

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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President BEN THRELKELD began the meeting with a reminder that when he starts mumbling, you can activate closed captioning!

- To turn the Closed Caption on or off, click on the CC icon at the bottom of your screen and it will say "Show Subtitle" or "Hide Subtitle".
- On an iPhone you can click on "more" > "Meeting Settings" > "Closed Captioning".
- A PC or Mac will even let you change the size of the text.

BEN also let us know that the slides from the talk last week by John Hibblings on The Securitarian Personality: What Really Motivates Trump's Base and Why It Matters for the Post-Trump Era are available here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QotUvqSFYR2YEfbioeK\\_14z0agbIDV0P/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QotUvqSFYR2YEfbioeK_14z0agbIDV0P/view?usp=sharing).

CASH ALAEE then invited introductions of guests. GINNY LEAR introduced Christina Chu, who visited us as a returning Rotarian. Christina will be submitting an application soon. STEVE EMSLIE introduced Anne Cribbs who is visiting for the third time. And JUDITH STEINER introduced Jerry Underdal, also visiting for the third time.



For our Thought for the Day, ROB LYMAN read excerpts from the beautiful and moving poem recited by Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in US History. Rather than print the excerpts here, we refer you to the poet's inaugural recitation on YouTube here

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/style/2021/01/20/amanda-gorman-youth-poet-laureate-full-poem-biden-capitol-inauguration-vpx.cnn/video/playlists/cnn-style/>

And to her webpage where you can purchase the printed poem here: <https://www.theamandagorman.com>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS:

TIM WATSON reported that the World Community Service committee issued a grant of \$2500 for Amigos de Santa Cruz. He showed a short video of their work. Adapting to Covid-19 circumstances, they have identified projects that give work to many who lost jobs due to the pandemic, they enable at-home education, and they strengthen women in their home-based businesses.



KAREN ROHDE reminded us that Feb 8 is the winter membership drive. Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President of Stanford, will speak. To help your guest get to know the club, you can direct them to our webpage: under "About our Club" they will find a link for information about how to become a member. And you as a sponsor can find helpful information under the "Members" section where there is a "Sponsor a New Member" page. (If you can't remember your password for the Members only section, send Ben an e-mail.) On Feb 8 there will be prize for whoever brings the most guests.



LINNET KWOK highlighted the auctions that will be part of our "Hats Off to Rotary" fundraiser in March. There will be an online silent auction during the month, capped off with a small live auction at the main even on March 29. We have beautiful vacation homes and even cruises for later in the year! But we invite more offerings, so please think of unique experiences, items such as wine, and gift certificates at your favorite local businesses. Send our suggestions to SALLY TOMLINSON.



Mark your calendar for Chinese New Year Happy Hour, Wednesday Feb 10, 5:30-6:30. GLORIA HOM is working with a few members to share their knowledge and experiences related to Chinese New Year. Bring your favorite Chinese dish to enjoy while we learn from one another.

PROGRAM: James Eggers, Director of the Loma Prieta Chapter of Sierra Club, spoke on the topic of "Equity and Inclusion in the Sierra Club and Elsewhere."



James learned a lot from his father, who was a Rotarian for 50-plus years. His introduction to racial justice was through stories from his father, who as a Boy Scout leader was tasked with integrating the Boy Scouts in the Carolinas and West Virginia in the 60's and 70's. And later in life, as James became involved in land conservation, he asked his father why we should worry about protecting lands not near us. His father described growing up in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains where most of the family's protein came from fishing and hunting on public land. James learned that protection of land is not just for wildlife, but for people and especially the poor. This has been a driving force for his work in land conservation and environmental justice.

Eggers acknowledged that founder John Muir said and wrote harmful things that Eggers believes derived primarily from ignorance and lack of contact and friendship with people of color. Over John Muir's life, as he made friends of many backgrounds, such statements disappeared.

The Loma Prieta chapter was in a decent place when Eggers arrived 5 years ago but he wants to do better. The executive board even at that time was 50% male, 50% white. They were the first chapter to host gay and lesbian hikes and family outings. Eggers believes that you don't increase diversity by trying to be diverse, but by being welcoming and inclusive. He has focused on partnering with like-missioned organizations that provide services to underserved communities, learning from them how Sierra Club can help in what they do. He has re-established a 20's and 30's group with the goal to reach out to underserved communities. This past year, they have Zoom communities, and discuss where can you go in your community without driving because transport is a big issue for them.

The Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club has more active members than any other chapter in the country, more lifetime members, and the highest level of giving. They have been involved in the protection of dozens of lands, and he named three particular champions of open space, Enid Pearson, Emily Renzel, and Byron Sher.

In response to questions, he observed the importance of urban parks to address the problems of transportation that many poor people face. The Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley has an urban parks grant program that interests him, but it requires a 25% match. Something to work towards.