

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 20, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

## WELCOME

**KAREN ROHDE** called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and welcomed ROTARIANS to the club's new venue at the Baylands Golf Links.

Introduced were visiting Rotarian **MELANIE**

**LEWIS** from Australia. She welcomed us to see her in Melbourne at the Rotary International Conference in June.

**CAROLE WHITEHILL** introduced her guest, Ross Swimmer, visiting from Tusla, Oklahoma.

**HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** introduced her guest, Ullrich Schwertschlag, a medical doctor in Palo Alto.



generally helped them get oriented. TOM's specialty was helping international students obtain bicycles and giving them long local bike tours. TOM and Helen supported several couples in the years they've supported the Homestay program, and shared about each couple. TOM said he and Helen thoroughly enjoy the experience.

## WE CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS

At the meeting, a birthday card was circulated for our member **ED DANGLER**, who just turned 94.

KAREN reported sad news of the recent passing away of **JAYNE BOOKER** a few days ago.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**TRISH BUBENIK** joined the President's Club to motivate and inspire, successfully, four ROTARIANS to volunteer to present the Thought of the Day in April. Many thanks to the four volunteers who stepped up for April.

**JOOP VERBAKEN** joined the President's Club in celebration of the upcoming concert of the Santa Clara Chorale, of which he has been a member for 32 years. The Chorale is celebrating 60 years of beautiful and meaningful songs this Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at Mission Santa Clara.

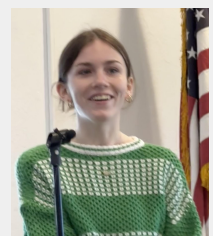
## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**TOM GRACON'S** Thought of the Day focused on his experience supporting the international community at Bechtel House, a Stanford non-profit organization. The purpose of Bechtel House is to improve the experience of international students coming to this country to study at Stanford. TOM and his spouse, Helen, supported the Homestay program for several years. As volunteers, they welcomed and received new international students at the airport and hosted them for 4 to 5 days while their apartment was getting ready, and



## Area 9 Youth Speech Contest

Rotarians are asked to attend in support of our Palo Alto Rotary Club winner, **Antonia Minion** at the Area 9 Level Youth Speech Contest on



Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, at the Courtyard Marriott, 4320 El Camino Real in Los Altos.

## CLUB FUNDRAISER - APRIL 15th

**REBECCA GERALDI** spoke about this year's upcoming Annual Fundraiser, featuring a crab feed and pasta dinner, which will take place on April 15, 2023, at 5:30 pm at the Mitchell Park Community Center. This year's theme is **101 Donations**, in honor of the 101st anniversary of Palo Alto Rotary. This is the PARC's annual fundraiser, and funds annual grants and charitable donations. The silent auction will be entirely online. The event raises funds for our **ROTARY Club's four categories of giving: local community grants; world community service; vocational services; and youth services and programs.** ROTARIANS can help support the fundraiser by buying a ticket and attending, or making a donation if you cannot attend; contact **GINNY LEAR** if you can volunteer as a bartender, working the welcome desk, or joining the set-up crew; and/or support the online auction, which goes live on March 27th. REBECCA thanked all our generous sponsors, and encouraged Rotarians to contact **BRUCE GEE** if they would like to become a sponsor, and/or **SALLY TOMLINSON** if you would like to donate something for the auction. The event planners especially appreciate donations of stays in vacation homes or hotels; fine wine or premium liquor; wine tasting and wine tours; dining (restaurant certificates or dining experiences); electronics; or experiences (tours, special events, etc.). KAREN expressed appreciation for the committee and thanked them for assuring that all donations were put to extremely good use.

**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

**ED SHIKADA** introduced today's speaker Daren Anderson, Assistant Director Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services, City of Palo Alto speaking on "Golf Balls, Airplanes and Nature: Palo Alto City Services and Lands East of 101."

**Darren** has been with the city of Palo Alto for 24 years, working through the ranks of the City of Palo Alto. It all started with the vision for the Baylands area of John Fletcher Byxbee, the city's engineer, which included a golf course, airport, landfill, saline station, salt water swimming pool, yacht harbor, etc. The Baylands was not considered very good land originally. According to Stanford University resources, "Palo Alto's stewardship of the Baylands began in 1921 with the purchase of 40 acres. In the 1930s the yacht harbor clubhouse, a salt water swimming pool (now the Duck Pond), and the lagoon were constructed. Today, the Baylands covers 1940 acres—1600 acres are protected in the Baylands Nature Preserve." Darren spoke about the evolution of the area from marshlands to dumping grounds (by private contractors and the City of Palo Alto for waste disposal); to a recreation center (into the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor to accommodate local boaters); and back to marshlands.



The duck pond originally was a salt water swimming pool built in the 1930s. Given its position along the Pacific Flyway, it was filled with ducks and geese almost immediately. People then came to feed the ducks and made the place a mess with bagels, cereal, etc. Birds would share diseases by congregating

and fighting over food. It took seven years to educate people about the harms of feeding the birds, but the City eventually passed an ordinance prohibiting feeding the animals, cleaning the area up and making it a more hospitable animal habitat.

Young Harbor was built in the 1940s, and was regularly built and dredged to facilitate boat traffic. This stopped in 1986, due to the cost and environmental impacts of dumping the soil in East Palo Alto, which allowed the marshlands to return to their original state. Now the former yacht harbor is a habitat for endangered species and over a hundred other birds.

Palo Alto Airport, which previously was located on the Stanford campus, was moved to the Baylands due to complaints over noise. Currently, it is the busiest single runway airport in California.

The golf course was created because of a petition for a municipal golf course in Palo Alto. Bill Miller, a Rotarian, funded and worked hard to make the golf course a reality.

## CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President KAREN invites us to enjoy a TGIF Social on Friday, March 31, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the home of **TODD and MEGAN O'REILLY LEWIS**.

**District 1650 (Brittany, France)** has raised money to send a deaf child to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for an operation to enable the child's hearing. The family is looking for a host for the child's parents from June 21 – July 12, 2023. If any Rotarians have a spare bedroom and are willing to host the child's parents, please let KAREN ROHDE know.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Hasan Musa, Jerry Underdal**  
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**  
 Microphones: **Ben Threlkeld**  
 Pinion writer: **Kim Bomar**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<b>March 27</b> Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	<b>Bill Liberatore and the Gunn High School Choir</b>
<b>March 28</b> 5:30-6:30 pm	<b>Membership Committee meeting</b> Contact: Rebecca Gerald
<b>March 31</b> 5:30-7:30 pm	<b>TGIF: Home of TODD and MEGAN LEWIS</b>
<b>April 3</b> Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	<b>Dr. Tom Keating, Palo Alto Adult School Principal,</b> "A Caring Community of Lifelong Learners."
<b>April 5</b> 2:00 - 6:00 pm	<b>Distribute Food, Rise City Church</b> Signup online or with Charlie Weidanz
<b>April 10</b> Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	<b>Michael Snyder, Chair Genetics Dept. Stanford University</b> Transforming Healthcare With Big Data and Wearables
<b>April 15</b> 5:30 pm <b>101 Donations: A New Century of Service</b>	<b>Annual Dinner and Charities Fundraiser</b> Mitchell Park, 3700 Middlefield Rd, PA