



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

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This Week's Program

Alan M. Dias
"My 19 years with
Angel Flight West"

Introducer: **Ken
Stickney**

Angel Flight West is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that arranges free, non-emergency air travel for children and adults with serious medical conditions and other compelling needs.

Alan M. Dias has been involved with Angel Flight West for over 19 years. He has served on the board of directors, as vice chair of the board, chair of the board development committee and chair of the human resources committee. He rotated off the board at the end of 2003. He then accepted the position of Angel Flights' Southern California wing leader. In April, 2008 he accepted and served as Angel Flight West's executive director. He is still an active volunteer.

Alan is a private pilot with an instrument rating and flies his Piper Archer out of Whitman Airport in the San Fernando Valley. He has logged over 1800 hours and has flown his plane throughout the Western States, Alaska and Mexico. Alan and his wife, Jennie Manders, a real-estate broker, live in La Canada.

Invocation: **Howard Raff**
Guest Introductions: **Debi Kroman**
Song Leader: **Mark Smutny**
Accompanist: **Ross Jutsum**



Frankly Speaking

REMEMBER; IT IS ALL ABOUT FELLOWSHIP

MEMBERS OF ROTARY:

We had 140 attendees at our first lunch meeting in 2015. It was nearly standing room only. I was touched that so many people came to see me. (Okay, maybe a few came to hear our speaker, Tournament of Roses President Rich Chinen.) A terrific way to begin the new year.

I attended the Tyros Mixer at El Portal early evening on Monday. After one martini, I complained - I mean commented -- to **Mary Lou Byrne, Deborah Lewis** and **Judy Taylor** about a somewhat questionable case I will be taking to trial in February - handed off to me by my industrious law partner and fellow Rotarian, **Scott Carlson**. Also in attendance, **Scott** tried to defend himself, to no avail. **Scott's** futility of argument will likely be similar to what I will experience when I walk into the courtroom on February 2 and attempt to present a defense. Stay tuned.

On an unrelated topic, I am embarrassed to say that I do not always wear a Rotary pin on my lapel. My hesitation is now over. No matter where I find myself, the pin will be on my lapel and I will be prepared to answer questions from complete strangers about the pin. **Bob Martin** will be proud of me."

My door is always open. Feel free to call me: (626) 356-0240 and/or send me an email: frank@carlsonnicholas.com. We are in this together.

Frank

THE SCOOT ZONE

By **Mary Lou Byrne**, Bureau Chief

We started off the year with a truly epic musical experience! **Phil Miles** on the guitar and **Ross Jutsum** on the piano, accompanied by the Pasadena Rotary Chorus (also known as Music Committee members **Marilyn Buchanan, Joe Henry, Eric Olson, Gary Kearney, Phyllis Currie**, and yours truly, with a special guest appearance by **Julia Shih**) led the crowd in rocking the heck out of "California Dreamin'," followed by the best-ever rendition of our National Anthem.

Fred Soldwedel gave a stirring invocation that paid tribute to our guest speaker, and **Pat Wright** (who is starting to become a regular at this gig) introduced a bumper crop of visitors.

And speaking of visitors, President Frank presented a Pasadena Rotary flag to Mark Rosen, a visiting Rotarian all the way from Canterbury, England. Mark told us "We average 40-45 members [at our meetings] - so I'm quite overwhelmed!" He then treated us to a lively description of Rotary life on the other side of the pond. Did you know that British Rotarians start their meetings with a toast to the Queen?

And did you know that the Canterbury Rotary Club's big fundraiser is a duck race that involves floating thousands of rubber duckies down the river, with Rotarians standing waist deep in the water to gauge their progress? (Click here for details - big fun!) And did you know they meet at the county cricket ground? After sharing all those details in his plummy British accent, Mark busted out the punch line: "I'm originally an American: My stepfather Donald Judson is a past president of the Tournament of Roses! I graduated from South Pasadena High School in 1978, then the U.S. Air Force sent me to England, I married an Englishwoman, and I've stayed for 34 years!" Jolly good show, Mark! Come back and see us any time!

Next up: **President Frank** announced "there is a very lucky man in Orange County - our own **Meagan McClellan** got engaged to be married over the holidays!" Best wishes, **Meagan!**

Bob Rosenberg announced that the Teachers of Excellence Committee will be having its first meeting next week after the regular Wednesday luncheon meeting. All Rotarians are invited to attend. And the beautiful centerpieces on the tables this week? They were made by students from Pasadena Unified School District as part of the Tournament of Roses festivities.

President Frank shared a story from the *Outlook* newspaper about Gregorio Mejia, who came to the United States in 1914 as a bracero, working in the fields. He married and had 13 children. One of his many grandchildren is Sandy Mejia, the accountant for our club and for the University Club. And one of his great-grandchildren is Veronica Mejia, who rode down Colorado Boulevard last week as a Tournament of Roses princess. What, asked Frank, would Gregorio have thought if you had told him such a thing were possible when he came to this country 100 years ago?

Catherine Haskett Hany introduced our guest speaker, Tournament of Roses President Richard Chinen. Looking unconscionably dapper in the traditional red coat, Richard shared some highlights of his amazing year as Tournament President, as well as the thought process that went into choosing the theme, and the challenges that arose during the year.

This year's theme was "Inspiring Stories," and Richard told us he chose it because he wanted a theme that would allow the float builders to build beautiful floats, and would also provide a great message to talk about with bands, band parents, and even the football players. He shared with us the hint he gave the float builders before the theme was announced: "We have selected a theme that allows us to reflect on and appreciate the many people around us who elevate the human spirit by who they are, what they have done and what they continue to do. It pays tribute to those who have loved unconditionally, persevered courageously, endured patiently and accomplished significantly on behalf of others. They may be 'heroes' or 'stars' to some, but they don't seek such titles. They may be kind, resilient, free-spirited or intensely focused, and though different from one another, they all give us life because they have overcome obstacles, achieved the unthinkable, given immeasurably, or sacrificed unselfishly."

Richard emphasized that he wanted the theme to "focus on the journey, not just the results," and therefore he was thrilled that several of the floats in the parade did just that, most notable the Kaiser Permanente float featuring the Special Olympics.

Interestingly, Richard told us he had his Grand Marshall in mind even before he was selected president of the Tournament. Louis Zamperini was an Olympic athlete and war hero, but Richard said he chose him because of what he did after World War II, when he recovered from alcoholism and PTSD and learned forgiveness. Richard shared this quote from Louis: "Wanna know the secret of life? It's all about your attitude. . . . I've learned to be content in all circumstances."

When Zamperini passed away on July 2, 2014, all the media called Richard and asked "Who will be your next Grand Marshall?" But Richard never considered a replacement. He told us there was always a plan for Louis's family to ride in his place if he were ill, and after his passing that plan was put into effect. "He was our Grand Marshall, no matter what," said Richard.

The news of Louis Zamperini's passing came to Richard when he was on the road visiting one of the many bands that marched in the parade this year. One of the main jobs of the Tournament president is to travel all over the country and the world supporting the bands and helping them raise funds to travel to the Rose Parade, and he told us several stories of incredible successes on that score! Richard told us that although he was never involved in music when he was in school, "I've become an evangelist for music education" as a result of meeting so many awesome band members and band parents over the past year. Marching in the band, he says, "gives kids a place to belong." And what could be better than that?

Fun facts:

- When Louis Zamperini was announced as Grand Marshall, a two-star general and a three-star general from the Army Air Corps were in attendance. Richard says he's sure that is how we were able to have not one but two B-2 flyovers this year.
- Where do the B-2 jets go between flyovers? Richard says he's not sure but our Rotary brother **Ken Stickney** tells this reporter he's pretty sure they take a break at Edwards Air Force Base between the parade and the game.
- The NCAA National Championship collegiate football game will be played this coming Monday in Frisco, Texas. Richard says, "We call it Rose Bowl East."
- When Richard met Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota he was thrilled that he, like Richard, is from Hawaii, but says with a smile "I don't like him because we went to rival high schools!"

Tournament of Roses Parade of Roses 2014



First Place Winner
Decorated by Lily Small
of Blair High School

Several of you have asked for more details on the beautifully decorative plaster rosebud centerpieces at Wednesday's Rotary luncheon.

As **Fred Soldwedel** said in his comments the rosebuds are the work of PUSD students. Each year the Tournament of Roses Community Relations Committee hosts the Parade of Roses an annual arts competition for children grades 4 - 8 in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). The project is a collaborative venture with PUSD and the Tournament of Roses.

Around 6,500 4th - 8th grade students are eligible to participate in designing their own individual interpretation of the year's Tournament theme on a paper rosebud drawing. Students wishing to participate receive a "Rosebud Vase" template design sketch. Using the template, the students sketch their own unique design that reflects the Rose Parade theme. This year's theme was *"Inspiring Stories."*

These sketches are judged by school faculty and a winner selected from each school. There are 25 student winners in all. The selected students then each receive a 3-dimensional plaster rose on which to render their winning design.

Once completed the rosebuds are gathered together and judged by an independent group of volunteer community art professionals. The top three winner's schools each receive a check from the Tournament of Roses for their school's art program.

The 2014 Parade of Roses 25 student winners and their Rosebud sculptures were honored at the annual Parade of Roses ceremony at Paseo Colorado on November 15. The winning roses were displayed at Paseo Colorado through New Year's for the students, their families, friends and the public to enjoy.

We thought that our fellow Rotarians would also enjoy viewing these lovely artworks created by the talented students at PUSD. 2015 Tournament of Roses President Rich Chinen presentation was the perfect opportunity to showcase them.

Tournament of Roses
2014 Parade of Roses
Fred Soldwedel, Assistant Captain
Catherine Haskett Hany, Captain

Potential Member Visitors:

- Client Advisor, Whittier Trust Company, David Covell, guest of **Howard Raff**
- Catering, Monty Montgomery, guest of **Cyrus Afshin**
- Lake Avenue Financial, Earl Rideau, guest of **Howard Raff**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THIS WEEK'S ROTARIANS!

Margaret Sedenquist	January 17
Raul Mercado	January 18
Fiona Cameron	January 19
Jennifer DeVoll	January 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12 Tyros Luncheon, The Athenaeum, Noon

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 21	Jan Sanders Pasadena Library Anniversary - 130 Years
January 28	Karen Hayes
February 4	Tom Rosenbaum Cal Tech President

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

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Should you have questions regarding this publication, please call us at 626-440-0908 (Fax 626-440-9806) or send us an email to office@pasadenarotary.com.

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