

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 13, 2023

Pinion writer: Sally Tomlinson



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WELCOME MEMBERS & GUESTS & SALUTE!



President **LIZ KNISS** invited **DUANE KALAR** to lead us in pledging our allegiance to the flag, something we do several times a year in association with national holidays. After the pledge, Duane joined the President's club in recognition of **JACKIE**

WHEELER, BETSY BECHTEL, and CHARLIE WEIDANZ, who, along with **Duane**, hung flags on University Avenue last Saturday to honor Veterans' Day.

Jamil Durman, a Rotarian visiting from Trinidad, was here in June at our first meeting at the Golf course. He and his wife are back in Palo Alto to celebrate their 50th anniversary with their daughter who lives here.

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF introduced Greg Hood, who has attended multiple meetings and is up for membership.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

President **LIZ** asked if we knew the source of "Hope springs eternal." Several erudite guesses from members (Shakespeare, Shelley, etc.) were put to silence by **LE LEVY** who took the mic to say it was a quote from the coach of the Cal football team. President Liz levied a President's Club fine on Le for his irreverent suggestion, and then she revealed that Alexander Pope is the much-quoted sage.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

TRISH BUBENIK joined in honor of Dave Dockter, our speaker last week, who came to her aid many years ago when a tree fell on her **house!**

While in *The Wizard of Oz*, a **house** falls on a Wicked Witch!

KAREN ROHDE joined the President's Club to commend the PA Players for *The Wizard of Oz* last week, produced especially for young students with the help of a grant from our club. Ushering at that performance were **Karen, BETSY BECHTEL, GINNY LEAR, and BOB MCCOWAN**. It was a treat to see the superb production and to see so many (400!) excited children enjoying it.

WE CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS

There was a card circulating for **JOOP VERBAKEN**, whose mother died recently. Joop and **STANS KLEIJNEN** are still in the Netherlands for a bit longer with Joop's many siblings and their offspring.

REMEMBERING DON MORGAN

BRUCE SWENSON announced that his friend and neighbor, and our long-time member, **DON MORGAN**, passed away at home last weekend. Don's service will be this Thursday, November 16, 10:30 a.m. at Synagogue Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Rd., Los Altos Hills.

We send our condolences to Rene, their children and grandchildren. We will miss Don.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

BETSY BECHTEL introduced local architect **Rob Steinberg**, Chairperson of the global architectural firm Steinberg Hart, with offices throughout the US and China. Rob is a third-generation architect who transformed his father's residence-focused Silicon Valley practice into an international firm that specializes in cultural, governmental, educational, and mixed-use projects. His firm was recently awarded the CA Firm of the Year by a vote of the 17,000 architects in the CA Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



Mr. Steinberg based his talk on his book, "How Architecture Tells: 9 Realities that will Change the Way You See," available at Books Inc. or that giant online bookseller.

The book outlines nine principles that are central to architecture. Mr. Steinberg chose to focus on two of them with striking local examples.

The first principle is that architecture requires leadership that can develop a clear vision, build consensus, and sustain that vision over time. The Vi at Palo Alto took 18 years to envision, design, and build, finally opening in 2008. The original intent was to build senior housing for Stanford faculty so that newer faculty could move onto campus. The land available near the creek required environmental and archeological studies and reports, and it required coordination with the native people's tribe, the water district, Stanford, and the cities of Menlo Park and Palo Alto. (Yes, he said, Palo Alto's reputation for being difficult due to the Palo Alto Process is well-earned.) During the 18 years, the firm needed to adjust the design repeatedly in response to new studies, additional restrictions, and changing demands.

The result was soon recognized as the gold standard of senior living, and Steinberg's

clients in China would hold it up to him as an example of what they wanted.

This led to the second principle, that architecture brings ideas, creative thought, and imagination to address existing conditions. While the Vi was seen as the gold standard for senior housing, when Steinberg



visited, he noticed that the residents missed being connected to a variety of people of all ages. He found the opportunity to create an integrated senior living experience at the JCC in Palo Alto. With an athletic facility, a preschool, and a performance auditorium, the seniors living at the JCC had the opportunity to be connected to a broader community. He envisioned our own Jerusalem - a village of interconnected spaces. Originally thinking of a small senior living center, he was challenged when the JCC asked for four times as many senior units. To avoid losing the open spaces, and to keep all the activities close to one another, he chose to put the housing above the other functions. This requires the coordination of three different management groups, but his dream of a thriving intergenerational village has been realized.

TODAY'S MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Duane Kalar, Karen Rohde**

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

Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphone: **Rebecca Gerald**

Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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>
November 20 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Emily Cupo of Stove Team International Another Rotary Story, 82,000 stoves and counting
November 23	Happy Thanksgiving!
November 27 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Andrew Binder, Chief of Police, Palo Alto Palo Alto Crime Trends: Crime Prevention and the Outlook for 2024



Palo Alto Players Managing Director and Rotarian **Elizabeth Santana** speaks to 400 children before the start of the play, sponsored by a Palo Alto Rotary Charities Grant.



Photo by Jane Gee. Thank you, Jane.