

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 9, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

President **KAREN ROHDE**, welcomed us to the first meeting of 2023 and invited **LIZ KNISS** to introduce visitors. Max Gassend is a Rotarian from the south of France, visiting here for one month to spend some time with his son. Joy Oche joined us again via Zoom.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

BRIAN STEEN

told us about his experience building community through his work in a land trust along the Big Sur coast. With the help of the Packard Foundation, whose relatively small (for them) donation was leveraged into several million dollars, they were able to preserve almost all the key properties along the Big Sur Coast.



you will have walked 2000 miles in a year. This year, he monitored his total, saw that he was close, and did a big push in the last few days to finish with 2002 miles for the year! According to Google, he could have walked to Minneapolis. Why he would want to go to that frozen city, I don't know, but it could have been done.

CHRISTINA CHU joined just to join - isn't that nice?

SOCIAL CALENDAR

KAREN thanked **MATT DOLAN, CAROL WHITEHILL, IRIS KOROL AND MARCO MAINA** for creating a magical holiday party at Gamble Garden.

Are you feeling gregarious or shy? Is your -vert extra- or intra-? However you lean, come get to know your fellow members a little better at the **Happy Hour** on Wednesday, January 11th. 5:30-7:30 at Homewood Suites, and at the **TGIF** on January 27, 5:30-7:30 at the home of **TOM and HELEN GRACON**.

STEVE EMSLIE invites you to celebrate Chinese New Year with friends, Wednesday, February 1, 5:30

PM at **Chef Chu's Restaurant**. We will gather with the Los Altos Rotary for a

9-course Royal Banquet. \$100 per person, inclusive. There is limited seating, so check your e-mail for details and make your reservations before Jan 15.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

LEE LIPPERT announced that today is his 21st anniversary of being a member of Rotary International. He is now of Rotary drinking age!

GINNY LEAR joined in order to ask **BRUCE GEE** to stand and talk about his recent success at meeting a health goal. At the start of Covid he decided to do 10,000 steps each day. He learned that if you do it every day,

SERVICE CORNER

Many thanks to **HERSH DAVIS, BRUCE WINTERHOF, AND MATT DOLAN** for volunteering to package and distribute food with Nuestra Casa. The next opportunity is February 1 - sign up at a meeting or by following the link in your e-mail.

You can serve the local arts community and get to see a great performance by volunteering to usher on Sunday, January 22, 12:30-4:15, at Lucie Stern Theatre for the Palo Alto Players. Contact **DANA TOM** or follow the link in your e-mail.

Ukraine is in the midst of a cold winter. A benefit to bring them heating and winter supplies takes place Jan 29, 2-5:30 pm in San Jose. Details are in your e-mail.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Climate Action Committee** invites you to a virtual event on January 12, 4:30-6:30, to learn about resources available for electrifying existing buildings. See your e-mail for details to register.

Our **Rotary District Meeting** is Jan 14 in Cupertino and hybrid, 9am-noon. Registration details in your e-mail.

BREAK OUT GROUPS

KAREN offered us time to talk about our New Year's Resolutions. Ponder "Why Did I make that New Year's Resolution"? It turns out that many claim not to set New Year's Resolutions.

JOOP VERBAKEN led us in a Dutch version of Happy Birthday for our January babies: **CHET DOUGLAS, LEANNAH HUNT, ARNE STOSCHEK, BILL FOGARTY, RICK BLOCK, STEVE EMSLIE, TRISH BUBENIK, KIM BOMAR, DON MORGAN, JUDY KLEINBERG, BRUCE SWENSON**

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Standing in for Rob Lyman, **TOM DUBOIS** introduced our new members giving their talks today.

ED SHIKADA was scheduled to speak but, as City Manager he had to stay on top of the threat of flooding so he will be rescheduled.

LEE PFAB is re-joining and re-introducing herself to us. She was a military brat who moved every 2 years. Born in Mississippi, she moved around the country and the world to finally end up in the Bay Area. She had dreamt of going to

Davis, but found a perfect academic/social/community environment at SF State. She worked for YMCA, and in 2004 they recruited her to Palo Alto. She was unsure about the commute from Daly City, but it turned out to be the right place for her. She found community here, both at YMCA and in Palo Alto overall. Being an active member of the Palo Alto community has given her a sense of belonging and has given her an opportunity to serve. She shows up all around the community because she is interested in all her roles now as: Executive Director of Palo Alto Community Child Care which serves 18 locations; Board member of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce; member of the Community Benefit Council of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. As liaison and legacy member of two tall tree recipients (YMCA and PA Community Child Care) she asks that you please nominate businesses for those awards. Lee also coaches and mentors in the realm of professional development. She now is entering the "retirement zone," and is working to ensure that the next generation of community leaders is ready to face challenges. Mental health is very important to Lee. She was forced to address her losses and



trauma, and, with the help of Kaiser, she is the happiest she has been in her life and has a clear vision of who she is and who she wants to be.

ROB LANCEFIELD joined the President's Club in response to **LEE's** inspiring talk.

CAROLE WHITEHILL's father was in the Navy and, like Lee, she also was a military brat, going to 20 schools in 20 places. On the personal side of her life, she was married 26 years and lived and raised a family in San Mateo. She then spent 10 years in San Francisco. and the blessing of that time was making women friends, three of whom just spent the night at her house this past week. She reconnected with a college beau and



moved to Merced where she lived for 20 years. He passed away about 3 years ago, and she has returned to Palo Alto close to her son and daughter. Her three grandsons are all in college, and one is the baseball (and sometimes women's basketball) announcer on KZSU. On the work side, after majoring in physics at Smith College she worked on the Saturn rocket that put a man on the moon - it had a 24k console, just about enough to play a game on a phone today. After that project wrapped up, she turned down job offers with Douglas Systems and IBM because she was newly married and needed to set up her household and start her family. After her children were a little older, she got back into the workforce, and earned an MBA while working full time. She held various jobs, including accounting in Merced, where she ultimately entered the volunteer arena with Rotary, serving as President, and other organizations.

LIZ KNISS asked for further comment on her decision to stay home and not pursue job offers. **CAROLE** did not regret the choice at the time, and was happy with her decision.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President **KAREN** thanked **ROB, TOM, LEE** and **CAROLE**, as well as our members and guests. Next week is our hands-on service during the meeting. Y'all come!

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Larry Klein, Carole Whitehill**

Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Katie Seedman**

Meeting Set-Up: **Bruce Winterhof, Matt Dolan**

Microphones: **Dana Tom**

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**

Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

January 11 8:00-9:30 AM	Club Board Meeting Contact Pres. Karen
January 11 Club Happy Hour 5:30-7:30 PM	Homewood Suites El Camino Real, PA
January 12 4:30-6:30 PM	Code Red for Humanity: Pathways to Healthy, Electric Cities Free: Virtual Event register: Ticketing (free) to the Code Red 2023 webinar
January 14th: 9-12 District 5170 Mid-Year Leadership Meeting Great for RED Badgers	In person & Hybrid Senior Center, Cupertino Event is free. Register here: HERE
January 16th Club meeting of 12:15-1:30 pm	Hands-On/Sleeves-Up Service Project: Prepare Backpacks for "Life Moves"