

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 1, 2021

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PRESIDENT BEN THRELKELD's bell brought today's Palo Alto Rotary Club meeting to a punctual start, courtesy of Zoom. He noted that the club would be dark on February 15, Presidents' Day, but that our meeting a week hence would feature Stanford's President Marc Tessier-Lavigne, speaking on changes and challenges for universities.

At BEN's request PRESIDENT-ELECT KASHAYAR ALAEE welcomed members with guests: GINNY LEAR with Christina Chu; BETSY BECHTEL with Carie Templeton; STEVE EMSLIE with Anne Cribbs.



Thought for the Day STEVE EMSLIE had some "pretty uplifting news": The UCLA School of Management opened in December 2020 that our recovery from Covid tribulations will proceed smoothly and expeditiously, returning to normal by mid-2021.

BEN inducted into membership in our club JACKIE WHEELER, good friend and walking buddy of her



Jackie Wheeler

sponsor BETSY BECHTEL. JACKIE'S field is Management Consulting. A long term resident of Palo Alto, with three children and eight grandchildren, JACKIE recalls her initial contacts with Rotary in a beautiful building in Washington, D.C. and great speakers there.

STEVE PLAYER, auctioneer, made a pitch for our March 29 fundraiser auction from 5:30 to 7:00, "Hats Off For Rotary". He asked donors to place their names on their contributions, for Zoom display if all goes well. Early auction items are lunch for two with Supervisor Joe Simitian, fall and winter cruises, vacation homes in Tahoe, dinners and desserts. Would be donors should contact SALLY TOMLINSON, STEVE noted in a belated President's Club announcement.



GLORIA HOM announced a Chinese New Year's Happy Hour celebration on Wednesday February 10, via Zoom from 5:30 to 7:00.



Gloria Hom

BEN announced a Zoom-to-learn program on Youth Services, Thursday February 18 6:00 to 7:30. He also produced two Paul Harris Fellow Awards, an initial one to PAM KRUDOP marking contributions totaling



\$1,000 and a seventh to HAL MICKELSON. Congratulations to both!

BEN reminded us that Stanford President Tessier-Lavigne will speak next week. He accepted a contribution to the President's Club from JON STOUMEN and thanked DON MORGAN and LYLE CONNELL for the Pinion

ROB LYMAN presided over today's feature, three new member talks. First up was KIM BOMAR, who chose to focus on a single year in



her life, the 1983-84 school year in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. With a PowerPoint presentation of photos, Kim reviewed a colorful year, traditional dance, parties, her 19th birthday, living with a family including contemporaries and younger children, Christmas tree and presents. A popular movie "Bunga Bangsa" portraying a

kidnapping and sale of a youth in Holland, she recalls well. She also recalls a friend whose father was incarcerated and whose mother made a living washing school uniforms. Overall, an educational and enjoyable year.

SPENCER HSU was our second speaker. He commented at the outset that spending makes you richer – if spent on travel. Born in San Jose, and a graduate of UC Davis, his dream job vanished with the 2008 meltdown. He did find work as a pharmaceutical sales representative. While he traveled the globe he did not find that work fulfilling. He then worked flipping local real estate, making many acquaintances. Liking that work, he ventured out on his own. Happy now, he has helped 41 families buy a home in the past 13 months. He shelters in place.



RENATA VELCHEVA is Bulgarian by birth. From that socialist spot she moved to the United Kingdom, traveling a lot throughout Europe. The US she finds a very democratic country, but so different at least in California that adjustments are difficult. Many of her friends don't like it here, at least at the start. She lives in "a very interesting time", and enjoys getting acquainted over a glass of wine. We should enjoy getting to know RENATA better.



In Q&A, SPENCER said Thailand was the most exotic place he has seen. He loves the food there, his wife hates it. KIM grew up in Southern California and has lived in Taiwan, China, and Singapore. For RENATA, the most difficult adjustment was to suburban living.

BEN's bell concluded the meeting at 135.

Coming meetings

Feb 8 Stanford U. President Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Changes and Challenges in Universities: A President's Perspective

Feb 15 No Meeting – DARK Presidents Day

February 22 Walter Moore, ED of POST: Challenges and Vision