

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 4, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR CLUB's 100th YEAR

Chartered: May 1, 1922

**President CASH ALAEE**, keeping in mind the significant events of Ukraine and the presentation of our guest speaker, called our meeting to order. With the high attendance, guests were not introduced individually. Those who joined us in person and signed in, are listed at the end of this Pinion.



We thank all of the nearly 130 members and guests who attended in person and online to hear our speaker on this important topic.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**GEOFF ZIMAN** a collector of aphorisms shared these select four with us:

The first two are from Steven Wright who says: Experience is something that you do not get until just after you need it and Hard work pays off in the future; Laziness pays off now.

Herbert Asquith says: Youth would be an ideal state if it came later in life

And for our speaker today, Will Rogers says: Diplomacy is the art of saying "Nice doggy" until you can find a rock. Thank you, GEOFF, for sharing these.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Monday lunch meetings will remain at the Elks Club with a price increase beginning Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The new cost of lunch is \$30. Membership dues will increase by \$75 beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our club along with many other organizations like ours have been making these same evaluations. Thank you to our fellow Rotarians for completing the review for our best options. Members are encouraged to attend in person so that our fellowship and traditions can be resumed.

Remote attendance by Zoom remains available.

**BEN THRELKELD** announced that on **April 13**, we'll enjoy a Happy Hour at The Patio. 412 Emerson. Join your fellow Rotarians from 5:30p to 6:30p for a no host libation, an appetizer and fellowship.

On **April 22-24**, the District Conference will take place at Blackhawk. You can sign up selectively for individual events....

## WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE: UKRAINE

The gravity of the invasion of Ukraine has shocked the world and particularly resonated with Rotarians. In Ukraine we can count over 50 Rotary Clubs with approximately 1000 members. The earliest Rotary Club in Ukraine was formed before World War II and clubs were formed in Kyiv as recently as 2019. **JOOP VERBAKEN** announced our WCS committee has provided \$5000 to Palo Alto's Neighbors Abroad organization in support of their **Ukraine Emergency Children's Relief Fund**.

## OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

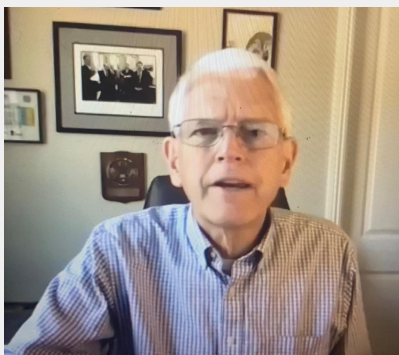
**April 30, 2022, 5:30-7:30 PM, Mitchell Park.**  
**Tickets are on sale** now - on our website or at the next three meetings. **ACT NOW!**

We had updates regarding the Centennial Celebration from **REBECCA GERALDI**.

The **online auction opens April 8<sup>th</sup>**. We are still accepting donations for auction items.

A link will be sent to all members this Friday when bidding can begin.

### PROGRAM



Introduced by **OANA MARCU** we had the privilege to hear from **Steven Pifer**, former **US Ambassador to Ukraine**, now at Stanford. He is a 1976 graduate of

Stanford University with a bachelor's in economics. His career affiliations include membership: American Academy of Diplomacy, Council on Foreign Relations, Eurasia Foundation, Global Zero, Nuclear Security Working Group.

Presenting on the Russian invasion of Ukraine he reviewed the motivations of the largest military invasion in Europe since 1945. His perspective of these events centered on Putin's positioning of Russia versus Nato, the geopolitical strategy combined with incursion of Crimea and his domestic political goal of creating anti-western sentiment within Russia. Stating this was a war of choice the former ambassador noted the miscalculation of the strength of Ukrainian resistance and resilience, the negative impact of corruption in building Russian military strength and the effectiveness of economic sanctions from the West.

Former Ambassador Pifer had positive reviews of President Biden's diplomacy efforts despite missteps and shared that whatever the outcomes Putin has diminished Russia on the world stage while only serving to create his own economic damage. It appears any scenario for Putin does not benefit Russia. The following link provides more information: <https://www.brookings.edu/experts/steven-pifer/>

### CLOSING

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

### TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **ROB LANCEFIELD, CHARLIE WEIDANZ**

Room Set-up: **MATT DOLAN**

Welcome Desk & Cashier: **KATIE SEEDMAN, REBECCA GERALDI**

Thought for the Day: **GEOFF ZIMAN**

Microphone managers: **KAREN ROHDE, CHARLIE WEIDANZ**

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

Pinion writer: **MATT DOLAN**

Pinion editor: **GINNY LEAR**

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

April 11	<b>BILL JOHNSON</b> , Chair, Grants Committee: <b>2022 Recipients</b>
April 13	<b>Happy Hour, 5:30-6:30. The Patio, 412 Emerson: No Host</b>
April 18	<b>Erik, Jensen</b> , Professor, Stanford Law School: <b>Seven Myths About Afghanistan</b>
April 25	<b>Elise DeMarzo</b> , Director, City of Palo Alto Public Art Program
April 30	<b>Centennial Celebration, 5:30-7:30 Mitchell Park, Palo Alto</b> <b>ACT NOW: Tickets on sale at our meetings and on the club website</b>

Today's In-Person Guests who signed in:

**Visiting Rotarians and their clubs:**

Kathy Picard- Menlo Park  
Lisa Akselrad - Silicon Valley Passport  
Kuhit Chen - Menlo Park  
Shirley Flegel - Previous Love, Taipei  
Mark Flegel - Menlo Park  
Mike Herzend - Menlo Park  
Florence Buatois - PA University

**Rotarians with Guests:**

Susan Luttier - Jack Hullman  
Tom Dubois - Masako Dubois  
Bruce Gee - Ken Kershner  
Diana Diamond - Booker Morrey  
Karen Rhode - Christina and Mike Hood

**Thank you all and please come again!**