

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 26, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

## WELCOME

President **KAREN ROHDE** called us to order and asked President-Elect **LIZ KNISS** to present visitors and guests. A distinguished visiting Rotarian was Richard Carlson, long a member of Palo Alto Rotary and now active in the Catalina Rotary Club of Tucson (reportedly its Treasurer). Dick said that he had been a member here "something like 20 years" and had been gone "something like 20 years." He was in town enroute from Arizona to the Cascades.... Other visitors were Lotus Yee Fong, as the guest of **STANS KLEIJNEN** and **JOOP VERBAKEN**, plus John Nguyen and Halina Liang.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



Today's thought by **DAN QUINN** focused on building communities. When we feel we're in the grip of crisis, discouraged by rancor and intolerance, it's good to remember that we can build communities by looking for shared

purposes. Dan gave as examples the purposeful work of volunteers in surveying the wildlife of Jasper Ridge and the purposeful commitment of the Committee for Green Foothills, advocates for open space since 1962. Rotary, said Dan, builds communities by building trust and a sense of connection.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**ROB LANCEFIELD** joined the President's Club to honor his daughter Betsy, heroic as a family caregiver... **TRISH BUBENIK** joined as a fan of the Ken Burns documentary "The US and the Holocaust," and reported that her father had been among the troops that liberated Bergen-Belsen.... **CASH ALAEE** made his PC donation in solidarity with the people of Iran.... **LE LEVY**, already in the President's Club, made a new \$88 contribution with thanks for the birthday party organized in his honor by **PATTY MCGUIGAN** and the Rotary Cranks....

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Karen asked for strong efforts to befriend our newest members: **MARCO MAINA, HASAN MUSA, JENN TORAI, ARIELLE HENDEL, ED SHIKADA, RICK BLOCK** and **CAROLE WHITEHILL**....

Meet our Newest Members

A grid of eight portrait photos of the newest members, arranged in two rows of four. A circular badge on the left says "ROTARY CLUB Our Newest Members NEW MEMBER". The Palo Alto Rotary and Imagine Rotary logos are in the top right corner.

Marco Maina	Hasan Musa	Jenn Torai
Arielle Hendel	Ed Shikada	Rick Block
Carole Whitehill		

Prompted by survey responses that requested more time for personal interaction, Karen provided four to five minutes for discussion of a truly cosmic issue: **"If you had the chance to be an animal, what animal would you want to be?"**

We'll enjoy a TGIF at the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield, at 5:30 pm on Friday, September 30. Don't forget that the Museum's Dawn Redwood Tree Courtyard has been named in honor of our club, recognizing our \$100,000 donation....

## SERVICE CORNER

**Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** – 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 the link in email.

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am -- Olé 5k Benefit Race - Run/Walk at Bixby Nature Preserve, Palo Alto Baylands**

\* All proceeds from your registration will go to support our club's World Community Service (WCS) project addressing Type II diabetes at the Clinica del Pueblo in Oaxaca, Mexico

\* The Olé is a live race happening in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to support the Clinica. We will be holding a companion "virtual" event at the Bixby Nature Preserve in Palo Alto on the same date at 8:00 am. JOIN **TIM WATSON** and Register for the race here **Choose the "Virtual Olé 5K" option.** The cost is \$25 and includes a Race T-shirt showing Rotary as a Sponsor. Use the code "ROTARY" at check-out and the race organizers will waive the shipping fee and ensure your entry fees go towards our project at the Clinica. Meet in the Byxbee Park Parking lot.



## TODAYS PROGRAM

**GEOFF BALL** introduced the day's speaker, **Dr. Thomas Fingar**, Shorenstein APARC Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford and former Deputy Director of National Intelligence and Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. Dr. Fingar has followed



issues relating to China for 57 years, since the Nixon Administration and under Ford and Carter... As Mark Twain supposedly said, Wagner's music was "not as bad as it sounds"; in the same way, U.S./China relations are fraught, but "not nearly as bad as the prevailing narrative would have us believe...." China today remains authoritarian and has increased control of its people as it has modernized. Its double-digit growth ended 13 years ago. Unlike its neighboring "tiger" economies, it has developed only to be a middle income country, and in many categories (for example, the capabilities of its workforce), it rates below nations like Mexico... It is "wobbly," "no longer an irresistible juggernaut...." One weakness for China is a bifurcated educational system that leaves the rural population behind, with the result that half the workforce is ill-prepared to deal with current technology... Americans are problem solvers, comfortable with social movements and business ideas that start at the bottom and climb up, whereas the Chinese continue to rely on leadership from on high that signals what must happen in the future.... U.S. foreign policy tends to focus on problems that have domestic political implications; we find it easiest to work with international partners that have interests and views most like our own.

Dr. Fingar argued that we must cooperate with China where possible, compete with China where necessary, and confront China where we have no other choice (rather than bending over backward to avoid conflict).... Dr. Fingar suggested that we keep in mind that "op-ed" columns are written by the people who are losing the policy debate within government, so they will always tilt to the negative.... The Chinese "play up" our gridlock and other hard-to-explain behavior; they are "spring-loaded to give us our comeuppance," so for them our problems have exaggerated significance. Dr. Fingar observed that America is "in decline" only in the sense that we're no longer growing faster than everyone else.

## CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KAREN** announced that the business portion of our regular Monday meeting on October 3 will begin at **12:20 pm** to provide extra time for the day's program, a debate among City Council candidates. Please submit your questions in advance to **BETSY BECHTEL**... KAREN thanked our speaker and members and guests who attended and those who made the meeting possible today.

**REBECCA** will stay at the check-in table, after the meeting as needed, to provide tech support for uploading ClubRunner to your phones.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Pam Krudop, Cash Alae**  
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Geraldi, Katie Seedman**  
 Room Set-Up: **Marco Maina**  
 Microphones: **Cash Alae**  
 Zoom Host: **Ben Threlkeld**  
 Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

October 3 Club meeting <b>12:15-1:30 pm</b>	<b>Palo Alto City Council Candidates Forum</b> Bonnie Packer, Moderator
<b>October 5</b> 2:00- 4:00 pm 4:00- 6:00 pm	<b>Distribute Food at Nuestra Casa:</b> Contact Charlie Weidanz
October 8 <b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Olé 5k Benefit Race - Run/Walk at Bixby Nature Preserve, Palo Alto Baylands</b> * All proceeds from your registration will go to support our club's World Community Service (WCS) project addressing Type II diabetes at the Clinica del Pueblo in Oaxaca
October 10 Club meeting <b>12:15-1:30 pm</b>	<b>District Governor Savita Vaidhyanathan</b> Imagine Rotary
October 12 <b>8:00-9:30 am</b>	<b>Monthly Club Board meeting via Zoom</b>
October 15 <b>9 am-2:30 pm</b>	<b>2022 Avenues of Service</b> Mission College, 3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara