

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 11, 2021

Reporter: HALMICKELSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

The October 11, 2021, meeting of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto was convened via Zoom by president CASH ALAEE. Honored guests were District Governor RICHARD FLANDERS of Pleasanton-North and future District Governor HUNG WEI of Cupertino. Prompted by KAREN ROHDE, DANA TOM introduced his guest YASSINE LAGHZIOUI, a Fellow at Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

BETSY BECHTEL offered Opening Comments about her 34 years of membership. Our third female member, she joined on September 14, 1987, with the classification "Banking - Wealth Management," sponsored by TOM FRYER, Chancellor of Foothill-DeAnza. Has having women as members changed Rotary? "Absolutely," said

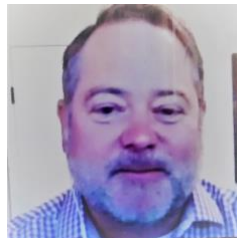
Betsy. Among other things, hanging out at the Rickey's Hyatt bar for pre-meeting cocktails gradually became a less popular custom. Betsy observed that we've learned to do much better with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we can do even more in the future....



TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club to mark Indigenous People's Day, first recognized in Berkeley in 1992, this year proclaimed as a national observance by President Biden.... CASH urged us to mark our calendars for an in-person TGIF on October 29, 5:30 to 7:00 pm, at the home of PAT AND STEVE EMSLIE.

Wearing his hat as this year's Rotary Foundation Chair, BEN THRELKELD stressed the importance of supporting the Foundation and Polio Plus.

BEN invited TIM WATSON, ART STAUFFER, and DAN QUINN to talk about ways the Foundation



collaborates with our club to support international philanthropy TIM was chair of our World Community Service committee before MIKE REYNOLDS

assumed that role. As an example of big dividends from a small Rotary investment, Tim described the Namaste micro-loan project in Guatemala. Seven Rotary clubs put together \$10,000 to get it started; it now has \$45,000 to lend. The first loans averaged about \$350; now, loans in the \$1,000 range are available to 300 women.... ART STAUFFER explained how he came to appreciate the global influence of Rotary at an RI convention in



Copenhagen, with 30,000 members in attendance, representing what Art called "the power to make changes worldwide." Rotary lets clubs pool their resources for humanitarian projects that have sound business plans and good quality controls....

DAN QUINN talked about the "audacious idea" of conquering polio. The drive to end polio is facing some final challenges, but prospects are good for pushing over the finish line.... Ben concluded with a



reminder that "Rotary is definitely a team sport." Our District urges all local Rotarians to be "Double Sustainers," contributing \$200 per year to The Rotary Foundation. Our club also endorses the idea of "Every Rotarian, Every Year," making at least a \$25 donation so we can count you as a participant....

We've all received letters containing a pledge card and a pre-addressed envelope. We can also contribute to The Rotary Foundation through the "Donate" button on our club's website: Simply choose "Annual Fund" or "Polio Fund" from the drop-down menu. After donating online, please send an email to benthrelk@gmail.com to help Ben keep track.

Our speaker, RICHARD FLANDERS, now from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton-North, was president in San Ramon Valley in 2001-2002.



He's an attorney who volunteers with the Alameda County Superior Court as a settlement officer and providing help to self-represented litigants.... Among

Richard's observations: The COVID era has called forth uncommon leaders for an uncommon time....

He's asking for focus on three things: membership; the Rotary Foundation; and establishing a stronger public image

through websites, social media, and advertising.... Richard is challenging Rotarians in our District to provide two full containers of wheelchairs to people with great need for them in Mexico and Serbia. They cost \$150 each, but thanks to matching from the Wheelchair Foundation, a \$75 donation is all that's required to fund one chair. Members spoke up in Chat with pledges to fund at least eleven chairs. For further information about donations, please visit the district website: <https://rotarydistrict5170.org/>.

Upcoming programs: Oct. 18: Fran Ulmer from the Nature Conservancy, regarding Changes in the Arctic; Oct. 25, MIKE REYNOLDS and our WCS Committee; Nov. 1, Cal Mann, a recent Peace Corps Volunteer..