



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 12, 2021

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Before the formal Zoom meeting started there was a brief session with breakout rooms. The new presidential year started in the ALAEE way with CASH ringing the opening bell.

As is our custom now, on selected dates, we had Ex-Pres. BEN THRELKELD lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



President KAREN ROHDE then welcomed our sole Rotary Visitor Robert McDonald from Springfield MA.



Thought-For-The Day was provided by former PA Mayor LARRY KLEIN who reminded us that The Environment was a new area of focus of the Rotary Organization. He recommended the book Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert and exhorted us to make a concerted effort to persuade 36% of the population who are unconvinced that global warming presents a very real and dire threat.



Several President's Club contributions were made. BRUCE GEE welcomed CASH ALAEE as president and commented on the significant member turnout for the memorial for the Late Bill Busse as well for the appropriate remarks made on that occasion by BEN THRELKELD. DANA TOM wanted to join the shoutout to the Rotary presence in the tribute to Bill. GEOFF ZIMAN's daughter Shoshana Shur, who often visits our club virtually from New York, wanted to acknowledge the birthday of her father. TRISH BUBENIK's contribution was to honor CASH's first meeting as president. STEVE EMSLIE also wanted to honor CASH. CASH ALAEE wanted to thank the members who inscribed comments decorating the Rotary T-Shirt given to him at his predecessor's debunking.



Thanks were rendered to the following members who had prepared the creative debunking material and brought a smile to our faces on that occasion: TRISH BUBENIK, JON COWAN, HERSH DAVIS, TOM DUBOIS, STEVE EMSLIE, BRUCE GEE, REBECCA

GERALDI, E.J. HONG, GINNY LEAR, LE LEVY, ROB LYMAN, HAL MICKELSON, KAREN ROHDE, ELIZABETH SANTANA, DAVE SMULLIN and DANA TOM.

Help Wanted: One volunteer to write the Pinion every 8 weeks; Two volunteers to set up the meeting room each week; One volunteer to be the Opening Remarks Chair. These are opportunities to get involved and really help the club. Talk to President CASH if you are interested.

Members were reminded that the annual dues payment deadline is August 1. There will be a virtual social event on Wednesday (14th) from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

SALLY TOMLINSON advised us of the following upcoming programs:

- July 19 - Sandy Rosenthal talking about Katrina flooding
- July 26 – Club Assembly by President and Committee Chairs
- August 2 – Our KAREN KIENZEL talking about art and museums
- August 16 – Cristina Cismas Florea from Gunn High School talking about graduates transitioning into the real world.

Volunteers on duty today were GEOFF ZIMAN and LYLE CONNELL (Pinion Writer and Editor); BEN THRELKELD and DANA TOM (Zoom Co-Hosts).

Our speaker and Palo Alto resident Barbara Coll was introduced (virtually from Europe!) by STANS KLEIJNEN. Barbara is in her second "encore" career now as a citizen scientist, bird watcher and photographer after a distinguished profession in digital and search engine marketing.



We were given insight into where we might observe birds both locally and in the wider Bay Area as well as details of how we could identify the various bird species. The speaker emphasized the importance of water to bird life and the concerns on bird migrations due to the drought conditions. We also learned of the important role of citizen scientist observers in tracking bird flocks and numbers.



At question time ANNETTE GLANCKOPF commented about observation boats being diesel powered; HENRIETTA BURROUGHS asked about pruning bottle brush trees; BETSY BECHTEL commented about marsh restoration providing flood protection; BEN THRELKELD asked about tracking; Robert McDonald asked about bears and racoons preying on birds; SALLY TOMLINSON asked about hearing bird song; KLAUS HEINEMANN wanted to know how numbers in large bird flocks were counted.

A copy of the interesting slides from this presentation can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AbpLijmkTHCZKu9IP1rSPAem8IASw2A9/view?usp=sharing>