

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 6, 2024

Pinion writer: Hal Mickelson



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS



Citing Rotary's theme this year, "Create Hope in the World," President **LIZ KNISS** called us to order for our regular luncheon meeting at the Baylands Café on May 6, 2024.

Members with guests were presented Josiah Clymer; **DANA TOM**, who introduced Kathy Torgersen; and **MATT DOLAN**, who hosted applicant Jon Goldman.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

New member **JAKE YOO** presented a reflection about the tradition of the theater that "The show must go on." There's a story by Hindu poet Rabindranath Tagore: The poet's servant failed to report on time one morning, and the poet was intensely angry. He needed to be given his clothing and his breakfast. When the servant had been late for three hours, the poet resolved to fire him as soon as he arrived. When the servant appeared at midday, he began with his duties as if nothing had gone wrong. The poet was enraged. "Drop everything!" he said. "Just get out!" The servant continued sweeping, and then said with quiet dignity, "My little girl died last night." The show must go on.



DEBUNKING IS COMING: JUNE 24

As Past President, **KAREN ROHDE** announced that the Debunking of Soon-to-be-former President **LIZ** will be conducted Monday evening, June 24, at Michael's at Shoreline, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. KAREN welcomes some help in planning for this annual fun filled evening.

PRESIDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS



President LIZ joined her eponymous Club to say good words about Joe Simitian's campaign, conducted with grace and integrity, and Kathy Torgersen's success in raising six-figure amounts for Ukraine.... **TRISH**

BUBENIK joined the

President's Club to recognize MATT DOLAN's connections to last week's speaker, Diane Shader Smith, in the battle against cystic fibrosis and other chronic diseases. The rumors are true: MATT raised \$16,000 for the cause with a 13,000-foot parachute jump.... **ROB LANCEFIELD**, forever an "Army brat," joined the PC to recognize children of veterans affected by PTSD.... DANA TOM joined to applaud the crowd-pleasing success of "The Music Man" as presented by Palo Alto Players. Tickets are still available for May 10th, 11th and 12th.

HENRIETTA BURROUGHS made a President's Club donation with a report on the massive joint 70th Birthday bruhaha held by and for **STANS KLEINJEN** and **JOOP VERBAKEN**. The event amply demonstrated the truth of the old adage, "No party is truly a success until the police have been called."

WCS ANNOUNCEMENT

As requested by our hardworking World Community Service Committee, **REBECCA GERALDI** announced that the WCS team is soliciting ideas from Rotarians for worthy international projects. Grants of up to \$5,000 may be available. Talk with STANS and JOOP.



ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE



TIM WATSON asked for support for our club's Endowment Fund. Established in 1982, the Endowment is a long-term investment which ensures that our work and service can have continuing support. Its value has reached \$1.22 million.

Each year 5% of principal is distributed to locally chosen charities. Tim reported that our goal this year is to add \$25,000 in donations to the Endowment, with broad participation from our membership. You can help in any of five ways: By writing a check; by an online transfer; through a donor-advised fund; by distributions from your IRA or 401(k), particularly if a distribution is mandatory; and via "planned giving" in your estate or designating the Endowment as a life insurance beneficiary. Checks and online transfers should clearly specify that they are for the Endowment.

ALERT FOR NEW DONORS BY MAY 13!

As a truly special incentive, TIM promised that he will shave off his COVID beard if the Endowment attracts **ten new donors** in any amount by **Monday, May 13**.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Our speaker, **Amy Castro**, was introduced by DANA TOM. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. Professor Castro is co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Guaranteed Income Research, and has been a co-principal investigator of 30 applied cash transfer studies.



In theory, guaranteed income programs can take the form of "universal basic income" within a specific geography, "basic income" that is targeted but not universal, and "guaranteed income" for a fixed period of time, typically 12 to 24 months. The programs that have been evaluated by Professor Castro are not designed to replace the social safety net. One issue that has been explored is whether \$500 per month in extra income can contribute to many kinds of well-being – perhaps by making it possible to enroll in vocational education, or by opening a door to full-time employment because multiple part-time jobs are no longer necessary. The effects can include allowing parents to spend more time with their children and reducing the rate of absences from school.

More information can be found at <https://penncgir.org>.

IN CLOSING

Following some enlightening q&a with our speaker, President LIZ thanked Professor Castro very much. The meeting adjourned at 1:30.

ROTARY USHERS @ PALO ALTO PLAYERS

ELIZABETH SANTANA thanked the Rotarians and their associates who served as ushers for "The Music Man": **Simon Pennington, Ginny Lear, King Lear, Rebecca Gerald, Karen Rhode, Bruce Rhode, Eric Jensen, Ullrich Schwertschlag, Dana Tom and Nancy Kawakita.**



TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Amy Yang, Richard Keller**
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Pinion writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

May 13 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Ron Herman, Photography Instructor, Foothill College Connecting With Cuba
May 20 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Our Rotary in Action! Bruce Gee, Chair 2023-2024 Community Grants and Recipients
May 27-DARK	NO MEETING Memorial Day
May 31-TGIF 5:30-7:30 pm	Ben & Cindy Threlkeld invite us all to join together at their office of Cambridge Optometry, 2307 Birch St., Palo Alto
June 3 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Chop Keenan, Keenan Land Company: Current Status and the Future of Palo Alto Commercial Real Estate
June 10 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Daniel Nguyen, Jeopardy winner! Paly Math Teacher: Behind the Scenes at Jeopardy
June 17 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Greer Stone, Mayor of Palo Alto Palo Alto Today
June 24 DARK No lunch meeting	No club meeting
June 24 5:30-7:30 pm Dinner	President Liz's Debunking Michael's at Shoreline Mountain View