

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 4, 2020

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President DANA TOM called the meeting to order by muting us all and honoring today's date with the greeting "May the fourth be with you!"

Dana's Zoom tip of the week is how to add a photo to your zoom account. Go to the Zoom website: log in, on the left side go to Personal, click on Profile and add your photo. Then, if you turn off your camera, people will see your photo instead of your video.

VISITING ROTARIANS: Jane Reed visited from the Los Altos Rotary club.

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS: HAL MICKELSON introduced numerous museum-related guests: Rich Green, the Museum's president; Laura Bajuk, its Director; Board members or Advisory Board members Jane Gee, David Bubenik, John Northway, Margaret Feuer, Monica Yeung Arima, Nelson Ng, Douglas Kreitz, Sergio Mello, Bardy Wallace, Lanie Wheeler, Megan Swezey Fogarty, Susan Beall, Pat Sanders, and Georgie Gleim.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: CHRISTIAN MARTINE quoted Winston Churchill about bringing order into life. Christian gave us some tips for maintaining order. Have the poison control number on hand 1-800-222-1222; go paperless; freeze your credit report; create a mySocialSecurity account even if you don't get benefits to prevent others from creating an account in your name.



HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR CRAB FEED CONTRIBUTION, by TRISH BUBENIK: 14 x \$24 (for the lunches she is not buying from March 16 through end of the year) + \$100 fund-a-need gift + \$65 cost of the ticket = \$501. BEN THRELKELD suggested calling it the "no free lunch" calculation.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

Robert Smithwick Vocational Scholarships: PAM KRUDOP announced that our club granted \$25,000 in awards ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 to nine students who are attending Cañada, Skyline, and Foothill colleges, in various fields on their way to vocational certification. SALLY TOMLINSON gave an update on Dennis Muaka, an Auto Tech award winner from 2013 who now owns his own shop in Mountain View - Griffin's Auto Repair.



DANA shared the Covid Kindness twitter account #COVIDkindness, which is a source of uplifting news. Last week's suggestion box email explains how to see tweets even without an account.

BEN THRELKELD let us know that District Training May 9-21 this year is via Zoom and is open to all members. You can go to the district website (<https://rotarydistrict5170.org>) and find the dates and times. No need to register.



### PRESIDENT'S CLUB:

HAL MICKELSON recognized Rotarians in our club who have been active getting things done for the Museum. KEVIN CURRY and HAL are members of the Museum's Board; members of its Advisory Board include STEVE PLAYER and his wife Nancy, GLORIA HOM, NANCY PETERS, JIM BAER, LIZ KNISS and former Rotarian Vicky Ching.



REBECCA GERALD joined to announce that her son has chosen Cornell University over several other options for his studies next fall.

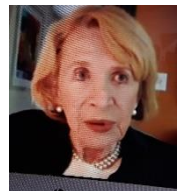


JON STOUMAN congratulated Rebecca's son - Jon is a graduate of Cornell. Jon's son got a promotion at Intel, and his daughter has landed a job with a great company in this area.

THANKS TO HELPERS: Pinion editor LYLE CONNELL, pinion writer SALLY TOMLINSON.

PROGRAM - Gennady Sheyner, Karen Holman, and Tom DuBois: "The Roth Building and the Palo Alto History Museum"

DIANA DIAMOND introduced Gennady Sheyner, a journalist with the Palo Alto Weekly. Sheyner then introduced Karen Holman, former city councilmember and current president of Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, and Tom DuBois, Vice Mayor of Palo Alto City.



Gennady Sheyner: In 2000, the City bought the Roth building from the Palo Alto Clinic. The PA History Museum and the city spent 5 years negotiating, and there were no other bidders. The museum and city signed the option agreement in 2007. After a series of extensions, the council in 2017 challenged the museum board to raise the remaining money needed; museum raised some but a shortfall of about \$4 million remains and some pledges are quite old. On March 2, 2020, the council voted to open it up for new bids, but COVID-19 happened and other priorities have taken precedence. The process for creating a new RFP has been pushed back to late May, but even that is looking unlikely. Meanwhile, on April 24, the History museum was awarded a County grant to restore the murals and the roof for total of \$300,000.



Karen Holman: The building is important for many reasons that include its architecture, its murals, and the history of its use in Palo Alto. The museum project would restore the building for various community uses. The estimated cost of the project stands at \$12.3 million, with \$8.59 million pledged. That leaves a \$4 million gap. The history museum is a new organization which makes fundraising more challenging.



Tom DuBois: He was the only council member to vote in favor of continuing with the history museum. In a 5-1 vote, the other council members denied funding the \$4 million gap and voted to open up the project again with a new RFP. DuBois said they seem to question the need for a history museum.



Program, May 11: Former U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, *Thoughts On Sino-American Relations in a Post-Pandemic World*