

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 6, 2020

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President DANA TOM opened the first meeting of year 2020 with a warm wish for a Happy New Year and the encouragement to reflect on what is important to each of us and take action on it.

President Elect BEN THRELKELD introduced members with guests: TIM WATSON who hosted Mike Reynolds; CHRISTIAN MARTINE who hosted Sharminla Mahamandra; and Spencer Hsu, a guest of President DANA's



A very compassionate Thought of the Day was presented by ROB LANCEFIELD who was able to shift from the feeling that the whole world seems to be in ICU (Intensive Care Unit), and quoted NY Times data that says that 170,000 people every day in the last decade moved out of extreme poverty, and that we are making progress against famine and illiteracy. ROB reminded us enthusiastically that we humans are hardwired to be curious, and that he loves living in this area surrounded by so many curious, smart and courageous people.

Paul Harris Fellow pin were presented to EJ HONG, DANA TOM, LE LEVY & TIM WATSON, to honor their levels of giving to The Rotary Foundation.



Presidents Club December announcements were from TRISH BUBENIK who gave \$100 each to the Palo Alto Rotary Annual Charities and The Rotary Foundation, and ROB LANCEFIELD whose son, also named Rob, was recruited by the Yale Center for British Art to be head of their IT section on the Yale Campus in New Haven.

Club announcements were made for Project We HOPE, which takes place 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 1858 Bay Road, East Palo Alto.

YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST described by CASH ALEE taking place on Saturday Jan 25 2020, 10am-12pm, at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St. Palo Alto.



The annual CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET, is Tuesday January 28, 6:00 pm, at Chef Chu's Restaurant, \$75 per person. CONTACT co-chairs, GINNY LEAR or KATIE SEEDMAN for reservations. Chef Chu's is celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2020.



President DANA TOM took the opportunity to note that 2020 is the year of the rat, first in the 12-year cycle, but the rat only won the race to being first because he rode on the ox's back. Note DANA is an ox and he is all about teamwork.

The DISTRICT 5170 INTERNATIONAL EXPO where you can learn about Rotary International projects on Sat Feb 1, 9-noon, at the University of Silicon Andhra, 1521 California Circle, Milpitas. The event is free, detailed information and sign-up at [www.rotarydistrict5170.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5170.org).

Volunteers for the meeting were: greeter JULIAN DEMALLEVILLE, welcome desk and cashier REBECCA GERALDI and KATIE SEEDMAN, setup and A/V HERSH DAVIS and RICHARD KELLER, microphone managers TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON, pinion writer OANA MARCU and pinion editor LYLE CONNELL.



SALLY TOMLINSON introduced the speaker JON HAVEMAN, PhD, Executive Director of National Economic Delegation Education (NEED [www.NEEDelegation.org](http://www.NEEDelegation.org)). JON has been a noted economist with the Public Policy Institute of CA, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, the Federal Trade Commission, and faculty at Purdue U.

On the topic of "Economics of climate change" JON HAVEMAN brought the perspective of cost of damage vs cost of taking action. Some measures of damage span from effects on agriculture, fisheries, coastal damage and wildfires all the way to a new wave of "climate migration" of humans (climate change-induced droughts in Guatemala contributing to migration). Dr. HAVEMAN advocated

for putting a price on carbon to reduce green house gas emission and showed the cost-benefit analysis for reducing C emission: taking action on C emission will cost 1-4% of worldwide GDP by 2030, while the cost of not taking action on C emission will be 7-20% of GDP. As an example of effectiveness, the C tax of \$140/ton introduced in Sweden in 1991 reduced emission by 25%, while the GDP increased by 75%. Under the heading "It is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong" economics data show that abating GHG emission is costly but climate change damages are even more costly.

Dr. HAVEMAN can be reached at [Jon@NEEDelegation.org](mailto:Jon@NEEDelegation.org) and a copy of his presentation can be found at [https://needelegation.org/delivered\\_presentations.php](https://needelegation.org/delivered_presentations.php)



Jan 13 speaker will be ANN RAVEL on "What is the prospect for fair campaign finance regulation in the 2020 election?"