

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 7, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR CLUB's 100th YEAR

Chartered: May 1, 1922

The Monday, February 7, 2022, meeting of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto was called to order over Zoom by President **CASH ALAEE**. Cash noted that pending review by our club's board of directors, we may start having hybrid meetings, both in-person and via Zoom, as soon as March 7.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

An Opening Thought was provided by **GEOFF BALL**, quoting Vaclav Havel, the honored playwright and first president of Czechoslovakia following Communist rule. Havel observed that the concept of "hope" is a key element in addressing climate change: *"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it will turn out...."*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our club rolled out for the Day of Service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., by assembling backpacks for LifeMoves.... We provided ushers for the Palo Alto Players' Men on Boats, now on stage through February 20....



Rotary District 5170 will celebrate International Women's Day with a program at the San Jose Rotary Summit Center on March 13. WCS Chair **MIKE REYNOLDS** is planning a display table at the Project Fair there. Information at rotarydistrict5170.org As the announcements say, you "won't want to miss" our District Conference on April 22, 23 and 24 at the Blackhawk Museum and San Ramon Marriott. Information at rotarydistrict5170.org.

The Sibling City relationship between Palo Alto and Bloomington, Indiana. will kick off on February 15. Coming months will feature exchanges among Rotarians in both communities....

Among the **Centennial nuggets** shared by **STEVE PLAYER**: One of our charter members, **Almon Roth**, Stanford's Comptroller and business manager, became President of Rotary International in 1931.

April 30, 2022, Our Club's Centennial Celebration will be held at Lucie Stern Center, 5:30-7:30 pm. Rotarians 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. Proceeds will support our Annual Charities Fund.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Our club is remarkably well represented in the **Tall Tree Awards** announced on February 4 by the Palo Alto Weekly and the Chamber of Commerce. A

reception at the Jewish Community Center on April 22 will recognize the Palo Alto Players as an Outstanding Nonprofit, led by Rotarian **ELIZABETH SANTANA**; Hilton Homewood Suites as an Outstanding Business, managed by Rotarian **MATT DOLAN**; and Outstanding Volunteers **ROGER SMITH** and **HAL MICKELSON**. To celebrate, TRISH BUBENIK, STEVE PLAYER, LIZ KNISS, CHARLIE WEIDANZ, JUDY KLEINBERG, and LE LEVY joined the President's Club. GINNY LEAR joined the PC to recognize a gazillion years of immeasurably beneficial service by **LYLE CONNELL** as editor, coordinator, photographer, and spiritual guide for the Pinion.

PROGRAM



Our speaker, LaDoris Hazzard Cordell, was introduced by Jackie Wheeler. A graduate of Antioch College and Stanford Law School, she was the first female African-American judge

in Northern California. Her memoir, *Her Honor: My Life on the Bench... What Works, What's Broken, and How to Change It*, was published by Celadon Books in 2021.

Among Judge Cordell's recommendations for fixing things that are broken in our legal system: Law schools should offer clinical training on how to be a judge, anticipating that more than a few law students may someday be called to the bench....Elections to choose judges should be replaced by independent nominating commissions.... Steps must be taken to ensure transparency when judges are investigated and disciplined.... Initiatives to recall sitting judges should be permitted only to address defined forms of misconduct.... State funds should be made available to provide meaningful compensation for time spent by jurors.... We should mandate jury

trials for felony prosecution of juveniles.... We should abolish the "felony murder" rule, whereby defendants who are not themselves murderers can be prosecuted for murders committed by other participants in their crimes... We should abolish the sentence of life without parole for juveniles.... Ways must be found to uncover and eliminate racial bias in peremptory challenges of prospective jurors.... We should reform coercive practices in the plea bargaining process.

CLOSING

CASH thanked the speaker and all who volunteered, as he closed today's meeting.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Thought for the Day: GEOFF BALL
 Zoom Co-Hosts: BEN THRELKELD, DANA TOM
 Pinion writer: HAL MICKELSON
 Pinion editor: GINNY LEAR
 Editor Emeritus: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

February 14	Steve Schmidt, founder, Home Energy Analytics
February 21	No Meeting, Presidents Day
February 28	Judy Miner, Chancellor, FHDA Com. College District
March 7	Linda Coble, 1st Female Pres., Honolulu Rotary Club, 1st Female Anchor CBS Honolulu, 1st Female District Governor, District 5000
March 14	Ed Shikada, City Manager, Palo Alto