



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

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This Week's Program

Guest Speaker: Jessica Hardin, Festival Director,
Pasadena International Film Festival

Introducer: **Scott Vandrick**

Film is magic, though a relatively new medium, we are certain of its truth. And although we live in a time when brick-and-mortar industries are falling by the wayside, we celebrate all of those who join the Pasadena International Film Festival each year to spend time with artists, dreamers and visionaries - Jessica Hardin, Festival Director, 2019



Jessica Hardin was born in Illinois and moved to South Carolina with her family when she was 12. After graduating high school, she attended Smith College in Massachusetts and received her B.A. cum Laude while simultaneously attending the National Theater Institute in Waterford, Conn., and the British American Drama Academy in London, England. She moved to New York City and studied acting under the auspices of world-renowned Meisner instructor William Esper.

She signed with Innovative Artists and worked professionally as a model, dancer, singer, and actress while working for Judith Lesley Management, Abrams Artists, and Adrienne Stern Casting. On a family vacation, she discovered the joys of a Los Angeles winter and

decided to move to LA. She worked with the Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum in Topanga and Boston Court in Pasadena, Judi Farkas Literary Management and The Filmtrix Agency. While acting with the Knightsbridge Theatre in Silverlake, she met her future husband, who lived in Pasadena. She moved to Pasadena with him where she founded the Seven Sisters of Pasadena, and had the brainchild of founding the Pasadena International Film Festival.



About the Pasadena International Film Festival

Founded in 2013 by Jessica Hardin and Marco Neves, industry veterans and Pasadena residents, the Pasadena International Film Festival is the only competitive film festival in Pasadena, California. PIFF aims to bring high-caliber, independent cinema to a city renowned for its love of culture and the arts. Films that have won at PIFF have gone on to win at the American Pavilion Showcase at the Cannes Film Festival. 2019 marks the 6th year of the Pasadena International Film Festival, presenting more than 130 films from 15 countries during its nine-day run at Pasadena's Laemmle Playhouse 7 theater. Q&As, panels, a Filmmakers Lounge, and a Great Gatsby-themed closing night award ceremony were also planned.

Accompanist: **Ross Jutsum**

Song Leader: **Jonathan Edwards**

Inspiration: **Phil Miles**

Sergeant at Arms: **Robert Lyons**

Inspiration Station

by **President Mary Lou Byrne**



Okay, Pasadena Rotary. See that photo at left? That's me digging in my heels and saying "RAWR! We need to grow our Club and I'm not leaving office until we do!!"

Seriously, folks. We need to talk about membership. Remember at my first meeting, when I said we were going to grow the club by two members a month? The good news is we're on track to do that. We've welcomed 18 new members in the past nine months. But guess what? We've also lost 18 members in that same amount of time, so we are just even on membership for the year.

That's an improvement from recent years, but it's not good enough for me. I am determined - determined, I tell you! - that we are going to end the year in the black for membership! And I'm

not leaving office until we've done it! So there! RAWR!!!!

Obviously I can't do it alone, and our estimable Membership Chair and Past President **Howard Raff** can't do it alone. We need your help. I am absolutely positive that each and every one of you has at least one friend or colleague who would love to receive the gift of Rotary. All you have to do is ask! Towards that end, we are instituting our Bring a Buddy program for April and May. It's simple and it's just what it sounds like: Bring a buddy to a Rotary meeting or social event, and watch the magic happen!

Towards that end, I am going share our amazing schedule of programs for April and May, so you can find the one your buddy will particularly enjoy. Here goes:

- April 10: Jessica Hardin of the Pasadena Film Festival. Movies? Local interest? What's not to love about this program?
- April 17: Anything Can Happen Day. This one is going to be a doozy and if you miss it you will weep salty tears!! Bring your fun-haver friends to this one for sure!
- April 24: Community Grants. We are giving away more than \$45,000, plus one or more very big surprise Be the Inspiration Grants!! This is a must for your do-gooder friends! Just tell them to bring Kleenex.
- May 1: Courageous Citizens. Spoiler Alert: **President-Elect Scott Vandrick** will be presiding over this meeting so you know it's going to be even more amazing than usual! We'll also be hosting Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey, so bring all your legal eagles and true-crime lovers to this one.
- May 8: Michael Ritchie, Artistic Director of the Center Theater Group. Bring your theater-loving friends out to hear a preview of the shows coming to the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre, from the man who's in charge of it all!
- May 15: Avram Gold, award-winning sound editor. Is there anybody who doesn't love a little behind-the-scenes info from Hollywood? Of course not!
- May 22: Teachers of Excellence. This is one of our flagship programs and is guaranteed to melt the hearts of anybody who cares about our community. Do-gooder alert times a million, and more Kleenex!
- May 29: Stefanos Polyzoides, Pasadena Architect. Hear from a local architect who is one of the founders of the [Congress for New Urbanism](#), which promotes environmentally friendly habits by creating walkable neighborhoods containing a wide range of jobs and housing. Bring your real estate/architecture lovers (and really, isn't that everybody?) to this one!
- And okay, can't resist one more: On June 5 we will host Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek. Need I say more?

I want you to look at this list right now and figure out who you're going to bring to what program! And if they end up joining our club, you get a free lunch on the day they are initiated! How's that for an offer you can't refuse?

In addition, our fabulous social events and service projects are wonderful ways to introduce people to Rotary. For starters, bring them to our next Done in a Day project on April 27 at the Ronald McDonald House. We will be painting their garage and having great fellowship in the process! Contact [Cory Brendel](#) for more details.

Pasadena Rotary, we can do this. I am counting on you to make it happen. If you'd like to chat about membership or anything else, or if you have photos or comments or suggestions, my digital door is always open. Shoot me an email, text, or phone call at 310-710-7701 or president@pasadenarotary.com.

Yours in giving the gift of Rotary,

Scoot Zone

By **Justene Adamec**, Bureau Chief

Immediate Past President Phil Miles, accompanied by **Ross Jutsum**, led us in *Blowin' in the Wind*. **Past President Kathy Meagher** read [Summer](#) for our inspiration.

President Mary Lou Byrne and **First Gentleman Gary Kearney** gave a report of What They Did Last Weekend. They spent the weekend in the San Bernardino Mountains with 400 (yes, 400) high school juniors at the annual RYLA weekend. RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. **President Mary Lou** showed a video, much of which showed large groups of teenagers chanting. She told us that they did that most of the weekend. They also heard inspirational speakers and [packed food boxes](#) for people experiencing food insecurity.

First Gentleman Gary spoke about the trust exercise. Each person stood on the wall and fell backwards onto a blanket held by others in the group. One big guy didn't do it. Afterwards, Gary asked him what it would take for him to do it. The young man responded that he'd do it for \$20. Gary gave him \$20 and he did it.

Past President Frank Nicholas took on the Polio Pig for the vacationing **Scott Carlson**. Frank gave \$100 to the pig to honor Mary Lou and Gary for their RYLA participation and the Sunday Suppers. Mary Lou was so touched that she snorted into her open mic! **Desiree Alvarado** said that her son was one of the RYLA attendees. He was reluctant to go but loved the entire experience. **Leah Snell's** best girlfriend was an adult leader at RYLA. She loved it but, when she returned home, she had to take a 12 hour "nap."

Past President Howard Raff donated in honor of the 37th anniversary of his entrance into Rotary.

Past President Howard then discussed membership. So far this year, we have 18 new members. However, we have lost 18 members. **President Mary Lou** wants a net gain in membership. There are a carrot and a stick. You get a free lunch on the day of induction for each new member you bring. The stick is that Mary Lou will not leave until there is a net gain: "Centennial Schmentennial," she warned.

Anne Miskey, making a donation to the polio pig, announced the [Masters of Taste event](#) on the field of the Rose Bowl on April 7. Fine food, fine drinks, and it all benefits [Union Station Homeless Services](#).

Robert Lyons, following up on the success of Read Across America, wants volunteers to read to students on a regular basis. There was a lot of interest but no one stepped up to chair the committee. Robert will track down someone to volunteer to chair.

Armida Baylon asked to see what date people wanted to go to a Dodger game. Responses seemed to be split among the dates. More news to come.

After the many fun announcements, **Marilyn Buchanan** introduced our speaker, Steve Mulheim, who was there to speak about Summer Fun in Old Pasadena. Steve serves as the President and CEO of the Old Pasadena Management District (OPMD), a non-profit organization that oversees a Property-based Business Improvement District (PBID) spanning

22 blocks in downtown Pasadena, California.

For the full calendar of events, whether it's this weekend or long after summer is a sweet memory, visit OldPasadena.Org. Steve told us about some of what's coming up.

April 27-28th is the [Jackalope Indie Artisan Fair](#), featuring artisan crafts, food and drink for sale and craft workshops. On August 3rd and 4th, the event returns in the evening as [Jackalope Summer Nights](#).

On June 8, the entire city comes together to create art installations in the city's alleyways during [BoldPas: A Day of Art & Play](#). After reviewing 70 submissions, 16 have been chosen and adults and kids will participate in putting them together. The installations will only be there for one day so even if you don't want to get in on the action, attend to see the exhibits.

As an added bonus, there will be a free shuttle to Pasadena Playhouse's [Block Party](#), which we heard about when Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director of the Playhouse, spoke to us on January 29.

[Summer Cinema](#) runs from July 5th through July 28th with films and pre-screening events at One Colorado, Central Park and the Armory Center for the Arts.

An incredibly popular event is Get Yappy in the Park, which is Happy Hour with your dog. Each year, they make bandanas for the dogs. The first year, they made 150 bandanas and ran out. There were 3-400 dogs there. The next year, they made 300 bandanas. Again, they ran out because 6-700 dogs attended. Last year, they made 700 bandanas and *almost* ran out. The Humane Society co-sponsors the event and has activities such as an agility course. This year's event takes place on August 24.

Moving into fall, Old Pasadena has a Halloween event in which businesses give out candy to trick-or-treaters on October 31 and then the [Day of the Dead Weekend](#).

Past President Dave Mans, Phil Hawkey, and David Minasian all asked questions. **President Mary Lou** told us to Go Out There and Be the Inspiration.

Upcoming Events

Monday, April 8, Tyros Luncheon, noon, Athenaeum

Thursday, May 9, 7:30-9:00 AM

46th Annual Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

*This year's Keynote speaker is Dr. Thomas F. Rosenbaum, President of Caltech and Professor of Physics and he will be speaking on "Faith and Science"

Pasadena Rotary will have a table

Purchase your seat for \$40

Contact [Wendy Anderson](#) if you are interested

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Catherine Hany	April 9
Phyllis Currie & Mike Davis	April 10
Shirley Burton	April 12
Julie Bank	April 13

Happy Anniversary To These Rotarians!

Julie Gutierrez & Roy Rico	4/07/10	9 years
Bill Opel	4/09/75	44 years
Florence Helmberger	4/09/08	11 years
Pierre Mainguy	4/13/11	8 years
Ian O'Dwyer	4/13/16	3 years

Potential Member Guests

Eli Consilvio, Director of Art Services, Curatorial Assistance, guest of **Robert A. Earnest**

Upcoming Programs

April 17	Anything Can Happen Day
April 24	Community Grants
May 1	Courageous Citizens
May 8	Michael Ritchie

SPOKES is a weekly newsletter published by the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

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Visit our website www.pasadenarotary.com



See you on Wednesday!