

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Aug 9, 2021

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President KHASHAYER "CASH" ALAEE belled the meeting to order, courtesy of ZOOM. He explained how the meeting would be conducted, and muted the audience. He welcomed visiting Rotarian Kenneth Sanchez, member DAVE SMULLIN with his daughter Kate, and CASH's guest Geoff Ball.

**LE LEVY Thought for the Day.** LE joined our club in 1985 motivated



by a desire to improve the community. His sponsor was A Polish national who had aided the Allies by obtaining a German coding machine. At his first meeting the subject was Polio Plus, a pleasant surprise that Rotary had a worldwide focus. In later years his fellow Rotarian WALT HAYS led the Club's international activities, enabling LE to visit a host of countries that the club

assisted. He recalled that the president of Foothills had joined our club despite the absence of women members (as then mandated by Rotary) because his predecessors at Foothills had all joined. Then the Ojai club admitted women and sued Rotary for expelling the club. Our club admitted GLORIA HOM and BETSY BECHTLE while that suit was pending. LE fondly remembered club member Albert Wilson, the first Stanford grad to have grown up in an orphanage. Today he would be called a landscape architect, he said he was a gardener. LE and his wife wanted to plant a redwood and asked Wilson where to put it. Wilson said plant three trees, seven feet apart. Today those redwoods are over a hundred feet high. With that, LE wished CASH good luck.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KLAUS HEINEMANN** joined The Presidents Club in honor of Albert Wilson, **DAVE SMULLIN** joined in honor of his daughter Kate.



Annual dues were due August 1. Late payments incur charges.

**BEN THRELKELD** will host a happy

hour, Zoom of course, Wednesday August 11 at 5:30pm.

**Club meetings this week:**

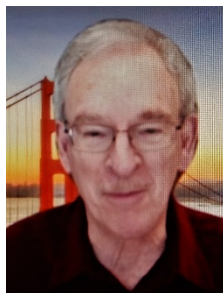
Centennial Celebration Subcommittee August 10, 4pm.

Board of Directors August 11, 8am.

World Community Service Committee August 12, 12pm.

Save the Date: April 30, 2022, We have reserved the entire Lucie Stem Community

Center for our club's 100th Anniversary. COVID-19 & In-Person Activities:



Board of Directors to discuss on 8/11 8am meeting; Meetings at Elks, service projects, and social events.

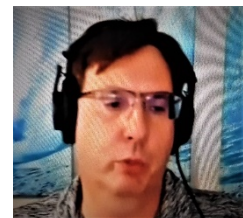
**World Community Service Committee**

Purpose, Provides oversight and champion international humanitarian matters. Meeting Times, Quarterly and as needed, first meeting on August 12 at noon 2021-2022, Distribute \$35,333. 25,000 for small direct grants, \$10,333 part of the District Designated Funds. 8/12 meeting will discuss the \$25,000, 8 applications received for aggregate \$35,645.

CASH thanked Cristina Florea for her presentation, DON MORGAN for drafting the Pinion, LYLE CONNELL for editing the Pinion, BEN THRELKELD and DANA TOM for Zoom duty,

**RE- IMAGINING EDUCATION**

**TOM DUBOIS** introduced our principal speaker Christina Florea, a former math teacher at Gunn High School, co-founder of BEAM (Business, Entrepreneurialism and Math). James Chang-Davidora, a Gunn grad and Northeastern University student, assisted in the presentation. Explaining why BEAM was created, Ms. Florea said that our educational system is stable and



predictable in providing a knowledge base — but leaves little room for student creativity, risk-taking and imagination. High percentages of high schoolers do not feel prepared for future careers, and college grads feel dissatisfied with their jobs.

Many companies spend three to five years of on-the-job-training. BEAM aims to change all that. Internships play key roles, as do working in groups on real-world problems in need of solutions. Sharing best practices, mentoring and networking also help. The overall goal is to help students prepare for 21st Century life. The BEAM program has spread in California, Mexico, Germany, The Netherlands, and Sweden.

Q&A was complementary.

A suggestion that a gap year between high school and college could serve BEAM's purposes met conditional favor, depending on why the gap. The program does not presume everyone will attend a four year college. It is open to traditional liberal education. It has encountered reluctance of high schools to move into uncharted waters.

CASH thanked Ms. Florea, and rang the bell of adjournment.

Next Week: Russell Jeung, Asian American Studies Professor at San Francisco State University and co-founder of STOP AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) HATE and a member of many other public spirited organizations.

