

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 20, 2024

Pinion writer: Steve Emslie



Chartered: May 1, 1922

## WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS



Citing Rotary's theme this year, "Create Hope in the World," President **LIZ KNISS** having fully

recovered from her bout with COVID19, called the meeting to order at 12:30

**JAKE YOO** introduced his daughter, Liselle Yoo. **IRIS KOROL** introduced her guest, Dennis Burns, former Palo Alto Police Chief.

## QUOTE FOR THE DAY



**BEN THRELKELD** provided a series of inspirational quotes about hope:  
Albert

Einstein: Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow. *The important thing is to not to stop questioning.*

Martin Luther King: *We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.*

Joseph Addison: *Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for.*

Robert Schuller: *Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.*

Magic Johnson: *All kids need a little help, a little hope, and somebody who believes in them.*

Barbara Kingsolver: *The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.*

## ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

**TIM WATSON**, now clean shaven, encouraged members to make their endowment fund contributions by sending in checks or using the website. Tim noted that losing his COVID beard resulted in 15 new contributions to the Endowment Fund. You can donate to the endowment here: <https://www.rotarypaloalto.org/page/endowment-fund>

## MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS: MAY 27th

**CHARLIE WEIDANZ** 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.

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

President LIZ informed the club that **BETSY BECHTEL** is in the hospital and doing fine.

**FAREWELL LIZ:** BEN THRELKELD provided details regarding the upcoming Debunking of President LIZ. The last meeting of June will be a dinner at Michael's Restaurant at the Shoreline Golf Course in Mountain View starting at 5:30pm. The dinner will be a celebration of President LIZ's highly successful

year and to pass the presidential gavel to our incoming President **REBECCA GERALDI**. Meals are \$90 per person and you can buy tickets on the club website. Please register (and make your dinner selection) by June 16: Registration is OPEN: <https://palloaltorotary.square.site/>

**BEN** also announced there will be a club **TGIF** get together on **Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>** at the new home of Cambridge Optometry at 2307 Birch Street co-hosted by **LEE LIPPERT**.

President LIZ acknowledged **JULIE JEROME'S** recent Avenidas Lifetime Achievement award.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**BRUCE GEE** introduced today's program, the recognition of our Rotary Club Grant recipients. \$70K funds were given to 11 local



organizations serving our community. Today's program is a bit like Rotary speed dating as each group has a few minutes to talk about their mission and work in the community. **BRUCE** also thanked the numerous grant committee volunteers who have ensured that the donations are well stewarded by conducting a very diligent review of each application.

### Canopy

JP Renaud, Executive Director stated Canopy's mission is to protect and enhance the urban forest. In addition, Canopy also builds community by relying on volunteers to plant and maintain our urban forest. The grant was used to provide additional bags and carts which enabled Canopy to plant many more trees.

### Children's Health Council (CHC)

Lori McGilpin gave an overview of CHC and announced its new location in East Palo Alto

near the Home Depot. The organization was founded in 1953 by Physician Esther Clark. In the last 10 years the CHC has expanded into East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The Rotary grant

enabled CHC to expand parent education programs which are important prevention of childhood distress.

### Christmas Bureau

Arne Lim, a recently retired teacher at Palo Alto High School and Christmas Bureau volunteer, gave a history of the organization. It was started in the 1950's by Palo Alto School District nurses who organized gift distribution to needy families. Today the bureau distributes grants to families in the holiday season to use as they see fit. The

bureau's grants are used by families to enhance the holiday season including holiday meals and basic life necessities. The bureau runs on volunteers so their overhead is very low at 2%. The bureau is expanding to serve elderly and the homeless.

### Downtown Streets Team (DST)

Chris Richardson and Erika Laguna represented DST providing an overview of DST which was founded on the principle of ending homelessness through the dignity of work. DST is now in 20 cities throughout the state. DST recently took over the food closet at





All Saints Church which serves over 300 people. The food closet is largely staffed by volunteers and they are always looking for more help. The grant enabled DST to fill in gaps missing from food donated by the public.

### **East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK)**

Rebecca Lowell and Kendra Muscarella, board members described EPAK's mission to support East Palo Alto teachers by issuing microgrants enabling them to purchase needed supplies and educational materials. They provided 490 grants which ended up supporting thousands of students. The grant provided resources to host parent/community events to increase the family involvement with education.



### **Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP)**

Ellen Izuka described EHP's history by stating the organization was founded in 1975 to provide food, clothing and furniture to needy families. They also work closely with other agencies by providing referrals for services they don't provide. EHP is the largest emergency food provider in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. They distribute 33K food boxes to 15K individuals. They are expanding to support other family needs such as rent assistance. The grant provided snacks and lunches for children.



### **Razorhawks**

Alexander Matthew Key represented the Razorhawks, a youth rugby league. The organization was founded



in 1981 and serves youth between the ages of 8 to 18. Rugby is a diverse sport played by many cultures including Pacific Islanders. The Razorhawks provide a safe environment for different communities to gather. The grant provided scholarships and transportation support to enable more youth to participate.

### **Marine Science Institute**

Marilou Seiff said the Institute was founded in 1970 to provide youth the opportunity to have direct contact with the Bay environment. Over 50K students participate in their programs each year. The Rotary grant enabled bringing hands-on instructional programs to 8 East Palo Alto schools.



### **Museum of American Heritage (MOAH)**



Michelle Fabian representing MOAH gave an overview. The museum was founded in 1985 and opened the museum in 1990 when it took over the

Williams House bequeathed to the City by the Williams sisters. The museum curates technical and mechanical artifacts in use before the advent of computers. The grant enabled MOAH to revitalize the heritage garden.

### **Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)**

Melissa Roth presented on behalf of PACCC which was founded 50 years ago and provides child care from infancy to 5<sup>th</sup>



grade. They serve 775 kids daily and provide year-round service. The grant provided an increased number of scholarships for the underserved in our community.

### Project WeHope

Natalie Walker thanked the club for its grant which enabled them to purchase additional washers and dryers for the Dignity on Wheels vehicle. Project WeHope was founded in 1999 and provides homeless support as well as operates a 73 bed shelter. They now serve 5 counties and 22 cities and are currently expanding the shelter to 106 beds.



### IN CLOSING

President LIZ adjourned the meeting at 1:30, reminding the club there will be no meeting next Monday.

### TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Julie Jerome, Charlie Weidanz**  
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**  
 Microphone: **Charlie Weidanz**  
 Pinion writer: **Steve Emslie**  
 Photographer: **Jake Yoo**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**May 27-Flags  
8 a.m. and  
5 p.m.**

**JUST COME!**

**Post Flags on University Avenue, 8 a.m.,** Meet at Cowper and University  
 Retire Flags: **5 p.m.** Meet at High and University to return flags to garage

**May 27-DARK**

**NO MEETING  
Memorial Day**

**May 31-TGIF  
5:30-7:30 pm**

**Ben & Cindy Threlkeld and Lee & Carol Lippert** invite us all to join together at Ben's 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 club meeting**

**June 24  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Dinner**

**President Liz's Debunking Michael's at Shoreline Mountain View**

**May 31-TGIF  
5:30-7:30 pm**

**Matt Dolan** invites us all to join together at Homewood Suites

**July 1-DARK**

**NO MEETING**

**July 4-Flags  
8 a.m. and  
5 p.m.**

**Post Flags on University Avenue 8 a.m.,** Meet at Cowper and University  
 Retire Flags: **5 p.m.** Meet at High and University to return flags to garage