

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## PRE-PROGRAM

Pre-program was brief. Very brief as **PRESIDENT EJ** hustled us through the PofA, skipped guest intros, and gave **LISA AKSELRAD** only a brief opening remarks moment to describe her personal experience of delivering donated wheelchairs to people whose lives were dramatically changed by the gift. There was also a brief video describing the ongoing Rotary International project that has meant so much to both donors and donees. And an even briefer, but joyful, announcement by **HAL M.** that our **JUDY KLEINBERG** was chosen to be the new leader of the PA Chamber of Commerce. That's it. On to the business at hand.



## PROGRAM

The business at hand was to listen to 11 candidate's state their case for election to the Palo Alto City Council. **DIANA DIAMOND** did a remarkable job of organizing and managing the unmanageable. And it was apparent she had a ball doing it. With the help of a tightly controlling timekeeper, herself our **PRESIDENT EJ**, **DIANA** asked relevant, and sometimes tough questions. For brevity the following are simply selected paraphrased responses of the candidates, quoted as reliably as this reporter, and his erstwhile assistant himself **MR. MICKELSON**, could manage. For a more comprehensive look, we refer you to the 9/23/14 Palo Alto Weekly's Online report.



**WAYNE DOUGLAS**; "City Council meetings were often depressing because they missed the point. We need to do better by the homeless.... We need diversity, even economic diversity.... We need more focus on those with the greatest needs."

**TOM DU BOIS**; "This is a fight for the soul of our city; quality of life, good schools, buildings that don't stretch out to the sidewalks.... I'm for commercial development but not at the expense of residential culture."

**ERIC FILSETH**; "The City has put up giant buildings that don't belong here.. Our most important focus is to get to the point where City employees and teachers can live in Palo Alto.... City Hall is disconnected from the concerns of the residents for quality of life."

**JOHN KARL FREDRICH**; "It is most important that we have a moratorium on El Camino and the railway corridor while we develop our vision for those areas... I'm for restraining spending."

**KAREN HOLMAN**; "People don't feel heard... We need an effective, inclusive, transparent Council... The Council needs to provide clear guidance to the City Manager whose skills and abilities do not necessarily align with community priorities."



**AC. JOHNSTON**; "In these financial good times, we should set aside money while we at the same time catch up with infrastructure spending and a new public safety building.... It's most important that we have a Council that can work together to get things done using the Comprehensive Plan as our blueprint."

**LYDIA KOU**; "Spending \$4M to improve the City Hall is frivolous.... I was one of the originators of Measure D; the issue was process.... We need new leadership, there is a disconnect between the City Council and the residents."

**GREG SCHARFF**; "My votes on the City Council have always been made on the basis of what I think is best for the residents of Palo Alto.... We need to urgently follow through with the plans for an earthquake-safe public safety building and focus on improving our infrastructure."

**NANCY SHEPHERD**; "The most important long term problem is grade separation at the railway....[and in regard to the Grand Jury report] We should distinguish between getting informed about a potential project, and deliberating about whether it should be done."

**MARK WEISS**; "The most important thing for the City Council to focus on is tenant's rights and rent relief.... My question about the bicycle bridge is, 'How much are the consultants making?'...I've written over 200 articles about Palo Alto policies"

**CORY WOLBACH**; "The most important thing we need is civility and open-mindedness in the way we communicate with one another.... Our interaction is broken.... We should spend less on remodeling City Hall and more on the need for smaller housing units closer to services and transportation."

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

**September 29 World Community Service (2) Speaker TBD**

**October 6 Statewide Propositions Gloria Hom and Terry**

**Christenson, Prof. of Political Science, San Jose State**

**October 13 Rotary Partners in Service**

**October 20 David Kennedy, Stanford Professor of History**

**Emeritus, "Who Bleeds, Who Pays, the US Armed Forces Today."**

**Info:** [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)