

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 9, 2020

Reporter: KIM BOMAR

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BEN THRELKELD called the virtual meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the special Veterans Day program in honor of the upcoming holiday. No visiting Rotarians or guests joined us for this meeting.

DENNIS MCGINN brought us the Thought for the Day, speaking on the role of social media in preserving our democracy. Although social media can instantly spread rumor and false information on a grand scale, it also helps organizations like Rotary carry out important work around the globe. He exhorted all to remember that we cannot take our democracy for granted, but must continue to protect it.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

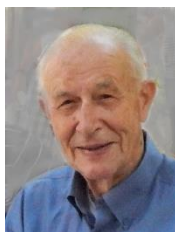
BEN then transitioned to the Veterans Day program. He thanked TIM WATSON and his wife for agreeing to help place US flags on University Avenue at 8:00 am on Veterans Day, and MARGARET BOLES and her husband for agreeing to take them down at 5:00pm. ROB LANCEFIELD led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, which, it was noted, had particular significance following last week's election. This was followed by a slideshow tribute to Palo Alto Rotary Club veterans and other service members, featuring their names, when and where they served, photos, and any thoughts they chose to share. Included were ROTARIANS RALPH ADAMS, BILL BUSSE, LYLE CONNELL, KEVIN CURRY, ED DANGLER, BILL FOGARTY, DICK FREEMAN, WES GARDINER, WALT HAYS, DUANE KALAR, ROB LANCEFIELD, DICK MANSFIELD, MIKE MCMAHON, DON MORGAN, JOHN O'KEEFE, PETER SHAMBORA, ART STAUFFER, GEORGE WHEATON, JACK WOODSON and GEOFF ZIMAN. The slideshow ended with personal thanks to the veterans and other service members.



DANA TOM gave an update on The Rotary Foundation drive, sharing how The Foundation has helped provide high quality education to children in Haiti and Guatemala, clean water to communities in Kenya, and safety from prostitution for girls in Mumbai. He also highlighted the worldwide success in eradicating polio. DANA encouraged members to contribute to the Foundation to help meet the cumulative \$1 million goal.

Please donate here: <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>

In honor of LYLE CONNELL'S upcoming 99th birthday, the group thanked LYLE for his service to the community and to Rotary, and LE LEVY led the group in the Happy Birthday song. LYLE thanked everyone for the birthday wishes.



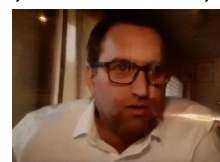
BEN encouraged everyone to participate in the Project WeHope canned food drive. Please bring

unexpired canned and packaged foods to Ben's office at 250 Cambridge Avenue from 8:30 to 5:00

**PRESIDENTS CLUB:** ROB LANCEFIELD donated honor of our democracy and all participants in it, and also to honor our veterans who have fought to preserve our way of life.

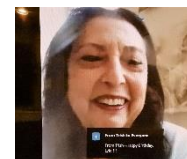


TRISH BUBENIK, CASH ALAEE, BRIAN



STEEN and NINA MOORE also joined in honor of the veterans honored in today's program. NINA requested

that the video slide show be uploaded to the website.



Our speaker, the award-winning author and food scientist, Harold



McGee, was introduced by BEN THRELKELD. Described by Bill Buford of the New Yorker as "the most important person alive writing about food," Harold joined us to discuss his latest book, *Nose Dive: A Field Guide to the World's Smells*. Fascinating topics discussed include the smell of outer space (ammonia, egg smell/hydrogen sulfide, esters (characteristic of various citrus fruits) and the smell

and composition of caramel (sucrose plus heat), which was described as the epitome of the magic of cooking. By adding heat to sucrose, caramel results, transforming it from odorless and sweet to deliciously odorous, sour and bitter. The smell of caramel, like other smells, is a composite; it is like a musical chord with different notes as individual smells, that put together give us the overall impression of caramel (paraphrasing). In Japan, a practice of sitting quietly and smelling different kinds of incense or wood is roughly translated as "listening to smells." Harold encouraged everyone to listen to smells; the more we pay attention to them, the more we will notice echoes and resonances. He added, don't take this sense of smell for granted; we have a lot to gain by paying attention to this primal sense that we have for a reason.

Thanks to Pinion Editor LYLE CONNELL and writer KIM BOMAR.

Next week's speaker Raj Mathai, News Anchor, NBC Bay area.

Invite a guest to join us by sharing the Zoom link.

Officially adjourned.