

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 18, 2019

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For Rotary in Palo Alto, it was a big day, with a big crowd and big things to think about.

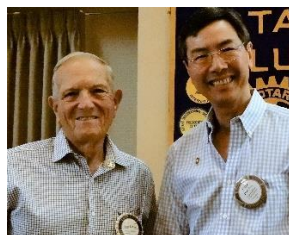
After our president DANA TOM convened us, president-elect BEN THRELKELD introduced guests: ANN RAVEL, a visiting Rotarian from San Jose and a State Senate candidate, was the guest of LIZ KNISS; SIMON PENNINGTON, the guest of GINNY LEAR; CHARLES WILKE, from New Zealand, guest of BRIAN STEEN; SOHEILA RAZBAN, guest of CHARLIE WEIDANZ; SHARMILA JOTHI MAHAMANDRA, guest of CHRISTIAN MARTINE; Joop Verbaken and STANS KLEIJNEN, guests of RYAN ELLIOTT.

DANA inducted PATTY MCGUIGAN as our newest member, sponsored by STEVE EMSLIE, hailed by the huzzahs of the multitudes. "Fasten your seat belts!"



GINNY LEAR'S thought for the day, from Fred Rogers: "I hope you're proud of yourself for the

times you've said 'yes' when all it meant was extra work for you that was helpful to someone else." (GINNY didn't mention it, but like our own MARGARET BOLES, Mr. Rogers was a Presbyterian minister.)



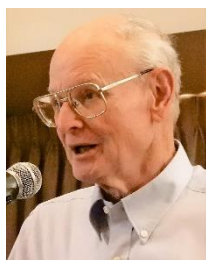
DUANE KALAR received a coveted Paul Harris Major Donor pin, the one with the diamond that represents cumulative gifts of \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus. DUANE gave great advice: If you keep on making donations, just a little at a time, the total will add up to a big difference in the world.

DANA expressed thanks to our former servicemembers for an exceptionally meaningful Veterans' Day program. SALLY TOMLINSON, OANA MARCU AND JIM SUTHERLAND made it happen.... RYAN ELLIOTT, JIM SUTHERLAND, LEN ELY, CASH ALAEE, BETSY BECHTEL, HERSH DAVIS AND KAREN ROHDE were thanked for setting out American flags on University Avenue.... BETSY BECHTEL, CHARLIE WEIDANZ, JON STOUMEN, JON'S wife O'MALLEY, RYAN ELLIOTT, DANA and DANA'S wife NANCY served the homeless at WeHOPE. Helping at WeHOPE will be an ongoing project for us, next on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30....



LINNET KWOK announced strikingly successful results from Spin to End Polio Now. We put 30 people on bikes and raised \$1615, with matching in total \$4845....

JIM SUTHERLAND recognized volunteer ushers for Palo Alto Players: REBECCA GERALDI, JULIO NIÑO, BRIAN STEEN with his wife SANDRA WILSON, DANA with his wife NANCY KAWAKITA and JIM himself...



President's Club entrants were TRISH BUBENIK, honoring TONY ADESSA;



JON COWAN, to celebrate the opening of Stanford Hospital; and



Past Pres. EJ HONG, who acknowledged, "My bossiness hasn't changed."



We heard from the President of Foothill College, THUY NGUYEN, who customarily hangs with



Los Altos Rotary. Our beloved member BOB SMITHWICK was the first Chair of the Foothill board. Great numbers: A Washington Monthly survey puts Foothill at #1 in California and #8 in the country for adult education; 50% of enrollment is now online; of just 20 transfers students entering Stanford this year, three are from Foothill. Tuition is \$1528 per year, against \$13,900 in the UC system.

LIZ KNISS introduced our speaker, CHOP KEENAN. Yes, said Liz, he's a "developer."



Remember, you can thank a "developer" for building your home.



Said Chop: The Bay Area has not only a NIMBY problem, but a BANA problem ('Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere') and a "NIMTOO" issue ("Not in my term of office").

Our housing supply has been strangled by politics. There's not much we can do for "the missing middle," those who can't afford market-rate homes but can't qualify for below-market units; they're moving to Austin and Colorado.

It's possible to offer good homes for \$725,000, with small front yards managed by homeowner associations, in Tracy and Roseville. According to Chop, we have a land problem, not a money problem. Chop feels there are places in Palo Alto where much greater density might be acceptable, spots where a seven-story building might fit in very naturally.

Today's volunteers included JULIE JEROME and IRIS KOROL as Greeters, with the usual suspects in other strategic roles....

Next Monday: FOOTHILL COLLEGE FOOD PANTRY: Please remember to bring non-perishable items..

Coming programs: 11/25, State Senator Jerry Hill, an update from Sacramento; 12/2, Philip Kamhi, Chief Transportation Official for the City of Palo Alto; 12/9, New Members; 12/16, West Bay Opera.

