

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 16, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

President **KAREN ROHDE** called us together both in person and via Zoom for our regular weekly meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023. We had a bit of work to do and many things to talk about on the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At the request of President-Elect **LIZ KNISS, GEOFF ZIMAN** introduced his daughter Shoshanna and **GLORIA HOM**, her daughter Jennifer.



IMPORTANT CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT



President **KAREN** reported that the Elk's Club is ending its time as the venue for our meetings. **Our last luncheon at the Palo Alto Event Center will be on Monday, February 27.** As KAREN noted, we're

fortunate that our board already was evaluating other possible meeting places. **BRUCE GEE** and **STEVE EMSLIE** will lead the board's consideration of new venues.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In his Opening Remarks, **SIMON PENNINGTON** focused on the importance of gratitude: The Buddha taught that the root of all suffering is desire; in our time, desire often means materialism, and materialism is strongly linked to racism and disregard for the environment. We can overcome a desire for



"things" by putting gratitude at the center of our thinking. As Marcus Tullius Cicero once said, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others."

PRESIDENTS CLUB

ROB LANCEFIELD joined the President's Club in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. Rob noted that he had grown up in many places in the South that were still heavily segregated. He said his life had been enriched when his African-American son-in-law, John Lane, became part of his family.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

TGIF on January 27, 5:30-7:30 at the home of **TOM and HELEN GRACON**. The Rotary Chinese New Year Banquet on February 1 is sold out. Nevertheless, **GLORIA HOM** will share some thoughts about the Year of the Rabbit at next week's meeting.

SERVICE CORNER

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 website link or in your e-mail.

CLUB BOARD ACTION

On behalf of everyone in the club, our board has adopted the **Code of Conduct** published by Rotary International to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The key principles are that we must –

- * Use respectful language
- * Be supportive.
- * Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment
- * Celebrate diversity.

Rotary will not tolerate speech or behavior that reflects discrimination or animosity based on age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. If you hear or observe anything that violates this Code of Conduct, you should bring it to the attention KAREN, DANA TOM, REBECCA GERALDI, or any other member of our board.

DISTRICT 5170 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming events in Rotary District 5170: "Bright Winter of Hope," a benefit for Ukraine, is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, at the Rotary Summit Center in San Jose (\$125 per person).

CASH ALAEE and **JENN TORAI** are co-chairs for our participation in the District's annual **Youth Speech Contest**. Volunteer judges, officials and audience members are needed for the local round of competition on Wednesday evening, **February 8** at the Mitchell Park Community Center. Please check in with Cash or Jennifer to help.

An "International Women's Day" event is planned for Sunday, **March 19**, also at the Summit Center (\$60 for Rotarians, \$30 for guests).

The District Conference will take place Saturday, **April 29**, in a new one-day format at the Computer History Museum. More information is available for all of these District events as rotarydistrict5170.org.

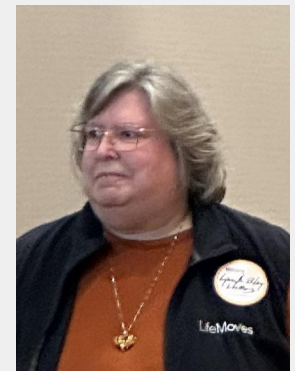
BREAK OUT GROUPS

At this point in the meeting, President KAREN invited everyone present – on site or remotely – to participate in small breakout discussion groups and asked them to consider a timely question: **"What was your most impactful service project, and why?"**

TODAY'S PROGRAM

CHARLIE WEIDANZ as coordinator of Hands-On Service

introduced **Lynnelle Bilsey**, Senior Manager of Volunteer Programs at Life Moves, who shared some information about her organization: LifeMoves creates pathways to stable living environments for those in need by providing interim housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It provides services at a total of 27 locations on the Peninsula, including twelve shelters. The majority of those served are the working poor, often people who were just barely able to pay rent and meet other expenses before suffering a "hiccup" that interrupted their employment and income. In our area, families are unhoused to the same extent as adults, but families may avoid coming to a shelter to



avoid the stigma of homelessness for their children.

The backpacks that we assembled contained a blanket, gloves, a hat, and hand warmers for distribution at LifeMoves' Opportunity Center on Encina Avenue in Palo Alto. The Opportunity Center helps 50 to 60 people each day on a "drop in" basis, meeting their needs for breakfast, lunch, and a shower. Its tower provides longer-term dwellings for 18 families and 70 individuals.



CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

When our brief but satisfying work on the backpacks was completed, President **KAREN** expressed thanks and recognition to the volunteers who made the day's meeting possible:

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Brian Steen, Bruce Swenson**
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Katie Seedman**
 Meeting Set-Up: **Matt Dolan**
 Microphones: **Dana Tom**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

January 23rd Club meeting of 12:15-1:30 pm	"Water in California Agriculture" Bruce Gee, Todd Lewis
January 27th 5:30-7:30 PM	TGIF: Home of TOM and Helen GRACON
January 30th Club meeting of 12:15-1:30 pm	"Bird Migrations." Matthew Dodder Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
February 1 2-4 & 4-6 pm	Distribute Food at Nuestra Casa
February 6 Club meeting of 12:15-1:30 pm	"The Supreme Court: Court of Law or Court of Politics?" Jeb Barnes , Professor Political Science, USC