

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 31, 2020

Reporter: ROB LANCEFIELD

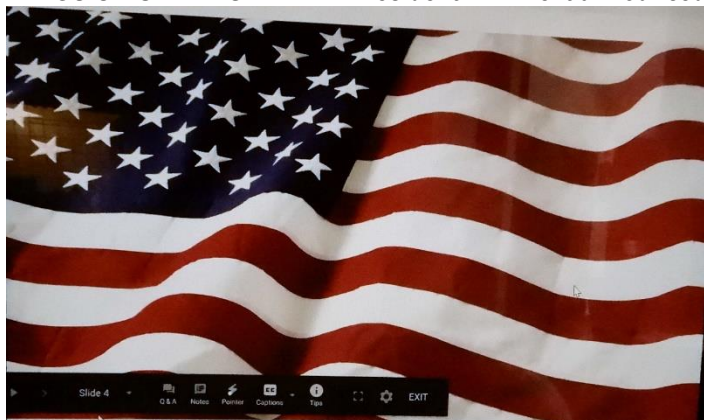
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

NO MEETING FOR LABOR DAY, September 7.

Harking back to pre-COVID days, quite a few Rotarians joined our Zoom meeting starting at 12:15. Our 44 participants had interesting and fun conversations. Hopefully, you who are reading this print version of our Pinion will be encouraged to join our pre-meeting Chat Room on Zoom on our NEXT MEETING on Monday, September 14th.

Promptly at 12:30, President BEN THRELKELD opened our meeting by ringing our club bell. In recognition of Labor Day, he asked BRIAN STEEN to lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance. We all recited the pledge in front of our computers—our sense of connectedness was less than when we meet in person, but significant even so.

FLAGS ON UNIVERSITY AVE. President BEN next announced



for our traditional putting up and taking down flags on University Avenue, only TWO volunteers for each of the morning and evening shifts will be needed at 8 AM and 5 PM, to comply with anti-COVID rules. If you're interested send an email to Prez. BEN.

PRESIDENT ELECT CASH ALAEE INTRODUCED VISITING ROTARIANS and ROTARIANS with GUESTS: There were no visiting Rotarians. GEOFF ZIMAN introduced his daughter, Shoshana Shur. Prez. BEN introduced his father, Bob Threlkeld.



THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY: JOAN PLASTIRAS shared two personal stories. JOAN'S first story was how two of her Rotary friends are also Rotary relatives. DARYL SAVAGE and ANNETTE GLANCKOPF met in Rotary. They were surprised to learn they are 3rd cousins, according to 23 and me. JOAN'S second story was how making new friends in Rotary

opened surprising doors to new personal friendships (ROB and RITA) and new business relationships. For JOAN, a one-time visit with ROB to hear "pitches" for hi-tech startups led to JOAN, (a real estate broker and Math Ph.D.), to a meeting where she met two other Ph.D.'s (experimental physics, and computer science) involved in tech startups. This led to Joan's making 50 new "hi-tech" friends! JOAN closed by saying that what she learned is that a special friend is someone you trust enough to go with them outside your comfort zone.

AUGUST 28th TGIF. President BEN reported on this unusual Zoom TGIF, an Uncle Nearest Bourbon tasting, complete with two 4 oz. sample bottles each of us picked up for \$15 at Prez. BEN'S office.

ZOOM HAPPY HOUR will be Wednesday, September 9th, 5:30 to 6:30.

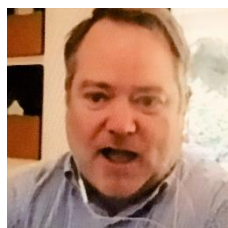
Our September TGIF will be on the 25th. The theme will be "travel reminisces." Prez. BEN encouraged ALL of us to find our old travel photos. Please tell BEN if you want to show them.

COFFEE WITH ROTARY FRIENDS. Past President DANA TOM



announced that our voluntary program, "Coffee with Rotary Friends," will begin September 1st for one month. The idea is to set up voluntary Zoom meetings with other club members that we can't easily meet as we did when we met in person at the Elks Club. DANA will do the pairing. The two things each of us has to do is be willing to get out of our comfort zone, and tell DANA we'll give it a try.

HANDS ON SERVICE PROJECT PROJECT for Aug.-Sept. is "ROTARIANS CLEAN UP NICELY." Plagiarizing what TRISH BUBENIK wrote August 17th, "Freshen up your neighborhood while you go for a walk. In addition to your Rotary mask, you need a garbage bag and gloves or a grabber." Also wear your Rotary T-shirt. Send photos to REBECCA GERALDI, winterskeeper@yahoo.com.



TIM WATSON invited all of us to join a Zoom meeting of our World Community Service Committee Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 7:00 PM, to consider requests for two Global Grants for Guatemala and Kenya. Call TIM (650-380-9525) if you'd like more info.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM AND DEBATE via Zoom will be on September 15th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The event will be co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and our Rotary Club of Palo Alto. **JOE SIMITIAN** will be MC.



PRESIDENT'S CLUB. STANS KLEINJEN and **JOOP VERBAKEN** joined in honor of a visit by their daughter, Simone, from the Netherlands.

LE LEVY donated \$500, divided \$250 to The Rotary Foundation, \$200 to Palo Alto Rotary Annual Charities, and \$50 to Menlo Park Rotary Club **TOUR DE MENLO** on September 13th. Tell LE if you want to join the Tour.



JUDY KLEINBERG joined the President's Club to share her joy at the recovery of her daughter and grandchild from Covid-19, and her 50th wedding anniversary to Jim.



PRESIDENT BEN thanked **ROB LANCEFIELD** as Pinion Writer, and **LYLE CONNELL** as Pinion Editor.

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker, Mitchell Stevens, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education at Stanford. He spoke about "Higher Education in a Time of Coronavirus." Professor Stevens began with a summary of his three main points: (1) the history of higher education in the U.S. before the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) the evolution of federal policy since World War II; and (3) how the U.S. love of higher education blinded us to problems.



Even so, he's optimistic. We govern higher education by federal, state and local government policies, and by tax-exempt organizations, e.g., Stanford, which benefits from tax policies that encourage tax-deductible donations, and federal/state partnerships that benefit the UC system. The high point of voter support was in the



1970's. During the 1980's beginning with President Reagan, voter support for higher education dropped. Even so, state and federal aid (e.g., Pell grants) has continued at lower levels. COVID-19 "pulled the rug out" from under higher education.

The business model for higher education is not sustainable. Taxpayer parents can't support such high cost levels. Should residential model of higher ed continue? Should residential colleges close between Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are California taxpayer parents willing and able to support the UC system which increasingly admits more out of state and foreign students who pay full tuition? As a society, we will have to answer these and many other questions.

HAL MICKELSON noted, and Professor Stevens agreed, that federal tax policies challenged by Senator Grassley (Iowa) target East and West Coast 75+/- big endowment universities. Stanford, Pomona, Yale are likely to survive, while many small and mid-size universities go out of business. **KIM BOMAR** noted that these same universities may have disproportionately big endowments. Professor Stevens replied that "money follows money." He added that cognitive denial of these problems by society and families puts all of us in a bind.



OANA MARCU "What would be a better model for higher education— a model that we could be proud of?" Professor Stevens mentioned several ideas. e.g., "educational vouchers" to the similar to the GI Bill of Rights.



ADJOURNMENT: At 1:37 PM, President BEN rang our Club

SPEAKER ON SEPTEMBER 14TH: ENOCH CHOI, MD, URGENT CARE: "Serving on the COVID-19 Front Lines"