

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Aug 16, 2021

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Still early in his term and still fired up about doing his job, our president, CASH ALAEE, called us to order on Monday, August 16, then expressed thanks to BEN THRELKELD for convening a virtual TGIF on August 11 and to IRIS AND HAL KOROL for planning a social event at their home, 5:30 to 7:00 pm on Friday, August 27....

Visitors were recognized by president-elect KAREN ROHDE: YASSINE LAGHZIOUI, a Sloan Fellow at Stanford's Graduate School of Business; THOMAS ZIEBARTH, a Software Engineer at Tesla, his third visit; KENNETH SANCHEZ, a medical doctor already approved as a new member, transferring from New Jersey. An enthusiastic visiting Rotarian was financial planner JONATHAN NICOLAS from the Peninsula Starlight Club.

A Centennial Reminiscence was provided by GEOFF ZIMAN. Born in New Zealand, raised in England, educated at Oxford, Geoff joined Palo Alto Rotary in 1983. He founded and ran an instrument import and distribution business until his retirement in 2008. Geoff remembered that the Chancellor of Foothill-De Anza, THOMAS FRYER, said that our club was a "classy" organization that ought to bring in women members "in a classy way." The vote to admit women was close, and although "one misogynist resigned," the change went smoothly and was, as we say, Beneficial to All Concerned.

CASH brought us up to date on decisions by our Board of Directors: Reluctantly, the board has determined to postpone returning to in-person lunches at the Elks' Club until the county lifts mask requirements for indoor gatherings. Logistics for service and social events will be worked out on a case-by-case basis; some events may be open to anyone who has been vaccinated or was tested as COVID-free within the prior 72 hours....

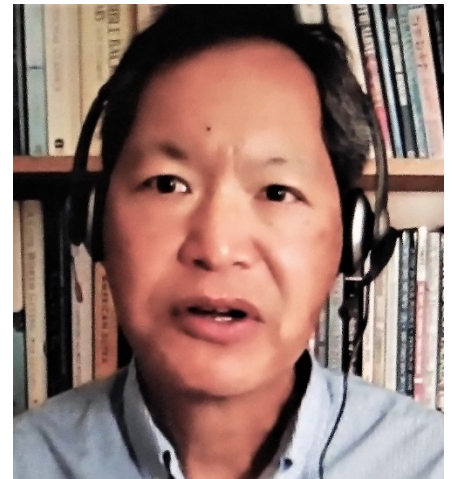
On August 23, vaccinated and tested members will meet in person at Homewood Suites from 12:00 to 1:30 pm to assemble backpacks for the Grateful Garment Project. There will be no meeting via Zoom that day....

CASH recognized a distinguished Rotarian from an earlier era, HENRY GUNN, our president in 1953-54 and PAUSD Superintendent from 1950 to 1961....

SALLY TOMLINSON reviewed the programs set for upcoming meetings: August 23, hands-on service activity at Homewood Suites; August 30, Karla Dailey, from the City of Palo Alto, on Water Supply Planning; September 6, dark: September 13, Michael Gimbel from the FBI, regarding responses to the mass shooting in 2019 at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.



Our speaker, DR. RUSSELL JEUNG, is a Professor of Asian-American Studies at San Francisco State. He received his undergraduate degrees at Stanford and his PhD in Sociology at UC Berkeley. Among his publications: Family Sacrifices: The Worldviews and Ethics of Chinese Americans (Oxford University Press (2019)).... Dr. Jeung observed that whenever America has dealt with a disease that reportedly came from Asia, there have been "harrowing reports" of attacks on people of Asian ancestry. Sadly, the pattern has repeated with COVID-19. Asian-Americans have been screamed at and spat upon; the term "microaggression" doesn't fit because there is nothing "micro" about most of these incidents. Many of the attacks have caused long-term trauma; 13.7% involve physical assault. Women are attacked twice as often as men.... There has been a 155% increase in depression among Asian-Americans during the pandemic, and Asian-Americans overwhelmingly say that the reason is racism, not COVID.



Among the causes: > The rhetoric that called COVID "the Chinese virus," which stigmatized Asians as likely to be carriers > The long, awful history of the "yellow peril" stereotype, with links to malaria, smallpox and leprosy, resulting in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and forcible removal of Chinese settlements, sometimes with the active participation of public health officials

Dr. Jeung declared that the choice is no longer just "fight or flight"; it's now "fight, flight or flock," and the "flock" alternative may win out. In Santa Clara County, for example, people with Asian backgrounds now comprise 38% of the population. If their neighbors from other ethnic and racial groups join with them in fighting hate, we can, as Dr. Jeung said, "dream of an America where everyone can belong." A recording of the presentation is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NE9HJo8obLB3i0NY4VVh6pEbZKZbKL7x/view?usp=sharing>

