

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 15, 2021

Reporter: ROB LANCEFIELD

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Around 12:15, various members joined our informal Zoom pre-meeting discussion. These discussions are spontaneous and often lively. YOU are invited to join the meeting early to see for yourself. "



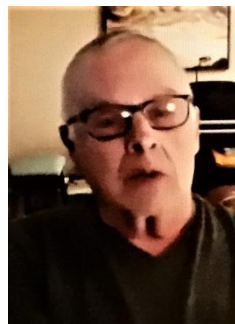
At 12:30, PRESIDENT BEN THRELKELD rang our club bell, and called our meeting to order. PRESIDENT BEN began by noting our Zoom meetings began ONE YEAR AGO, on March 16, 2020.

RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON MEETINGS. At the regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, our Board of Directors began discussing WHEN and UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS we might resume IN-PERSON MEETINGS at the ELKS LODGE. The conditions will be:

- (1) We won't be the first club in Palo Alto to meet again in person. "Better safe than sorry."
- (2) We will meet again when all members have the option to be vaccinated and return safely to in-person meetings. Don't leave any of our members behind.
- (3) We will have hybrid meetings so members can attend via Zoom, if they choose.

HYBRID TECHNOLOGY. With the help of BRUCE GEE and DANA TOM, we have purchased technology to adapt our in-person meeting elements to our new reality. We will make regular reports on progress, and also ask for your comments, suggestions and opinions.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS. President-Elect CASH ALAEE led these introductions. There were no visiting Rotarians. STEVE EMSLIE introduced his guest, Larry Klein.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: TOM GRACON gave the Thought for the Day. TOM began by quoting the line, "Beware the Ides of March.", from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." Every month has an "Ides," the night of the full moon. It's been one year since the start of our lockdown for COVID-19. Each of us has many

reasons to feel grateful.... to our doctors and medical workers, for telemedicine, for remote learning, for remote work. We can feel grateful for all the new medical and technological insights that have brought us closer to "the light at the end of the tunnel!"

"HAND RAISING EXERCISE" on Zoom. Thanks to the combination of frequent Zoom updates and our own infrequent use of the hand raising technology, hand raising continues to be easy for some, and frustrating for others. Hang in there!! Most of these routines are NOT self-evident. PRESIDENT BEN showed Zoom slides showing how to find the "raise hand" icon on our Zoom screen.

"HATS OFF TO ROTARY" is the theme for our MARCH 29TH FUNDRAISER. You can pick up your party hat at MATT DOLAN'S Homewood Suites when you pick up your supply of goodies for our fundraiser, or you can



wear your own hat when you join in on March 29th.

FUNDRAISER UPDATE was given by President-Elect CASH ALAEE.

ONLINE AUCTION UPDATE. We have raised \$45,000 toward our goal of

\$60,000. \$5,000 of that is from ticket sales. \$40,000 is from donations.

YOU CAN FIND ONLINE ACTION ITEMS AT: www.32auctions.com/HatsOff2021

Check it out!



TRISH BUBENIK donated \$600 to the Fundraiser. This is a little more than her costs of a year's worth of lunches not bought at our in-person meetings. Thank you, TRISH.

"WHY I DONATE TO ROTARY" VIDEO Featured: GINNY LEAR, ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, DANA TOM, OANA MARCU, REBECCA GERALDI, AND MATT DOLAN. THANK YOU ALL!

PRESIDENT'S CLUB: SALLY TOMLINSON joined in honor of OANA MARCU and her culinary artistry in baking delicious pies.



DENNIS MCGINN joined in honor of his joy upon seeing ALL his grandchildren in person recently.

"RESOURCE AREA FOR TEACHING" Hands-On project led by REBECCA GERALDI attracted 25 Blue Badge members, and 6 Red Badge members. Thanks to all.



PASSING OF WES GARDINER FEBRUARY 21, 2021. WES GARDINER was a long time member of our club and a true gentleman. Born and raised in New England, he loved wearing his "Cape Cod orange" pants, the same color of pants worn by fisherman fishing in the waters off Cape Cod. For more information about Wes' passing, see email from PRESIDENT BEN on Monday, March 15th, in our Club email.



PRESIDENT'S CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS ARE YOUR CHANCE TO DONATE TO PALO ALTO ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL CHARITIES, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Our local charities need as much as we can afford to give. Besides, giving to the President's Club, it is your chance to brag about yourself, or your

kids/grandkids, or to make a non-Rotary related announcement. Minimum donation during COVID era is \$25.00. Customary is \$100.

President BEN thanked the VOLUNTEERS for today's meeting: Guest Introductions, CASH ALAEE; Pinion writer, ROB LANCEFIELD; Pinion editor: LYLE CONNELL; Zoom Co-Host: DANA TOM.

Speaker next Monday, March 22nd, will be Arlene Blum, Mountaineer and Founder of Green Science Policy Institute, speaking on "Breaking Trail: Mountains and Molecules."

TODAYS SPEAKER: DIANA DIAMOND introduced JUDGE STEVEN MANLEY, Supervising Judge of the Santa Clara County Mental Health Treatment Court. He led the way to the establishment of our County Mental Health Treatment Court. It's the first Mental Health Treatment Court anywhere in the United States, and the "gold standard" of similar courts anywhere. 40% of the homeless are mentally ill. Jailing them makes their illness worse. Court hearings with mental health professionals, and wise and knowledgeable judges, increases the chances the defendant will actually get the counseling help he or she needs, instead of the usual revolving door experience that wastes lives and money. Great patience is required of the judge and court personnel to help the homeless make what seem like even the simplest decisions to change a life's patterns. But often the defendant does change his decisions toward more healthy outcomes.



At the conclusion his talk, Judge Manley was asked if he would furnish a link to his slides, which were excellent, informative and impossible to summarize meaningfully in this limited report. Judge Manley agreed. Details will be available to members when slides are received.

ADJOURNMENT: AT 1:38 PM, PRESIDENT BEN RANG OUR BELL.