

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 1, 2018

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President GINNY LEAR opened the meeting hopeful about chances of starting new at the beginning of each month. She noted that president elect DANA TOM is taking vacation now, preemptive to the busy time for him next year around!

Visiting Rotarians were Morris Chubb (San Jose Rotary, morris.chubb@trustee-svc.com), a consultant and business fiduciary, Leif Erikson (Palo Alto Rotary) involved with youth services, Robert Skogstad (Starnberg, Germany - Munich area) from the dental industry, and Alex Glen (Los Altos Rotary) in material sciences.

DICK BUSH introduced as special guest his grandson, 11 yo Jack, who is an uprising basketball star (and considerably reduced the average age in the meeting).

PATRICK KELLY's choice for the "Be the inspiration" was his grandfather Patrick Charles Kelley, born in 1931 in Ohio, who went to the Navy after high school and served on a destroyer, and married Virginia in 1959. From a poor background and an insurance policy of 5 cents/week, Patrick's grandfather became a big supporter of family (with 5 kids in the first 4 years of marriage) and community, as he created safe homes for abused women and children, with his wife serving on the board.



BRUCE GEE introduced a vegetable gift: peppers he brought to the club, with the warning of "try to see which ones are hot!"

PRES GINNY welcomed new member MICHAEL BLUM to the PA Rotary (sponsored by CHARLIE WEIDANZ. MICHAEL came from



Switzerland where he worked with senior citizens (and speaks fluent French), and has been living in PA for 4 yrs working with emergency preparedness; his classification is information technology and

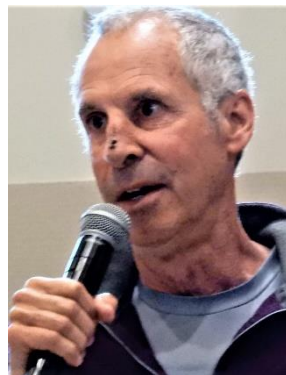
his skills are many - please get to know MICHAEL!

TIM WATSON noted the World Community Service committee meeting this Wednesday, Oct 3, at 7pm at his office.



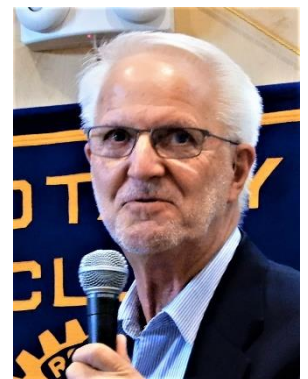
GINNY called on a round of applause to acknowledge past president MIKE McMAHON for all his dedicated work with the club operations, charities and the endowment fund.

Rotary Foundation Chair, past president BESY BECHTEL, thanked those who already contributed to the foundation. With the goal that everyone contribute, ways to do it are to do a pledge, write a check (hand to BETSY, MIKE McMAHON KATIE SEEDMAN), or use a credit card online at TRF site. You can be Double, Super or Grand sustainer, join the Rotary Direct (monthly payment), join the Paul Harris Society (\$1000/year), or join the bequest society.



JON STOUMEN joined the Presidents Club to celebrate the winning of the first place in in the 70 yo+ division, in the PA Weekly's annual moonlight run. Congratulations Jon!

Leif Erikson, Executive Director of YCS and member of PA University Rotary, presented the Youth Community Services history and activities. Co-founded by Megan Swezey Fogarty and Catherine Milton 28 years ago as a collaboration between PA and East PA, the vision is that every young person with a heart full of service has a future of meaning and purpose. Their mission is one of empathy, connectedness and service above self. He thanked our club for the \$2000 annual gift, the \$625 sponsorship at the Italian Street Painting Expo, and the \$5000 through the Rotary Foundation used to support the Ravenswood Leadership Academy. He noted the upcoming "Make a Difference Day" on Oct 27, MLK Day on Jan 15, and Celebration of Service in May. The Youth Connectedness Initiative is a new initiative, with city support from Joe Simitian and Liz Kniss.



BETSY BECHTEL introduced the program speaker, Nadia Naik, as a very active resident since she moved to PA in 2005 with her husband and 2 daughters (now teenage). Nadia is the co-founder of the Californians Advocating Responsible Rail Design (CARRD), an active member of Friends of Caltrain, and founder of the Old Palo Alto Neighborhood Association.

Nadia provided specific data of why Caltrain matters: it moves 4500 people/hr (the equivalent of 2 lanes on Fwy101) in each direction,



has the highest bi-directional ridership all day, and on weekdays an average of 9052 people board in PA at University and California stations.

Caltrain planning includes converting from diesel to electric by 2021/22, with an increase from 10 to 12 trains/hr, while maintaining the diesel freight trains (PA has 2-3 freight trains/day, mostly at night)

The increase demand for Caltrain is due to organic growth and plans for business expansions spanning from San Jose (new Google campus in the Diridon area) to San Francisco (SF Transbay Transit Center and Salesforce Park)

The local PA solution is to separate trains from cars using grade separation at PA Ave, Churchill, East Meadow and Charleston. City considers two approaches to grade separation that allow uninterrupted use of the train: 1) Aerial Alignments (raising train) through berm or viaduct and 2) Below Grade alignments (lowering train) through trench or deep bored tunnels.

She warned to expect an impact of potential closures of streets (Churchill, PA Ave) until the full grade separation is built.

The costs considerations are important since the 2016 measure B only covers the down payment, so funds are still needed. Biggest impacts on cost are the interruption of workers schedule, maintenance of the freight that makes grade separation more costly because of the structure requirements and the type of grade separation chosen (a 2012 study at Meadows and Charleston showed a 1% trench costed at \$1.15 billion, but a change to a 2% trench reduced the cost to \$480 million).

Nadia noted that what is needed for the future, given 42 crossings from SF to SJ (with 4 crossings in PA) is a regional approach, with all cities working together for the whole region.

Following the talk, LEANNNAH HUNT emphasized Nadia's volunteer effort to help educate many city council members, HAL MICKELSON asked whether the Jefferson crossing in Redwood City could be an acceptable prototype for PA (and the answer was no because of the proximity of houses which would lose their driveways unless the train tracks go up 15 ft) and Henrietta Burroughs asked whether consideration has been given to the number of people who would be driving/parking their cars to the train station.

A BEWARE note from P. Ginny was that on Oct. 8, due to a large group using the banquet room, members should expect limited parking spaces. Options are open at The Sea next door or Crowne Plaza across the street.

Our Oct 8 meeting will take place upstairs in the Elk's Club,

#### PROGRAMS and EVENTS

October 8, Gloria Hom and Liz Kniss: "Election Program - The California State Propositions"

October 15, Ben Threlkeld, Optometrist: "The Aging Eye"

October 22 Timothy Lundell, Rotary District Governor: "Rotary"