

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 17, 2024

Pinion writer: Trish Bubenik



Chartered: May 1, 1922

## WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERS & GUESTS



President **LIZ KNISS** called the meeting to order at 12:30 With Hope in the World.

**ED SHIKADA** introduced his guests, Palo Alto City Clerk, Mahealani Ah Yun, along with Communications Chief, Meghan

Horrigan-Taylor. **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** introduced PA Police Chief Andrew Binder.

## QUOTE FOR THE DAY

**TRISH BUBENIK** borrowed from poet Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



Membership Chair **LINNET KWOK** by Zoom, formally inducted **KATHY TORGERSON**, sponsored by both **DANA TOM** and **LIZ**,

who both celebrated her joining. **LIZ** cheered **KATHY'S** ongoing work in support of Ukraine. **KATHY** added how glad she is to be a new member of this club.



## FAREWELL TO LIZ - SOCIAL EVENT!

Past President **KAREN ROHDE** promoted the **Debunking of President LIZ**. Next week, instead of lunch, will be a dinner at Michael's Restaurant at the Shoreline Golf Course in Mountain View starting at 5:30 pm, in celebration of President **LIZ'S** highly successful year and to pass the presidential gavel to our incoming President **REBECCA GERALDI**.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**TRISH** joined to honor **LIZ & REBECCA**; **ROGER SMITH** gave \$1,000 to honor **LIZ**; **LEANNAH HUNT** and **BRUCE SWENSON**, both to celebrate **LIZ**. And, **ROB LANSFIELD**, celebrated 65 years with Rita!

## TODAY'S PROGRAM



**DARYL SAVAGE** made the official introduction of Palo Alto Mayor **Greer Stone**, noting that they had worked together on the Human Relations Commission. Mayor Stone thanked **LIZ** and hoped it has been an enjoyable year. He also noted that Rotary is like a family, sharing and caring. He gave a heartfelt thank you for the invitation.

Stone then pointed out that Palo Alto has been a leader in providing affordable housing. He noted that they are looking later into the year to seek 88 units for temporary affordable housing to support getting jobs for individuals and families. He is also looking to advance and add renter protections.

He acknowledged Palo Alto leadership in updating its climate change action plan with goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80%, below 1990 levels by 2030, and be carbon neutral by 2030. He is charting a course far beyond the State of California goal of 48% below 1990 by 2030.

Stone wants to advance Grid Modernization, in coordination with Palo Alto to Fiber pilot and encouraging residential electrification. He encouraged installing a new heat pump-water heater for \$2,300 through the City's even better, streamlined program.

In addition, he would like to reimagine housing in downtown and near Cal Avenue to increase retail demand. And he would advance University "Streetscape" and Cal Avenue as a permanent pedestrian boulevard, while improving signage and lighting. He also wants to focus on making community members feel welcomed and safe.

He acknowledged the need for students who are seeking information online about depression and other issues and looking for ways to engage in difficult conversations. He would like the city to offer mental health and first aid training. Looking forward, Stone wants to restore funding to hire police officers, reopening libraries to pre-pandemic levels, enforcing ban of gas-powered leaf blowers, and negotiating long-term use of Cubberley.

**Q&A:**

- \* Rotarians spoke up about the need for discussion of climate concerns now and ongoing.
- \* A South Palo Altan was concerned following up on a recent power outage.
- \* Another asked about under-grounding utilities.

**LIZ is DONE!**

President **LIZ** adjourned the meeting at 1:30, with thanks to everyone!

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS**

Greeters: **Hersh Davis, Ullrich Schwertschlag**  
 Cashier/Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**  
 Zoom/Hybrid Host: **Dana Tom**  
 Microphone: **Sally Tomlinson**  
 Pinion writer: **Trish Bubenik**  
 Pinion editor: **Ginny Lear**

<b>UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS</b>	
<b>June 24 -DARK</b>	<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>June 28-TGIF</b> 5:30-7:30 pm	<b>Matt Dolan</b> invites us all to join together at Homewood Suites
<b>July 1-DARK</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>July 4-Flags</b> <b>8 a.m. and 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Post Flags on University Avenue 8 a.m.</b> , Meet at Cowper and University Retire Flags: <b>5 p.m.</b> Meet at High and University to return flags to garage
<b>July 8</b> 12:15-1:30pm New President <b>REBECCA's</b> first Club Meeting	<b>Noelle Wilder, Deaf Actor and Dancer, plus Early Childhood Education Teacher at California School for the Deaf</b> Accessibility in Performing Arts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Performers