

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 3, 2024

Pinion writer: Geoff Ziman



Chartered: May 1, 1922

WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS

After being dark on Memorial Day last week, our meeting opened with a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, which we do 4 times yearly after posting flags on University Ave. This was followed by a welcome to our guests. Todd Burke was the guest of **CHARLIE WEINDANZ**. Rene Morgan, widow of honored past member Don Morgan, was the guest of **BRUCE SWENSON**. **BRUCE GEE**'s guest was Garry Lim. Introduced later by **ANNETTE GLANCKOPF** was Girl Scout Leader Darcy Huston.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY



NANCY PETERS used the graduation of her oldest granddaughter from UCSC to remind us of that very special feeling at graduation time of taking off in the world and seeing where it leads.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

New member **JON GOLDMAN** was inducted by **LINNET KWOK** and warmly welcomed into the club by his co-sponsor **LIZ KNISS** and the assembled members. Jon is a local business leader active in commercial property management and a community volunteer.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP UNIT 601

After introduction by **ANNETTE** and being awarded a check for support from the club, **Darcy Huston**, the leader of Palo Alto Unit 601 Girl Scout Troop that our club sponsors, spoke to us about their numerous activities. These included selling 36,653 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to provide funds, community services, badge earning, outdoor activities, Robotics teams, as well as STEM days at the Mitchell Park Magical Bridge. Like other youth organizations, COVID caused a drop in membership but the outlook is looking brighter now.



ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

It was reported that **BETSY BECHTEL**, the Chair of our Endowment Fund Committee, was recently hospitalized but is home now. In her absence **JULIE JEROME, PATTY McGUIGAN** and **LARRY KLEIN** made a strong case for 100% member contributions to the club endowment fund. The essence of their appeal is that it is a contribution that goes on giving and is a major factor in providing the charitable funds at our disposal. Additional members of the committee are **PETER SHAMBORA** (retiring



Secretary), **MIKE McMAHON, TIM WATSON** as well as the current president **LIZ KNISS** and president-elect **REBECCA GERALDI**.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL LIZ: 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.

Please register (and make your dinner selection) by June 16: Registration link: <https://palalrotary.square.site/>

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**. Tickets available to buy on the club website. \$90 per person.

Thanks were expressed to **BEN and CINDY THRELKELD** and **LEE and CAROL LIPPERT** for hosting the recent fabulous and well-attended TGIF party last Friday at Ben and Cindy's office, Cambridge Optometry.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

BRUCE GEE generously joined the President's Club to recognize the significant financial contributions that the speaker Chop Keenan has made to our club over the years. **BRUCE** also wanted to acknowledge the retirement of banker **KATIE SEEDMAN**, (but not retiring from Rotary).

DUANE KALAR joined to announce how much he, his wife, daughter and son-in-law, had enjoyed the Asian cruise purchased earlier in the year at our auction. **DUANE** boasted that he has now visited 77 different countries to date.

GLORIA HOM joined so that she could share with members what a life changing experience it was to attend the recent International Rotary Convention in Singapore.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

PATTY McGUIGAN took pleasure in introducing her friend and speaker **Chop Keenan**, Owner of the Keenan Land Company and prominent local citizen. Patty explained their common interests. Chop's talk was titled "Current status and the future of Palo Alto Commercial Real Estate." His primary point was that the vitality of commercial real estate was dependent on the

presence of office workers. He reviewed the various inflection points affecting downtown Palo Alto over the years. It was started by the building of the Stanford Shopping Center and Town and Country in 1956. Then in 1965 the City Hall and 525 University was built and occupied bringing significant payroll to the downtown area. There was also the influence of the Palo Alto Clinic being there. The lifting of the Stanford liquor ban in 1971 was another positive development. In the '80s law, accounting and venture capital firms added to the numbers. However, when COVID and the move to remote work hit, commercial tenant demand plummeted and crushed retail. This negative trend is continuing. Stanford Research Park vacancy is standing at 35%. Nevertheless, with our good weather and positive presence of Stanford University, the speaker was still optimistic for the future. He saw good news in the electrification of Caltrain but was not an enthusiastic supporter of bicycles on El Camino, high hotel taxes nor closing streets.



IN CLOSING

President **LIZ** adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Mary Ann Gee, Dave Smullin**
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Rebecca Gerald, Katie Seedman**
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Microphone: **Charlie Weidanz**
 Pinion writer: **Matt Dolan**
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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
June 28-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
July 8 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Noelle Wilder, Deaf Actor Preschool Teacher @ CA School for the Deaf Accessibility in Performing Arts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Performers