

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 8, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

After bell ringing and welcoming everyone, President Karen called on President-elect **LIZ KNISS** to introduce our visitors. **CASH ALAEE's** guest was Hasan Musa, a software engineer. **TOM DUBOIS** had two guests: John Hamilton, the mayor of our Palo Alto's new Sibling City, Bloomington IN, and Jane Martin, a local retired venture capitalist there. **CHARLIE WEINDANZ's** guest was Joan Fantazia, the General Manager of Crosspoint Realty Services. **MIKE McMAHON** had his brother Jim McMahon with him as his guest.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

ANNE CRIBBS's presentation, on the theme of building community, described the historical background and community involvement that went into the building of the signature skate park at Greer Park. She concluded with the quote "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams".



SERVICE RECOGNITION

President KAREN gave thanks to **IRIS KOROL, CAROL WHITEHILL, GLORIA HOM** and **CHESLEY DOUGLAS** for volunteering their time last week to package and distribute food at Nuestra Casa in Redwood City. The next

opportunity for supporting insecure families will take place on Wednesday, September 7.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club to honor Shirley Ely, a highly respected, kind and generous lady who passed away in July, aged 95. Shirley is the mother of club member **LEN ELY** who followed up by also joining the President's Club in her honor.

Our condolences to you and family, **LEN**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SOCIALS

August 15th ALL Zoom Only CLUB meeting. One week only: Elks Lodge Cell tower electrical work prohibits use of their meeting room that day.

POP-UP Event: Sunday, August 28--Tour Palo Alto High School, 1:30-3:00, led by retired math teacher Arne Lim. Organized by **GLORIA HOM**. RSVP online.

THAILAND VISIT

Past-President **CASH ALAEE** gave a report with photo illustrations on his recent visit to two Rotary Clubs in Thailand (Sanni Phangan and Bangkok) where he was warmly received. While there, he participated, movingly, in a Food for Life distribution project. CASH shared photos of Rotary banner exchanges at these two clubs in Thailand, and presented their banners to KAREN.



BUILDING CLUB FELLOWSHIP

To encourage greater friendship within the club and to prepare for our speaker's topic, President KAREN asked everyone to break into small groups for five minutes and share answers to two questions. What is their favorite public land and what memory or inspiration do they associate with it?

PROGRAM

BETSY BECHTEL introduced our speaker **John Leshy**, a leading expert in public lands policy. Leshy is a graduate of the Harvard Law School

and now a Professor Emeritus at the UC San Francisco College of the Law. He has recently published a history of America's public lands titled "Our Common Ground" and has an impressive background in high level government legal positions, many of them involving studying the US Interior Department.



In his talk, Leshy traced the history of America's public lands. He started by pointing out that the US now owns almost one third of the nation's land – more than 600 million acres of public forests, plains, mountains, wetlands, deserts and shorelines. He then went on to explain how this all came about and how it has not been a divisive force in American politics, that there have not been partisan divisions involved and that there has not been a national government land grab carried out over local and state opposition. He also debunked the view that decisions to conserve lands have been made by the executive branch over the opposition of many in Congress. He concluded by stating that the history of public lands represents some of the best thinking and acting in the interests of future generations.

In the question time, HAL MICKELSON asked about the extent of influence of US public land policies on other countries; Jane Martin asked about the restrictions and protections involved; BETSY BECHTEL asked about mining and forestry factors.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

With thanks to our speaker and everyone for attending today, **KAREN** rang the closing bell.

Following are some events not to be missed:
 *Chili and Chill: Saturday, August 20, 5:00 PM
LIZ KNISS' backyard, come for **Rick's** famous

chili, **BETSY BECHTEL'S** cornbread!
 Entertainment by PA Players Director and
 Rotarian **ELIZABETH SANTANA** & members of
 the Palo Alto Players..
 \$75 donation to our Annual Charities, 16 spots
 available. Contact: **Betsy** to sign up.

* **San Francisco Art Insider Tour** --Thursday,
 August 25, 9 am-5 pm. \$100 donation to
 Annual Charities led by **Megan and TODD**
LEWIS. Contact **TODD** to sign up.

* **The Rotary Cranks** cycle group meets
 Saturday and/or Sunday, 9 am. For details,
 Contact: **LE LEVY** or **PATTY MCGUIGAN**

* DISTRICT 5150 EVENT --**Wheelchair**
Distribution Trip, Monterrey, Mexico, October
 19-23, 2022, sponsored by Howard Tours and
 Rotary Clubs with the Wheelchair Foundation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

August 15	Larry Diamond, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford U. American Democracy Imperiled: Threats and Remedies
August 22	Hands-on Backpack Project at the Elks Event Center for the Grateful Garment Project
August 26	TGIF: Matt Dolan's home. 5:30-7:30 PM
August 29	Dr. Gloria Hom, Educator, Community Volunteer, The Bayside Cannery: The Story of Thomas Foon Chew. Personal and local history.
September 5	Labor Day. DARK.No meeting

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Iris Korol, Cash Alae**
 Room Set-up: **Matt Dolan**
 Welcome Desk & Cashier: **Katie Seedman, Rebecca Gerald**
 Zoom Host: **Ben Threlkeld, with Dana Tom**
 Microphones: **Matt Dolan**
 Pinion writer: **Geoff Ziman**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

