

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

**March 11, 2024**

*Pinion writer: Sally Tomlinson*



*Chartered: May 1, 1922*

## WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS

As President **LIZ KNISS** called the meeting to order, she noted that we were honored to have several guests and a visiting Rotarian.

Martha Wopenski visited us from the San Jose Rotary Club.

**KAREN ROHDE** introduced Amith Viswanathan, who is involved in digital health and is interested in getting to know Rotary. Justin Duren of Breitling, Palo Alto, visited as a guest of **RALPH ADAMS**, and Pastor Jack Cabaness visited as a guest of **HAL MICKELSON**. **ERIC JENSEN** introduced his guest Mike Fogarty, and lastly, **DUANE KALAR** introduced Andrew Binder, Palo Alto Chief of Police.



women's sports is a result of many people who had hope and took action.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**STANS KLIEJNEN** joined the President's Club to acknowledge **MIKE REYNOLDS**. On Friday the World Community Services committee learned that their global grant of \$104,000 for sanitation projects in Guatemala was approved. It would not have happened without MIKE.

**CASH ALAEE** recognized **JENN TORAI** for her management of the speech contest, and he expressed appreciation for the WCS committee's \$2000 grant that is already in the hands of project managers in Thailand.



## QUOTE FOR THE DAY



**ANNE CRIBBS** reflected on her experience as president of the National Women's Basketball League, a professional league that she helped form in 1997. Now, 29 years later, the

WNBA is coming to the Bay Area, college player Caitlin Clark draws more than 18,000 fans to her games, and women's sports are attracting fans who have never had season tickets to a sport. What is happening today in

**TRISH BUBENIK** gave her appreciation for the 28 Rotarians who have offered the quote for the day, many having done it twice.

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER! March 23rd

**PEACE, LOVE and ROTARY** is coming on March 23, and the Silent Auction is already live online. All funds raised will go to support our annual charities grants next year.

**REBECCA GERALDI** noted that "***fundraising is not a spectator sport.***" She gave us the good news: there are only 12 more days to hear announcements about this!



Don't miss out! **REBECCA** urges us to:

- [BID on the silent auction](#) – each item is fun to buy and a gift to yourself in support of our charities.
- [DONATE](#) as a sponsor or in lieu of attending. Everyone is important!

**BRUCE GEE** said ticket sales are over expectations and there is room for more!

- [BUY tickets and come](#)

## ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST

**JENN TORAI** told us about the two contestants who competed in the speech contest. Both gave very heartfelt speeches.

**Sabrina Terman** spoke about "Rediscovering Childlike Confidence".



**Jaya Urrutia**

described his experience as a transgender child in his talk "Castle in the Sky."

By a narrow margin, Sabrina was the winner and will advance to the Area 9 contest.

JENN thanked **JOY OCHE, STANS KLEIJNEN, JOOP VERBAKEN, KAREN ROHDE,** and **SIMON PENNINGTON** for helping with the speech contest on Sunday.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

*TODAY'S PROGRAM was recorded and will be available [at this link](#). You should listen to it – Kaloma Smith was very inspiring as he spoke about "Why We Still Have Hope."*

**DARYL SAVAGE** introduced **Kaloma Smith**, with whom she has worked on the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. He is Pastor of the University AME Zion Church, the oldest black church on the peninsula. He was



born in Jamaica, grew up in New York City, and came to Palo Alto to be pastor at AME Zion.



Pastor Smith sees hope illustrated in the actions of Lewis and Clark, as described in the book "Canoeing the Mountains," by Tod Bolsinger. The two explorers were tasked with finding a waterway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and when they encountered the end of their waterway, they looked at the mountain they were facing and convinced their team to carry the canoes over the mountain for further discoveries.

Smith is optimistic about Gen Z (born in the '90's) and Gen A (currently in high school). They will encourage us to do more. When Boomers find ways why a proposal won't work, Gen Z finds a way to make it work. They love to move forward on challenges. We will do well to harness that youthful energy.

The youngest person on his leadership team is 23 years old and from Indonesia. When people ask him how to get young people engaged, he says, "Tell them why you do it. Tell them about the project in Thailand – it's not about having lunch."

After Covid, 80% of his congregation had moved, and the young people remaining said, "I think we can do something different." Now the congregation is bigger than before and the average age on the leadership team is 29. If we want young people to be engaged, we need to understand their needs. If we want young people in local government, we need to

pay them enough to make it worthwhile to hire a babysitter for all the hours of work required. Santa Clara pays \$125,000. PA pays \$12,000. Both have budgets of \$1 billion and pay their City Managers over \$300,000.

We choose the people that we keep in our personal space. It is refreshing to be with people who don't see things the way you do. The way we move conversations forward is by having more people at the table who don't look, think, or act like us. These may be hard times, but they are not "the worst" times. Humans will go through difficult times but humanity finds an interesting way to come out of difficulty. It starts with the individual saying "I can make a difference," one day at a time, one conversation at a time.

When asked how to close the generation gap, he stressed the importance of establishing a relationship. Let them have the first 10 minutes, let them voice their criticism, then ask what they suggest.

He believes that we can fight extreme speech by building community, and we can overcome the toxic effects of social media by putting down our phones and being present.

As the program ended, **JACKIE WHEELER** gave a Presidents Club contribution in honor of our speaker, because she was so moved by his words.

## IN CLOSING

President **LIZ** thanked our speaker and all who helped to make our meeting possible.

## TODAY'S MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **John St. Clair III. Stans Kleijnen**  
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**  
 Microphone: **Jenn Torai**  
 Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

<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>Ron Gentile, Palo Alto Pickleball Club</b> (1100 members) Topic: "Arrive as a Stranger and Leave as a Friend"
<b>April 1</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Megan Swezey Fogarty, Stanford University, Associate VP for Community Engagement</b> Stanford and Palo Alto: Driving More Purposeful Engagement

## PUT YOUR Old Eye Glasses BACK IN USE

**ARE YOU SEEING STRAIGHT?** You may well have old eyeglasses lying in a drawer "just in case" you break your current pair. How many of those back-up glasses do you need? **SUSAN LUTTER** will donate \$5 to the Rotary Foundation for each pair of glasses (prescription, sunglasses, readers, any style or strength) that you bring. She will send them to a village in Cameroon with which she has worked for many years, where the small clinic will make them available to people in much need.