

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 7, 2021

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BEN THRELKELD rang a bell at 12:30 to call the meeting to order, advising us of a crowded agenda and his desire to finish the club business for the year. BEN noted that visiting another Rotary Club or bringing a guest fulfilled an optimal blue badge requirement. President Elect CASH ALAAE introduced members with Guests.

BEN noted that presenting our thoughts for the day for two or three minutes about something inspirational, ROTARY related or book that made you a better Rotarian, also fulfills a blue badge requirement. TOM DUBOIS, one of our newest members and the Mayor of Palo Alto, entertained us with a list of humorous things never to do.



Ben reported that we have 9 new members, and 18 guests attended the May 17 spring membership campaign meeting, including five potential members. LE LEVY won a prize for having two guests attending. Honorable mentions go to JOHN O'KEEFE, DANA TOM, and CHARLIE WEIDANZ with one each. HAL MICKELSON received a special award for inviting 13 non-interested-in-joining Rotary guests over three membership campaigns this year and three potential membership guests. Ben will present tangible awards to LE and HAL, A bottle of California's finest wines. BEN added that we also have a couple of new members in the application process.

BETSY BECHTEL, JACKIE WHEELER, TOM DUBIOS, JIM SUTHERLAND, BEN THRELKELD and



BEN's daughter Anne placed American flags on University Ave on Memorial Day, in the continuing joint effort with the University Club. July 4th is next.

Our Liaison to the Boy Scouts, GEOFF ZIMAN, introduced veteran Scoutmaster Gary Anwyl. Mr. Anwyl mentioned that COVID had hindered normal Scouting activities. However, the Scouts recently participated in two outdoor events, a sign that things are slowly returning to normal. Scoutmaster

Anwyl also mentioned that Congresswoman Anna Eshoo offered to meet with participants in two Eagle Scout projects. Palo Alto Rotary is Troop 5's Charter sponsor, since 1961.



BEN reminded the Club that Literacy is one of the Seven Areas of Focus of Rotary International. Guests, Judy Koch, Lois Bridges, and Jo RoyC, from the Books Plus and Bring Me A Book programs discussed how our Club's donation supported the purchase of reading books and book cubbies for students in East Palo Alto.

The Rotary International Convention is held annually at different cities in the world. It features inspiring speakers and Rotarians' current good works. This year's convention would have taken place in Taipei, Taiwan but now is virtual thanks to COVID. The registration fee is \$65. Register at [HTTPS:// convention.rotary .org/en](https://convention.rotary.org/en)

PP DANA TOM introduced our program speaker Eugene Whitlock, Assistant Vice Chancellor Human Resources, Chief People and Culture Officer at UC Berkeley: How



to Talk About Our Race History. Mr. Whitlock pointed



out that most Americans are poorly informed about our race history, for example the first Civil Rights Act was passed in 1866 but did not ban discrimination but in the 1964 March on Washington led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which did not ban discrimination and federal regulation had banned various Asian groups for decades until World War 2. He discussed how not being a racist differed from being anti racist. He used a drawing of two nearby houses, one of which was ablaze and untended, and the other which was unscathed, except for a water hose playing on the safe house. Two photos of bears, one at a distance and calm, the other in hot pursuit, made a similar point. Q&A and many thanks to Mr. Whitlock.

Thanks to the volunteers for this meeting, Guest introductions; CASH ALAAE; Pinion Writer DON MORGAN; Pinion Editor LYLE CONNELL; Zoom Co-Host DANA TOM

*Next Week: Renee DiResta, Research Manager Stanford Internet Observatory, Freeman Spogli Institute, The Long Fuse: Disinformation and Democracy in the 2020 election*