

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 21, 2022



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

President KAREN ROHDE belled the meeting to order. P-E **LIZ KNISS** asked for Rotarians with guests: **HAL MICKELSON** introduced James Juma for his second visit. Online, **ARIELLE HENDEL** introduced Elyse Gerson, Executive Director of Moldaw Residences in Palo Alto, who has submitted her application for club membership.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



ED SHIKADA took this opportunity to remind us of the central role of gratitude in building and sustaining a sense of community. Gratitude reinforces belonging as well as potentially responsibility to

others. He said there are many stories in the Buddhist tradition that reinforce this connection, such as a story about how a single grain of rice might remind us of the many hands that contribute to our meal. Growing, harvesting, sale, packaging, transport, and preparation are all required for us to enjoy our Thanksgiving. In a contemporary context we would also recognize the role of the earth, the sun, and climate to bring us that single grain of rice. And lest we forget, the tolerance and respect

shown by others that allows us each to feel safe and enabled to live our lives and pursue our dreams. Let us not take any of this for granted.

ED also brought this quote from President John F. Kennedy:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

PRESIDENTS CLUB

LEANNAH HUNT – celebrating Cal Bear's win over Stanford in the annual BIG GAME!

JIM SUTHERLAND – celebrating his son's wedding. Jim made the point that even though he's an older parent, this is not his Grandson, as was misreported when said son got his Ph.D some years ago.

TOM GRACON – properly bragging about Granddaughter Sadie, a Junior at Los Altos High School, being selected as the Student Representative to serve on the Mtn. View/Los Altos High School Board in the coming year.

TIME FOR TURKEY DINNER DISASTERS

PP **HAL** came to the podium to help us return to Thanksgiving's past to share in a **Disaster Stories Contest**. He asked that each set of tablemates recall their worst story of preparation and share to



see who would win the prized chocolate turkey centerpiece.



Among the best "worsts" HAL heard about, secondhand, was **ANNETTE G's** story about preparing an elaborate French *Pâté de Campagne* as a gift for her hosts and learning later that they thought it was badly made hamburger and fed it to

the dog...

P.S. If Rotarians on Zoom told you that your story was the best in your breakout group, please wire HAL MICKELSON to claim your prize at unclehalpaloalto@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUSAN LUTTER told about an international service trip being planned to Cameroon in 2023 in support of Ape Action Africa, which our members and club have supported. Ten years ago a PA Rotary trip was made there.

LIZ KNISS and SUSAN are hoping for club members' interest. Details to follow.

CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 14, 5:30-7:30 pm, we will gather at Gamble Gardens to celebrate the Holiday Season! To plan, please click here to register that you will attend. Thanks to **IRIS KOROL** for arranging for us to be here in their festive place.

<https://forms.gle/Amx6hKwXoMhLJJHcA>

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION DRIVE

CASH encouraged participation in The Rotary Foundation and the Polio Plus Drive. He walked us through how to donate online, on the Rotary International website. Checks payable to TRF are also welcomed. While the formal drive ends this month, donations are accepted for this fiscal year through June 2023.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

STANS KLEIJNEN came forward to introduce our speaker, **Heidi Kuhn**, Founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, an humanitarian non profit organization she founded 25 years ago in 1997 is based in San Rafael, CA. She was inspired by Princess Diana in her work to remove landmines and then began Roots of Peace, turning mines into vines - replacing minefields with vineyards and orchards. This has impacted over 1 million farmers, spanning nine countries (incl. Afghanistan - their flagship country since 2003, Cambodia, Vietnam, and now, Guatemala).

Thanks to Roots of Peace, over one hundred thousand landmines and unexploded



ordnances have been removed since 2001. It is an effort that will take decades, and even lives, as mines are removed in many countries. Heidi brought three types of inert landmines to show us, saying, when a mine is removed a vine trellis is planted to grow grapes

With a long family history of Rotarians. One grandfather was President of San Francisco Rotary in 1940-41. As a high school Junior, Heidi was a Rotary exchange student to Japan. She has stood out with Roots of Peace, and as a Rotarian in Marin County, received

the prestigious Rotary International "Service Above Self" Award in December 2021.

Heidi's numerous awards include inclusion in the 2021 Forbes 50 Over 50 List in the category of "Women Who Are Leading the Way in Impact," ; the 2002 Alumni of the Year Award for Excellence in Achievement from UC Berkeley; the 2006 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and the 2019 Mahatma Gandhi Seva Medal.

Just this month she was awarded an Honorary Degree of the American University of Afghanistan and interviewed by ABC7, seen here: [Heidi Kuhn on ABC7 - November 16, 2022](#)

Heidi is a graduate of UC Berkeley, and a former CNN reporter and producer. She lives in San Rafael, with her husband, Gary. They have four children and seven grandchildren.



We thank Heidi for coming to Palo Alto to speak to us in person.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President KAREN thanked Heidi Kuhn for her time and insights. She also thanked members for attending, both roomers and zoomers. Please donate to The Rotary Foundation and, wishing us all a Happy Thanksgiving, the meeting was adjourned.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Dennis McGinn, Julie Jerome**
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Katie Seedman**
 Meeting Set-Up: **Hersh Davis**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Microphones: **Dana Tom**
 Pinion writer & editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS	
November 28 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Robert Freeman, Founder of the Global Uplift Project Effective Altruism
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 Please Register	Member Holiday Party Gamble Gardens 1431 Waverley St. PA
December 16 5:30-10:00 PM Young Ranch in the Hills of Milpitas	Benefit for Ukraine: Musical Winter Holiday Under The Stars RSVP here for your tickets Tinyurl.com/Ukraine-Benefit or can write a check. \$125/person \$995, table of ten Info: Harbir Bhatia, Santa Clara Rotary, (408) 887 1016