

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 25, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

Call to Order: **President KAREN ROHDE** called our meeting to order by ringing the bell.

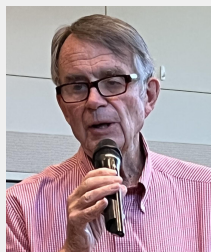
Fun Fact! This continues the 100-year-old Rotary tradition from a 1922 attendance contest between Rotary Clubs in New York and London. New York Rotary won. Their prize was a bell from a popular patrol boat, placed on a block of wood that came from the HMS "Victory," Admiral Nelson's vessel at the battle of Trafalgar. Since then, the sound has brought us to order and calls the conclusion of all Rotary Club meetings.



The first order of business was welcoming and recognizing our visiting guests.



ROGER SMITH introduced Eric Jensen business manager for PAPD, **REBECCA GERALDI** introduced Marco Maino of Gamble Gardens who was visiting for the second time, **CHRISTINA CHU** introduced her guest Karen Emerzian, **STEVE EMSLIE** introduced Hasan Musa on his third meeting and **PATTY MCGUIGAN** introduced her long-time associate John McKenna.

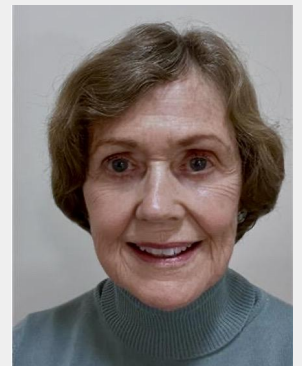


THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

GINNY LEAR offered thoughts from her experience as a founding Board member of the Los Altos Community Foundation, some 30 years ago. Their unifying principle became Building Community, with guidance from a chapter in a book titled On Leadership written about the same time by the late Dr. John W. Gardner, a lifelong public servant, then at Stanford. He listed ten essential ingredients which he believed comprised a healthy community. Some are: having a reasonable base of shared values; teamwork; effective internal communications; participation; development of young people; forward views; and ways to maintain what we agreed was worthwhile. Rotary does many of these things. Maybe we can do more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SOCIALS

MATT DOLAN proclaimed that our **TGIF** for this month will be at the home of **CAROLE WHITEHILL** on Friday, July 29, 5:30-7:30 pm. Address and details have been emailed to members or check the online directory.



August 3rd: Monthly Service Project: Food packaging and distribution at Nuestra Casa, 1305 Middlefield Rd. Redwood City.

Takes place outside from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Parking is available. Sign up online, for every first Wednesday.

August 15th ALL Zoom Only meeting.

Prepare lunch, log in and don't miss our very special speaker, **Larry Diamond**, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, and at FSI, Stanford in Global Democracy.

One week only: Elks Club Cell tower electrical work prohibits use of their meeting room that day.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

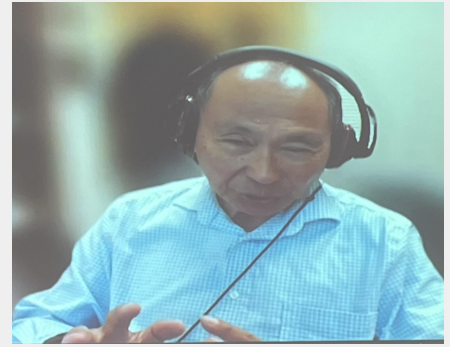
Adding to the already 1.4 million members of Rotary International, our Membership Chair **REBECCA GERALDI** introduced the newest member of our club, **ARIELLE HENDEL** – Community Development Director at Moldaw Residences. Rebecca also presented **CHRISTINA CHU** with her Blue Badge. Let us extend a big Rotary welcome and congratulations to our newest members.



PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON provided the introduction for our guest speaker Francis Fukuyama, political scientist, political economist, writer, and Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute. Our speaker is most notable for his books The End of History and The Last Man, where he argued the ongoing human history as a struggle between ideologies ended with the world

settling on liberal democracy as the Cold War ended and the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.



HAL

MICKELSON

was gracious enough to share his notes from remarks by Francis Fukuyama today. Hal's clarity and style enhance the content from the presentation:

Liberalism is in trouble.

There are two definitions of "liberalism" for us to consider:

- In the US, "liberalism" is understood as a moderately left-of-center political position, broadly progressive, interested in what liberals might call "distributive justice."
- However, in Europe, "liberalism" is a center-right movement, pro-free-market, opposed to excessive government control. Liberalism of this kind had its origins in the 17th century among intellectuals who wanted to lower the temperature in political discussion and agree to disagree about bitter religious divisions.
- In the broadest and best sense, liberals accept private property and freedom of contract, and believe that the power of the state should be limited by the rule of law. The US, Canada, most of Europe and Japan are liberal societies.

- Liberalism arose to get beyond sectarian disputes, so it deals well with diversity.
- Liberalism believes that humans have the capacity for moral choice, so liberalism protects individual autonomy.

- Liberals accept freedom of contract and property rights as part of individual freedom, and as a result the first liberal nations were the first wealthy nations. Even China has had to accept property rights.

- More recently, liberalism has been under attack from several directions.

- “Neoliberals” like Milton Friedman, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher pushed the free-market idea to its limits and beyond. It may be true that some Western economies had come to be over-regulated, but it can be argued that the neoliberals pressed deregulation and privatization too far, for example in the financial sector and in terms of protection for worker’s rights. This resulted in an increase in inequality between rich and poor which has been fodder for both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

- The idea of individual autonomy embraced by liberals has been pushed beyond its limits as well. We may now be in an era of “expressive individualism” that has resulted in/ has been accompanied by the disintegration of community standards and cultural signposts.

- We are in an era of “identity politics” in which voting blocs have been organized among marginalized communities to open opportunities for them to join the mainstream.

- This in turn has led to the illiberal idea that your individual characteristics – your identity – is more important than what you decide and do.

- The argument is being made that a commitment to “equality under law” is a pretense for keeping elites in control.

- In Hungary, Viktor Orbán is saying that the protection of the state and the state’s full benefits should be reserved for “real” ethnic Hungarians. In India, Narendra Modi has advocated a “Hindu nationalism” linked to his country’s religious majority, jeopardizing the status and social position of millions of Muslims and Sikhs; unfortunately, it is easy to predict this will lead to horrific communal violence.

- In places like Bosnia, Iraq and Lebanon, people are allocated goods and benefits based on the groups to which they belong.

Freedom of speech is under attack. People do not like and increasingly do not tolerate the idea of other people disagreeing with them. Liberal assumptions about freedom of speech have been challenged, and the “space” provided for deliberation is closing in on college campuses.

There are “cognitive issues.” Liberalism traditionally asked us to calm down and listen to facts; we have become unable to agree on what the facts are. Liberalism from the beginning was based on respect for natural science; now, science is being challenged. The idea that science can be seen as a conspiracy to maintain the power of elites has moved from the far left to the far right.

Liberalism relies on the nation-state to protect individual rights, but there has always been a tension between loyalty to the nation and loyalty to our collective humanity. We instinctively have loyalty to groups, including the nation as one group to which we belong. Ukrainians are fighting both for their nation as a nation and their nation as a place that has accepted and practices liberal ideas.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Being respectful of Francis Fukuyama's time limitation, President **Karen Rohde** rang our meeting to a close promptly at 1:25 pm.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Carole Whitehill**

Room Set-up: **Bruce Winterhof**

Welcome Desk & Cashier: **Katie Seedman**

Zoom Host: **Dana Tom**

Microphones: **Steve Emslie, Richard Keller**

Pinion writers: **Matt Dolan, Hal Mickelson**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

July 29	TGIF: 5:30-7:30 pm. home of Carole Whitehill
August 1	Daniel Ho, Stanford Law and Political Science: Unbreaking Bureaucracy
August 3	Nuestra Casa food packaging and distribution, 2-6 p.m. Details and Sign up online.
August 8	John Leshy, Professor Emeritus, UC Hastings Law Our Common Ground, A History of America's Public Lands
August 15	Larry Diamond, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford U.
August 22	Hands-on Backpack Project at the Elks Event Center for the Grateful Garment Project
August 29	Dr. Gloria Hom, Educator, Community Volunteer, The Bayside Cannery: the Story of Thomas Foon Chew. Personal and local history.

