

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 30, 2024

Writer: Matt Dolan



Celebrating 102 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

CALL TO ORDER: With the ring of the bell President **REBECCA** called the Magic of Rotary to order.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

STEVE EMSLIE told the story of Oktoberfest. It originated October 12, 1810, in Munich Germany to celebrate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen.



STEVE shared with our members this annual festival takes place across the globe and is a celebration of Bavarian culture, food and beer. The festival is inclusive of all who wish to participate and builds a bridge for sharing experiences of joy, celebration and festivities.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

TIM WATSON joined to recognize and celebrate his nine year old award winning club soccer team. Congratulations team on winning the Tall Trees Tournament award. Go team, go!



SOCIAL AND SERVICE NOTES

Some Rotary Birthdays: Happy Birthday to our club members especially those who have completed 90 rotations around the sun: **ULLRICH** serenaded the birthday celebrants, **LE LEVY, NANCY PETERS, GEOFF BALL, ROB LANCEFIELD**, best wishes for health, happiness and friendship. More next week.

Social Committee: **GREG HOOD** shared about the club outing to Oracle Stadium for the Giants baseball game, Sunday September 29th. An enjoyable Sunday afternoon at the ballpark with fellow Rotarians. Thank you GREG!

District 5170 Avenues of Service: **STANS KLEIJNEN** presented the opportunity to attend this event on Saturday, October 19th from 8:00am to 2:00pm at the Indian Community Center, 525 Los Coches St in Milpitas. This event provides an opportunity to develop collaborative opportunities with other clubs in our district.

DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DANA TOM announced Palo Alto Players "Fiddler on the Roof" November 10th at Lucie Stern Theatre. Club members wishing to volunteer as ushers for this and future productions can contact DANA about participating.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT 10/5 & 10/6

LINNET KWOK provided updates on the wildly popular PickleBall Tournament co-hosted by Palo Alto Rotary and Palo Alto PickleBall Club, October 5-6, 2024 at Mitchell Park. Spots are full, volunteers are ready and enthusiasm is high. All are invited to attend and cheer on the players.

TODAY'S PROGRAM



JIM SUTHERLAND introduced our speakers today. Longtime members all:

BILL JOHNSON: A member of our club for 27 years. He began by sharing his commitment to Rotary was greater than his previous year's



meeting attendance due to the demands of operating a local newspaper. A strong advocate for Rotary BILL

is past chair of Grants Committee and looks forward to new opportunities with our club. He fondly recalled his childhood in Portola Valley and involvement with 4-H raising sheep, woodworking and electrical projects. A lifelong friend of the McCloskey family, BILL campaigned, interned and became press secretary for Congressman Pete McCloskey. Returning from Washington DC and pursuing new opportunities BILL found investors and started the Palo Alto Weekly refining the journalistic priorities toward a progressive, community-minded organization. He recounted the late Daniel Pearl as a former journalist in Palo Alto and remains committed to the importance of saving local journalism. Along with professional and journalistic pursuits BILL enjoys time with grandkids and a new puppy.

CASH ALAEE: His journey to Palo Alto began in 1978 Iran bringing him to California in 1983 and eventually to Palo Alto. Having studied economics and public administration he is well prepared serving our community at the City of Palo Alto in



the planning and development administration. Equally committed to service he joined Rotary in 2005 and contributed to our club through a variety of roles and serving as Club President in 2021-2022, our club's Centennial year, and during the pandemic restrictions. Along with service to the community, he has connected with Rotary clubs in Bangkok and Phangru promoting the Food for Life project and building relationships to expand Rotary contributions on an international level. He remains connected to the clubs in Thailand and is motivated to continue contributing to improving conditions for others.

JOAN PLASTIRIS: A self-proclaimed politically incorrect introvert JOAN shared her family's restrictions from being included in her presentation. She sought advice from peers and on the direction of her talk but still undecided she started from the beginning. A Californian who survived the cold months at Vassar College. Her claims of not being a



good student did not interfere with her pursuit of higher education. Next to UC Berkeley to study math in a male dominated environment. She passed her oral exams despite many betting she would not and received honorable mention for her PhD dissertation in advanced mathematical theory. She returned to the cold as faculty at University of Pennsylvania and eventually returned to California. Her career experiences have included green energy,

advanced technology risk assessment for NASA and by request from a fellow Rotarian JOAN had a life changing experience resulting in being an angel investor. Despite her family not granting permission to include them in her presentation Joan did share that she has been greatly influenced by raising a daughter with health challenges and the lessons she learned from her daughter.

President **REBECCA** showered our speakers in



confetti, thanking them for being in Rotary!

REBECCA then "belled" the meeting closed while giving thanks to all for attending!



TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Duane Kalar. Steve Player**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Dana Tom**

Microphones: **Richard Keller**

Photography: **Katie Seedman**

Pinion Writer: **Matt Dolan**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

October 14
12:15-1:30pm
Club Meeting

Tom Bailey, General Manager, Guild Theater
The Guild and Local Entertainment

October 21
12:15-1:30pm
Club Meeting

Stephanie Crosby, Dean of Disability Resources and Veterans Resources, Foothill College
Disability Resources and Veterans Resources at Foothill College

October 28
12:15-1:30pm
Club Meeting

New Member Talks:
Mary Ann Gee; Mike Fogarty, Jake Yoo

November 4
12:15-1:30pm
Club Meeting

Jenna Daugherty, Trans Activist: How I went from a Christian fundamentalist kid to an agnostic trans activist

November 11
NO meeting

Veteran's Day. No Meeting
Post flags on University Avenue

November 18
12:15-1:30pm
Club Meeting

Garth Illingworth, Professor Emeritus, Astronomy & Astrophysics, UC Santa Cruz
Discoveries from the James Webb Telescope