

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 2, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR CLUB's 100th YEAR

Chartered: May 1, 1922

President **CASH ALAEE** rang the Rotary bell and called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the meeting via Zoom or in person at the Elks Lodge. CASH noted today is his birthday, and Rotarians responded by singing a spirited round of the happy birthday song in his honor.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

President Elect KAREN ROHDE introduced visiting Rotarians and guests. **REBECCA GERALDI** introduced her two guests, Arielle Hendel, attending on Zoom, and Mary Bernstein, attending her second meeting in person. **KAREN ROHDE** then introduced her guest JOCHEN VANDERSPIKKEN, who is a District Grantee of the Rotary Club of Genk-Staelen (Belgium). JOCHEN is a chemist/chemical engineer who is working on his PhD at Hassalt University (in Belgium). The Genk-Staelen Rotary Club helped fund his 6-month research project at Stanford.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There's a Nuestra Casa food bank volunteer opportunity on Wednesday, May 4th, June 1st, and the first 1st Wednesday of each month thereafter.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Many Rotarians joined the President's Club at the meeting.

MARK WEIS, Cash's neighbor, made a \$500 donation to Rotary in light of the Centennial.

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club to give a special shout out to REBECCA GERALDI for her tremendous support for the Centennial celebration.

HAL MIKELSON donated in honor of another donation. HAL neglected to report in a previous edition of the Pinion that

GEOFF ZIMAN had joined the



President's Club for \$10/year in honor of his 40 years of Rotary, plus a \$100 contribution in honor of his daughter, Shoshana Shur, for a total of \$500. Shoshana then joined to wish Cash a Happy Birthday, to celebrate the Rotary Centennial, (and not be outdone by her dad, **GEOFF ZIMAN**).

ROMAN KAGARLITSKY joined on behalf of those suffering in Ukraine, and also made a donation to war relief efforts.

RYAN ELLIOTT joined in honor of Cash not being a slacker, but attending the meeting on his birthday.

TIM WATSON joined in honor of his sister's birthday, which required him to miss the Centennial.

KEN SANCHEZ joined in honor of Cash's birthday and for the great team that put together the Centennial celebration. KEN missed the Centennial while doing good work in Mexico with Neighbors Abroad.

JON STOUMAN joined the President's Club in honor of **WALT HAYS** and Kay, whom he recently visited and reported were doing well.

WALT recalled he was president for Rotary's 75th anniversary and didn't even know it. (WALT was fined back then)

OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WRAP UP!



Rotarians watched a slide show regarding the April 30th Centennial Celebration, announcing that the club surpassed its \$100,000 fundraising goal, raising (to date) \$104,230 for charity. It was a wonderful event by all accounts, with much appreciation to all the volunteers and supporters, and especially the

committee members, who had met for over a year to plan the event.

In order to ensure the efforts of those who had worked so tirelessly to make the Centennial such a successful event were recognized, CASH took a moment to thank each of those involved. After thanking the attendees and donors, Cash thanked the following:

HAL MICKELSON & HENRIETTA BURROUGHS for being our excellent Master and Mistress of Ceremony, and HAL for introducing us to Doug Kreitz, the video producer and editor; **STEVE PLAYER**, for obtaining donated wine and beer and operating the bar, and being our auctioneer;

ANNE CRIBBS, for making the arrangements for the food with Ada's Café;
SALLY TOMLINSON, for her leadership organizing all aspects of the auctions;
DANA TOM, for being our audio/video lead, helping with set up and clean up, proofreading and sending weekly emails;
DAVE PRICE & BILL JOHNSON, for the beautiful ads in each of their local papers;
GINNY LEAR, for making our centerpieces and helping to organize the Presidents photo;
DAN QUINN for taking the Presidents photo, and other event pictures;
BETSY BECHTEL, for helping obtain proclamations from elected officials and organizing their presentations, and helping with registrations;
LINNET KWOK, for helping with displays, photos, and registration;
BRUCE GEE, for ordering banners, managing the accounting for the auction and donations, printing programs and name badges, and continuing to close out the auction;
TRISH BUBENIK, for organizing staffing of the registration desk and always being motivating and encouraging;
MATT DOLAN, for providing champagne and helping with bar logistics;
HERSH DAVIS, for donating the It's Its ice cream dessert ;
STEVE EMSLIE, for helping with the Junior Museum and Zoo logistics when we were planning on having the event there;
EJ HONG & LEE PFAB, our auction spotters;
KAREN (and Bruce) ROHDE, for creating the wonderful videos surrounding the Centennial, event set up/clean up, and making a very generous donation to kick off the fundraiser;
REBECCA GERALDI, for touching everything--all marketing, design, graphics, displays, video, auction logistics, set up, registration, decorating frames for guest photos, auction spotter lights, event logistics and clean up;
JOE SIMITIAN, KEYNOTE SPEAKER & ANNA ESHOO, both honored guests.
Finally, everyone acknowledged **CASH'S** leadership and his role in the evening's success.

PROGRAM

STANS KLEIJNEN introduced today's speaker, Jeannet Kiessling, a Board member of Neighbors Abroad and Founder of Kleine Herzen, which provides support to orphaned children in Ukraine.

Jeannet began her talk by describing what she would have discussed two months ago, before the Russian invasion of Ukraine; the 12 orphanages Kleine Herzen



has built; the programs it has run, including a center for street children who previously had been living in trash dumps; the refugee housing they have provided in the Donbas region, where war has been raging for 14 years; and the orphanage it provided in a remote area for 120 severely handicapped children who stayed in boxes because there were not enough beds. These, she said, were the good times, and what she would have liked to have talked about just two months ago.

Ms. Kiessling also discussed how her interest in Ukraine began. While working in Angela Merkel's government in the 1990s, she was part of discussions in which it was argued that Ukraine was part of Europe and should become part of Nato or Europe. At the time, she recalled being embarrassed that was not an option for Ukraine or any other former soviet republic; Europe was not prepared to make them part of European Union. That all changed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Two weeks before the invasion, Ms. Kiessling asked a friend what would happen if Putin actually invaded. There was so much evidence that he would, but people didn't believe it. She wanted to evacuate some staff and return

them once the risk of invasion blew over, but since these were family orphanages, guardians would not leave families behind. Then the invasion happened, and they were regularly checking cell phones hoping not to get a call with bad news. Some had to take shelter in monasteries when the shelling became too much. So she reached out to her contacts in charge of children's rights in Ukraine, and helped children in privately funded orphanages evacuate Ukraine and move to safe locations all over Europe. Then she quickly realized that the children in the state orphanages also needed to be evacuated.

Ms. Kiessling showed a video of the unbelievable crisis facing these orphaned children-- many with serious disabilities -- and the traumatic circumstances they are facing. Many were safely relocated out of Ukraine but it is unclear where they ultimately will settle. Now Kleine Herzen is in emergency mode, trying to evacuate orphaned children from state-run orphanages. This is its current focus.

CLOSING

CASH thanked Ms. Kiessling for enlightening Rotarians about the important work that Kleine Herzen is doing for orphaned children in Ukraine. Thanks to our guests for attending, and to the meeting volunteers.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Mike Couch & Steve Player**

Room Set-up: **Bruce Winterhof**

Welcome Desk & Cashier: **Katie Seedman, Rebecca Gerald**

Zoom Co-Hosts: **Ben Threlkeld, Dana Tom**

Pinion writer: **Kim Bomar**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

May 9	John Hutar, President & CEO, Conv/Visitors Bureau
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?
May 23	3 Long time member talks
May 30	Dark, Memorial Day Observed

PHOTOS TELL THE STORY OF THE NIGHT!







