

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 1, 2021

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Following the opening bell, President CASH asked President-Elect KAREN ROHDE introduce our guests. First up was visiting Rotarian Stephanie Staples from Canada, a law graduate from the University of the Pacific who has already been volunteering with us. REBECCA GERALDI's guest was again Thomas Ziebath. DANA TOM had Allegra Acquirre as his guest and GEOFF ZIMAN's daughter Shoshana Shur Zoomed in from New York.

Centennial and other Thoughts for the Day were presented by HAL MICKELSON who reminisced on his 25 years of membership in our club. He talked about the old-time fining processes and found it still in practice which cost him \$10. HAL reminded us how many join us for the networking but remain for the fellowship. If you would like to share your thoughts for the day, something Rotary connected or an interesting aspect of our club's history, TRISH BUBENIK would be delighted to hear from you.

President CASH joined the President's Club in honor of our veterans and the Veterans Day event, being held November 8, 4pm at City Hall, on King Plaza. Details: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Events-Directory/Community-Services/Veterans-Day-Ceremony>

The President then extended many thanks to Pat and STEVE EMSLIE for kindly hosting the successful TGIF event last week. On Wednesday, November 10 there will be a happy hour event between 5:30 and 6:30 PM somewhere (TBD) on California Avenue. Watch for email details. Also note that our Annual Holiday party is scheduled for the evening of December 8 at the PA Art Center. E-Mail MATT DOLAN if you are willing to volunteer to assist at this event.



BEN THRELKELD was asked to report on the success of our October Rotary Foundation drive. Our goal was \$23,000 for the Foundation Endowment and \$2,500 for End Polio Now. At this point we are close at \$20,000 and \$5,000 respectively but the campaign is still open and we have not achieved EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) status.

President CASH emphasized our club's centennial year theme as he reviewed goals for the two main charitable fund drives coming up. Our current Endowment Fund balance is nearly \$1.2 million with the aim to bring it up to \$1.4 million so as to provide more than \$65,000 annually for charitable giving. Thus far, \$100,000 has been pledged as a match incentive so another \$100,000 is being sought. CASH illustrated thinking in terms of a donation from everyone for every year of membership.

This was underscored by DUANE KALAR. very generously offering \$1,000 in matching funds for each of his 50 years of membership. THANK YOU, DUANE!

To kick-off the match, BETSY BECHTEL, President of the Endowment Fund, pledged \$100 for each of her 34 years of membership. BETSY said we will all be receiving donor letters in the mail this week.

Additional major funding being sought would be based on the annual charities auction in April. For this to be successful and produce a hoped-for net total of \$100,000



would require support and participation by as many members as possible in several different ways.

BETSY BECHTEL introduced our speaker Cal Mann, a Rotarian from



the Silicon Valley E-Rotary Club and recent Peace Corps Volunteer. Cal started his talk by describing how he had retired from his industrial consulting career and, at age 60, had become a Peace Corps Volunteer in Macedonia. He outlined how the Peace Corps came into existence under President John F Kennedy and

Monday, November 8: Speaker Ryan Brown, managing Director for Measurement at the Rice University Doerr Institute for New Leaders – “Honor Bound: How a Cultural Ideal Has Shaped the American Psyche”

its role in promoting peace and friendship. The objective is to share American and host cultures.

Volunteers serve for either 6 -12 or 27 months and receive skills training. Volunteers must be at least 18 but there was no upper age limit. It is competitive to be accepted and only 15% of those who apply *are* selected. To date more than 250,000 Americans had served in the Corps but on March 30, 2020, all volunteers had been evacuated due to COVID.

The speaker then described his experiences in Macedonia and how he used his Rotary connections to achieve results. Kerry Carmichael, the Regional Recruiter for the Peace Corps added comments to the presentation and, for anyone interested, more information on the Peace Corps can be found at peacecorps.gov.

BETSY BECHTEL, a former Peace Corps Volunteer, asked for more information on Rotary’s sharing of a memorandum of understanding with the Peace Corps in 2015.

ROB LANCEFIELD asked about the security of volunteers working in violent regions of the world and was assured that safety was a prime consideration.

The volunteers supporting this meeting were: KAREN ROHDE (Guest Introductions), GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinion Writer), LYLE CONNELL (Pinion Editor) with DANA TOM and BEN THRELKELD (Zoom Co-hosts).