

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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At the forefront was DICK MANSFIELD doing visitors and ANDREW PIERCE doing lunch money. In the background was STEVE MADSEN doing set-up with his usual efficiency.

The meeting started with the president asking LEN ELY to do the flag salute. After a pause, President HAL MICKELSON had DERRICK BRITT introduce visiting Rotarian and "Friend of Club" PETER GUENTERMANN from Munich East, Germany. Then ROB LANCEFIELD introduced his guest, Rachel Thomas.



TONY CARRASCO made the grand construction plans of John Arrillaga for the area by the downtown Palo Alto transit center the main topic of his opening remarks. Tony left us with the challenge of considering whether the construction of a theater was more important than upgrading the city infrastructure.

After a suitable sales build-up regarding advent calendars and Christmas celebrations, our president proceeded to auction off a box of "sweet and satisfying" liqueur filled chocolates. [This item was kindly presented to the club by our "Friend of Club" and Rotarian visitor from Germany.] DUANE KALAR secured this delight with a \$50 bid.

NINA MOORE, ably substituting for KAREN KIENZLE, announced to members the plans for our Annual Holiday Party. This evening of holiday cheer, (Club provided) wine, dinner, music and song (courtesy of Paul Engel) will be held on Thursday, December 13 from 6 – 9 PM. It will again, with many thanks to the hosts, be at the elegant home of VICKY CHING and Wu Hsiang Chung at 63 Crescent Park Drive in Palo Alto. Please bring a platter to share. [Sign-up online.](#)

TOM GRACON advised us that our club will again, after a lapse of many years, be holding a Youth Speech Contest. Our contestants from Gunn, Kehillah, and Castilleja High Schools will be making their presentations at 7 PM on Thursday, January 10, in the Palo Alto Council Chambers. The set theme is "Peace through Service" and the speeches will need to include a reference to our 4-Way Test. From personal experience, your scribe can attest that these events are always very entertaining and recommend that members make the effort to attend. Volunteers are needed to assist – contact Tom.

ROB LYMAN made an additional appeal to contribute to our local Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund and underlined its significance in supporting our local mission. The amount contributed is important; but participating support by all members of the club is also highly desirable.

SHERRI SAGER reminded us that by contributing to The Rotary Foundation, we could earn tickets to a raffle, while at the same time help to support Rotary's World Community Service (as well as getting closer to a Paul Harris Fellowship).

Rotary Meeting Information [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)

The grand prize in the raffle is a trip for two to Lisbon to attend the Rotary International Convention in June.

PAM BRANDIN introduced our speaker, Wiley Hausam, the Executive Director of the Bing Concert Hall at Stanford. Wiley has been a long-time administrator and presenter in the performing arts. He has produced new and classical theater performances, as



well as being a consultant, university teacher, and published author. Through a series of slides, he led us through the outstanding features of the nearly completed and most impressive \$112 million arena. With special emphasis on acoustics, the 360 degree in-the-round auditorium will have 842 seats.

The aim is for a dual purpose performance and learning center, providing enhanced experiences for both the audience and the artists. The concert hall will be the cornerstone of the whole gamut of "Stanford Live" activities. The aim is to draw the campus and the community together with performances by outstanding artists.

In response to JOHN KIDD's question, the speaker explained that the building was designed as a special concert hall, not as a multi-purpose theater. GEORGE FITZGERALD inquired about connection with the museum. CASH ALAEE received confirmation that musicians of other genres, like jazz, would be included. DICK FREEMAN received an explanation of the possibilities of facing the conductor or being on top of the orchestra. RALPH ADAMS found out that he would not be able to use his cell phone inside the inner building of the concert hall. BRIAN STEEN and DICK BUSH found out about seating being limited to enhance the teaching and audience experience. DIANA DIAMOND learned that the Stanford Live program was not a revamp, but was broadened. [Go to [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu) for full details about everything that is going on there.] KEVIN CURRY asked about performer comfort in a different space. TOM GRACON was disappointed to find that there was no rotating stage in the new hall. The talk definitely generated excitement and ended with the suggestion that it might be possible to have a tour of the new hall.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- December 3 **Gunn Chamber Singers**, William Liberatore, Director
- December 10 **New Member Talks**, Speakers: Henrietta Burroughs, Zafar Iqbal, and Alex Scollon
- December 17 **West Bay Opera**
- December 24 Dark, No Meeting, Actually Sparkling and Bright with Holiday Cheer
- December 31 Dark, No Meeting, Actually Sparkling and Bright with New Year Celebrations