

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 24, 2021

Reporter: MIKE McMAHON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## CALL TO ORDER

President BEN THRELKELD called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

## VISITING ROTARIAN

BOB MCDONALD of the West Springfield, Massachusetts Club,

a past District Governor, and the guest of MIKE WICK.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Past President, EJ HONG, on a small act of kindness. EJ recalled a past Rotary Feeding the Homeless activity to which she brought her two young daughters, Natalie then 8 years old, and Nicole then 5. At this long-ago meeting, DENNIS MCGINN was especially kind to the young Nicole, who just graduated from Oberlin this month.



## HANDS ON ACTIVITY, FLAGS ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE, MAY 31

2 Volunteers needed at 8AM at University Ave. and Cowper St. to place flags jointly with

University Rotary, and 2 Volunteers needed at 5PM at University Ave. and High St. to take down the flags. Email President BEN at BenThrelk@gmail.com if you can make it. Bring a mask, and, if possible, wear your Rotary T-shirt.

## PALO ALTO ROTARY CLUB HARRASSMENT-FREE POLICY

This past year Rotary International adopted a Harassment-free policy and encouraged its clubs to do the same. PARC's Board has adopted a Harassment-free Policy and established a Harassment Review Committee. The Policy requires all members to help maintain and promote an environment free of harassment, which is broadly defined as any conduct (verbal or physical) that denigrates, insults or offends a person or group based on race, color, national origin or ancestry, religious creed, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PAM KRUDOP announced the awarding of need-based Vocational Scholarships in the amount of \$25,000 to eleven applicants who intend to study at local community colleges.



## BLUE BADGE

JON COWAN was awarded his Blue Badge upon completing the requirements. His sponsor is BRIAN STEEN. Jon has been active on the Program Committee and the Social Committee and obtained two new sponsors for our annual fund raiser and auction.



## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

EJ HONG joined in honor of her younger daughter, Nicole, graduating from college. She was also fined for advertising at a Rotary meeting!

Past President ART STAUFFER joined twice. First in honor of President BEN's successful year of leadership in the face of the most difficult, COVID limitations. ART also joined in honor of the many hard-working Rotarians contributing to the successful year, Past Presidents DANA TOM and GINNY LEAR, future Presidents CASH ALAEE and KAREN ROHDE, BRUCE GEE, BRUCE SWENSON, SALLY TOMLINSON, REBECCA GERALDI, PATTY MCGUIGAN, STEVE PLAYER, BILL JOHNSON, TIM WATSON, LYLE CONNELL for editing this periodical for over 15 years and HAL MICKELSON.



TRISH BUBENIK joined in honor of the late Rotarian, CHALMERS SMITH.

## PROGRAM

President BEN introduced Heath Packard of Island Conservation speaking on stories of hope and innovation in their activities. He first described the devastating impact of invasive species on islands, and how removing these plants and animals, such as rats and feral goats, can be a key step to



preventing species loss and restoring the islands native ecology. Islands comprise about 5% of the worlds land area but include 41% of endangered species. He showed dramatic examples of renovation after the removal of invasive species on Palmyra Atoll in the Hawaiian Islands. In the Galapagos Islands, the removal of rats has allowed the return of the pelagic seabirds and the power of guano as a fertilizer, allowing the nutrients to nourish the land. They have used helicopters for aerial broadcast of the rodenticide but are now starting to use

drones, which are cheaper and more effective in targeting the rodents. In their 5 year Project Pipeline is an effort on the Tetiaroa Atoll in French Polynesia. He also pointed out that Anacapa, one of California's Channel Islands is a good example of an island that has been rodent-free for over 20 years.

## VOLUNTEERS

Pinion writer: Mike McMahon• Pinion editor: Lyle Connell

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

May 28 TGIF 5:30-7:00, "So You think You Know Something about Palo Alto" Trivia Night

May 31 Dark, Memorial Day - Flags on University Ave.

June 7 Eugene Whitlock, Asst. Vice Chancellor-Human Resources/Chief People & Culture Officer at UC Berkeley, How to Talk about Race

June 14 Renee DiResta, Research Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory of the Freeman Spogli Institute, The Long Fuse Disinformation and Democracy in the 2020 Election

June 21 Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology, University of British Columbia, Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

June 28 Debunking of President BEN