

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 18, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR CLUB'S 100th YEAR

Chartered: May 1, 1922

President CASH belled open the hybrid meeting at 12:30 PM and welcomed everyone. [About 39 present at the Elks and 38 online]



President-elect **KAREN ROHDE** asked for guests, **REBECCA GERALDI's** two guests were Arielle Handle, Community Development Director at the Moldaw Residences and Jennifer Toral, Director of Local Government Affairs at Stanford Health Care.

KAREN ROHDE's guest was Christina Hood. **CASH ALAEE** introduced former member Rabbi Rick Block who is in the process of rejoining us.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

KLAUS HEINEMANN prefaced his talk by the following quote from Albert Einstein – “The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything, save our modes of thinking and we, thus, drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.”

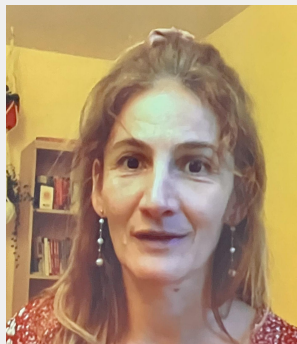


From there he paid tribute to the esteemed Rotarians in our club, the late **BILL BUSSE, WALT HAYS, ROB**

LANCEFIELD and **JOHN KIDD**, who were prominent in the “Beyond War” movement. After joining the President’s Club to honor John Kidd, Klaus expanded on why Einstein’s

quote is more important now than it ever was. He closed by making a second President’s Club contribution to emphasize the importance of truth, beauty and goodness as well as recognizing the arduous efforts being made to successfully commemorate our club centenary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The president showed photographs and commented on the great conversations that took place at the Happy Hour event organized by **BEN THRELELD** last week. A short video was presented with **OANA MARCU** and **REBECCA**

GERALDI each sharing their reasons for being proud of their membership in our club.

OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

April 30, 2022, 5:30-7:30 PM, Mitchell Park. Tickets are on sale now - Buy your tickets now: <https://www.rotarypaloalto.org>, or at next Monday’s club meeting

*For a limited time, you can see prominent blue banners displayed on bridges on Embarcadero and University Avenues proclaiming our celebration of a century of service. In a true spirit of fun, **STEVE PLAYER** reminded members of*



the importance of attending our big fun event on Saturday, April 30 at the Mitchell Park Community Center. There will be a choice of delectable eats as well as fine products from the Page Mill Winery. Most importantly, everyone is urged to bid high and often on the wide range of opportunities available in our on-line auction.

OUR ONLINE SILENT AUCTION IS NOW LIVE.

Please Bid HIGH and Bid OFTEN!! Many great items, restaurant certificates, vacation homes, tours, Palo Alto Players tickets, etc.

<https://www.32auctions.com/PARCentennial/>

Proceeds benefit our 2023 Charities Grants.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

DUANE KALAR joined to give special recognition to his friend **CHESLEY DOUGLAS.**

RALPH ADAMS joined to celebrate the fact that he can now be counted among the ranks of great grandparenthood.

BETSY BECHTEL joined to add emphasis to the importance of attending the Centenary Celebration event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

On Thursday, April 21, four members of our club, **HAL MICKELSON, ROGER SMITH, MATT DOLAN** and **ELIZABETH SANTANA**, will be receiving Tall Trees Awards from the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce at the Oshman Family JCC.

On Sunday, April 24 there will be an opportunity to usher at the Palo Alto Players show "Allegiance". If you are interested in helping at this "hands-on" event, contact **DANA TOM.**

From May 26 thru 29 members of our club and the PA University Club will be visiting our new sister-city Bloomington, Indiana. Contact Cash if you would like to be included in this sibling city jaunt.

PROGRAM

BEN THRELKELD introduced our speaker, **Professor Eric Jensen**



whose talk was titled "Seven Myths about Afghanistan". Eric Jensen holds joint appointments at the Stanford Law School and Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. He is also the faculty director of

the Afghanistan Legal Education Project which designed and built a law degree-granting program at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). Professor Jensen is not only an expert on Afghanistan but is the son of a staunch lifelong Rotarian as well as being a close neighbor of Mike McMahon.

Myth #1: Either the Republicans or Democrats are to blame for the "failure" of the war. There was inappropriate use of the withdrawal date.

Myth #2: Afghanistan is "America's Longest War". Since 2015 only 79 US soldiers killed

Myth #3; International terrorist groups have migrated out of Afghanistan to other regions of the world. Expect expansion in Afghanistan.

Myth #4: Taliban have a unified, vertically integrated command structure separate from ISIS, ISIS-K and other terrorist groups. These groups share people, resources and techniques.

Myth #5: State-building in Afghanistan was a failure and state-building project will fail. US could have succeeded with much more modest expectations and funding levels.

Myth #6: Getting out of Afghanistan will cost less in blood and treasure than staying would have. Beware the "boomerang effect".

Myth #7: The Taliban will act in their interests, not their ideology. Hopeful sign, though, is that in 2006 AUAF opened with 51 students, only one being female. Last spring there were

1000 students using virtual classes and about half were female.

RALPH ADAMS asked about success in working with villages. **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** asked about humanitarian aid and we learned that everything goes through the UN.

CLOSING

CASH thanked our speaker, our guests for attending, and the meeting volunteers

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **LEANNAH HUNT, MATT DOLAN**

Room Set-up: **HERSH DAVIS**

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

Thought for the Day: **KLAUS HEINEMANN**

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

Pinion writer: **GEOFF ZIMAN**

Pinion editor: **GINNY LEAR**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

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| April 25 | Elise DeMarzo , Director, City of Palo Alto Public Art Program |
| April 30 | Centennial Celebration, 5:30-7:30 Mitchell Park, Palo Alto ACT NOW: Tickets on sale at our meetings and on the club website and the auction is here! Bid high! |
| May 2 | Jeannet Kiessling , Palo Alto Neighbors Abroad and The Ukrainian Child Emergency Fund |
| May 9 | John Hutar, President & CEO, Conv/Visitors Bureau, San Francisco Peninsula: Tourism Update |
| May 16 | Felicia Marcus, Water Policy Group & Stanford University: Rising to Resilience in California Water. How are we doing and how do we get there? |