

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 21, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME MEMBERS & GUESTS



President **LIZ KNISS** welcomed us at 12:30. In the absence of our President-elect who is taking kids to college this week, LIZ welcomed our guests. Visiting Rotarian Neysa Fligor from the Rotary Club of

Los Altos, and Kathy Torgerson, a guest who volunteers with our speaker. Welcome everyone!

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

STEVE EMSLIE spoke:

In this room, we are more than individuals; we are a force for positive transformation. Our shared commitment to service has the power to shape lives and create a lasting impact. As we gather today, let us remember that every gesture, every project, every act of kindness we undertake has the potential to ignite change.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

LIZ joined the Presidents Club for the wonderful weekend she had in St. Louis attending a wedding shower - even going up in the famous Arch. **STEVE EMSLIE** was also on that trip and arch ride. He later went to a Cardinals/ Mets game.

ROB LANCEFIELD joined in tribute to advise our speaker's husband, Supervisor Joe Simitian, once gave him.



JUDY KLEINBERG asked about Rotary support for donations to Lahaina, Maui given their tragic wildfires.



President Liz noted that individual donations are encouraged on various Rotary sites for Lahaina, Maui. Rotary in Hawaii, is in District 5000. There are 9 Rotary Clubs on Maui, 3 of them in Lahaina. It is reported that all 3 Lahaina

Rotary Club Presidents lost their homes in the fires, and so many more tragic stories.

D5000's Foundation has set up a Maui Fires Relief Fund - [Maui Fires Relief Fund](#). Here is a [donation link](#).

You may also visit our District website to make a donation directly www.rotarydistrict5170.org

TODAY'S PROGRAM



JACKIE WHEELER introduced our speaker today, Palo Alto resident and campaign strategist Mary Hughes, Founder of Close the Gap, California.

Mary is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and Mt. Holyoke College. Today, Mary reflected on 10 years of Close the Gap CA, and its accomplishments: What we learned. Why it matters.



Since its launch in 2013, Close the Gap has been changing the face of the California Legislature one cycle at a time. Today, 20 Close the Gap women are serving in Sacramento, and 14 of them are women of color.

Close the Gap California (CTG) is a statewide campaign to close the gender gap in the California Legislature by 2028. It is not a PAC and does not provide financial support to candidates. By recruiting accomplished, progressive women in targeted districts and preparing them to launch competitive campaigns for California Assembly or Senate.

CTG believes that progressive women can transform leadership in our state and set a national example for the more just and inclusive democracy our most urgent challenges demand. Less than a decade ago, women didn't even make up one-quarter of the California Legislature. Today women are nearing parity.

The question was asked about how much legislators are paid: California Assembly members are paid \$122,694 and receive an additional \$214/day on days the legislature is in session to cover expenses. In addition, Californians banned state lawmakers from accruing pension benefits back in 1990 under [Proposition 140](#), a measure that imposed term limits.

CLOSING COMMENTS

President LIZ thanked our speaker for coming today and sharing the status of Close the Gap, CA.

Thank you to our guests for attending and to the volunteers who helped with the meeting.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Arielle Hendel**

Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**

Microphone: **Steve Emslie**

Pinion writer/editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

August 28 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	George Tingwald, Admin. Director, Stanford Health Stanford Hospital: Built for the Future
September 4 No meeting	Labor Day DARK
September 11 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Lisa J. Blanchard, E.D. Grateful Garments Project - Members Fill backpacks at Baylands Cafe
September 12 8:00-9:00 am Zoom	Club Board meeting Contact Liz Kniss
September 18 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Kyle Hietala, Program Director and Head Coach of Palo Alto HS Speech & Debate Persuading and being Persuaded: Insights from Speech & Debate
September 25 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	District 5 SCC Supervisor Joe Simitian Bridging the Divide