

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 20, 2020

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After ringing the opening (bicycle) bell President Dana Tom reminded us that this year's Rotary theme is "Zoom Rotary Connects the World". After that he proceeded with our first virtual induction.



New member **SPENCER HSU** was introduced by his sponsor **KAREN**



**ROHDE**, our Membership Chair. Spencer explained why he had become involved and how he looked forward to meaningful shared experiences as a club member. He was then welcomed virtually with all hands waving.

Unable to discover any visitors, President **DANA** shared the joke of the week: "The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!"



**MARY ANN GEE** presented the Thought-for-the-Day. She reminded us how life changes quickly, to slow down, value moments and treat life as a gift. In his Zoom tips for the week President Tom explained how to show yourself in the best light when on Zoom – be lit from the front, face a window or bright light. If necessary, move a table lamp to

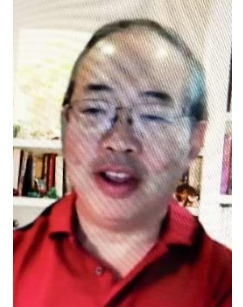
beside your screen. Another reminder: Zoomed meetings can be very revealing. Take care to refrain from frowning, yawning or rolling eyes during the meetings.

The first Club announcement was made by **TIM WATSON** to let everyone know that there is a Zoom meeting for the World Community Service Committee this coming Wednesday (22nd) evening at 7 PM. There will be discussion on global and local grants for 2020/2021 projects, District Designated Funds (DDF)



and updates on existing projects.

**BRUCE GEE** spoke of how vital funds for our youth programs, local non-profits, vocational scholarships and international projects would be raised in place of the cancelled Crab Feed. Everyone is asked to donate directly at a level that works for them. There will only be an auction of a very limited number of items. Included in them will be four nights at **KLAUS HEINEMANN'S** home in Sea Ranch as well as three nights at **ROB LYMAN'S** Lake Tahoe home, valid through 2021. The grant presentations later in this meeting underline the importance of members contributions this year so that next year we have the funds to support the many worthy causes needing our assistance.



Members were reminded that the President provides a weekly Suggestion Box email of useful resources, information, and links that are not directly related to Rotary. Suggestions for this collection are encouraged. On Fridays between 5:30 and 6:30 PM Pres-Elect **BEN THRELKED** will be conducting his usual Virtual Happy Hour. A special feature of these informal meetings is that, for a time, there is a breakout of participants into smaller separate discussion rooms



For the President's Club, **TIM WATSON** wanted to contribute to honor **PATTY McGUIGAN** for her generous offer of a matching fund for the charities this year and for suggesting outdoor cycling for exercise.

**ART STAUFFER** joined for \$500 to the Endowment and \$100 to the Charities (@ \$100/decade) to commemorate the fact that he and his wife Peggy were celebrating their 60th wedding



anniversary. They had enjoyed a great life with extensive

travel and a family that included 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

The main program was presented by our Charitable Grants Committee which has been ably chaired for many years by BILL JOHNSON. As a busy publisher, Bill could not make the meeting today so IRIS KOROL provided the introductions. This committee uses our Charities budget to determine how we support positive change in our community. The process to select worthy grant recipients starts with the sending out of 100 requests for proposal. From the 75 or so simple one-page submissions returned, 10 to 12 are selected for a more intense screening that includes site visits by committee members to narrow down the heartrending final choices. The 9 recipients this year were each described with their award amount by selected committee members as follows:



Ada's Café; Employer of people with special needs,  
\$5,000 - MIKE COUCH

LifeMoves; Renovation of computer room at the Opportunity Center in PA, \$5,000 -  
LEANNAH HUNT



Marine Science Institute; Life changing environmental experiences on the SF Bay,  
\$8,000 – LE LEVY



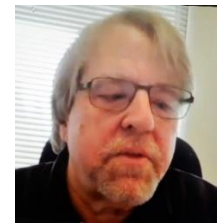
TheatreWorks; Using theater to influence better personal youth interactions, \$8,000 - BETSY BECHTEL

Ecumenical Hunger Program; Alleviating hunger in these difficult times,  
\$10,000 – Fund a Need - LIZ KNISS



The Club can feel proud that between the Crab Feed fundraising mentioned earlier, members' President's Club contributions and our Endowment Fund, we can make such worthwhile contributions to the well-being of our community. On that warm note another unusual meeting was closed.

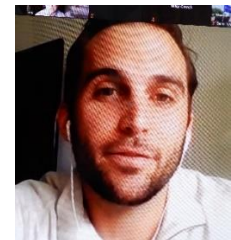
Next week's program: Anna Lembke, "Dopamine fasting--how it works and why it's important"



All Student's Matter; Educational assistance in EPA,  
\$8,000 - ANDREW PIERCE



Art of Yoga; Special art program reorienting youth in detention,  
\$7,000 - PETER SHAMBORA



CASSY; Counselling and Support Services for Youth,  
\$6,000 - JULIAN DEMALLEVILLE  
EPA Kids Foundation; Creative project in the Ravenswood School,  
\$8,000 - JULIAN DEMALLEVILLE