

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 15, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

IMPORTANT note: Monday, May 22, our meeting is exclusively via ZOOM. We will not meet in person next Monday.

That day only, the Baylands Café will be closed for upgrading kitchen equipment.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

President **KAREN ROHDE** called our meeting to order for both "Roomers" and "Zoomers" on Monday, May 15. **TOM DUBOIS** introduced as his guest Mayor Lydia Kou, who was joining us because her husband John St. Clair III was inducted as a member.... **IRIS KOROL** presented Eric Jensen, "soon to be one of us...." Jerry Patrick explained that he was "here on my own" and hoped to submit an application.... Steve Bennet was the guest of President KAREN.... **GEOFF ZIMAN** hosted Ian Millard, Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 50, who spoke to us later in the meeting.... A personable visitor from Germany, Björn Eskofier, explained that he's a member of the Erlangen-Schloss Rotary Club, is teaching engineering at Stanford this year, and hopes to meet new golf partners.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

President-Nominee **REBECCA GERALDI**

noted that our club's Vocational Scholarship Committee adapted to COVID by conducting Zoom-based interviews, with



the hugely beneficial result of permitting applicants to present themselves without worries about catching rides, spending time on buses or scrounging the cost of Uber. The new way of interviewing appears to have opened the door to applicants who would not

otherwise have connected with us. According to REBECCA, the lesson is that flexibility can be a tool in building more inclusive communities.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

JOHN ST. CLAIR III was inducted as a new member by REBECCA, as Membership Chair. Sponsored by TOM DUBOIS, John earned a



Finance degree at Santa Clara University, became a Realtor in 1994, and is now with Keller Williams, teamed with his wife Lydia Kou. He has contributed to our community in many capacities, including time as a Middle School volleyball coach and service as a board member and CERT Team Leader at La Comida.

ROTARIANS IN ACTION

An opportunity to serve in a joint service project at **Hope's Corner** is coming up on Saturday, May 20th. The Area 9 Rotary Clubs (Palo Alto, Palo Alto University, East Palo Alto/Bayshore, Mountain View and Los Altos) are holding a joint service project at Hope's Corner, a non-profit that serves free breakfasts and bag lunches every Saturday in downtown Mountain View.

•7:00 to 9:00 am – 8:45 to 11:00 am

•**Hope's Corner, 748 Mercy Street, Mtn. View** Contact KAREN to sign up.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 50

As a longtime champion of our connection with the Boy Scouts, GEOFF ZIMAN – his official title is Chartered Organization Representative -- introduced **Ian Millard,**

Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 50,

which is now sponsored by the Palo Alto Rotary Club. The troop has 40

participants, including two Eagle Scouts. This year's weather has

presented severe challenges, but recent activities included biking, kayaking, canoeing, indoor rock climbing, camping at Pinnacles and Slate Creek, many one-day hikes, a three-day hike at Henry Coe. and snow camping in the Sierra. Plans for the future call for camping in Desolation Wilderness and Kings Canyon.



Barbara and Gerson Bakar Faculty Fellow. Her M.A., M.B.A. and two Ph.D's were earned at the University of Chicago. Among her recent publications are articles about the human need for understanding and connecting and the tendency to underestimate the benefits of "prosocial input," plus a recent paper entitled 'Hello, stranger? Pleasant conversations are preceded by concerns about starting one.'

According to Dr. Schroeder, our happiest moments are not likely to be times that we've spent alone. Our brains reflect millennia of adaptation to living in small groups.... Despite the fact that we're



hyperconnected by technology, there's a loneliness epidemic, getting worse for most Americans. One-third of us experience debilitating loneliness, and it's worse for those 18 to 25.... Loneliness is as unhealthy as smoking 15 cigarettes per day.

In an experiment conducted by Dr. Schroeder that asked people to start conversations with strangers on Chicago commuter trains, participants predicted that connecting with other people would be unpleasant, but in practice most found it enjoyable. The issue was apparently an exaggerated concern about social risk – the fear of being rejected.... Social interaction is based on reciprocity, so taking the initiative usually works. Spoken conversation offers synchronicity; when you hear what another individual is saying at the moment when they say it, you are receiving humanizing cues that in a sense let you read the other person's mind.... If you think you're an introvert, you don't have to change everything in your life, but you can change small things at the margin.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Our speaker, **Juliana Schroeder**, was introduced by **BEN THRELKELD**. She is Associate Professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley as well as Harold Furst Chair in Management Philosophy & Values and a

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks and congratulations are due **PATTY MCGUIGAN and BETSY BECHTEL** for hosting a garden party at Patty's home to promote giving to our PA Rotary Endowment Fund. Betsy and **TIM WATSON** spoke, and we'll be hearing more from TIM about Planned Giving. **ROGER SMITH** has generously offered to match first-time donations to the Endowment – donations from members who have not given in the past – on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$5,000.

President **KAREN** thanked the volunteers who made today's meeting possible.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Soheila Mozayan, Cash Alae**
 Welcome Desk/Cashier: **Rebecca Gerald**,
Katie Seedman
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

May 22 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Lara Aknin, Psychology Prof., Simon Fraser University Giving's Positive Impact on the Giver
May 26 5:30-7:00 pm	TGIF/Social with Matt Dolan Homewood Suites 4329 El Camino Real Palo Alto
May 29 No CLUB meeting	Memorial Day Post and retire American flags on University Avenue 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
June 2 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Assist PACCC with a Community Celebration Event at the Ventura Community Center, helping with setup, cleanup, check-ins, raffle sales and other activities; ask Karen or Charlie
June 5 Club meeting 12:15-1:30 pm	Dr. Brady Page, Infectious Disease and Critical Care Medicine, Stanford "Fighting Infectious Disease: The Story of Polio"
June 7 2-4 and 4-6 pm	Package and deliver food at Nuestra Casa in Redwood City
June 26 SAVE the DATE!	President KAREN's debunking