

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 3, 2021

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

After having breakout rooms for pre-meeting chats, President BEN opened the meeting promptly at 12:30 PM. He started with a reminder for everyone to consider making contributions to our club's endowment. Every year we draw 5% from that fund to provide about \$50K toward the charities we support. Donations are needed to replenish the fund and keep it growing. Our website has the facilities for making donations online.

President nominee KAREN ROHDE searched for visitors but found none to introduce today.

The Thought-for-the-Day volunteer CHRISTINA CHU spoke to us of the ripple effect of kindness and quoted the power of Albert Einstein seeking kindness, beauty and truth.

KAREN ROHDE then came back to the virtual podium to remind everyone that our May 17 meeting will feature another one of our quarterly membership drives and the speaker that day will be Lt-General H.R. McMaster. There will be a prize for the member bringing the most visitors.

Before asking Ex Pres. DANA TOM to make an announcement about the Coffee-with-a-Rotarian program, current Pres. BEN described his enjoyable CWAR meeting at Peet's with JULIO NINO. Dana explained how the spreadsheet linked to his message to interested CWAR members can be used to find or offer chat opportunities.

KAREN ROHDE returned again as the liaison to the Girl Scouts to our donation of \$2,000. Darcy described how valuable the program is to the girls – particularly for the skills acquired, and the leadership qualities developed.



Last Friday the April TGIF was held virtually with the enlightening theme Creating a Native Garden Buzzing with Pollinators lead by Dr. Juanita Salisbury. Those attending learned many interesting facts about California's bees and their relation to native plants. We also found out where the pollinator gardens are located in Palo Alto. To learn more, you will find a link in this week's email meeting notice. The next TGIF will be held on May 28 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM featuring a Palo Alto Trivia competition. Those attending will be broken out into teams of 4-6 in break-out rooms. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. To enhance your opportunities for securing this prize, study obscure facts related to the city of Palo Alto. President BEN is actively seeking trivia questions, so by submitting

suggestions to him you can derive a hidden competitive advantage without deviating too drastically from the Four Way Test.

The 2021 Rotary International Convention will take place virtually from June 12th to 16th. Registration is now open <https://convention.rotary.org/en>.

DANA TOM introduced our speaker. He was Marshall Burke Associate Professor in the department of Earth System Science, Deputy Director at the Center on Food Security and the Environment at Stanford University and Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His topic was Climate Change's Fallout: Economics, Security and Food. He started his talk by acknowledging his



debt to a Rotary Club in Arkansas who had provided him with a substantial undergraduate

scholarship that allowed him to enter Stanford. He first made the point that in order to predict future conditions it was necessary to look backward at historical

data. From there the negative and universal effects of climate change on crops, people and peacefulness were illustrated. This lead up to his main point that although the costs of intervention were high, the economic penalties for not getting climate change under control were very considerably greater. Questions were asked by DIANA DIAMOND (Middle East); OANA MARCU (Daylight effects); DANA TOM (Sea Level Adaption); JERRY UNDERDAL (Air conditioning); TOM GRACON (Immigration); ROB LANCEFIELD (Wheat versus corn yields); RALPH ADAMS (Could Rotary help data gathering?)



Thanks were given to today's volunteers – KAREN ROHDE (Guest Introductions); GEOFF ZIMAN and LYLE CONNELL (Pinion Writer and Editor); DANA TOM (Co-host).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

May 10; New member talks from JOOP VERBAKEN, KARAE LISLE and JACKIE WHEELER

May 17: Gen. H. R. McMaster, Hoover Institute Fellow

May 24: Heath Packard, Major Gifts Officer, Island Conservation