

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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President BRIAN STEEN threw us all for a loop by opening the meeting with an apology from the Elks Club for their closed parking lot, leaving those of us who had immediately stood for the pledge when we saw him come to the podium feeling kind of foolish. But all returned to normal once our allegiance had been pledged, and BRIAN took advantage of the standing crowd for an enthusiastic round of Happy Birthday to JULIE JEROME.

## VISITING ROTARIANS

Steve Ross, Assistant District Governor, visited again from the Palo Alto University club. JOHN KIDD, who is deeply embedded with us and not at all a visitor, sequestered a microphone to boast that it was he who sponsored Klaus Heinemann into our club about 20 years ago. Klaus has since moved to Gualala, and was visiting us again from the Gualala Rotary. Also dropping in were two from the Palo Alto University Club: Nancy Kauffmann, Head of School at Castilleja, and Tod Gregory.

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

TONY CARRASCO introduced his guest, Terry Beaubois (beautiful wood), who was attending for a second time. CASH ALEE also had a repeat guest, Janice Swenson, who is the Executive Assistant City Manager of Palo Alto. Elliott Wright, former member of our club and welcome visitor, attended as a guest of DICK BUSH. Elliott is recovering from a very serious ski accident and sported his neck brace with dignity.

## OPENING REMARKS



Texan that she is, MARGARET BOLES wanted to inspire us with the Alamo (which fell on this day, March 6, 1836) but focused instead on the concepts of recycling, re-use, and hanging on to old stuff. There was a time when most people fixed what was broken, continued to use what was still functional, and saw replacing things as a sign of affluence. But when her mother died, MARGARET realized that some things can't be replaced. This particularly goes for friendships, marriages, and other personal relationships. She challenged us to think about the things in our lives that are worth caring for and saving. And then she suggested we read about the Alamo.

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS



ED DANGLER had two announcements. His second grandson's wife has given birth to a boy, making ED a great-grandfather for a second time. ED also let us know that he shares with JULIE the fact that today is his birthday. He modestly described his age: if you multiply the two digits, you get 64. The room shortly started reverberating with

the words "eighty-eight", as proud Rotarians proved that they can still do middle school math. Everyone sang a second round of Happy Birthday for ED.



ANNETTE GLANCKOPF invited everyone to movie night this Friday night at 7:00 PM at Mitchell Park. The Palo Alto Emergency Services will show a movie entitled "The Unthinkable," which presents people who have been in a disaster, and shows how their brains react to the experience.

ROMAN KAGARLITSKY joined in honor of being able to make it today after so many weeks of absence, though BRIAN noted that he is of course welcome and does not need to join the President's club.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

BRUCE GEE and GINNY LEAR gave an update on the Crab Feed, which will be on April 8. New sponsors, PAM KRUDOP brought in Avid bank, and DICK BUSH brought Chop Keenan as sponsors, bringing our total to \$20,000 to date. All funds raised support next year's Palo Alto Rotary Charities Budget.



Some auction items take planning: Look at your calendars for Sept 19-28, when there is a spectacular cruise to Malta and Sicily; check out the cost of "Hamilton" tickets and come prepared to spend that money at the auction for two tickets on Thursday, July 6; get groups of friends together to capture one of the many dinner options being auctioned.



BRIAN recognized CHARLIE WIEDANZ for his work bringing in new members. We lost about ten members last year and we have about 10 new members already this year. BRIAN then asked for and received, from JUDITH STEINER, an offer to host the TGIF social on March 31.

**PROGRAM – Grassroots Meets Big Data as Citizen Scientists Help Tackle Environmental Problems, by Mary Ellen Hannibal**

BEN THRELKELD introduced our guest, Mary Ellen Hannibal.



Hannibal is an award-winning science writer and author of several books. She regularly writes for Bay Nature Magazine and the San Francisco Chronicle, as well as having contributed to the New York Times and other journals. In doing research for her first book to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, Hannibal

encountered scientist who wept when they described the loss of lives and species the world is enduring. It is not just a matter of species going extinct, but also loss of animals in non-extinct species: she said there are now one billion fewer birds on the earth than there were in 1970. Life forms interact and are interdependent: the beaver population is stronger when there are wolves present, even though wolves are their predators.

When she went on to look at linked landscapes that enable populations of Pronghorn Antelope to migrate without barriers, Hannibal discovered the role of citizens who observed where the animals were, where they were trying to go, and what the obstacles were. These citizens came up with solutions and worked to get them implemented. Hannibal was encouraged by the power of citizen science.

Citizens get involved with apps such as iNaturalist, eBird, or others, where they can take a photo of a plant or animal and post it, the app assigns the date, time and location. Others in the group crowd-identify the species, and the information is compiled with other reports of that species. Users can pull up maps of the distribution of a species over time, representing thousands of reports from individual all over the world. Other apps support other kinds of research.

Hannibal wrapped up with a very personal story about her



father, who died a couple of years ago. He enjoyed hawk monitoring with her, and noted that watching the hawks migrate was spiritual. She wants to make that spiritual experience available to others through participation in citizen science.

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

March 13, New Member Talks

March 20, Bill Liberatore and the Gunn High School Choir

March 27, Scotty McLennan, Stanford GSB Lecturer in Political Economy: "Finding the Meaning of Life in Novels"

April 8, 5:30 Crab Feed Fundraiser, Mitchell Park Center  
Tickets Now on Sale, \$75 per person