

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 24, 2022

Reporter: KIM BOMAR

Editor: GINNY LEAR

At 12:33, President CASH ALAEE rang the Rotary bell and called the meeting to order. The meeting was a hybrid, with some Rotarians meeting in person at the Elks Lodge, to help prepare for the return to in-person meetings anticipated for March, and most Rotarians attending by Zoom.

President Elect KAREN ROHDE introduced visiting Rotarians. Stacy Ghazi, visiting Rotarian from Arizona. Stacy is new to the area and hopes to get involved in Palo Alto Rotary.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



Rotary International Conventions: GINNY LEAR, President of Palo Alto Rotary, 2018-19, has attended four conventions over the

years, and shared how valuable they have been to her. She encouraged newer and long-time members to join with President-elect KAREN ROHDE, to attend and be inspired by 25,000 other Rotarians, hopefully safely. She mentioned Houston is not very far, as conventions go, and urged Rotarians to consider attending in person. To learn more about the convention, read the monthly Rotary magazine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who signed up to usher on February 6, for Men on Boats, the upcoming Palo Alto Players production.

•February 27, 2022, Register to meet Jennifer Jones, Rotary International's first woman President-elect, Blackhawk Museum, Danville. Please let CASH know if you plan to attend

•March 13, 2022, 4-6:30 pm., Register for International Women's Day Rotary event, San Jose Summit Center. Celebrate women's achievements in leadership roles. Network with Rotarians.

• April 22- 24, 2022, Rotary District Conference will also be held at the Blackhawk Museum.

SPECIAL DATE

•April 30, 2022, Our Club's Centennial Celebration will be held at Lucie Stern Center, 5:30-7:30 pm. Rotarians should have received an email with a request for auction items for the silent auction. Possible donations include gift certificates from a favorite restaurant, wine, meals, sharing of talents, etc. Please refer to the email explaining what auction revenues support, and share it with others who might donate, and for additional details. The goal is to raise \$100,000 from the Centennial.



A video followed, featuring BETSY BECHTEL, current President of the Endowment Fund, highlighting the importance of annual fundraising.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club in recognition of 20 years of LYLE CONNELL as the

Pinion editor, and to welcome GINNY LEAR in her new role as the leader of the Pinion team. CASH also joined in honor of LYLE and GINNY. CHARLIE WIEDANZ joined the President's Club in honor of all the volunteers who met to assemble winter backpacks for LifeMoves on Monday, and to MATT DOLAN of Homewood Suites for his support that made the activity possible.

PROGRAM-NEW MEMBER TALKS



ROB LYMAN introduced three new ROTARIANS, with a brief anecdote about each.

TOM DUBOIS joined Palo Alto Rotary in February 2021. TOM spoke about six events that shaped who he is. The first was family. TOM enjoys being part of a very large Italian family. He had many relatives, and family gatherings could include over a hundred people (plus excellent food). Another key experience that impacted his life was scouting, specifically the stormy one-week Boy Scout camping trip from hell which taught him about perseverance, making the best of a bad situation, and having a sense of humor. The third experience was in physics, when TOM made a hologram after exhausting all the physics classes at his small high school. His success contributed to his desire to become an electrical engineer. Fourth was his start-up experience while interning in college. He loved the freedom to work with cutting edge technology. His internships set him up for a career he loved, including starting several companies of his own. Next, TOM went to business school in Georgetown, and thereafter had jobs that took him all over the world. This created a desire to



explore new cultures and new ways of doing things. Finally, TOM started and ended with family. He has two children who have grown up in Palo Alto. His son, Ryan, is working on self-driving car technology and his daughter, Ana, is a sophomore in college. He is about to marry the lovely and talented Masako; Rotarians might remember her as the singer at our recent holiday party. I like you said it so I

KEN SANCHEZ joined Rotary in September 2021. He grew up in Costa Rica, in a family with many public servants, several of whom were high-ranking. This gave Ken the opportunity to meet many world leaders. His father was the first person to sell Ford cars in Costa



Rica, and was also a successful pharmaceutical businessman. At that time, KEN had no idea he would end up in the pharmaceuticals business, too. In high school, when not traveling with his family, Ken played tennis, spent time with friends, and focused on his rock band. His hopes of becoming a rock musician were redirected by his parents. He moved to Texas in 1978 with the new goal of obtaining a medical degree from Texas A&M. He first obtained a BA in biomedical engineering. When preparing to apply to medical school, a US government order limited the number of medical school students in the US resulted in KEN studying medicine in Guadalajara, Mexico, which is where he met his wife. In time, he entered the pharmaceuticals business. He worked for Merck for 25 years, with assignments around the world. Currently KEN works at Gilead Sciences. KEN has visited 96 countries, and counting. He loves to cook cuisines from around the world, has run many marathons and three ultramarathons and hiked formidable mountain peaks in Patagonia elsewhere.

LARRY KLEIN grew up in Tuckahoe, NY.. Before kindergarten, he moved about 2 miles away, and later learned this was so he could attend a school district with no Black students. When he was 9, the town's mayor taught LARRY how to play chess while LARRY's Dad was typing a speech for him. This was the beginning of LARRY's interest in public service. LARRY's family later moved to Florida, and LARRY



instantly loved Miami Beach. For him, high school was football, and he got to be pretty good at it. His youngest aunt urged him to

apply to Ivy League colleges. Three of the 4 rejected him, but Cornell accepted him. He loved the campus, embraced the bad weather, and desegregated his local fraternity by admitting the first two Black men, over the protests of the national organization. LARRY majored in economics and planned to continue his studies in graduate school until he took a course on Constitutional law, which put him on path to law school. On his first day at Harvard Law School, he struck up a conversation with a classmate in line to register. The classmate had bought his books at the beginning of summer and had already read them twice, leaving LARRY to wonder what he had gotten himself into. He loved law school, and said he has never worked as hard before or since. He graduated 23rd in a class of 500, and made the law review, which gave him the privilege of even more work. Since LARRY was commissioned as an officer through ROTC, he chose to enroll in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG), the justice branch of the military, for three years. He went through soldier training and learned how to drive a tank. Because he didn't have a lot of work, he received permission to work nights and weekends in a local law firm. After completing his JAG obligation, he and his wife decided they wanted to live in the Bay Area. They moved to Palo Alto and lived here ever since; he

retired from the practice of law in 2018. LARRY was one of the founders of the Mid Peninsula Open Space Trust, and has served for several years on the Palo Alto City Council, including terms as Mayor. LARRY has a wife and two sons, each of whom has two sons.

CLOSING

CASH thanked ROB LYMAN for coordinating today's program of new member talks, the speakers and all who volunteered. He closed the meeting at 1:34pm.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Introductions: P-E KAREN ROHDE

Thought for the Day: GINNY LEAR

Zoom Co-Hosts: BEN THRELKELD, DANA TOM

Pinion writer: KIM BOMAR

Pinion editor: GINNY LEAR

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

January 31	Pat Burt, Mayor of Palo Alto. Issues and Goals for Palo Alto 2022
February 7	Judge LaDoris Cordell (retired), author of "Her Honor," a memoir
February 14	Steve Schmidt, founder of Home Energy Analytics. How to reduce our carbon footprint