

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 12, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

Ringing the bell, President **KAREN ROHDE** brought our meeting to order. She then called for introductions of visiting Rotarians and those with guests. Visiting Rotarian **Keving Beagle**, a member of the Port Melbourne, Australia club, returned to our meeting, along with **Borys Senyh** from the East Palo Alto Rotary Club, who invited members to participate in a joint community service event in East Palo Alto.



GEOFF ZIMAN introduced Ivani Radiyo Dixit and **GINNY LEAR** introduced Simon Pennington, Associate Vice President for Community Relations and Marketing at Foothill College, visiting for a third time.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

CASH ALAEE shared thoughts regarding the September 8, 2022, passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose life was an example of service above self. The Queen's example of commitment to service is an example for all and aligns with the community service commitment of Rotary. Particularly in reference to the United Nations. Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to a

nongovernmental organization by the UN's Economic and Social Council. Queen Elizabeth, a friend and supporter of the United Nations, first addressed the UN General Assembly in 1957, speaking very movingly of its work and its value stating, "common ideals and hopes, not formal bonds unite the members."



The Queen addressed the UN General Assembly for a second time in July 2010 and spoke of the importance of leadership and how critical the role of the United Nations continues to be in upholding human rights in the 21st century. The Queen observed "I know of no single formula for success, but observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts."

Interesting note: Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh was an Honorary Member of Rotary Club Windsor and Eton and Rotary Windsor St George referring to them as "his" clubs, attended meetings and was an active participant in Rotary causes.

HRH Princess Anne addressed Rotarians at the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto and thanked Rotary for its work with

children, in particular the efforts of eradicating polio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Written in 1885 by Captain George Thatcher Balch, a Union Army officer during the American Civil War and in recognition of the patriotic celebration of American Labor we were led by Brian Steen reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, as we do four times per year observing national holidays.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

PATTY MCGUIGAN invited members on Tuesday, September 20, to an 8.8 bike ride, 5:30 PM, followed by a birthday party for **LE LEVY** at her home, 6:30 PM. The bike ride is not mandatory to enjoy the birthday celebration. Also, **PATTY** shared a personal Rotary Endowment promotion of a book sale. The books are **Leonardo and The Time Travelers** who are Patty's grandsons, going on a fictional adventure. There is also a second book. At our next meeting these books will be for sale and Patty, who co-authored the books, will donate \$20 to the Rotary Endowment for each book sold. This is a fun way to raise funds for Rotary and celebrate reading.



LE LEVY recognized **BRUCE GEE** for the Paella party auction item event hosted by Bruce and Jane Gee at their backyard, assisted by Ginny and King Lear. By all reports it was "best ever" Paella, benefiting our Charities Fund.

CALL FOR MORE PINION REPORTERS

Pinion Editor **GINNY LEAR** extended an invitation for additional reporters. The request

was for **two additional reporters**. For those interested, connect with Ginny to review what is required. Pinions serve a purpose as a record of our meetings, information about our activities, past and future, and build goodwill. On our club website, we have nearly all Pinions available, back to May 6, 2002. Other than perhaps in someone's personal archives, printed reports were lost in a flood. Now we will live in perpetuity! Please help to keep that information flowing! Call Ginny.

ROTARY GLOBAL SCHOLAR

Guest **Ivani Radiyo Dixit** was a Rotary Global Scholar and spent nine months at Cambridge University completing research on AI and law enforcement and the impact on Democracy. Her research focused on the use of facial recognition in police work auditing the use, deployment, and the discriminatory impact with missing safeguards to protect vulnerable populations, and the efforts of conflict resolution. While pursuing her research she was able to enjoy student life by participating in Bollywood events, a national poetry slam and interacting with student advocacy leaders. Ivani valued the experience despite the challenges of a Californian experiencing very cold winters.



ROTARY CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

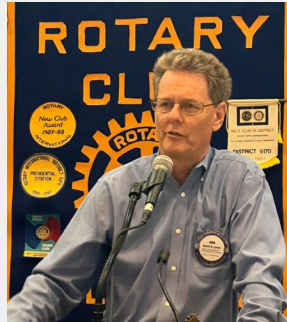
CASH reminded everyone to view the Netflix Original Documentary **SEASPIRACY**. and join a zoom meeting on September 18th at 7:30 pm to discuss.

This is a documentary of great interest to all of us. Thank you to Cash and Geoff for bringing it to our attention.

TODAYS PROGRAM: 3 NEW MEMBER TALKS

ROB LYMAN introduced

The first of our three speakers, doing each with an anecdote he learned from them in advance. Well done, as always, ROB!



GEOFF BALL: An early experience of crawling into tunnels and nearly getting stuck has provided the lifelong motivation to avoid tight spots.

Geoff shared that his mother's family arrived in Trenton, NJ in 1680, followed by his father's family in Wisconsin, in 1830. Geoff's grandfather was a Methodist Minister which provided the opportunity for his birth at The Methodist

Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. He recalled the happy life of being raised in a parsonage and the foundational experiences of reading with his family and



games like erector sets to pass the time during childhood sick days.

His education progressed from Long Beach Poly to Harvard/N-ROTC where this program provided resources equivalent to the Naval Academy. Along with the demands of his studies he experienced travel abroad with memories of being tossed on the waves by boat travel across the North Atlantic. Graduate school brought him to Stanford where he studied AI programming clustering.

Geoff shared an experience using the idea of shared memory at 1st Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto and how that has continued in other research and educational uses. He is also very proud of his efforts in conflict resolution with two notable events. Working in the Lake Tahoe

area his use of mantra provided the collaborative spirit between two oppositional forces that had disintegrated into adversarial factions. The mantra 'Don't Hurt the Lake' provided the unifying theme where all found agreement. Equally, he found positive results in aligning the priorities of the IG and EPA projects to find common ground. Each side threatened and holding an oppositional position he found through assessment of process and points of conflict that both sides mirrored each other. This provided the unifying perspective to move beyond the conflict.

RICK BLOCK: As a Rabbi his repertoire of jokes are not suited for the pulpit, but he did share the story of God speaking to Moses about the location of his death. Moses was hesitant and God asked where he would like. Moses stammered C-C-C and God permits Canaan. Moses replied, I wanted California!

No less engaging but due to Covid in the family Rick provided his new member talk by Zoom. His story begins with his youthful summer camp introduction to his wife Susie of 53 years. His law experience began at University of Pennsylvania Law School and his Naval commitment, leading to the Navy JAG office. This was followed by a Naval assignment to the US Attorney's Office in San Diego and an assignment to Naval Justice School working with various positions within the Naval justice system.

The progression of his career led him to the Bay Area as a litigator, where recording his efforts in six-minute increments on his time sheets caused him to question the meaningfulness of his life. While it had been a nagging thought, a conversation with his wife about Rabbinical school crystalized his decision. While chagrined his wife Susie and



their two small children moved with him to Israel for Rabbinical school where they have an apartment to this day.

He closed his presentation with the reference to the book, **Man's Search for Meaning**, a 1946 book by Viktor Frankl chronicling his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. The book speaks to suffering, meaning and as Rick Block shared, searching for meaning in life may not be understood but for one to search for the experiences that provide meaning in one's own life.

BRUCE WINTERHOF: Giving up the cold winters of Chicago Bruce relocated to Palo Alto to be near family.

Early years for Bruce were on the family farm in Northwestern Iowa in a German/Swedish community. Family life on the farm consisted of duty, family, and community. Leaving the farm he went to Drake University in Des Moines, IA where his interest in math led him towards earning a degree in actuarial science. An actuary is a professional who advises on the measurement and management of risk and uncertainty.



Bruce's career began with consulting with the insurance industry. His consulting work on the sale of an insurance company resulted in 40 years of leading an organization with international expansion. His move to Palo Alto and the life altering effects of his wife's health brought him to a new stage of life. He continues to work but has transitioned from demanding career growth to expanded family

time with his children and grandchildren. His daughter recently married, and Bruce has recently become engaged.

SERVICE CORNER

Wednesday, October 12th – Distribute Food at Nuesta Casa: 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Contact Charlie Weidanz or sign up at link in email.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAREN thanked our 3 new members for their talks and to **ROB LYMAN** for setting them up. Thanks to members and guests who attended and those who made the meeting possible today.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Cash Alae**, **Rob Lancefield**
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald**
 Room Set-Up: **Hersh Davis**
 Zoom Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Pinion writer: **Matt Dolan**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

September 18	Climate Action Committee "SEASPIRACY" Watch this Netflix documentary on your own, then join us 7:30-8:30 PM, on Zoom. Cash Alae and Geoff Ball
September 19	Bernadine Fong, Interim President Foothill College: Community College Today
September 26	Tom Fingar, Shorenstein APARC Fellow, FSI, Stanford China