club of Pasadena, CA

### **SPOKES NEWSLETTER**

DISTRICT 5300 \* Rotary Club 794 \* March 14, 2025 \* #01-008

[www.pasadenarotary.com](http://www.pasadenarotary.com)

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## **PAST PRESIDENT MARY LOU BYRNE**

### ***"My Life in Traffic Court"***

***INTRODUCER: Gary Kearney***



Mary Lou Byrne received a B.S. in management from Pepperdine University, and earned her law degree at the University of Southern California, where she was a member of the *Southern California Law Review* and an instructor of legal research and writing. Mary Lou practiced business litigation in Los Angeles for twelve years, first as an associate and then as a partner, with the law firm now known as Nossaman, LLP.

In June 2005 Mary Lou was elected a Court Commissioner with the Los Angeles Superior Court. She presided over criminal, unlawful detainer, and family law cases in the Pasadena Court for almost 19 years, with short stints in

the Alhambra and West Covina criminal courts. She spent the last ten years of her judicial career in Department M of the Pasadena Superior Court, hearing the traffic matters for most of the San Gabriel Valley. She was also a member of the faculty of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), teaching new bench officers from throughout the state how to handle traffic matters.

Mary Lou has lived in the Pasadena area since 1980 and has a long history of community service. She is a two-time past president of the Rotary Club of Pasadena and currently sits on the board of the Pasadena City College Foundation and the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts.

Mary Lou is married to fellow Rotarian Gary W. Kearney and has one daughter, Theodora Byrne, who is a Marine Corps veteran and psychotherapist in Portland, Oregon.

**WEDNESDAY – MARCH 19, 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  
**Song Leader:** Eric Olson  
**Inspiration:** David McAlexander  
**Scout Zone Reporter:** Mary Lou Byrne  
**Photographer:** PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt  
**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



*Please double click on the "New Map" below to be able to ascertain the status of addresses in Altadena from the Eaton Canyon fire.*

### **NEW MAP**

The LA County Council has created a **"NEW MAP"** of the burned structures in Altadena. Although some of Pasadena's burned areas have not yet been included, but will be added.

At this point in the aftermath of the Eaton Canyon fire, the Damage Assessment, Search and Rescue, Evacuation and Shelter, Rebuilding power lines, Repairing water

systems, and restoring communication infrastructure has occurred. The next steps will be

as follows:

**1) Environmental Recovery and Restoration.** Efforts will focus on replanting native vegetation to prevent further soil erosion. Wildlife Habitat Restoration will be important for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance. Creating firebreaks and having controlled burns can help in preventing future wildfires from spreading easily.

**2) Rebuilding Homes and Infrastructure.** When rebuilding homes, the focus will be on fire-resistant materials, and creating defensible spaces around properties. Public works projects will focus on restoring roads and bridges and taking into account flood control measures.

**3) Community Support and Mental Health.** Mental health services are critical for residents who have lost a home, loved ones, or pets. Insurance companies and governmental agencies will need to assist residents with claims and financial aid. Local volunteer organizations (like Pasadena Rotary) have been and will be helping with cleanup, rebuilding and offering support.

**4) Prevention and Preparedness for Future Fires** Educating the community about fire prevention and creating emergency kits. Upgrading firefighting technology and training makes us better prepared for the next fire. Establishing fire watch programs ensures a more resilient community moving forward.

**5) Collaborating with Local, State and Federal Agencies** There should be discussions about improving local zoning and building codes.

By focusing on these efforts, Altadena will not only recover from the devastation caused by the Eaton Canyon fire but also emerge as a more resilient community, better prepared for future wildfires.

***\*\*Photo: Mike Bernard, District Governor Elect Gilda Moshir, President Stephen***

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

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

**BUFFET LUNCH by Chef Tony Lu**

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP TODAY**

Please **RSVP** if you are attending!  
[office@pasadenarotary.com](mailto:office@pasadenarotary.com)



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## ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

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### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

### **Altadena Disaster Relief Distribution Event**

**Saturday March 15, 2025 - 7:00 AM**

Many in District 5300 are aware of the participation by local Rotarians in a relief supply distribution event for victims of the Eaton Fire on February 8th when more than 2,200 people received generously donated supplies of food, water, clothing, fresh groceries and much more.

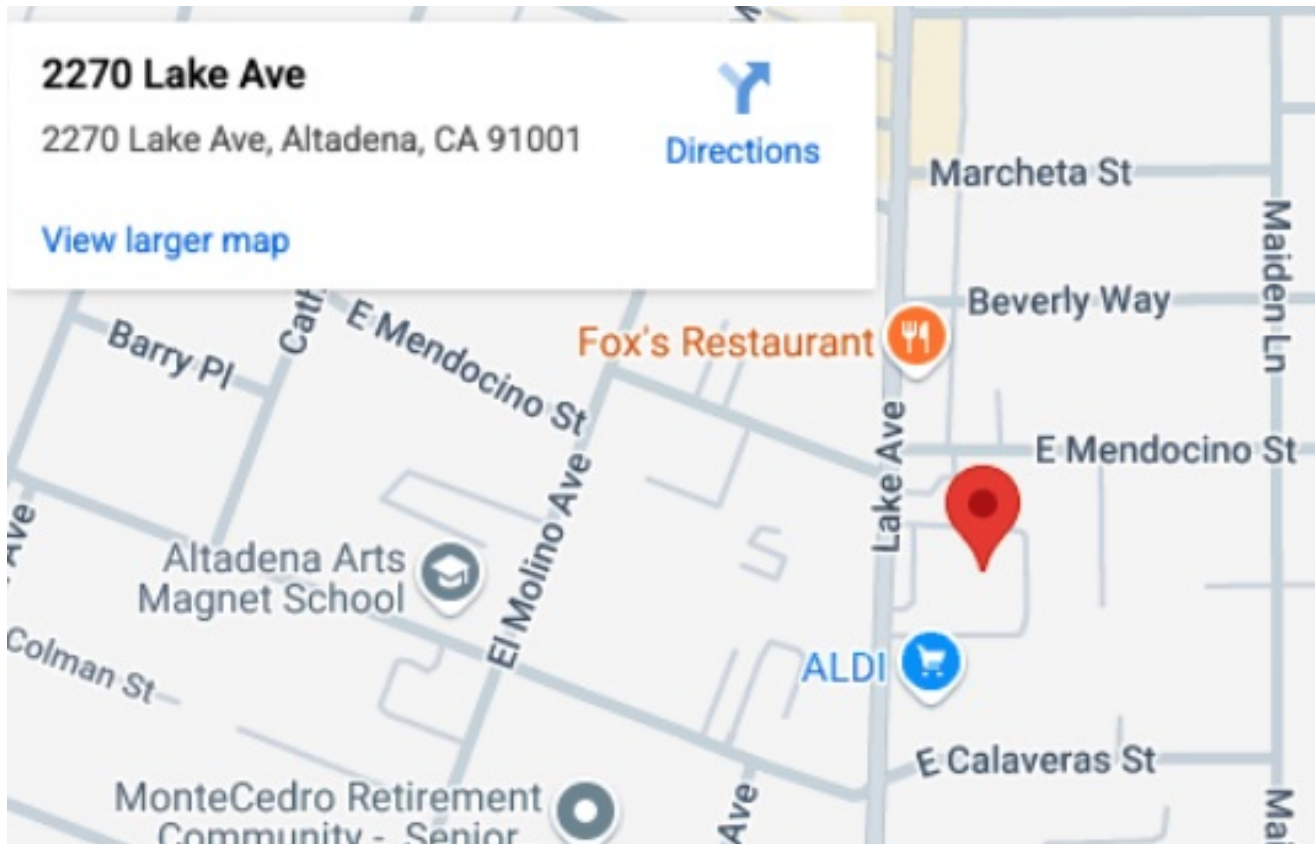
Another distribution is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th at the Grocery Outlet Bargain Market in Altadena. If you'd like to help that day, including additional times for set up and breakdown, please go to the district calendar

or use this [link to register on DACdb](#).

## **Register NOW** for Altadena Disaster Relief Distribution Event

The distribution will be from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. They need volunteers to set up and break down. The early shift will run from 7:00 am - 11:00 am. The late shift will run from 11:00 am until finished, which should be about 3:30 pm.

**Grocery Outlet Bargain Market, 2270 Lake Ave, Altadena, CA 91001**



# Volunteer to help staff the 2025 Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts!

Enjoy this beautifully decorated house, support Showcase's mission to fundraise for the arts, and earn donations for our club in the process. For every shift completed by one of our members, Pasadena Rotary will receive \$50.



## KEY DETAILS

- Shifts are 3 and 1/2 hours long (inside or outside) and you must stand the whole time (other than during a 15 minute break for water/snacks/bathroom).
- Parking for volunteers is at Santa Anita Park with shuttles to and from the house. If you can't get dropped off and picked up in the blocks surrounding the Showcase House, you should also factor in around 40 minutes to an hour for that process **each way**.
- Your job will be to greet guests, answer basic questions, and direct traffic through the house.
- If you complete TWO separate shifts, you will receive a **free ticket** to tour the Showcase House any day after 1:30 p.m.

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If you'd like to volunteer, let our coordinator, Amanda Pumilia, know which days you're available for and which shifts you'd prefer. She will schedule your shift(s) and send a confirmation with the date and time.

**Email: [apumilia@yahoo.com](mailto:apumilia@yahoo.com) or text: (818) 693-0331**

**Shifts are available on Tuesdays - Sundays from April 20th to May 18th**

**9:00 - 12:30**

**12:15 - 4:00**

**3:45 - 7:00**



## The Scoot Zone

**By Staff Reporter Dean Billman**

**Photographers: PE-E Tammy Silver & Gui Bittencourt**

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We were delightfully entertained by three outstanding young musicians today, as part of the **Dan Stover Rotary Music Competition**. Chair **Mike Bernard** (Co-chair **Allison Burgos**) remarked afterwards that “we had 14 really great young players audition, the largest field in many years, and we hope that our contest will be ‘a destination competition’ for local young musicians.”



**President Stephen Smith** rang the big musical brass Rotary Bell at 12:30pm and introduced **Jonathan Edwards** as our song leader today. He challenged us to join him, singing ABBA’s “Thank You for The Music” – with heartfelt lyrics of how music rewards both the artists and the audience. **Deb Raupp** dedicated her inspiration to our three musicians today, calling them “all winners already”, for their dedication to their craft and performing in front of our audience. She then reflected how music moves and adds to our lives, through live music today, or our playlists during the day.



Today’s Guests:

**Mike Bernard** welcomed his wife Leslie Bernard, “an ad hoc member of the Dan Stover music committee, and a great partner” (eliciting positive comments from the tables, like “that is really nice”); and **Ms. Gilda Moshir**, our District 5300 Governor-Elect.

Announcements:

- Our club is invited to participate this Saturday for the Altadena Disaster Relief Distribution event on Lake Avenue, from 7am for set-up to 3:30pm. Tyros member **Morgan Nadeau** had already signed up. (*see above*)
- **Wende Lee** put out the call for Rotarians to sign up next week to be docents for the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts – members will raise \$50 per person for the club, for each shift, and get to tour the house for free (a \$40 value to each volunteer). (*see above*)
- **Catherine Hany** invited us to a “Meet the Author” Percival Everett of the novel “James” – which is the Pasadena One City, One Story 2025 selection. Saturday, March 15th at 1:30 pm at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd. (x Madison). Event is free.
- **DG-Elect Gilda Moshir** invited all of us in the club to attend the District Assembly on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Disneyland Hotel, with the District Conference on Saturday and

Sunday. She encouraged us to join President-Elect Hillary Schenk and others from our club to attend, especially because we need to attend the District Grants training to become eligible for District Grants for a project of our choosing.

It was time for one of our Pasadena Rotary signature annual events, The Dan Stover Instrumental Music Competition with Chair **Mike Bernard** and Co-chair **Allison Burgos**. The Dan Stover Memorial Music Scholarship was created by the Alhambra Rotary in 1997, to honor the beloved member with a Music Scholarship Program in his name. We now have a District-wide contest, with the winner of participating clubs going to a final contest at our District Conference in May. Each contestant at the club level and then the final event all receive Rotary Club scholarship checks.

Our esteemed guest judges:

- Victoria Sabonjohn (*right in photo*) is a professional freelance oboist and educator in the Los Angeles area. She performs actively in the Los Angeles area, playing with several local orchestras and chamber groups. Recent performances include the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Long Beach Symphony, and Santa Cecilia Orchestra.
- Vincent Houser is a Professor of Music and professional violinist. He also founded Art Deco Entertainment, an American Dance orchestra featured in motion pictures.
- Cathy Chan Biagini (*left in photo*) is a professional cello player, who has played with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zuckerman, and Mstislav Rostropovich. She is currently the principal cellist of Thousand Oaks Philharmonic, Burbank Philharmonic, as well as with Pasadena Symphony Orchestra.



Our contestants:

- **The 1st place winner was Rio Navarro**, (*photo: right*) who played the Accordion. The piece was "Csardas", by Vittorio Monte.
  - Feelings: Assertive keyboard and seemed to play both sides of the multi-keyed and buttoned instrument with different melodies – his playing and intonations, he seemed to be weaving haunting yet familiar melodies. The room was rapt with attention as we watched him play an instrument we were not familiar with, yet his mastery of the sound and tone was amazing.
  - Notes: "Rio wants to bring the accordion back into the American music scene." He practices over an hour each day, and more before competitions, and likes to use music to express himself.
  - *Rio will represent our club in the 2025 District Conference competition.*
- **1st Runner-up was Kimberly Tsou**, who played the Flute Concerto, 3rd Movement by Jacques Ibert.
  - Feelings: Her crisp dexterity on the flute, with difficult chromatic runs, showed wonderful control of depth and "voice". Flowing notes and colorful interpretation brought visions of forest glens, babbling brooks, soaring butterflies and woodland frolicking. She was very sure of herself and enjoyed playing for us.
  - Notes: Kimberly came to America in 6<sup>th</sup> grade from Taiwan, and had a tough time learning English, but found her best way to express herself was through her flute playing.
  - She practices four hours a day – two in morning, two in afternoon. She said that she also spends time on You Tube watching others playing flute and learning different



techniques.

- **2nd Runner-up was Haydn Schlinger.** He played the Polonaise in C Sharp Minor by Frederick Chopin.
  - Feelings: He was very confident on the keys, pausing and floating for affect, and his choice was a real crowd pleaser. His phrasing and entertainment with the piece were enjoyable.
  - Notes: Haydn was taking piano lessons at age four, and his parents hoped that he would grow into enjoying it – but he picked up violin on his own because he liked how it was a different way to make music.
  - He attends the Pasadena Conservatory of Music.



While we were waiting for the judges' decision, we learned each student's name, school, and their musical aspirations. Our club was fascinated with the accordion and Rio's dedication to it – every question was centered on how it works and the function of the buttons – and Rio answered with great authority, "the bass buttons are pretty straightforward – they are grouped by 5ths chromatically, with major and minors in 7ths." **PP Phil Miles** asked Rio if he could teach him how to play!



L2R: Hui Wu, Accompanist, Haydn Schlinger (piano), Chair Mike Bernard, Kimberly Tsou (flute), Judge Catherine Bianini, Rio Navarro (accordion), Judge Victoria Sabonjohn, Judge Vincent Houser

Along with a Scholarship check from **Mike, Allison** and **President Stephen**, they also received President Stephen's Magic Mug, which they were grateful to receive. We were entertained by some wonderful young musicians today, and as **Deb Raupp** mentioned in her Inspiration, "You are our future."



*L2R: Jeannine Bogaard, Susanne Cohen, Mel Cohen, Wende Lee, Dean Billman, Morgan Nadeau, Ellen Simon, Mike Bernard, District Governor Elect Gilda Moshir, President Stephen*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

<b>Rob Fisher</b>	March 14
<b>Brooke Mulligan</b>	March 15
<b>Wendy Anderson</b>	March 17
<b>Mike Bernard</b>	March 20

## HAPPY ROTAVERSARY

<b>Nevino Rocco</b>	3/16/22	3 Years
<b>Ellen Simon</b>	3/19/08	17 Years

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



March 26, 2025 - Alex Santamaria, President/CEO, LAist - The Future of LAist

April 2, 2025 - Ed Shorer, Slot Car Racing - Back to Being a Kid: How Slot Car Racing Brings Happiness

April 9, 2025 - Robert Kleinhertz, Kleinhertz Economics - The Economy of the San Gabriel Valley, What to Expect

**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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Bernard, Dede Venkat & Gui Bittencourt.**

**Proofers: Kathy Meagher & Amanda Pumilia**

**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, (President Elect Elect), Dede Venkat**

**Non-Voting Member: Amanda Pumilia, Chair, The Impact Club**

## Rotary Club of Pasadena

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