

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 24, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

President **KAREN ROHDE** called us to order for our regular Monday meeting on April 24, 2023, at the Baylands Golf Links. Karen noted that April 24 has been declared Genocide Remembrance Day, a time for reflection about the Holocaust, the Holodomor famine, and the massive, tragic genocides directed against Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, Cambodians, and Rwandans....

President-Elect **LIZ KNISS** carried us through the introductions of several guests: **GLORIA HOM** presented Heraldo Botelho, new to the area and interested in Rotary.... **DAN QUINN** introduced Jerry Patrick, who has asked for a membership application.... **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** suggested that we get to know Ullrich Schwertschlag, who has been approved for membership and will be inducted next week.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

KAREN called upon Past President **KATIE SEEDMAN** to offer a Thought for the Day. Katie talked about the founding of Rotary in Chicago in 1905, when Paul Harris asked three friends to work with him in improving their community.

Renowned for its commitment to service, leadership and peace, Rotary has grown from those beginnings into an international movement with 1.4 million members....



President Karen noted that in recent years we have built upon Rotary's humanitarian values with a new emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

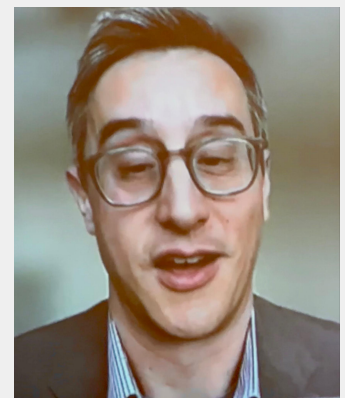


Those joining the President's Club to congratulate **BRUCE GEE** for his Tall Tree award included **TRISH BUBENIK, LEANNAH HUNT** and **GINNY LEAR**.... On impulse, LIZ KNISS joined the PC when she spotted **MATT DOLAN'S** arrival.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

The day's main speaker, **Josh Chin**, was introduced by an uncommonly proud cousin, BRUCE GEE. Josh is Deputy Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal in China, responsible for coverage of politics and general news.

He is co-author, with Journal reporter Liza Lin, of "Surveillance State: Inside China's Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control" (2022, St. Martin's Press).... Josh spoke about a visit to Xinjiang, twice the size of Texas, where China's Communist Party has applied the tools of



technology to create a “full-scale digital war zone.” The objective is to control the region’s Muslim minority, ethnically Uighurs and Kazakhs; Josh said it is no less than a “campaign to re-engineer a society.” The results of surveillance, starting with facial recognition, are exhaustively analyzed to identify and suppress resistance to the regime.... The same technology was applied to control the population throughout China during the COVID epidemic.

The ideas and tools for these efforts have been drawn from Silicon Valley, but China is now exporting them. Uganda, for example, turned to the Chinese company Huawei for a \$127M “state surveillance starter kit,” including training in China for Ugandan security personnel.... Chinese citizens can use a virtual private network (VPN) to access Twitter and other social media that are not officially available to them; if they do so, they may find they’re questioned by the authorities for posting something that can’t be seen in their country.... In response to a question, Josh noted that since the system is based on analysis of past events and behavior, it often can’t deal with ideas and behavior that are entirely new.

ROTARIANS IN ACTION

Our club’s **Climate Action Committee** participated in two local events for Earth Day: The first was a “March & Rally for Climate Justice” in King Plaza on April 21, where we were represented by **GEOFF BALL**. The second was the “Love Our Earth Festival” on April 22 at Menlo-Atherton High School, where **GEOFF BALL** and **REBECCA GERALDI** joined members of the Palo Alto University club to showcase the work of Rotary on climate change and environmental issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The TGIF on Friday, April 28, 6-8:00 pm, at the Moldaw Residences organized by **ARIELLE HENDEL**. Bring a bottle of wine to share. Bring a guest!

Outreach: Bjoern Eskofier, a Rotarian from Germany visiting Stanford is looking for

Rotarians “to play golf with.” Crystal Hubler-Butterbaugh, a Rotarian from Pennsylvania, hopes to find a room to rent in from August 13 to October 13 for her daughter, a graduate student.

TODAY’S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Steve Madsen**

Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Geraldi, Katie Seedman**

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphones: **Dana Tom**

Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**

Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

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| April 28 6:00-8:00 pm | TGIF/Social Moldaw Residences 899 E. Charleston Rd. PA Valet parking is available No tipping allowed |
| April 30 12:30-4:45 pm | Usher, Palo Alto Players “The SpongeBob Musical” 1305 Middlefield Rd. PA Contact: DANA TOM |
| May 1 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm | 2023 Club Charitable Grant Recipients Our Community Support at Work! |
| May 3 2-4 or 4-6 pm | Nuestra Casa: assist in preparing or distributing food. Contact: CHARLIE WEIDANZ |
| May 8 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm | Philip Taubman, Stanford CISAC In the Nation’s Service: The Life and Times of George P. Shultz |