

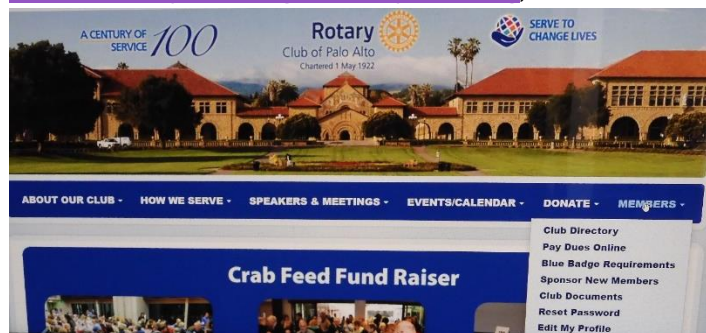
Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August, 2 2021

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Two take-aways from today's meeting!: Visit the club website and look at the Club History section to learn about our past 100 years. <https://www.rotarypaloalto.org/www.rotarypaloalto.org>; Visit a museum



(maybe the Palo Alto Art Center) – they are some of the safest places you can go because they have great HVAC systems!

President KHASHAYAR “CASH” ALAEE called the virtual meeting to order at 12:30.

President Elect KAREN ROHDE introduced VISITING ROTARIANS Kenneth Sanchez, and David Fraser a former member of our club and current member of the Mad River club in Humboldt County. CASH introduced his guest, Geoff Ball, who has visited several times and has a membership application in process.

STEVE PLAYER brought us our Thought for the Day, reminiscing on his time in our Rotary Club – 46 years! Along with DUANE KALAR, he has been present for almost half of the club's 100 years. STEVE'S sponsor was SAM WEBSTER, and his father-in-law was BILL MILLER. STEVE got to know Rotary in high school in San Mateo, and joined when he started practicing law in Palo Alto. At meetings, personal events and accomplishments were marked not with the President's club, but through fines levied by the fine-master. He has fond memories of preparing Thanksgiving dinner for students at the International House at Stanford, and riding the bus to Cal for Big Game exchanges with the Berkeley club. He is proud to have been part of the club when women were first accepted into membership.

The club website has lots of information about our club's history – take a look.

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club in honor of STEVE's wonderful presentation which has launched her year as Opening Remarks Chair

CASH acknowledged the work of members who have participated in committee meetings during the week. He thanked MATT DOLAN and Homewood Suites for hosting the TGIF last Friday. First time in person since BC (before Covid)!

Upcoming Social Events: Wednesday Happy Hour, August 11, 5:30-6:30 via Zoom, hosted by BEN THRELKELD; and TGIF, August 27 5:30-7:00, at the home of IRIS and Hal KOROL.

Upcoming Service Projects: Monday, August 23 during the club meeting at the Elks Club we will fill backpacks for the Grateful Garment Project. Contact CHARLIE WEIDANZ to volunteer to help set up that morning.

Upcoming Meeting Plans (to be confirmed in the next few days): Hybrid meetings start August 9. Attend in person at the Elks Lodge upstairs, or

attend via Zoom. Buffet-style lunch is \$25, coffee/tea \$5. Attend in person on the honor system – please come only if vaccinated or with a negative covid test within 72 hours. A poll taken during today's meeting (44 in attendance at the moment) showed that 46% (20) plan to attend in person on August 9, 27% (12) will not, 27% (12) are not sure yet

Help Needed: One person is needed to do the Pinion once every 8 weeks – that is only once every two months, folks! And one person is needed to help with room set up at the in-person meetings.

Dues are past due! Do your duty and pay your dues. Otherwise, we will send the Sergeant at Arms to your door!

After a quick perusal of the History section of our website, CASH thanked today's helpers: Pinion Editor LYLE CONNELL, Zoom co-host DANA TOM, Presenter of Visitors KAREN ROHDE, and Pinion Writer, yours truly.

PROGRAM: “From Virtual to Visiting—Trends in Museums through a Palo Alto Lens,” by KAREN KIENZLE, Director of the Palo Alto Art Center and Lecturer in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University.



KAREN tantalized us with images of all the things she was not going to talk about – kids gathered at the Art Center immersed in art projects, adults doing art projects in the Art Center studio, visitors surrounding intriguing art in the gallery – all the things that did not happen this past year. But the Pumpkin patch will be back Oct 2-3!

The brutal Covid reality for museums: most lost 20-40% of their income; some diversified the use of their resources to meet community needs such as for food; 70% are concerned they may not be able to survive.

The Covid opportunity for museums: those with permanent collections sought to collect images and art works from this unique period; many added formats for virtual exhibitions, outdoor classes and outdoor exhibits that may continue.

Equity issues for museums: many seek to “decolonize,” which is the process of expanding the culture that they portray; some are deaccessioning (selling) art of white males to gain funds to purchase art from a more diverse body of artists; some are viewing themselves as custodians rather than owners of their collections; the former Museum of Man is now the Museum of Us.

Ethical issues for museums: some are looking at their funders and refusing support from those whose policies they abhor; many people are working to end unpaid internships.

A continuing trend in museums: immersion and engagement is coming back – people want to engage with art, as in the immersive work by Meow Wolf in Santa Fe.

In response to questions from members, KAREN noted that people debate the definition of a museum. She believes a museum should be a non-profit and should engage in education. Likewise, many debate what is art – for many people it is not separate from fashion and popular culture, and digital art is appearing in more collections.

First responders save lives, second responders rebuild lives. Artists are second responders. KAREN urges you to visit a museum! The Palo Alto Art Center's current exhibit, The Black Index, runs through August 14

