

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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Inspiring us once again to "Be the Inspiration", President GINNY called us to order and asked RICHARD KELLER to lead the Pledge to the USofA. She then advised of the sad news that Patty O'Keefe, JOHN'S wife and lifelong friend of over 60 years, had passed on. The memorial service will be next Saturday, March 9th, 11:00AM, at St. William Church, 611 S. El Monte Ave in Los Altos; followed by a reception at the Los Altos Country Club.

Moderating over the remarkable number of Guests & Visiting Rotarians, DANA TOM introduced Dietmar Amann from Austria, son-in-law Andy Jacobi from Sweden and his son Jonas Jacoby. DARYL SAVAGE then introduced Jay Boyarsky, Chief Assistant DA; Mark Garcia, Ret. Lt., SCC Sheriffs Office and donor to our Crab Feed Auction; and Capt. Andrew Binder, PAPF. SALLY TOMLINSON introduced Joe Craig, a first time visitor; LE LEVY introduced neighbors Sandra & Steve Purcell; and BEN THRELKELD introduced Nancy Olson & Jon McCowan. DANA topped it off by introducing second time visitor Brandon Fagan.

Inspiring member herself, PAM BRANDIN spoke to the reasons she was inspired to join Rotary - which were primarily Rotary's mission and guiding principles, as well as the opportunities to provide community service and make a difference in addressing global concerns. For 21 years that inspiration has grown and been enhanced by experiences like attending the annual Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan. She closed with a slightly premature, but gracious, thanks and goodbye to all as she heads off to be with family in Omaha next May.



PRESIDENT GINNY formally inducted JOCELYN LEE into the club. STEVE PLAYER introduced her as the current Executive Director of the Foundation for College Education, a local but nationally recognized program for preparing low-income students to enroll and succeed in college. Welcome, Jocelyn.



Maintaining the mood of inspiration, BETSY BECHTEL talked of all that the Rotary Foundation has done to make the world a better place. Two and half Billion children have been immunized against the awful disease of polio in 122 countries - mostly by Rotary volunteers (some of whom you know). Starting in 1988 when polio was striking down a thousand cases every day, Rotary's polio eradication program has advanced to the point where there were only 29 cases in 2018. Betsy made a strong case for your contribution to



The Rotary Foundation this year - be a Sustainer, Double Sustainer, or use your own multiple!

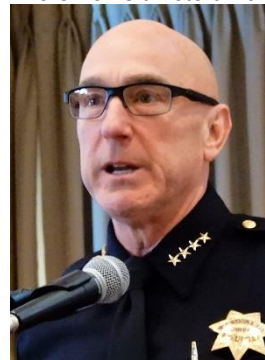


Matt Dolan's 'good news' prompting a President's Club contribution was that his daughter's lung transplant surgery went remarkably well. And it was wonderful news.

Bruce Gee, always fun to listen to, gave us reason to believe that this year's Crab Feed fund raiser will be even better than ever. However. Don't be bashful. Peter Shamboro still needs volunteers for 1-2 hour stints, and there is always room for more creative auction items like sailing trips, ride alongs, Jasper Ridge tours, etc!!



DARYL SAVAGE introduced, with noticeable admiration, our speaker Bob Jonson, Palo Alto's new Chief of Police. The Chief is a veteran of 30 years of police work, mostly in the LA area, and was lured from his job as a Captain in Lancaster, CA (2x the force size of PAPF) to be Chief at Menlo Park (1/2 the size of PAPF), and from there to us. Soon after taking over he reinstated four programs that had been abandoned due to the department having 17 position vacancies. The programs are: a Traffic



Enforcement Unit, Community Service Officers, a Chief's Advisory Group, and a Citizens' Academy. The Chief is noticeably proud of the fact that all of these services are now functioning effectively despite the fact that there are still 17 vacancies. Recruitment to local police forces is evidently very difficult these days. He is also a 'huge advocate' of body cameras and has implemented them to supplement the previously installed auto cameras giving Palo Alto what he called 'the most comprehensive video capturing system in the region. In regard to one of the most visible changes he has brought to the department, compassion training, he used the statistic of police suicides being greater than line of duty deaths to justify his emphasis on focusing on 'the human behind the badge'. The Chief closed by thanking all who might have been involved for the fact that Palo Alto is finally getting a new Public Safety Building, on track to be open in 2022.