

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 27, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

After President **KAREN ROHDE** welcomed us to our last meeting at the Elks Club, **LIZ KNISS** introduced Bing Wei who has been with us a couple of times, and John St. Claire, Mayor Lydia Kou's husband and returning visitor to our club.



forward to perhaps fonder memories at the Baylands Golf Links (what? not Lynx?), where he promises the food will be an improvement and the room is, too.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

To seal our farewell, **LE LEVY** led us in a funeral rendition of "Arrivederci Elks Club" in the key of M. If any of the Elks overheard, they were surely celebrating our departure!



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

One might question the wisdom of fleeing an herbivore (even though large and antlered) to run into the arms of a carnivore, but we are indeed leaving the Elks for the Lynx.

STEVE EMSLIE

shared a couple of his memories of our almost ten years at the Elks, which included landing at SFO at 3:30 am the Monday of his first day presiding as President, and another day having his phone pocketed by the Archbishop of San Jose. STEVE looks



PRESIDENTS CLUB

TRISH BUBENIK joined to recognize our transition to the Baylands Café, noting that the longest tenure in a single location was at Rickey's where the club met from 1948-2005 **ANNE CRIBBS**, who chairs the California Senior Games Association, announced the launch of the 2023 Senior Games. Volunteers are welcome. Senior Games are national, and many exciting events take place in Palo Alto and at Stanford.

DANA TOM joined in honor of his mother who would be turning 95 tomorrow. She entered hospice 6 months ago, and hospice was a gift to all of them. He hopes to fill the hole in his heart with joyful memories of her.

LIZ KNISS joined in honor of Judy Koch who died rather suddenly a couple of weeks ago. A member of Palo Alto University Rotary Club, Judy was active in our community and founded the Bring Me a Book Foundation.

WE CARE FOR MEMBERS

JULIE JEROME let us know that two cards were circulating: one for **ROB LANCEFIELD**, who is recovering from a broken foot and welcomes visitors, with advance notice, at The Terraces in Los Altos; and one card for **DANA TOM**, whose mother passed away earlier this month, as he just shared with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: MEETING LOCATION

KAREN reminded us that next week we will begin meeting at Baylands Café at Palo Alto Golf ~~Links~~ Links Clubhouse, 1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Prices stay the same, \$25 for lunch and \$5 for coffee only.

Do come in person to experience the new location, including your **NEW NAME BADGE!!** If you were absent today, and wish to save your traditional round badge as a memento, it is available. Let **GINNY LEAR** know.

Thank you to **LIZ KNISS** for hosting the TGIF last week. About 35 people gathered for festive fun, and there is more to come next month at the home of **TODD LEWIS**. And before that, you can join the Happy Hour at Homewood Suites on Wednesday, March 8, 5:30-7:30 (which actually adds up to two hours, but apparently it takes a while to get happy).

Congratulations to **ROGER SMITH** and **ANNE CRIBBS**, who are being honored by Avenidas with the 2023 Lifetimes of Achievement award. Both of these outstanding citizens and public servants have earned the honor, and join other of our Rotarians who have been honored in the past.

A garden party to celebrate all of the honorees will be held May 21st in Palo Alto. Watch for details.

COMMUNITY & CLUB SERVICE

You can help distribute food on Wednesday, March 1, with Nuestra Casa at Rise City

Church in Redwood City. Contact **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** to take either the 2-4 pm shift or the 4-6 pm shift.

Club Service was the first Avenue of Service created by our Rotary Founders 118 years ago. Help is needed from long time members as well as new members, to make each meeting successful. Training provided. **KAREN** asked for volunteers to help out with our hybrid meeting format (backfills for **DANA** and **BEN**) and encouraged each member to contribute time to our meetings by serving as a **Greeter**, giving the **Thought for the Day**, writing or taking photos for the **Pinion**, assisting with the **Welcome Desk**. Contributing your time.

CHARITIES FUNDRAISER - APRIL 15th

101 DONATIONS! A New Century of Giving

TICKETS available now, online or at our meetings. \$100 per person, reserved tables available, 5:30 pm. Mitchell Park Community Center. There will be two components: an on-line silent auction running from March 27 thru April 10, then on April 15, a Gala Crab and Pasta Dinner where **STEVE PLAYER** will serve as Auctioneer for our limited live auction items, which already include a Mississippi River voyage on a paddlewheeler or a cruise/tour from Madagascar to Mauritius. Donations of auction items by members and other supporters are an essential element in achieving our fund-raising goals. Contact **SALLY TOMLINSON** with silent auction items or any questions on those.

DISTRICT 5170 ANNOUNCEMENTS

An "International Women's Day" event is planned for Sunday, **March 19**, 4-7 PM at the Rotary San Jose Summit Center Information and registration: <https://bit.ly/D5170IWD2023>
The District Conference will take place Saturday, **April 29**, in a new one-day format at the Computer History Museum in Mountain

View. Information and registration:
<https://events.humanitix.com/2023-rotary-district-5170-conference>

TODAY'S PROGRAM



Mayor Lydia Kou was introduced by **ANNETTE GLANCKOPF**. Mayor Kou was elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. She has lived 26 plus years in Palo Alto and has filled various service roles in our community. In

her 6 years on Council, she has chaired and served on numerous committees.

She brought a chart illustrating that residents are at the top, and everyone in the city government works for the residents. Focus areas for 2023 will be Economic Recovery, Community Health and Safety, Climate Change, and Housing.

Mayor Kou spoke first about Community Health and Safety, listing issues that are being addressed: the city is making some adjustments to attract and retain safety officers; public services are short staffed, and nevertheless the Palo Alto Library has been recognized as a 5-star library; Mayor Kou has longed served on the La Comida board, and commended the work they do in association with Avenidas; **TOM DUBOIS** re-started neighborhood town halls and she plans to continue that.

With regard to Economic Recovery, the city is looking at different sections of the city, talking to residents to hear what they want and need, in order to develop a comprehensive business strategy.

To address Climate Change, Palo Alto will review electric grid expansion and modernization, and will conduct outreach to encourage residents and businesses to switch from gas to electric. She also noted the value of trees for the benefit of the climate and our mental and physical health.

Housing is where Mayor Kou voiced the most positioned statements. She said that development needs to be intentional: "you can't have infinite growth on a finite planet." She listed several housing projects underway or recently built that offer below market rate housing, and noted that Palo Alto has one of the largest per capita below market housing rates in Santa Clara county. She believes that state laws taking away the ability of local government to make decisions do not increase affordable housing. She plans to look into national standards regarding acreage needed for each resident.

LE LEVY asked about electric bikes at the Baylands. It will be considered at Monday night's council meeting.

DIANA DIAMOND asked about her high utility bill in Dec-Jan for her house which is all electric. Mayor Kou explained the sharply higher gas prices for that month, and notes that as we use less gas the price will go higher, and as we use less water the price will go higher. Palo Alto has aging infrastructure and those upgrades will be reflected in our utility bills, including electricity rates.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAREN thanked our speaker and all who attended. "Arrivederci Elks Club" and we will see each other next week same time:

Baylands Cafe, 1875 Embarcadero Road, PA

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Roger Smith**

Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald**

Meeting Set-Up/Take-Down: **Marco Maina, Hersh Davis**

Microphones: **Ben Threlkeld**

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**

Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 6

Club meeting
12:15-1:30 pm

1ST meeting at:
Baylands Cafe,
1875 Embarcadero
Rd., Palo Alto

3 Longtime Member Talks:

KEVIN CURRY,
DENNIS MCGINN,
SALLY TOMLINSON

March 7

9:00-10:00 am

Endowment Board meeting. Contact Betsy Bechtel

March 8

8:00-9:30 am

Club Board meeting
Contact Karen Rohde

March 13

Club meeting
12:15-1:30 pm

Margaret Bruce, ED,
San Francisquito
Creek JPA

April 15

5:30 pm
101 Donations:
A New Century of
Service

Annual Dinner and
Charities Fundraiser
Mitchell Park, 3700
Middlefield Rd, PA

Outta Here!

Thank you to Club Operations Chair **LEN ELY**, for his can-do spirit and his assistants, **HERSH DAVIS** and **STEVE PLAYER**, as we exit the Elks Event Center for the final time!

