

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 22, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

President **KAREN ROHDE** called the meeting to order by inviting visiting Rotarians to introduce themselves. Rtn. Kevin Beagle will be with us through December. He has arrived from Melbourne Australia after a 2-year term as president of that club, and he promoted the 2023 Rotary International Convention which will be in Melbourne. (Lucky LIZ KNISS, incoming President.)



GINNY LEAR introduced our guest Hasan Musa, who is in the process of applying for membership

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

JEFF YEN described community as being like a tree, with education as the basic requirement enabling people to build community. Jeff supports our community through education – he is a tutor in math and physics, sharing his background and knowledge with young students. Being part of a city named after a tree adds meaning to his participation in the community.



TRISH BUBENIK invites folks to please **sign up for Thought for the Day**. The month of September is wide open. We look forward to being inspired by your 2-3 minute comment about building community. Contact Trish to pick your date.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

JACKIE WHEELER donated in thanks for the wonderful Chili dinner on Saturday night at the Kniss residence.

TRISH BUBENIK donated in thanks for a celebration on Zoom with fellow graduates of George Washington High School in Denver.

LIZ KNISS echoed Jackie's appreciation of the Chili and Chill event, thanking all who made it possible and giving special thanks to

ELIZABETH SANTANA for her 45 minute concert. "If you didn't come, you should feel SO bad." (Party photos at the end of Pinion.)

MEMBER PULSE SURVEY

Karen reminded us to please respond to the Member Pulse Survey. Follow the link in the recent e-mail.

TODAYS PROGRAM

CHARLIE WEIDANZ introduced Lisa Blanchard to speak briefly about the Grateful Garment Project, which is the beneficiary of today's hands-on service project assembling dignity kits.



Lisa Blanchard, Executive Director and founder of the Grateful Garment Project, has seen the group expand into 52 counties. This is a nonprofit whose purpose is to restore dignity to anyone who has suffered sexual assault. If you are a victim of sexual assault seeking medical attention

and a rape kit is performed, you must remove and surrender all your clothes, and then have your body examined. You have nothing to wear home, and the hospital will only have hospital gowns. The Grateful



Garment Project provides Dignity Kits to hospitals, shelters, and law enforcement. Today's work by our club to build 96 kits will have an impact on 96 people. PA Rotary is one of the major donors to the Grateful Garment – this is the 5th time we have done a project for them. They receive no government funding.



Right now, August-November, we are in the "Red Zone," which is the time when most of the sexual assaults on college campuses take place. Please talk to the young people you know who are going off to college this year, about being safe and about consent.

Grateful Garment is a volunteer organization and is actively recruiting for their board of directors. If interested, visit <https://gratefulgarment.org> and contact Lisa Blanchard.

Socials and Events not to be missed:

CAROLE WHITEHILL invited all to come to TGIF this Friday 5:30-7:30 at Avalon Towers on the Peninsula, 2400 W. El Camino, outdoors on the patio. The last event had 25-30 people, so come be part of the fun, and please bring a bottle to share.



There are TGIF's lined up through the end of the year, but if you are interested in hosting any month January-May, please let Carole or **MATT DOLAN** know. It is easy – you will get lots of help from Matt.

GLORIA HOM enthusiastically promoted the tour of Paly High School that she has arranged for Labor Day, Sept 7, at 10 am. Paly has undergone lots of changes and there is much to see. It will be an exciting tour, and afterwards you can decamp to Peet's for some social time over coffee and tea. Contact Gloria or sign up at the link in the email you have received. Karen noted that there will be no meeting that day, so this activity is a good replacement.

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

SERVICE CORNER

CHARLIE WEIDANZ ran through the list of many opportunities to give service to our community.

Saturday & Sunday, August 27th & 28th – Palo Alto Festival of the Arts: Represent our club at

the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth between 11:00 and 4:00 pm each day (1 hour time slots) Contact Charlie for available time slots

Sunday, September 4th – Usher for Palo Alto Players: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (School of Rock: The Musical) Contact Dana Tom or sign up at link in email

Monday, September 5th – Labor Day Flags on University Ave 8:00 am – Meet at Cowper & University to put flags up, 5:00 pm – Meet at High Street and University to take flags down. Co-sponsored with Palo Alto University Rotary

Wednesday, September 7th – Distribute Food at Nuestra Casa: 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Contact Charlie Weidanz or sign up at link in email

Sunday, September 11th – National Day of Service: Partnering with Youth Community Service (YCS) and Environmental Volunteers Science kit building and habitat restoration in the Palo Alto Baylands

CASH ALAEE announced, on behalf of the Climate Action Committee, that there will be a conference on Green Transportation and Clean Energy, **Saturday, Sept 10th**, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers in San Jose, followed by three optional tours from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Nancy Pelosi and Nuria Fernandez, keynote speakers. \$20 in person (includes a tour), virtual attendance free. To register: <https://events.humanitix.com/2022environmentsummit>

ACTIVE LISTENING EXERCISE

KAREN introduced a 5-minutes exercise with the wise words of her mother, “Karen, there is a reason God gave you one mouth and two ears.” Members paired off with someone they did not already know well. One person was given one minute to describe an event or person that inspired them, and the other person was to listen attentively and repeat



back exactly what they had heard. Then the roles reversed.

Karen asked how it had been for participants. **ARIELLE HENDEL** shared that it required you to focus, and you were able to get a picture of what they were talking about. **TOM GRACON** noted that it was difficult not to interrupt and ask questions. Others said it felt good to have the person respond back with exactly what you said – you felt heard. **HAL MICKELSON** was impressed that **JEFF YEN** heard everything Hal said.

Karen hopes that we can incorporate this practice into real world experiences.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAREN thanked all who had made the meeting possible today. Charlie thanked **REBECCA GERALDI** and **BRUCE GEE** for helping with acquisition of the contents of the kits, and **GEOFF BALL** and **KATIE SEEDMAN** for help setting up the assembly line today.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Cash Alaee**
Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Katie Seedman**
Room Set-Up: **Bruce Winterthur**
Zoom Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**
Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

August 25	World Community Service meeting: Zoom, 7-9 PM contact Mike Reynolds
August 29	Dr. Gloria Hom, Educator, Community Volunteer, The Bayside Cannery: The Story of Thomas Foon Chew. Personal and local history.
September 1	Program Committee Meeting Contact Sally Tomlinson
September 5	Labor Day. DARK.No meeting



Chili and Chill party in the backyard of Liz & Rick Kniss.

Centennial auction item, co-hosted

by Betsy & George Bechtel, enjoyed by two dozen Rotarians and guests.



Elizabeth Santana presented three outstanding performers who are with the Palo Alto Players.

