

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 26, 2024

Pinion writer: Betsy Bechtel



Chartered: May 1, 1922

## WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS

President **LIZ KNISS** recognized Rotarians with guests: **ERIC JENSEN** introduced Mike Fogarty; Amy Yang, guest of **DANA TOM**; Mary Ann Gee, guest of **SHERRI SAGER**.

## QUOTE FOR THE DAY



**STEVE EMSLIE** gave us a Leap Year Quote, for this February 29th, reminding us that it happens every four years!

**Century exceptions:** if the year is divisible by 100 and not divisible by 400, leap year is skipped. The year 2000 was a leap year, the next time it will be

skipped is 2100! Trivia Contest winner!

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

**AMY YANG** was welcomed as our newest member.

Sponsored by **DANA TOM**, he said they met while helping at a Chinese dinner donated by **GLORIA HOM**.

Living in Palo Alto, **AMY** has been an active member of the community, co-founding the Palo Alto Chinese Parents Club, in the schools, and the Palo Alto



Chamber of Commerce. **AMY YANG** is a great addition to our club! Welcome!

## TGIF - MARCH 1st - Shamrock Style



**ERIC JENSEN and Linda** will host us all on March 1st. 🍀 Jameson was mentioned... Bring a friend! Join in the fun! Appetizers provided. Please bring a bottle of wine to share.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

A special contribution was made by **ROB LANCEFIELD** to thank and honor the friendship of three members who make his attendance possible by giving him a ride: **RALPH ADAMS, KEVIN CURRY, JOAN PLASTIRIS**.

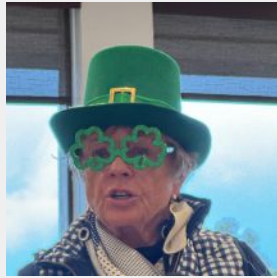


**MATT DOLAN** joined to announce his participation in a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

**MATT's** going to jump out of a plane near Santa Cruz, April 14th @10 a.m. in honor of "Lizzy Got Wings" remembering his daughter. You may donate

and/or join him! [passion.cff.org/lizzy-got-wings](https://passion.cff.org/lizzy-got-wings)

**PATTY MCGUIGAN**, dressed in her Irish green, encouraged members to buy tickets to hear Canadian Celtic music at the Guild Theatre, Menlo Park, Sunday March 10th at 7:00 p.m. **PATTY**



promised that for every ticket purchased by Rotarians she will contribute \$25 to the Rotary Endowment Fund. **PATTY** highly recommends the group and the newly renovated Guild Theatre.

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER! March 23rd**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE!**



**BETSY BECHTEL and SALLY TOMLINSON** reminded us of the **March 23** date of our annual Crab feed/fundraiser and encouraged member sponsorships, including Silver Sponsors of \$500-\$1,000. **Silent Auction** begins next week! Think of your favorite auction items for

this year's fundraiser, **Peace Love Rotary**. Vacation homes, dinners, or behind the scenes tours are excellent auction items. Tell **SALLY** by February 29th. Two of the few live auction items: special cruise packages: Japan by Sea (May 14-25) and Athens to Rome (September 26 to October 5, 2024). And... there's a pizza party, a paella party, dinner in a home by two families, and 30 more, so far!



**ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST**

**JENN TORAI** announced the Rotary Speech Contest scheduled for **March 10, 9-11 a.m.** at Homewood Suites, thanks **MATT DOLAN**. Thanks to all who have already volunteered

that morning. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear the student speeches!

**TODAY'S PROGRAM**

**SALLY TOMLINSON** introduced our speaker, **Faisal Karimi**, a Visiting Scholar at San Jose State University Human Rights Institute and a recent John S Knight Fellow at Stanford University. After 22 years in journalism and academia in Afghanistan, he fled to the US after the Taliban takeover in 2021.



He spoke about the Media under the Taliban Rule in Afghanistan. He described how he fled, bringing with him 28 of his staff, first to Albania in a refugee camp for 7 months and then half to Canada and the others to the United States. The media under the Taliban is very restricted.

There is not a free and independent press. It is especially difficult for women. There has been an 82% decline of women journalists. He and his staff continue to work in exile with women journalists in Afghanistan working anonymously. They continue to publish their stories and "fight for the truth". Restrictions are getting worse for journalists. Faisal said that journalism isn't just a job, it is a mission. *"A free press is a lifeline to truth"*.

**CLOSING**

**LIZ** thanked our speaker very much, our volunteers, and all who came today.


Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

 **TGIF this Friday - Eric & Linda Jensen's in Palo Alto! 5:30-7:30 pm**

## TODAY'S MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Ann Cribbs, Charlie Weidanz**  
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**  
 Microphone: **Charlie Weidanz**  
 Pinion writer: **Betsy Bechtel**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

<b>March 1</b>  <b>TGIF</b> <b>5:30-7:30 pm</b>	<b>TGIF: Eric &amp; Linda Jensen's home... Join in the good times! Bring a beverage to share</b>
<b>March 4</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Scott Herhold, former editor, San Jose Mercury</b> Author, "Murder Under God's Eye" 1974 Murder in Stanford's Memorial Church
<b>March 10</b> 9 - 11 a.m. Speech Contest	<b>Annual Rotary High School Speech Contest</b> Homewood Suites, 4329 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
<b>March 11</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Kaloma Smith, Pastor University AME Zion Church and Chair Palo Alto Human Relations Commission</b> Topic: "Why we still have hope"
<b>March 18</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Ran Ran, Associate Professor of Political Science at Renmin University of China</b> Topic: China's Green Dream and its Implications on US-China Climate Change Cooperation
<b>March 23</b> <b>Club Annual Fundraiser</b> 5:30-8:00 pm Mitchell Park	<b>Tickets now available online or at the next 2 meetings.</b> Crab, Pasta, Salad, Dessert Great fun - fundraising for our Charitable Grants.
<b>March 25</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Amy Lauterback, current President, Palo Alto Pickleball Club, and past President Monica Williams</b> Topic: Quick History of Pickleball and the success of PA Pickleball Club (1100 members)