

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 13, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME

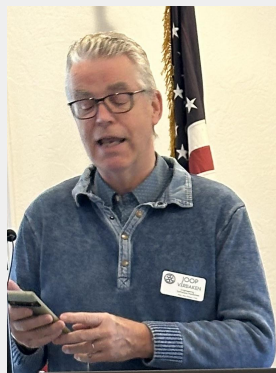
There were plenty of tables and chairs available and a more-than-ample supply of enthusiasm at hand as President **KAREN ROHDE** called us to order at the Baylands Golf Links for our club's luncheon meeting on March 13. Remote participation was welcomed via a "lite" iPhone connection.... At the invitation of President-Elect **Liz Kniss, JUDY KLEINBERG** introduced as her guests two longtime friends and neighbors, Michael and



Barbara Gross.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In presenting his Thought for the Day, **JOOP VERBAKEN** reflected on the value of old friends in building communities. There's a special power in the support, laughter and companionship that are generated by like-minded people. At Rotary, we have the pleasure of volunteering to serve our city and the world as teammates with people who share our values. **JOOP** also has the pleasure of singing with the Santa Clara Chorale, which builds friendship and community through the shared experience of performance.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

HERSH DAVIS joined the President's Club in honor of **BRUCE GEE**, who will receive this year's Tall Tree Award as **Outstanding Citizen Volunteer** in recognition of the myriad ways he serves Palo Alto (above and beyond the innumerable ways he serves our club).... **JERRY UNDERDAL** joined the PC to praise a great show called "Fannie," presented by TheatreWorks. **JERRY** noted that the star, Greta Oglesby, is onstage throughout the powerful 70-minute performance, which is a tribute to the Civil Rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, through April 8.

YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST WINNER

Our Youth Speech Contest winner, **Antonia Minion**, was introduced by **JENN TORAI**, who led this year's contest together with **CASH ALAEE**. There was broad agreement throughout the audience that Ms. Minion is a young person of remarkable poise and intelligence, and that her speech was thoughtful and well presented. She talked about "greenwashing," the practice by some businesses of pretending to promote sustainability without delivering on their promises. Up to 65% of "green" claims in advertising are overstated. Applying **Rotary's Four Way Test**: "Greenwashing" isn't the **Truth** unless it's supported by



verifiable action; it isn't **Fair** because it takes profits away from companies that are legitimately active on environmental issues; it fails to

Promote Goodwill because it undermines trust; and it's not

Beneficial to All

Concerned when it means businesses fail

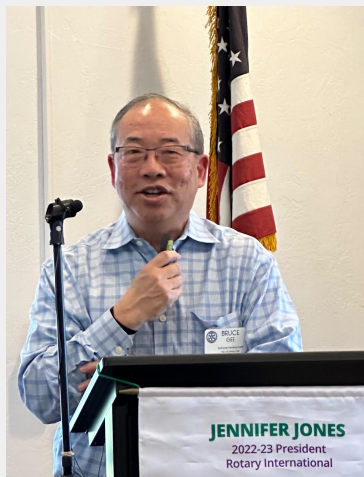
to make the right decisions.... On our club's behalf, **JENN** presented Ms. Minion with a \$100 cash prize and a \$75 gift certificate, both well deserved.



CLUB FUNDRAISER - APRIL 15th

101 DONATIONS! A New Century of Giving

BRUCE GEE took the podium to remind us that our club's annual fundraiser is set for April 15, starting at 5:30 pm, at Mitchell Park Community Center. The format will be, as in years past, a crowd-pleasing Crab Feed & Pasta Dinner, served by



the staff of Ada's Cafe; the organizers are calling it "101 Donations," to mark one hundred and one years of charitable activities.... **Platinum Sponsors** are Alta Mesa Cemetery, Cornish & Carey Commercial Real Estate, and Watson & Machado; **Gold Sponsors: Roger Smith, E.J. Hong, Karen and Bruce Rohde** as individuals. Among the individual **Silver Sponsors** to date are **Ralph Adams, Cash Alae, Sherri Sager, Sally Tomlinson, Len Ely, Dick Mansfield, Rebecca Gerald, and Trish Bubenik.**

Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, \$37,500 has been raised to support the event before even the first crab claw is cracked. That's a great start toward the club's roughly

\$135,000 per year in charitable giving.... Two fantastic trips, one to Madagascar and Mauritius in December, 2023, the other a Mississippi Voyage in March, 2024, will be offered in the evening's live auction. Additional items for the silent auction are still being assembled by **SALLY TOMLINSON**.... Tickets for the Crab Feed and Pasta Dinner will cost \$100 per person, are available online, and can be purchased at next Monday's meeting. BRUCE explained that if you'll be unable to attend, your best strategy is to make an online charitable contribution, not to buy a ticket that you don't intend to use. Knowing that tickets have been purchased by people who plan to use them will assist greatly in planning.

TICKETS available now, online or at our meetings. \$100 per person, reserved tables available.

DISTRICT 5170 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Our speaker was **Margaret Bruce**, Executive Director of the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority.



Margaret is a 1988 graduate of San Jose State University, where she received a BA in Environmental Studies. She grew up in Palo Alto and Mountain View and now resides in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She joined the SFCJPA

at the end of June, 2020.

The San Francisquito Creek JPA was established in 1999, following serious floods in 1998, with the mission of leading projects that mitigate the risk of flooding along the Creek and the Bay. The JPA comprises cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. San Francisquito Creek one of the few mostly natural watercourses in the region and forms the boundary line between the counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara as well as the boundary between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto to the north and Palo Alto to the south.... The Creek is typical of waterways in California that build up banks, their own natural levees, from upstream sediment, and then deposit alluvial material over a wide, flat area downstream. When such a stream bursts its banks, it floods sideways. The JPA exists to reduce the risk of such flooding and to deal with sea level rise along seven miles of shoreline.

Current JPA projects include the replacement of the Newell Road bridge, work to clear and maintain the top of the Creek's banks, and replacement of the Pope-Chaucer bridge (potentially in 2025-26).... Responding to a question, Margaret said that Stanford's proposal to remove the dam at Searsville Lake to restore natural processes is potentially a good idea; the question is how to manage the release of sediment that the dam has been holding back.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President KAREN expressed thanks to **MATT DOLAN** and **SALLY TOMLINSON** for organizing and hosting last week's Happy Hour.... We'll enjoy a TGIF Social on Friday, March 31, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the home of **TODD and MEGAN O'REILLY LEWIS**....

This just in: *Our old round badges* are available for you to take home as souvenirs.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Patty McGuigan**
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald**, **Katie Seedman**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Microphones: **Dana Tom**
 Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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| March 20 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm | Darren Anderson, City of Palo Alto, Assistant Director for Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services: "The Baylands Golf Links and Other City Lands East of 101...." |
| March 27 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm | Bill Liberatore and the Gunn High School Choir |
| March 31 5:30-7:30 pm | TGIF: Home of TODD and MEGAN LEWIS |
| April 3 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm | Dr. Tom Keating, Palo Alto Adult School Principal, "A Caring Community of Lifelong Learners." |
| April 5 2:00 - 6:00 pm | Distribute Food, Rise City Church Signup online or with Charlie Weidanz |
| April 15 5:30 pm 101 Donations: A New Century of Service | Annual Dinner and Charities Fundraiser Mitchell Park, 3700 Middlefield Rd, PA |