



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

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In Memoriam

Al Lowe (1926-2018)

Remarks by **John Cushman**

Pasadena Rotary Meeting of November 28, 2018



Rotary Past President, and longest serving member, Al Lowe has died at the ripe old age of 92 in Castro Valley. He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie and four children. He was only 36 years old when he served as Rotary president. He and Rose Marie moved to Hayward in 2000 to be closer to his children and grandchildren. For the last 15 years, Al has visited Pasadena Rotary annually.

Al was a fourth generation American of Chinese descent. His dad had a small oriental curio shop in Pasadena which Al took over at his dad's death in 1952. Al grew that small business into an Interior Design store in East Pasadena. He was a very successful businessman and as such became a major force in our community. His personal talents of working with others helped to make Pasadena great in so many ways.

He served with distinction on many boards such as the Pasadena YWCA, United Way,

Chamber of Commerce, Pasadena Beautiful and Urban Commission.

His most well-known activities though were The Pasadena School Board, The Pasadena Playhouse and the Tournament of Roses.

Al was not afraid to stand up for what he thought was right.

He was Chair of the Pasadena School Board in 1969. This was a tumultuous time in our city's history. He joined the majority of the board in not challenging Federal Judge Manny Real's ruling to institute forced busing of school kids to achieve racial balance. He was true to his own convictions knowing that he would be both applauded and vilified for his actions. He did what his conscience told him to do.

Al, in the early 90s entered leadership of the Board of the Pasadena Playhouse just when it was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. He was determined to save the Playhouse, an old Pasadena asset and institution steeped in the city's culture. He personally loaned money, raised outside funds and for the time saved the venerable Pasadena landmark.

He was a long-time member of the Tournament of Roses and his daughter was a Rose Princess in 1969. In 1994 he was made Chairman of the Membership Development Committee, and in that capacity, he helped the tournament change from an "exclusive" organization to the "inclusive" one that it is today. Here Al showed his skill at successfully bringing people together to work for the common good.

Above all, Al was an optimistic man. On the day he died he was executing stock options. Buying futures!

Al was the complete human being. Was he a liberal visionary? Yes. Was he a conservative traditionalist? Yes. Did he practice the Four Way Test? Yes. Was he the complete American? Yes. As Larry Wilson said in ending his [piece on Al](#), "Teach your children to be like him."

DECEMBER 5

NO MEETING



Inspiration Station

by President Mary Lou Byrne



Let me begin by saying how moved I was by **John Cushman's** tribute to our late, great **Past President Al Lowe**, who passed away last week at age 92. I didn't have the honor of knowing him but was thrilled to learn from **Christle Balvin** that Al and I were both born in El Centro, California so that's something we shared, anyway. For those of you who have inquired, services will be in Northern California and will be private, but Al's son Bob tells me they may do something in Pasadena in January and he will keep us informed. Bob also says "[Al] always treasured his participation and friendships at the Rotary Club. His wife, Rose Marie and four children are thankful for his long, rich life and that we were able to share it with him."

And in that spirit, we are zooming towards the end of the calendar year, and the mid-point of the Rotary year, with all kinds of fun and exciting events coming up:

- First, if you haven't signed up for the Holiday Party, make sure to do that ASAP on www.dacdb.com or by emailing office@pasadenarotary.com. It's going to be a wonderful dinner at the University Club, featuring a visit from our District Governor and his wife, and a performance by the incomparable [Citrus Singers](#)! Don't miss it! (And of course I know you're all dying to hear whether we managed to corral a President Elect Elect for 2020-2021!)
- **Past President Phil Miles** and committee co-chair **Robert Earnest** will be upholding the Pasadena Rotary family honor at [Teen Leadership Camp](#) this weekend. Thanks to them and all the TLC Committee members (looking at you, co-chair **Scott Carlson**!) for making it happen!
- We'll be moving those 250 Bikes for Christmas to the giveaway location at noon on Monday, December 10 at the PUSD Depot where we assembled them. Watch your email for details. Then the big giveaway will be at 8 a.m. on Thursday, December 13 at the Salvation Army Tabernacle. Come on out and join in the excitement: Committee Co-Chair **Paul Martin** says "we seem to be getting more efficient every year and we should be done by lunchtime!"
- We're doing a second installment of Shop With a Cop, just in time for Christmas! Meet at 4 p.m. at Target in East Pasadena and spread that holiday cheer! Be sure to wear your Rotary t-shirts!
- Here's a super fun volunteer opportunity for the tail end of the year: The [Rotary Club of Burbank](#) (whose president happens to be Pasadena Rotary alum Albert Hernandez) is sponsoring a space at [Live on Green Pasadena](#) to create a Rotary branded activity where children can enjoy building STEAM oriented projects with KNEX toys while interacting with Rotarians and Interactors. It all happens December 29-31 and they'd love to have us join them to spread the word about Rotary. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more info about how to participate!
- This is a big one that is going to start the new year off right: [The Rotary Humanitarian STAR \(Science, Technology, Aerospace, Robotics\) Awards](#) Banquet is coming up on Thursday, January 31! This program, in which we're partnering with the Sierra Madre Rotary Club, recognizes outstanding scientific and technological achievements with significant humanitarian benefit. This is a first-class, big-deal operation: One of last year's winners, [Dr. Frances H. Arnold](#) of Caltech, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry this year! Don't miss out! Get your tickets before they're gone by clicking [here](#). If you'd like to join the committee and help out, [let me know](#) or contact Pasadena Rotary's committee co-chair [Eric Duyshart](#).

Like our late friend Al, I treasure my Rotary participation and friendships more than you know. Thank you, Pasadena Rotary, for rising to each and every occasion and truly being the inspiration each and every day! Keep those emails, texts, and photos coming at 310-710-7701 and president@pasadenarotary.com, and let's wrap up 2018 with a bang!

Mary Lou

Scout Zone

Justene Adamec, Bureau Chief

Don Andruess, Elisabeth Browne and **Ross Jutsum** led us in *Seventy-Six Trombones* from *The Music Man*. **Don** quipped: "Never let the guy with the shovel decide how many horses will be in the parade." The original quote involved a broom and elephants but the Rose Parade has no elephants.

Hillary Schenk gave the invocation and then **John Cushman** stepped up to the podium to remember Past President Al Lowe, who died on November 21. **John Cushman's** comments are reprinted in their entirety in this issue of Spokes.

We inducted **Armond Ohan**, Loan Originator, Delaware Pacific, who was sponsored by **Raul Mercado**. **Armond** said he was entering a new chapter in his life and wanted to find some way to give back.

President Mary Lou Byrne asked **Past President Dave Mans** to come to the front and stand where everyone could see him. **Dave** joked, "I'm so shy. I don't know if I can do this."

Dave shared the history of the sweater vest he was wearing. Seventy years ago, his mother met her boyfriend, Paul, who became her husband and **Dave's** father. She was 15. She knitted **Dave's** sweater vest for Paul out of cashmere with zero point needles. That's true love! **Dave's** mother is still alive, and **President Mary Lou** gave **Dave's** mother Inspirational luggage tags.

Ross Guiney and **Pat Wright** hiked from the top of Lake Avenue to the top of Echo mountain and on to Inspiration Point. **Ross** and **Pat** received Inspirational luggage tags.

Armida Baylon announced that the Rotary Holiday Party is December 5th at the University Club. Cocktails and appetizers at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. There will be surprise entertainment. **President Mary Lou** let the cat out of the bag at the end but if you didn't catch it then, you have to wait and see. Register on www.dacb.com or email **Victoria Alsabery**.

JP Harris announced the Christmas Shop with Cop Xmas on Friday, December 7 at the East Pasadena Target. Arrive between 3:30 and 4 and wear your Pasadena Rotary shirt.

Paul Martin announced the final 2018 dates for Bikes for Christmas. We're moving the bikes from the assembly location to the distribution location on December 10th, and then we will hand them out on December 18th. **Paul** has sent out an email. If you haven't received it, contact **Paul**.

In Bikes for Christmas, our club purchased 250 bikes at cost from Huffy and assembled them. Each bike recipient will get a bike helmet donated by Huntington Hospital.

Past President Cathy Simms announced that Rotary Readers were taking a trip to the Skirball Cultural Center to view the Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit. Although the trip has passed, you can still join the Rotary Readers at 6:13 pm (that's not a typo) next Monday at the home of **Bob and Rosemary Risley** to discuss Ruth Bader Ginsburg's book.

Past President Shel Capeloto announced the meeting of the International Projects Committee. The meeting has already happened by the time this is published but you can join future meetings or submit projects for consideration.

Past President Ken Hill announced one more date for the [Moonlight Forest at the Los Angeles Arboretum](#). December 6. Use the code AskRotary2018 for the discount. **President Mary Lou** presented **Ken** with a Fun Haver Award.

Chuck Carroll, Elaine Silberman, Mary Chalon and **Tony Shapiro** took the stage to announce the Toys for Tots drive. There will be a box in the lobby. Bring unwrapped toys and sporting goods for children from infants up to 15 years old. Gift cards are also accepted. Price range is \$25-50. You can bring the toys to the Christmas party or the Rotary meetings on the 12th and 19th.

Past President Diana Peterson-More is on the board of the Tournament of Roses Foundation, which has given a grant to the Pasadena Senior Citizens Center (Pasadena Rotarian **Akila Gibbs** is the Senior Center's Executive Director). **Diana** has 4 extra tickets to Zoo Lights. Tickets are valued at 25 dollars each. You can have them for (4) \$20 donations to the TOR Foundation.

Diana also announced that, starting January 1, employers of 5 or more people are required to provide sexual harassment training. On December 5, **Diana** is providing it at Pasadena Media offices from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Diana** donated \$100 to Polio Pig for the privilege of proffering so many announcements.

Scott Jenkins introduced our speaker, David Eads, who is Executive Director and CEO of the Tournament of Roses. The first black President of the TOR, Gerald Freeny, will be our speaker after the parade.

This is the 130th Rose Parade and the 105th Rose Bowl. The theme is The Melody of Life and the Grand Marshal is Chaka Khan. Disney star and Dancing with the Stars champion Jordan Fisher will perform in the opening show.

The parade started in 1890 with floats drawn by horses. The first motorized floats were in 1920. It has never been canceled. Only a few thousand attended in 1890 and that parade featured things like foot races and chariot races.

In the 1920s, both men and women were included in the Royal Court and there is some discussion of doing that again. The TOR is launching a Youth Empowerment Day in April.

TOR has 935 volunteers who put in a collective 80,000 hours each year.

The Rose Parade is the oldest and largest floral parade and it has a \$350 million dollar economic impact. There are 700,000 attendees, 6000 participants, 22 bands, 18 equestrian units and 26 floats. In addition, the parade is viewed by 28 million viewers in 200 countries. There are 6 television broadcast partners and digital streaming through the Rose Bowl app. The Rose Bowl app will be available the second week of December.

There are a lot of challenges for the future. TV ratings are down and the viewership is older, impacting how much sponsors would be willing to pay. There are security concerns. TOR works closely with law enforcement on counter-terrorism activities. There are increasing concerns about the safety of tackle football ban for young people.

There are many accompanying events - Equestfest, Bandfest, float decorating opportunities, Rose Bowl Hall of Fame, and post-parade float viewing. 80,000 people show up for post parade float viewing over a day and a half. The goal is to have something to do all the time from Dec 26-Jan 3.

Last year, they began the Rose Bowl Bash in downtown Los Angeles, where the bands all stay. Last year, 10,000 people attended in a 3 hour period. This year, the Rose Bowl Bash will have 2 days of events.

This year, TOR is introducing [Sip and Savor](#) in the Arroyo on December 28, 29 and 30.

Fred Soldwedel and **Phil Hawkey** asked questions.

President Mary Lou reminded us that there is no lunch next week. As she told us, "You are rocking it, Pasadena Rotary. Go out there and continue to Be the Inspiration!"

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 3, Rotary Readers, 6:15 p.m., *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams, at the home of **Bob** and Rosemary **Risley**, 1091 S. Oak Knoll

Its time for the Rotary Club of Pasadena
Annual Holiday Party

(Come on you funhavers, let's party)

Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Cocktails and appetizers at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment by The Citrus Singers

-\$70.00 per person; **Cancellation after December 1st or No Show will be billed on your monthly invoice.**

Monday, December 10, Tyros Luncheon, noon, The Athenaeum

Potential Member Guests

Paula Corsette, Professional Fiduciary, guest of **Howard Raff**

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Scott Carder

December 2

Robert Earnest & Tony Phillips

December 5

Richard Cornfield & Paul Martin

December 7

Eric Olson

December 8

Happy Anniversary To These Rotarians!

	Years in Rotary	Date Inducted
Mary Wilson	30	12/01/88
Don Fedde	29	12/01/89
Jeff Palmer	26	12/01/92

Upcoming Programs

December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY - NO MEETING	
December 12	Assemblymember Chris Holden	California State Assembly, 41st District
December 19	Holiday Program	A Rotary Carol: Celebrating the Gift of Rotary
December 26	DARK - NO MEETING	

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 626-400-6750 or send us an email to office@pasadenarotary.com.

Visit our website www.pasadenarotary.com



See you on Wednesday!

