

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 11, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

At precisely 12:30 pm on Monday, July 22, **KAREN ROHDE** rang the Rotary bell vigorously yet with smooth control to inaugurate her term as our club's President....

REBECCA GERALDI and **KATIE SEEDMAN** introduced guests: Hasan Musa, new to the area, a start-up founder, and Matthew Hamamjy, assistant wrestling coach at Paly and high-tech finance professional.... Karen noted that each year, there are four holidays that we observe with the Pledge of Allegiance: Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. She called on **RALPH ADAMS** to lead the Pledge for those who chose voluntarily to participate.

Karen explained that she will emphasize **"Building Community"** as a theme for the Rotary Year. Members are invited each Monday to offer a Thought for the Day – a quotation, inspiring story, or reminiscence – that illustrates the concept of "Building Community" and other ideals of Rotary.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

On cue, **LE LEVY** stepped forward with this week's Thought. Le said it was an honor to offer opening remarks at **the first meeting of our club's 101st year**. He was pleased to support Karen's theme. The challenge, Le said, was that recently, we haven't been good at building better friendships, and the cause has been problems with politics. He confessed that sometimes, he has been quick to express a low opinion of anyone who holds views that don't match his. "My reaction is often just to

disregard that person, not listen, not consider their views worthy. I'm often so intent about letting them know how wrong they are that I don't stop to understand their point of view. Certainly, that's not the way to build community...." Le said, "This year, my goal is to listen with respect to those I don't agree with, to step back and, with sincerity, ask them why they believe as they do, and then to listen to them with patience." He added, "Karen, I like your theme, and this year I will do my best to build community by listening with respect to everyone."

Remaining at the podium, Le invited us to join



in honoring Karen with a song to celebrate her presidency asking us to stand and sing:

Hello, Karen,

*Yes, hello, Karen,
It's great to see you here where you belong.
We like your style, Karen,
And your smile, Karen,
It's clear throughout the year you'll have us going
strong;
Now, Cash was fun, Karen,
But he's done, Karen,
And our club is squarely, fairly in your hands,*

So,
Take the lead, Karen,
Bring us right up to speed, Karen,
Karen, your year is going to be just grand!

SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Fourth of July: Our club joined Palo Alto University Rotary in placing flags on University Avenue. Thanks to CAROLE WHITEHILL, STEVE PLAYER, and JIM SUTHERLAND. Your next chance to join the flag detail will come on September 5....

Our club has made a commitment to Nuestra Casa for hands-on service that benefits food-insecure families. Participants for July were MIKE REYNOLDS with his son Garrett, CAROLE WHITEHILL, DANA TOM, DUANE KALAR, JUDITH STEINER, STANS KLEIJNEN, and JOOP VERBALEN. It's our turn on first Wednesdays, so your next opportunity is August 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SOCIALS

MATT DOLAN proclaimed that our **TGIF** for this month will be at the home of **CAROLE WHITEHILL** on Friday, July 29....

Places are still open for a Tree Walk to benefit Rotary charities on July 23, guided by Arborist Emeritus Dave Dockter, finishing with a garden lunch chez **DUANE KALAR**. It's a tax-deductible bargain at \$75. Ask **SALLY TOMLINSON**....

A new, easy way to support our good works is by making "Palo Alto Rotary Annual Charities, Inc." your chosen charity recipient on AmazonSmile.... Just a reminder: Your annual

dues, \$425 for regular membership, can be paid online by credit card.

KAREN noted that a global priority for Rotary in 2022-23 will be the "comfort and care of members." For us, that will include more occasions to get together and interact. With that in mind, Karen and KIM BOMAR will be promoting loosely organized Affinity Groups for people who want to share time in activities that they enjoy. As an example: The Rotary Ramblers are Rotarians from our club who enjoy cycling. Coordinated by Le Levy and PATTY MCGUIGAN, they muster at 9:00 am on select Saturdays and Sundays for excursions in the Baylands, Los Altos and Woodside; they ride at a moderate pace and stop for coffee. Check with Le or Patty.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Joining the President's Club: **SALLY**

TOMLINSON, saluting Karen at the inception of the Rotary year;

GINNY LEAR, sentimentally observing her 57th anniversary with husband King; **JON**

STOUMEN, pleased that daughter Sadie is engaged to be married next spring in West Marin; and **STEVE EMSLIE**, proud first-time grandparent of Charles Emslie, 8 pounds 14 ounces.



PROGRAM - ANNUAL CLUB ASSEMBLY

This year's Rotary International convention was in Houston. Despite that, Karen greatly enjoyed her role as one of 12,000 attendees.... The convention gave Karen a chance to learn about Braver Angels, an organization allied with Rotary in "bringing people together across partisan divisions" as called for by Le's remarks. More information at <https://braverangels.org>The convention was energized by hearing from Jennifer Jones, the

first woman to be president of RI [pause here for cheers]. She is CEO of a media company in Windsor, Ontario, and now RI's "Storyteller in Chief." Karen presented two thought-provoking clips....Jennifer's theme is **IMAGINE ROTARY** symbolized by a graphic in purple, green and white as homage to the women's movement.



Year in and year out, our club makes good things happen through the energetic work and careful thought of a

twelve-member volunteer Board of Directors. We had a chance to hear about the assignments of each officer and director, in many cases enhanced with a little-known fact or chosen superpower.

As President, **KAREN** presides over our Monday luncheons, chairs meetings of the board of directors, and administers much-needed discipline. She provides the Strategic Plan Update that's due once every three years. As Vice President, **LIZ KNISS** introduces guests on Mondays, pinch-hits for Karen as needed and makes plans for 2023-24. As Past President, **CASH ALAEE** is the honcho for support of The Rotary Foundation, to have major emphasis in Q2. He will conduct a Debunking for his successor next June.

LINNET KWOK is Treasurer, handling separate budgets for Operations and Charities, assisted by Bruce Gee. Among her hobbies are needlepoint and crochet; she admitted it took her ten years to complete a Christmas stocking with a Noah's Ark motif.

STEVE EMSLIE is Secretary, a job that formerly entailed "filling out forms" and now requires "populating" computer applications with the same old information.

REBECCA GERALDI exploits her official title as Membership Chair to do thousands of things for our club. Her Membership Committee comprises Steve Player, Karen Rohde, Ben Threlkeld, Dana Tom, and Charlie Weidanz; her "We Care" chair is Julie Jerome. The hidden riches of Rebecca's background include farm life in Sonoma County, including experience milking goats.

LEN ELY's assignment on our board is Club Operations. His first task was to ask the hard question, "Just what are Club Operations?" It turns out that they're the jobs that enable our meetings and other internal activities to run smoothly. Ben Threlkeld and Dana Tom take care of audiovisual resources; Matt Dolan and Ben serve as microphone jockeys; Katie Seedman and Rebecca Geraldini staff the Welcome Desk; Bruce Gee maintains the club website; Ginny Lear is Pinion editor; Hersh Davis, Matt Dolan and Bruce Winterhoff handle meeting room setup, a role sometimes assigned the title Sergeant-at-Arms. Len's best Little Known Fact is that he made regular visits to Folsom Prison for dates with the warden's daughter.

KIM BOMAR leads our Club Service committees. She was quick to say she is relying on experienced committee chairs: Cash Alae, wrangler of each week's Greeters; Rob Lyman, New Member Talks; Dana Tom, Coffee with a Rotarian; Opening Remarks, Trish Bubenik; Social Events, Matt Dolan, and Carole Whitehall; and Vocational/ Long Time Member Talks, Jim Sutherland. Our hardworking, eminently successful Program Committee is managed by Sally Tomlinson.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ is the board's point of contact with volunteers on Community Service projects. He chairs our Hands-On Service group. His team includes Bruce Gee as chair of our Local Grants Committee and Linnet Kwok as an expert on Social Media and Public Relations. As noted earlier in this Pinion, we have a monthly opportunity to help provide food for needy families through Nuestra Casa.

One of Rotary's original purposes was to recognize and honor the professional lives of its members.

HENRIETTA BURROUGHS has the responsibility for our Vocational Service focus. Among other things, she is board liaison to the Vocational Scholarships committee led by Rebecca Gerald and Pam Krudop. Henrietta's secret superpower is her Do-It-Yourself expertise, exemplified by her efforts to install a backyard swimming pool.

In addition to serving as co-chair of the Vocational Scholarships committee,

PAM KRUDOP manages our Youth Services programs, assisted by Ben Threlkeld as Youth Protection Officer, Geoff Ziman for the Boy Scouts, Annette Glanckopf for Girl Scouts, and Cash Alae for the Youth Speech Contest. Pam takes the lead on Camp RYLA, Interact/YCS at Gunn, and the Rotary Youth Exchange. Pam credits her Italian family heritage as motivation for participating in a Bocce Ball League.

STANS KLEIJNEN is the board member who coordinates our work on International Service and the Environment is. She is co-chair with Mike Reynolds of a World Community Service committee that meets frequently to consider proposals for global charitable activities. She is working with Geoff Ball in building up our new Climate Action Committee. A Little-Known Fact about Stans, and the answer to a frequent question, is that "Stans" is short for the given name "Constance."

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

And as the piece-de-resistance for the afternoon's proceedings, we serenaded our members who celebrate birthdays in July:

Ralph Adams, Bill Johnson, Lee Lippert, Mike McMahon, Dave Thornton, and Geoff Ziman.

As a coda, Karen rang the bell for adjournment.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Ginny Lear, Brian Steen**

Room Set-up: **Hersh Davis**

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

Zoom Co-Host: **Dana Tom**

Microphone: **Ben Threlkeld**

Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

July 18	Coss Martte, Founder, Second Chance Studios: From Overweight Inmate to Employer of formerly incarcerated
July 25	Francis Fukuyama, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford U. Liberalism and Its Discontents
July 29	TGIF: home of Carole Whitehill
August 1	Daniel Ho, Stanford Law and Political Science: Unbreaking Bureaucracy