

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 21, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR CLUB's 100th YEAR

Chartered: May 1, 1922



President **KHASHAYAR "CASH" ALAEE** called the hybrid meeting to order, greeting members and guests attending in person at the Elks Lodge and those attending via Zoom.

Wow! We have forgotten how to manage ourselves in public! **CASH** had to remind us twice to mute our phones. So much to re-learn.

President Elect **KAREN ROHDE** introduced VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS OF ROTARIANS. Mary Chigos and Larry Christianson visited from the University Club. They are President Elect and President Elect-Elect of that club, scoping out our procedures and our venue.

**GEOFF ZIMAN** introduced his daughter Shoshana Shur, who likes to take advantage of the virtual option to join her Dad and hear our speakers.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**HERSH DAVIS** shared ten reasons why he loves spring. It brings more daylight, better temperatures, more fresh air because we can open the windows, and more sunlight which puts

people in better moods. He enjoys planting his garden, seeing colorful flowers blooming, actually being motivated to do spring

cleaning, and getting his exercise outdoors. And statistics say there is less crime with longer days. All around, a wonderful time of year.

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

**NANCY PETERS** joined the President's Club to say that she is delighted to be back in attendance after five years when her work schedule in the City made Monday meetings impossible. Welcome back, Nancy. **TRISH BUBENIK** joined to honor six Rotarians who spent the weekend filming a video for the Centennial Celebration. (More about this video from KAREN ROHDE a bit later.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CASH asked for one or two helpers to make photo display boards for the Centennial celebration. It will be fun for you and will enhance the fun for everyone else. Please reach out to CASH or **REBECCA GERALDI**.

Plan ahead for April 4. The speaker will be Steven Pifer, former US Ambassador to Ukraine and 25-year veteran of the US State Department. His talk on Ukraine will be 40-45 minutes. This is a good meeting to invite a guest, in person or via Zoom.

Monthly Hands-on Service opportunity: **DANA TOM** announced that we need 5 volunteers for the April 6 service project with Nuestra Casa, a past Palo Alto Rotary grant recipient. Their food distribution program serves 6,000 people per month in East Palo Alto and Redwood City. <https://nuestracasa.org/> There are two shifts.

April 6, 2:00 to 4:00 and/or 3:30 to 6:00 PM, at Rise City Church - Redwood City - 1305 Middlefield Road. Sign up and more info at: <https://forms.gle/As1wnG9wC8xTkfQs5>

### In Person Happy Hour

The first Happy Hour of Spring will be Wed., April 13 at 5:30pm. This is a no-host gathering at **The Patio** downtown at 412 Emerson (right next to Evvia). Purchase your drink and relax with your Rotary friends.

### OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**April 30, 2022, 5:30-7:30 PM, Mitchell Park.**

The Centennial Celebration is going live! Visit the club's home page at <https://rotarypaloalto.org> and click on the banner announcing our celebration. There you will find information about the festivities, and you can purchase your tickets now!

**GINNY LEAR** led us in our Centennial Trivia game. From among our current members, we were offered three well-traveled women from whom to choose one who did not serve in the Peace Corp, five equally well-traveled women from whom to choose one who never lived overseas for an extended period, and three recognized journalists from whom to choose if any was ever in broadcast journalism. Tough to answer? Look to the next Centennial Newsletter to play along and see the answers.

**KAREN ROHDE** described the production of our Centennial Video. She and others on the committee have been looking into our club's 100-year history. The first 50 years were documented by a book, the 75<sup>th</sup> year was documented by a video, and now for the 100 year anniversary we will have another even more polished video. Come to the Centennial event on April 30 to see the results. Here's a preview link: <https://youtu.be/7FVQDxxRU5M>

### PROGRAM

Today's PROGRAM featured New Member talks by **CHRISTINA CHU** and **ED LAUING**. **ROB LYMAN** first introduced CHRISTINA CHU, who actually has given a new member talk before because she joined, then left, and now has come back! He shared that Christina has met both Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, which thrilled the young lover of "Mary Poppins" that she was at the time.



### CHRISTINA

opened by donating to the President's club. Christina's father

is from mainland China and her mother is from Taiwan. They met in San Mateo and Christina is a first generation US citizen. Born at Stanford Hospital, she grew up in Los Altos and went to Pinewood school. She was a ballet dancer, and went to UCLA to study dance, and then to New York where she worked at the Joyce Theater. If you go to New York City, she recommends that you go to the Joyce Theater for a dance performance. She also worked at the Village Voice in advertising.

Christina was in New York City on 9-11. From the roof of her apartment building, she and her friend watched the twin towers fall. Recognizing the magnitude of the tragedy, she immediately called her parents to reassure them that she was OK. This made her feel the value of family, and she came home to be with loved ones. Christina's father and older brother are part of the Los Altos Rotary. She picked Palo Alto Rotary because she likes the people, and she has been welcomed by people like **GINNY LEAR**, her sponsor, and **GLORIA HOM**. When asked about dance in her current life, she said she enjoys watching dance but does not do it herself. Christina is a real estate broker, also works at her dad's restaurant -

Chef Chu's in Los Altos, and teaches Pilates privately.

Rob introduced **ED LAUING**, noting that he



was brought to us by **DANA TOM**.

Ed is an executive recruiter, and Rob dangled the perplexing fact that Ed has given nearly 30,000 vaccinations.

**ED** came from humble beginnings northwest of Chicago. His father joined the Navy after Pearl Harbor and after the war he was the first in his family to get a "white collar" job and the first to have central heating. Ed remembers a childhood playing freely in a safe suburban neighborhood. At age 12, he worked at a scientific small animal farm raising mice, rabbits and chickens for research. It was there that he vaccinated 30,000 mice.

Ed went to DePaul University, then to Vanderbilt. He worked at B Dalton Booksellers and got an MBA. He was offered a job at Sunset Magazine where he met his wife, who is a Palo Alto native. Ed moved from books to personal computers and eventually into executive recruiting.

His entry into public service was with Urban Ministry of Palo Alto which later became Invision and is now Life Moves. He has coached youth baseball, was appointed to the Palo Alto Parks Commission and then the Planning Commission where he serves today. He likes that the service projects of Rotary can have impact quickly, unlike so much of the work he does with the City.

All of the questions for Ed centered on his role on the Planning Commission. He believes the most challenging issue facing the planning commission is to continue to maintain neighborhoods. When we put up new housing, "those are homes for our neighbors, not just units."

Ed lives in a home designated as historic, and supports protecting things we want to preserve.

There is a Master plan for California Avenue. Zoning needs to allow for more dense housing around the train station and near El Camino for access to buses. But we need to plan for parking and traffic as well.

## CLOSING

**CASH** thanked today's speakers and all who volunteered, as he closed today's meeting,

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **GLORIA HOM, LE LEVY**

Room Set Up: **HERSH DAVIS**

Welcome Desk: **REBECCA GERALDI**

Cashier: **KATIE SEEDMAN**

Thought for the Day: **HERSH DAVIS**

Zoom Co-Hosts: **BEN THRELKELD, DANA TOM**

Pinion writer: **GEOFF ZIMAN**

Pinion editor: **GINNY LEAR**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

March 28	Karen Eggleston, Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute: <b>Cobots in Japan and what they mean for the future of healthcare in the US</b>
April 4	<b>Former US Ambassador to Ukraine, Steven Pifer: on Ukraine</b>
April 11	<b>Bill Johnson</b> , Chair, Club Grants Committee: <b>2022 Recipients, Charities Grants</b>
April 13	<b>Club Happy Hour, 5:30-6:30</b> , The Patio, 412 Emerson St.