

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 22, 2021

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President BEN THRELKELD called the virtual meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the meeting. BEN then reminding everyone about the Hats-off-to-Rotary fundraiser that takes place next week, March 29, 2021, at 5:30 pm. He encouraged everyone to attend and contribute to help raise funds for the group's charitable work during the upcoming year.

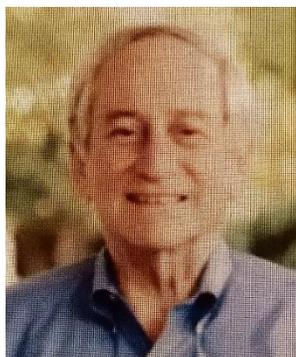
There were no VISITING ROTARIANS or guests.



KLAUS HEINEMANN shared the Thought of the Day, focusing on Kitty O'Meara's poem, "And the People Stayed Home," which was inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic. KLAUS quoted an excerpt: "And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And

listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. KLAUS encouraged ROTARIANS to be inspired by the poem, to view this crisis as an opportunity to choose to live with more love and compassion for the earth and one another. If we do, he said, the earth will provide for us all.

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION:** ROTARIANS were delighted to



welcome its newest ROTARIAN, LARRY KLEIN. LARRY was sponsored by BETSY BECHTEL, whom he has known for over 50 years. LARRY spoke about his long career in law and business, and his longer career in community service. Larry was first introduced to the idea of community involvement at the age of 8 or 9, by the mayor of his

small town. Because of his long history of community service, LARRY appreciates the good service that Rotary provides. He is delighted to become a member and looks forward to meeting the members he doesn't yet know.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

**AUCTION PREVIEW** In preparation for the upcoming virtual auction, STEVE PLAYER and DANA



TOM led members in a



demonstration of how to raise their virtual hands in Zoom. ROTARIANS practiced the action several times to ensure everyone would be able to participate in the auction. As a reward, ROTARIANS were able to bid on cupcakes baked by Winter Pickett, founder of the charitable group, "Baking for Justice." Seven lucky bidders of \$50 each won the cupcakes, and everyone learned how to bid on Zoom.

**REMINDER REGARDING HATS-OFF-TO-ROTARY FUNDRAISER:** CASH ALAEE



encouraged everyone to attend the fundraiser, noting that it was not too late to purchase a ticket and pick up a party bag and wine (or alternative beverage) from The Homewood Suites. Everyone is encouraged to bid on a range of wonderful auction items. ROTARY seeks 100% participation, given the importance

of the auction, raising funds for grants and scholarships offered every year. The online auction closes on Sunday, March 28th at 9pm. Please register for the auction in advance at [www.32auctions.com/hatsoff2021](http://www.32auctions.com/hatsoff2021). Newcomers to the site will first need to register at [www.32auctions.com/users/new](http://www.32auctions.com/users/new).

**PRESIDENT'S CLUB:** TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's



Club in honor of REBECCA GERALDI, for her can-do spirit, hard work and creative talents planning for the fundraiser. She created a review of the past year's accomplishments, created sensational graphics (integrating some with music) and prepared the party bags and wine for pick up at The Homewood Suites. Hats Off to REBECCA!



LELAND (LE) LEVY joined TRISH in joining the President's Club in honor of REBECCA and the other ROTARIANS who have worked so hard on the fundraiser.

LEANNAH HUNT joined the President's club in honor of HOWARD "SKIP" HOYT, a dear friend and dedicated ROTARIAN for over 70 years



who never missed a meeting, and visited local chapters when travelling. SKIP is

missed and will continue to be missed. <https://www.paloaltoonline.com/obituaries/memorials/howard-hoyt?o=6686>

**NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:** At our next meeting, on April 5, 2021, Clayborne Carson, Stanford History Professor and Founding Director of the MLK, Jr, Institute, will speak on the topic, "Where Do We Go from Here? King's Unanswered Question."

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** STANS KLEIJNEN introduced the speaker, Arlene Blum, PhD. Dr. Blum is a biophysical chemist, author, and mountaineer, Executive Director of the Green Science Policy Institute and a Research Associate in Chemistry at UC Berkeley. She had an inspiring career as a mountaineer, in which she literally reached new heights, including leading the first all-women's ascent of Annapurna in 1978. After her climbing career, Dr. Blum has been dedicated to preventing the use of harmful toxins in popular consumer items. For her amazing career, Dr. Blum has received numerous honors and awards, culminating in the California Hall of Fame in 2018, and UK Guardian's list of top 100 women adventurers. Dr. Blum is the author of Breaking Trail, A Climbing Life, and Annapurna, A Woman's Place.



Dr. Blum is a truly exceptional individual. ROTARIANS were quickly awed by amazing and harrowing photos of her mountaineering adventures. ROTARIANS also soon learned that each of us owes Dr. Blum a debt of gratitude for her career accomplishments in environmental safety. Her research and policy work have contributed to preventing the use of harmful chemicals in children's sleepwear, furniture, electronics, and other products world-wide.



Through the Green Science Policy Institute, Dr. Blum brings decision makers in research and communication together to bring about change. Her strategy was to focus on six groups of chemicals, which was more manageable than focusing on thousands of individual chemicals. One focus was on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). These chemicals are extremely pervasive in the environment, and persist in human bodies and in the environment for decades. They are found in products like nonstick pans (e.g. "Teflon"); food packaging; waterproof jackets; in carpets to repel water, grease, and stains; in firefighting foam often used on military bases and at commercial airports; and in personal care products like waterproof mascaras and eyeliners, sunscreen, shampoo, and shaving cream. Dr. Blum created short 4 minute videos to help communicate the dangers of the various groups of chemicals. ([www.sixclasses.org](http://www.sixclasses.org)) In her framework for analysis of harmful chemicals, she asks: Is it necessary? Is it worth it? Is there a safer alternative?

As a result of her communication, education and advocacy efforts, Dr. Blum has experienced many victories. Home Depot phased out PFAS out from carpets and rugs in January 1, 2020. Keen shoes banned PFAS in 2004, and other industries are now moving away from PFAS as a result. Dr. Blum was instrumental in causing the removal of Brominated Tris Flame Retardant, a mutagen and possible carcinogen, from children's sleepwear. TRIS-treated children's garments were banned in April, 1977, and from furniture in 2012.

ROTARIANS thanked Dr. Blum for her accomplishments in environmental safety.

Thanks to Pinion Editor LYLE CONNELL and writer KIM BOMAR, and to Zoom co-host Dana Tom.