

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 14, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

President KAREN ROHDE belled the meeting to order and asked members to silence their phones.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

KIM BOMAR presented today's Thought: This year's Rotary theme is building community, so I'd like to share an example from my life. The chronic stress of being Black in America makes Black people more vulnerable to diseases like cardiovascular disease, hypertension and COVID-19, and psychiatric conditions like depression and anxiety. This is true even when you control for other factors like income and education. Books like Isabel Wilkerson's "Caste" and "Biased," written by my neighbor and MacArthur Genius, Professor Jennifer Eberhardt, help explain why this is the case. It was important for me to try to protect my young children from race-based harm by creating a safe community for them. This is how Hullabaloo was born. It grew to well over 100 children with families of various races who had at least one Black child. We met regularly for play dates, and we had lots of parties. With a 2% Black population in the Bay Area, Hullabaloo was the only opportunity



for many Black children to have close connections over time with Black peers and highly respected adult Black role models. These connections were essential to insulate our children from negative stereotypes in the media and around them. Hullabaloo didn't stop the police from questioning my teenage son about what he was doing in his own yard in my leafy Stanford neighborhood. It didn't stop my younger son's high school classmate from telling him he smelled like an African. It didn't stop too many kids to count from calling my kids and other Hullabaloo kids the "n" word, as they flexed their racial muscles, seeking their spot in the American hierarchy, or a thousand other offenses. It was a safe space for our kids, though, and for parents too. I believe Hullabaloo was successful at creating a safe and emotionally healthy community for local Black children and their parents. But I would challenge Rotarians to think about what you can do to make every place a safe space for others-- so that one day groups like Hullabaloo will not be necessary.

PRESIDENTS CLUB



KAREN joined in honor of **CASH ALAEE's** oversight of the Sibling City Celebration.

SERVICE and SOCIAL CORNER

KAREN thanked members for special service:

SIMON PENNINGTON and **LEN ELY** for their service putting up and taking down flags on University Avenue on Veterans' Day.

CASH ALAEE for hosting the Sibling City Exchange

LINNET KWOK and **HERSH DAVIS** for organizing "Spin to End Polio"

GEOFF BALL and **REBECCA GERALDI** for the Climate Collaboration Summit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAREN thanked the Happy Hour/Social host **MATT DOLAN** at Homewood Suites last week. She also noted that there would be no TGIFs in December but invited members to plan to attend the Holiday Party on December 14 at Gamble Gardens.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION DRIVE

CASH encouraged participation in The Rotary Foundation and the Polio Plus Drive.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON Introduced the Speaker: Cornelia Weiss, 2015 Rotary Peace Fellow and retired USAF Military Colonel, sharing her findings on "Gender Strategies in War."



Cornelia Weiss spoke to us of gender strategies (a term she has coined) in war and following wars. She pointed out that

evidence shows that when women are included at the negotiation table, an agreement is likely to be more lasting than if only men crafted the agreement. Therefore, it is important to give women roles in

leadership. General Douglas MacArthur is a remarkable example of someone who understood this importance. His first demand, his top priority, in post WWII occupied Japan, was the emancipation of women, and women quickly were elected into government roles. More recently, the Taliban has taken the opposite approach, with a gender strategy to eliminate the voice of women. Ms. Weiss spoke of her Peace Fellowship classmate who is in Afghanistan and cannot get a visa to join his wife who happened to be studying in India with their child when the Taliban implemented their current gender strategy, and when and she cannot return to Afghanistan for her own security. Weiss also pointed out that gender strategies can work against men, as evidenced by the difficulty young men currently face when leaving Ukraine or Russia. She argues that ignoring these gender strategies endanger national and international security. *Thanks to **SALLY** for this synopsis.*

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President KAREN thanked Colonel Cornelia Weiss for her time and insights. She also thanked members for attending, both roomers and zoomers. She reminded all to check the day's email for a reminder of upcoming activities. Wishing all a happy week, she then rang the bell for adjournment.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Cash Alaee, Arielle Hendel**

Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**

Meeting Set-Up: **Hersh Davis**

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld, Dana Tom**

Pinion writer: **Trish Bubenik**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**



UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

November 21 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Heidi Kuhn, Founder & CEO of Roots of Peace Turning Mines into Vines
November 28 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Robert Freeman, Founder of the Global Uplift Project Effective Altruism - Small Scalae, High
December 5 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Christian Martine Steps to Improve Your Digital Security, from Novice to Savvy
December 6 9-10 a.m. Contact Betsy Bechtel for info	Endowment Board quarterly meeting
December 6 11:30-12:30 Contact Rebecca Geraldini for info	Membership Committee monthly meeting
December 7 2-6 pm Contact Charlie Weidanz for info	Distribute food at Nuestra Casa Signup on website link
December 14 5:30-7:30 pm Details to come	Member Holiday Party Gamble Gardens 1431 Waverley St. PA