

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 25, 2023



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME MEMBERS & GUESTS

President **LIZ KNISS**, and called us to order welcoming visiting Rotarians and those with guests. Jake Yoo from the Palo Alto University Rotary Club was a visiting Rotarian. Guests were Jon Goldman brought by **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**, Jack Cabaness, with **HAL MICKELSON**, and Gillian, assistant to today's speaker. Thank you for coming.



TGIF "Farewell to Summer!" 9/29

A TGIF "Farewell to Summer Social" is this Friday, September 29, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the home of **MIKE & TERRY MCMAHON**, co-hosted by **TOM & HELEN GRACON**. Please, if you can, bring a bottle of wine; appetizers will be provided; do invite your spouse, a guest, or a potential member...

2022-2023 PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Immediate Past President **KAREN ROHDE** shared with the club that we have received recognition from RI for achieving the goals set by the Board last year which were established by then RI President Jennifer Jones.

Congratulations to our club, the Board and leadership from **KAREN**. Well done!



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

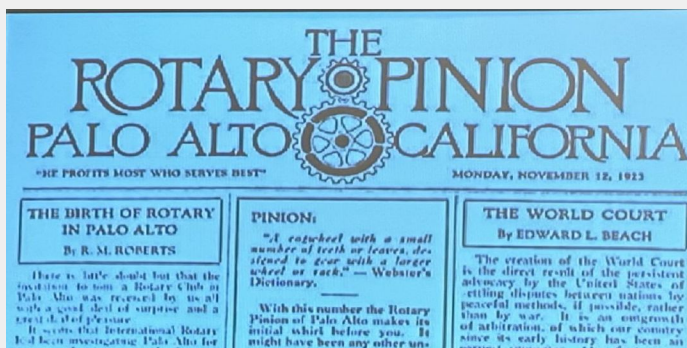
GLORIA HOM came to the microphone to recount her joining Palo Alto Rotary as its first woman member in 1987 and becoming our first woman President 5 years later. A special story.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

RALPH ADAMS joined in honor of his daughter and granddaughter as September 25 is National Daughters Day. **BETSY BECHTEL** joined to honor our own **JACKIE WHEELER** who was just awarded Volunteer of the Year for the Santa Clara County Democratic Party. **ROB LANCEFIELD** offered \$200 for his 70th high school reunion in Portland, OR. Thanks to everyone!

PINION WRITERS REPORT HISTORY



This is the first issue of the Palo Alto Rotary Pinion, **November 12, 1923**. The small wheel at the top of the Rotary wheel logo is a

Pinion "a cogwheel with a small number of teeth designed to gear with a larger wheel." Thus the name of our newsletter.

With **GINNY**'s request and our speaker's support to step up, two more members agreed to join our merry band of Pinionistas (writers) and keep this club rolling with information. We are all cogs in a larger wheel. It comes with driving lessons.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

JULIE JEROME introduced 5th District Santa Clara County Supervisor **Joe Simitian**, a friend, former Palo Alto School Board Trustee, City Council member, State Assemblyman, State Senate and SCC Supervisor. Joe is well known among our club members as an effective leader on the local, regional and state level.



Joe's presentation addressed the divisive nature saturating our politics on all levels, referencing the Rotary 4 Way Test. Historically, councils and governing bodies achieved results by building consensus on behalf of the represented constituencies. Currently, we are witnessing the obstructionist, oppositional efforts aimed at grabbing attention though sound bites and insults.

He used an example from 2003, telling the story of an East Palo Alto man, the late Rick Walker, who was wrongfully convicted and served 12 years in prison before a local lawyer successfully had his verdict overturned and he was released. Due to bureaucratic barriers Mr. Walker could have had considerable delays from receiving compensation for this wrongful conviction. To avoid the delays Joe accepted the duty to be an advocate for him as the California legislative session was ending. Joe was successful in reaching and surpassing the required votes needed through individual contact with allies and across the aisle. Despite differing political views the priority of serving their constituency provided the common goal. The final vote on the final night at 2 a.m., passed to applause within the chamber for achieving what was the right thing to do.

Joe had three hard truths for us all to consider;

1. Trash talking doesn't get us to yes
2. Don't dehumanize your adversaries.
Focus on fundamental decency
3. That which gets rewarded gets done.
Think positive reinforcement
Share compliments

Moving past the current climate is not a simple task but requires effort to rise above the rhetoric and focus on the real challenges. He is optimistic for the long term and is committed to rising above for the short term.

In a good question, it was asked how Rotary could be helpful. Joe pointed to our 4-Way Test banner and said the final two: is it "beneficial to all" and will it "build goodwill and better friendships" are excellent.

Thank you so much
Joe.



to

USHERS AT PALO ALTO PLAYERS



Welcomed by Managing Director **ELIZABETH SANTANA**, ushers: **DANA TOM**, Nancy Kawakita, **ULRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG**, **STEVE MADSEN**, **SIMON PENNINGTON**, **HERSH DAVIS**, Liz Davis, these members and partners ushered for "Mathilda" the best selling show ever at Palo Alto Players.

TODAY'S MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Karen Rohde**
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**, **Rebecca Gerald**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**
 Pinion writer: **Matt Dolan**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

September 29 5:30 - 7:30 pm	TGIF: Home of Mike & Terry McMahon, co-sponsored by Tom & Helen Gracon
October 2 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Fred Guttenberg, Author , "American Carnage," "Shattering Myths that Fuel Gun Violence"
October 9 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Kenan Moos, President and Co- Founder, Justice Vanguard "The Marathon: Creating lasting impact and empowering communities through education"
October 16 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	District 5170 Governor Hung Wei Annual Club Visit
November 19 11:30 a.m. Palo Alto JCC Annual Event	SPIN TO END POLIO please contact Linnet at: linnetkwok@hotmail.com to register or for more info. <i>It is not a race.</i>