

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 27, 2018

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August 27, 2018, was a great day for Palo Alto Rotary. We basked in the afterglow of last week's presentation by Ambassador Michael McFaul. We welcomed back an itinerant Rotarian who returned with club flags from his travels. We conferred a Blue Badge on a new member who has demonstrated great energy and commitment. Most significantly, we completed a hands-on project that will offer comfort and dignity to victims of human trafficking and sexual assault.

After a welcome and call to order by President GINNY LEAR, the Pledge of Allegiance was led MIKE MCMAHON in tribute to a fellow Annapolis graduate, Senator John McCain. Visiting Rotarians were GERHARD MAYER, from Nürnberg-Fürth, with his partner SIMONE MICHALKO; and RAJESH IYENGAR, from Bangalore-Koramangala, who brought us a club flag. EJ HONG introduced her daughter NICOLE, who's studying music and economics at Oberlin, eager to join in the day's service activity.

In keeping with this year's Rotary theme, "Be the Inspiration," JACK WOODSON reminisced about his father as a decisively influential



figure in his life. Born the son of a Colorado miner, Jack's dad made his way to Palo Alto to work in an uncle's grocery store, and moved from those beginnings to a long, productive career. Jack remembers his putting in 70- to 80-hour workweeks to provide a better house and greater comfort for his family. Said Jack: "He was so damned solid."

TRISH BUBENIK re-re-re-joined the President's Club to remember Senator McCain, an example of honorable service.



MEL MATSUMOTO

joined to publicize "Take Charge," a seminar series on end-of-life issues to be presented by Channing House on Wednesday afternoons in October.



BETSY BECHTEL joined to recognize MIKE MCMAHON as a savvy source of travel tips for adventures in Alaska.



CYRILLE BETANT was the Rotarian who returned with flags from his peregrinations, including tokens of his visits to Polanco and Chapultepec, in Mexico.



We'll be dark September 3, Labor Day, but volunteers will be needed that day at 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to help put up and take down American flags on University Avenue. (Meet at Cowper in the morning, Emerson in the afternoon.) We'll convene again on September 10.

KATIE SEEDMAN plugged the Pop-Up Social that we'll enjoy at Gamble Gardens on Thursday, September 13, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., made possible by IRIS KOROL.



She's a fast learner, and she's demonstrating strong dedication to Rotary:



OANA MARCU received her Blue Badge from President Ginny, with sponsor KLAUS HEINEMANN standing confidently at her side.

Ginny pointed with pride to the entry in the chalk art competition that was sponsored by our club at the weekend's street fair, the 2018 Palo Alto Festival of the Arts. Great publicity! Ginny also took time to thank volunteers for the day's meeting: STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER, for logistics; BETSY BECHTEL as greeter; KATIE SEEDMAN and REBECCA GERALDI, cashiers; DAN QUINN, photographer; and LAURIE LISTON and TOM GRACON, who circulated the microphone.

With that, REBECCA GERALDI took over the podium to lead the day's "Hands-On" activity. The Grateful Garment Project distributes emergency packs that provide new clothing, toiletries and snacks to survivors of sexual violence. We assembled 96 of these backpacks, complete with notecards, led by Rebecca together with PATRICK KELLEY as co-chair. [See Page 2 for Pictures](#)



Special thanks are due their set-up crew: TRISH BUBENIK, BETSY BECHTEL, GINNY LEAR, LAURIE LISTON, MEL MATSUMOTO, OANA MARCU, KAREN RHODE, ELIZABETH SANTANA, KATIE SEEDMAN, JIM SHERIDAN and DANA TOM. The contents of the hygiene kits were provided by MATT DOLAN and Homewood Suites. Guests from the Grateful Garment Project were LISA BLANCHARD, its Founder and Executive Director, and NATALIE MARINO, PR Coordinator.

## PROGRAMS and EVENTS

September 3, DARK - No Meeting

September 10, WCS Presentation

September 17, Deborah Rhode, Stanford Law School Professor: "Cheating: Ethics and Law in Everyday Life"

