



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 19, 2021

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

At 12:30, **PRESIDENT CASH ALAEE** opened his inaugural meeting by ringing our Rotary club bell, and calling the meeting to order.

PRESIDENT CASH thanked all of the Rotarians who volunteered time and demonstrated their commitment to Service Above Self in the past week. We had a productive week, especially the **HANDS ON/SLEEVES UP** Committee and our **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** that approved our annual budget. **PRESIDENT CASH** thanked **BEN THRELKELD** for hosting our virtual Happy Hour last week.

PRESIDENT CASH and the **BOARD** are **PLANNING/HOPING** to **RESTART OUR IN-PERSON MEETINGS AT THE ELKS CLUB ON AUGUST 9TH**. The **COVID-19** situation is very fluid. We will follow **State/County/City/Facility** orders.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS. President-Elect **KAREN ROHDE** noted there were no visiting Rotarians. **DUANE KALAR** introduced his son-in-law, **Jeff Frick**. **PRESIDENT CASH** introduced his guest and friend **GEOFF BALL**.

Seven of our members joined the **PRESIDENT'S CLUB**: (1) Immediate Past President **BEN THRELKELD**, a UC grad, in recognition of UC grad **Collin Morikawa** winning the



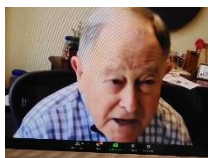
149th British Open; (2) **GINNY LEAR** in honor of her 56th wedding anniversary with King; (3) **GLORIA HOM** to thank our members who recently were on **GLORIA'S** tour of



Chinatown in San Francisco, AND to share her joy at moving to **Channing House**, where she is finding many new friends; (4) **HAL MICKELSON**, a Stanford grad, also in recognition of **Collin Morikawa's** championship; (5) **JUDY KLEINBERG** in honor of **GLORIA'S** tour of



Chinatown; (6) **LE LEVY**, also a UC grad, in honor of **Collin Morikawa's** victory; and (7) **LEANNAH HUNT**, in honor of **Collin's** victory.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Before giving the Zoom podium to **DUANE KALAR**, **PRESIDENT CASH** announced a subtle change in the scope of the Thought for the Day. Every speaker will have the option to speak about a historical aspect of our club.

DUANE KALAR then gave his thought for the day. Duane moved to Palo Alto in the 1960's. He joined our club 1971 to continue the ideas of the Four Way Test he learned from his mother. In 1971, ALL Rotarians were Caucasian and males, in accordance with the cultural norms of the era. Many of us still living were a part of that culture. We saw it as "normal." We were a progressive part of the community leadership in Palo Alto.

DUANE said he is glad for our changing societal norms, especially as our club celebrates its Centennial Year in 2021-2022.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF. **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**, Chair of our Service Above Self Committee, announced we have 3 opportunities to help with our club's **SERVICE ABOVE SELF** projects to help the people who live in our area:



(1) August 23, Elks Lodge, "Grateful Garment Backpack Project." Need 8-10 volunteers at 11:00 AM to set up Elks meeting room to prepare to assemble in making back to school backpacks. This will be the Club Program on August 23rd.

(2) Project WeHOPE to serve meals for homeless at 6:30 PM on September 7th (first Tuesday of every month). Details to come.

(3) WEEK of September 11-18, join members of YCS, City of Palo Alto and other Palo Alto groups in a National Day of Service

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED:

PINION WRITER 1 writer to join 8-week rotation.

MEETING SET-UP: 2 volunteers to help set up meeting room at Elks, and to operate microphones.

Opening Remarks chair: now filled by **TRISH BUBENIK**.

COMING HAPPY HOUR EVENTS:

August 11th, **BEN THRELKELD** via Zoom

September 8th, **SPENCER HSU**, TBD

October 13th, RYAN ELLIOTT, TBD

FELLOWSHIP- TGIF EVENTS:

July 30- MATT DOLAN at Homewood Suites

August 27- At IRIS AND HAL KOROL's home

September 24- At PAT AND STEVE EMSLIE'S home

ANNUAL DUES are due by August 1st.

CASH thanked the **VOLUNTEERS FOR TODAY'S MEETNG:**
Guest Introductions, **KAREN ROHDE**; Pinion writer, **ROB LANCEFIELD**; Pinion editor: **LYLE CONNELL**; Zoom CoHost: **BEN THRELKELD**

JIM SUTHERLAND introduced our speaker, **Sandy Rosenthal**, founder of **Levees.org**.

After Hurricane Katrina and the levee breaches in New Orleans, Sandy Rosenthal became a citizen investigator and founder of the non profit **Levees.org** with 25,000 supporters nationwide. Her new book—**Words Whispered in Water**—is about how she led an investigative team that exposed the culprit in the levee breach disaster—the **Army Corps of Engineers**—and how the agency spent millions covering up its mistakes. Sandy Rosenthal is an advocate for the 62% of the American population living by levees.



According to Sandy, to save money, the Corps, an elite branch of the US Army, allowed the levees to be built with steel levee walls that did NOT go deep enough to reach "bedrock." When the Hurricane Katrina floods overtopped the levees, they folded and collapsed.

In other words, the collapsing of the levee walls was easily foreseeable. The Corps tried to blame everyone else, taking no responsibility for its own failures. In stark contrast, the levees built in the 1920's and 1930's [in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas] by the Corps of Engineers have withstood comparable flooding and levy pressures. Even though "Lives were at stake."

PRESIDENT CASH thanked **Sandy Rosenthal** for a well-done presentation.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WILL BE OUR ANNUAL CLUB ASSEMBLY (BUSINESS MEETING).

ADJOURNMENT: AT 1:36 PM, **PRESIDENT CASH** rang our bell and adjourned the meeting.