

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

December 06, 2021

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Our meeting on December 6, 2021, was called to order via Zoom by our President, CASH ALAEE, full of news about upcoming events. Our annual Holiday Party is set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 8, at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road. Cash tipped his hat to KAREN KWAN, Development Director of the Palo Alto Art Foundation, for helping make arrangements. There will be turkey and sushi; we'll enjoy entertainment from vocalist Masako Yokota and perennial favorite Paul Engel on the piano. Attendees must be fully vaccinated or have been tested as COVID-free. Please wear your mask while indoors, except while eating and enjoying beverages.

December 7 will be busy: The Endowment Board meets at 9:00 a.m. and the Membership Committee at 11:30; the Centennial Committee meets at 4:00 p.m. and the Grants Committee at 4:30.... Our new Climate Action Committee invites you to hear an outstanding talk on the climate crisis, to be presented at Los Altos Rotary via Zoom at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, December 9. The speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Foley, Executive Director of Project Drawdown and former director of the California Academy of Sciences.

Our program on December 13 will offer a virtual holiday concert by the Gunn High School Choir under the direction of Bill Liberatore. The singers from Gunn are always wonderfully entertaining.... Next week's meeting will also count as our annual business meeting, to include the election of board members for both the club and the Endowment Fund and a formal vote to designate our next President-Elect. In this week's Centennial Moment,

STEVE PLAYER quizzed us on major items of Rotary trivia: It turns out that the Rotary Club of Palo Alto has sponsored the creation of four neighboring clubs: Bayshore/ East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and the University club in Palo Alto, although not the club in Mountain View.... Fourteen of our members have been recognized by Avenidas for Lifetimes of Achievement: SID AKSELRAD, BILL



HEWLETT, WARREN THOITS, BILL ALHOUSE, SAM WEBSTER, ARTHUR GLEIM, ROBERT SMITHWICK, WALT HAYS, JUDITH STEINER, BILL BUSSE, DICK MANSFIELD, GLORIA HOM, GINNY LEAR, and STEVE PLAYER.... We grew to 100 members in 1951-52

As chair of our Endowment Fund, BETSY BECHTEL noted that



we have set a stretch objective for our Centennial: We plan to raise \$100,000 for the Endowment to match another \$100,000 donated as a challenge by five of our most generous members. We've contributed more than \$54,000 toward that goal to date.... Please

remember that you can add to the

Endowment painlessly through smart estate planning decisions. The fund has recently received significant legacies from CHALMERS SMITH and BILL BUSSE. Bill's gift of \$25,000 arrived together with a thoughtful note from his family, Jan, Curt, and Matt.

Our speaker, SCOTT MCGREW, introduced by GINNY LEAR, is a business and technology reporter for NBC Bay Area noted for hosting the weekly program "press:here". His career started in Macon, Georgia where he says he made \$12,000 per year. After stints in Toledo, Ohio



and elsewhere, he arrived in Silicon Valley in 1998.... Noteworthy items about Scott: Conducted the first interview with Steve Wozniak after Apple revealed that Steve Jobs would be stepping aside.... Gets up at 2:15 a.m. and arrives at the station at 4:00.... Prides himself on reading the guest's entire book before asking questions about it.... Says that the Bay Area's biggest stories right now are the region's skyrocketing cost of living, cushioned by the wealth created for those who already own their homes; the growing gulf between "haves" and "have nots"; and the crackdown on big tech companies that we're beginning to see from Washington.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: December 13: Election of board members for the Club, Charities, and Endowment Fund and approval of our next President-Elect. Virtual holiday concert by the Gunn High School Choir.... December 20 nd December 27: Dark. **Happy Holidays!** January 3, 2022: Terri Givens, Political Science Professor, McGill University, Montreal