

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 13, 2024

Pinion writer: Sally Tomlinson



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 13, 2024.

Two visitors joined us. **ANNE CRIBBS** introduced her son, John Todd. John is an international sports photographer and came to hear our speaker. **MATT DOLAN** introduced Jon Goldman, who has submitted his application to the Board.

## QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"Can you hear me now?" **JUDITH STEINER** joined the meeting via Zoom, beginning by quoting the new standard Zoom greeting. She then gave us several thought-provoking quotes about democracy.



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

**REBECCA GERALDI** inducted the world's newest Rotarian, **JACK CABANESS**. Sponsor **HAL MICKELSON**, introduced JACK, who is the Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, a graduate of Dartmouth, a scholar, and a family man



interested in ecumenical activity. HAL added: JACK was born in the Dr Pepper Belt (El Paso) and that he and his wife Emma have two delightful children who attend Palo Verde Elementary School.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS

**LIZ KNISS** announced that she attended her granddaughter's graduation this past weekend and she was justifiably proud to let drop that the granddaughter had graduated Magna cum Laude! Liz almost managed to share that news without joining the President's Club, but alert member **GINNY LEAR** caught the error.

## ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

Save it or shave it? **JULIE JEROME** and **TIM WATSON**, came forward to speak about the endowment.

**JULIE** recommended that you make your gifts out of your IRA accounts for great tax benefits – you just need to request the distribution from the holder of your IRA. **TIM** was at the podium sporting his dapper beard and holding a can of shaving cream and a razor, having promised to shave his beard if ten new donors gave to the endowment. That challenge has been met, so **TIM OWES US A SHAVE!** But **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** was not there in person to wield the razor as originally planned, so we lost the chance to see a very messy depilation at the podium.



Next week, come prepared to see TIM with baby-smooth cheeks.

You can donate to the endowment here:

<https://www.rotarypaloalto.org/page/endowment-fund>

## VISIT TO ROTARY CLUB #1

**ANNETTE GLANCKOPF** brought a flag from the original founding Rotary Club in Chicago, Rotary #1, where it all started! Annette spoke of the benefit of visiting the local Rotary Club when you travel, saying something about sharing a glass of champagne, which left us all hoping to find the clubs that serve champagne!



Annette put in a plea that we start sharing flags again. GINNY LEAR explained that we have no flags because we ran out about the time the pandemic hit and are not inspired to make more. Our club is considering a digital flag that does not require storage and is not eventually "landfill". ROTARY/One is a very special flag. It will find a place on our website.

## MORE ABOUT FLAGS: MAY 27th

**DANA TOM** announced that we will be posting American flags on Memorial Day, May 27th, together with the Palo Alto University Rotary Club. For the morning shift, meet at 8 am at the corner of University and Cowper (and then go have coffee with the group), and for the afternoon shift meet at 5 pm at the corner of University and High.

## DEBUNKING REGISTRATION for JUNE 24

**FAREWELL LIZ:** 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. Please register (and make your dinner selection) by June 16: Registration is OPEN: <https://paloaltorotary.square.site/>

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**SIMON PENNINGTON** introduced our speaker, **Ron Herman**, Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Foothill College. His work is



collected nationally and internationally and is included in museum collections. He has taught in multiple countries and has lectured at Cornell, Stanford, and Yale. He travels broadly to learn about other cultures, the world, and our place in it. Today's talk focused on Cuba.

His first trip to Cuba was in 2010, and he has been going with students almost yearly since then. Even in 2010, Cuba was very welcoming to Americans. He noted the abundance of 1950's cars, stores with sparse shelves, and art in unexpected places. Artists have higher salaries than doctors and lawyers, because the artists can travel and sell their work abroad.

Old Havana was built all at the same time, and the architecture is beautiful but not maintained, so it is falling down. Even the mansions that remain are decaying. He showed a door in two colors – when you get paint, you use what you can afford, and the next time you can afford paint it may not be the same color.

The Foothill College trips are opportunities to share as well as to learn. Ron sees many of the same people year after year, and he can leave them photos of themselves and their family members. Ron's groups also deliver photo supplies that aren't available in Cuba, as well as other things not easily obtained there.

Ron's connections include political celebrities. He has gotten to know Che Guevara's personal photographer during the revolution, and Fidel Castro's son, Alex Castro, is a photographer who has attended some of Ron's sessions. Some Cuban photographers have given Ron CDs and asked him to take their images to the US. He has created exhibitions here of some Cuban photographers' works, and has been able to sponsor a couple of photographers to come here for visits.

Since Obama opened relations with Cuba, some conditions have improved, and it is easier for people outside Cuba to send money. Those with family in the US can be relatively rich. But where Ron sees beauty in the Old Havana buildings, the Miami Cubans are shocked by the decrepit state of the city as compared with what they left behind.

There may be a trip open to the public (like us) in November. Simon will let us know.

## IN CLOSING

President LIZ thanked our speaker and our members and guests for attending. The meeting adjourned at 1:30.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Richard Keller, Mike Fogarty**  
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Rebecca Geraldi,**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**  
 Microphone: **Jake Yoo**  
 Pinion writer: **Sally Tomlinson**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

<b>May 20</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Our Rotary in Action!</b> <b>Bruce Gee, Chair</b> 2023-2024 Community Grants and Recipients
<b>May 27-Flags 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Post Flags on University Avenue, 8 a.m.,</b> Meet at Cowper and University <b>Retire Flags: 5 p.m.</b> Meet at High and University to return flags to garage
<b>May 27-DARK</b>	<b>NO MEETING Memorial Day</b>
<b>May 31-TGIF</b> 5:30-7:30 pm	<b>Ben &amp; Cindy Threlkeld</b> invite us all to join together at their office of Cambridge Optometry, 2307 Birch St., Palo Alto
<b>June 3</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Chop Keenan, Keenan Land Company:</b> Current Status and the Future of Palo Alto Commercial Real Estate
<b>June 10</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Daniel Nguyen, Jeopardy winner! Paly Math Teacher:</b> Behind the Scenes at Jeopardy
<b>June 17</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Greer Stone, Mayor of Palo Alto</b> Palo Alto Today
<b>June 24 DARK</b> No lunch meeting	<b>No club meeting</b>
<b>June 24</b> 5:30-7:30 pm Dinner	<b>President Liz's Debunking Michael's at Shoreline Mountain View</b>
<b>July 1-DARK</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>July 4-Flags 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Post Flags on University Avenue</b>