

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 22, 2024

Writer: Karen Rohde



Celebrating 102 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** opened the meeting and invited up President-Elect



BRUCE GEE to introduce visiting Rotarians and guests.

JENN TORAI introduced Visiting Rotarian Shilo Ballard, from the San Jose Rotary. **GREG HOOD** introduced his lovely wife, Christina, who joined us for his new

member talk. Rebecca introduced her daughter's boyfriend, Konstantin Koolen, who was helping **KATIE SEEDMAN** at our check-in table.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



Seeking a deeper understanding about "The Magic of Rotary,"

ED SHIKADA shared his Google research into the definition of "magic."

The first definition was "the power of apparently influencing the course of events by mysterious or supernatural forces." Ed thought Rotary's magic was more serious than

this one, so he read on. The second definition was "the use of special powers to make things happen that would usually be impossible." That made sense. It's the collective power of Rotarians – through projects, philanthropy, and camaraderie – that enables accomplishing

the impossible. The third definition was "a special and exciting quality that makes Rotary something seem different from ordinary things, and giving a feeling of enchantment." To ED that means that it is not just WHAT does, it's HOW we do it -- we leave those touched by Rotary with a feeling of enchantment. ED congratulated President Rebecca on being the perfect president for this year's theme, because every conversation with Rebecca leaves a smile on his face – "like magic!"

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



RENE MORGAN was inducted as our "newest" member. Membership Chair **LINNET KWOK** and Rene's sponsor **BRUCE SWENSON** performed her induction. Bruce introduced Rene as the spouse of past club member Don Morgan, and provided a brief

summary of Rene's profession as an attorney, who also taught American Constitutional Law. Rene has lived abroad in Paris, France, and in Tokyo, Japan. She has five grandchildren, and sponsors a French-speaking luncheon group so she can practice her French.

Rebecca welcomed Rene with a *shower of confetti*, as members expressed their welcome with a round of applause.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

STANS KLEIJNEN joined to recognize **MIKE REYNOLDS** for his leadership in our District Grant approval. The grant replaces the typical open cooking fires with eco stoves for 100 families in Guatemala. The decrease in pollution and improved air quality will significantly benefit the health of the families, while reducing the consumption of precious natural resources (wood).

BRUCE GEE joined to recognize former member Dave Thorton, who he ran into at the President's Barber. Dave resigned from the Club to devote himself as full-time caregiver to his wife, who is ill. Bruce shared Dave's greetings to our members.

Shoshana Ziman, daughter of **GEOFF ZIMAN**, joined to recognize her parent's July birthdays.

SOCIAL EVENT

GLORIA HOM reminded members to attend our July TGIF this Friday, July 26th, from 5:30 to 7:00, on the 11th floor Penthouse of the Channing House, 850 Webster St., Palo Alto. Bring a guest and a bottle of your favorite beverage to share. Enjoy the beautiful views and charming company of your fellow Rotarians. Channing House residents **TOM GRACON** and former member **Laurie Liston** are co-hosting the event with Gloria.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Tickets to Frost!

STEVE PLAYER announced that, at next week's meeting, he will be auctioning off two tickets to see Lauren Daigle, an award winning singer, songwriter and famed performer, at the Frost Amphitheater on Thursday, August 29th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are for two seats on the lower, lower, bowl level (on the center aisle) in Chairs. Valued at \$132.95 each, or \$265.90 in total, without the service charge. Check your calendars and think about your bid. You can call in your bid to Steve before the auction if you aren't able to make the meeting; but the highest bid will prevail. Proceeds benefit the Palo Alto Annual

Charities. Thank you **IRIS KOROL** for your generous donation of the tickets.



ERIC JENSEN announced a **Canned Food Drive** for the Palo Alto Downtown Food Closet. The closet is experiencing a shortage of the following food staples: Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna or Chicken, Canned Beans (no green

beans), Canned Chili, Canned Soup, Canned Ravioli, and/or Top Ramen. Bring your donation of these items (only) to our August 5th Meeting. For questions, contact Eric.

Rebecca thanked **TODD LEWIS** and his wife **Megan** for hosting last weekend's "San Francisco Art Crawl" (one of the many wonderful experiences offered by members as auction items at our Annual Charities Fundraiser). Todd and Megan introduced the participants to 5 different galleries, where they were able to view collections and talk to gallerists and artists. Rebecca shared a photo of the smiling participants enjoying pizza and beer at the end of their crawl. This fun event raised over \$2,000 for our Annual Charities.

TRISH BUBENIK circulated a sign-up sheet for "**Thought of the Day**" and encouraged members to sign up and share their thoughts about "The Magic of Rotary."

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Rebecca reminded members to pay their dues. You may send a check, payable to Palo Alto Rotary Club, to our P.O. Box 592, Palo Alto, CA 94302, or pay online at: www.mkt.com/rotary-club-of-palo-alto

Program: MEET 3 OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

STEVE EMSLIE introduced New Member Talks by sharing “fun facts” and encouraging us to try to match each fact with one of the speakers:

JENN TORAI shared a brief biography of the people and places in her life. Jenn was a child of “the 80’s,” born in Milpitas and raised in Silicon Valley by parents working in tech. Her family’s roots are in the Philippines, where her grandparents resided. Jenn’s focus on community building and service began during her high school years at Archbishop Mitty, where she participated in a school trip to build classrooms in Tijuana. Jenn has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from U.C. Santa Cruz, with a foundation in social justice. At San Jose State, she earned a Master’s in Urban Planning and a second Master’s in Social Work. Jenn worked at the Regional Center of the East Bay, which supports persons with developmental disabilities and their families, later moving to Stanford Health Care. To develop skills that would enable her to better impact policy, Jenn left to become the Director of Learning and Member Engagement at the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits and the Senior Leadership Development Specialist at the Center of Excellence in Nonprofits (CEN) before returning to Stanford as the Director of Local Government Affairs – Stanford Health Care. Jenn married in 2011 and has three children. Her hobbies are food, fantasy fiction, and arts & crafts. Jenn’s “fun fact” was that she was a contestant on American Idol.



GREG HOOD began his “7 Minutes of Greg” talk sharing that he is descended from a long line of engineers, artists and architects. Greg’s Grandfather, Dad and Mom were all architects. His Dad was born in Romania, later immigrating to the U.S. His Mom graduated with degrees from Smith



College and Yale. Greg was born in New York City in the late 50’s. Greg said his memories of growing up closely resembled the TV series “Mad Men,” which referenced many places frequented by his family. Similar fashions and pastimes were reflected in the family’s photos. Later, living in upstate New York, Greg and his younger brother enjoyed learning to fish and hunt. Greg admitted to becoming a Giants Fan; but will always be a Red Sox Fan first. Greg graduated with a BS in Industrial Design from the University of the Arts and a Master’s degree in Civil Engineering from University of California, Berkeley. Greg’s work experience includes a variety of jobs, from being a New York City cab driver and bike messenger, to working in construction, to working for Habitat for Humanity – East Bay, to Project Manager for Folsom Dam, to being owner of his own contracting and electrical company. Greg is an avid artist and shared some examples of his sketches and paintings. He is married to Christina. He has enjoyed getting more involved in Palo Alto Rotary. Greg’s “fun fact” was that he spent so many holidays in Jamaica that his parents feared he would have a permanent Patois accent.

ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG shared a touching acronym of his name created by his daughter that described “All you need to

know about Ullrich.” He grew up in Saeckingen, Germany, across the Rhine from Switzerland and close to the French Border. Ullrich and his three sisters spent many holidays in Monte Circeo, Italy, on the Amalfi Coast, where he developed an appreciation for art and history. Ullrich thanked his parents for supporting him during 9 years of rigorous study at the Gymnasium. He graduated in 1968 with bachelor’s degrees in Math, Latin and Physics. Upon graduation, he attended university in Freiburg, Germany, where he was awarded a PhD. in Biophysics, and then went to Heidelberg, Germany, for his Medical Degree. He moved to the University of Colorado School of Medicine as a Fellow in Clinical Pharmacology and Internal Medicine. Highlights of his career as an assistant/associate professor in internal medicine, nephrology and clinical pharmacology at Duke University and Tuft’s University, and as an employee of several drug development companies in Indianapolis, Paris (France), Boston, and ultimately the Bay Area. Along the way, he raised a son (now living in Boston) and a daughter (now living in Spain). He added a stepson to his family after marrying his late wife and moving to Palo Alto. In addition to his passion for developing impactful therapies for patients with unmet medical needs, Ullrich has a life-long passion for cycling. Ullrich’s “fun fact” was that he is a chocolate connoisseur.



TODAY’S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Ed Shikada, Ullrich Schwertschlag
Welcome Desk: Katie Seedman
A/V: Ben Threlkeld
Mics: Dana Tom
Pinion Writer: Karen Rohde
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

July 26 TGIF 5:30-7:00 pm	Channing House, 850 Webster St., Palo Alto
July 29 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Mohan Gurunathan, Engineer and Food Systems Expert Topic: “Fight Climate Change with Diet Change”
August 5 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Barbara McQuade, Professor, University of Michigan Law School Author: “Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America”
August 12 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Corina Gould, Arizona State University, Professor of Indigenous Sustainability Topic: The Land Back Movement and the West Berkeley Ohlone Shellmound Site
August 19 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Hands On, Sleeves Up Project at the Club for Grateful Garments
August 26 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Palo Alto City Council Candidates Panel Moderator, Gennady Sheyner, Journalist
September 2 NO MEETING	DARK - LABOR DAY