

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

December 2, 2024

Writer: Betsy Bechtel



Celebrating 102 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA** opened the meeting asking "Roomers and Zoomers to wave to each other.

She then asked **BRUCE GEE** to welcome guests Judy Severson hosted by **AMY YANG** and Alex Kent hosted by **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**.



ROTARY ANNIVERSARYS & BIRTHDAYS

ROB LANCEFIELD, 32 years, **JULIE JEROME**, 27 years; **SHERRI SAGER**, 20 years; **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**, 10 years; **TIM WATSON**, 9 years, 98 years total in Rotary!

December Birthdays

Brian Steen - 12/1
Rene Morgan - 12/3
Mike Baird - 12/6
Patty McGuigan - 12/9
Geoff Ball - 12/10
Sally Tomlinson - 12/10
Dick Mansfield - 12/13
Jim Sutherland - 12/16
E.J. Hong - 12/20
Jack Cabaness - 12/23

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG's quote from the Chinese proverb, "A good deed does not leave any trace" has left Ullrich questioning that proverb as good deeds may leave meaningful marks on the World – proof of goodness in action.

HOLIDAY PARTY! Mingle & Jingle!

Holiday party –Wednesday December 11
5:30-7:30 pm, at Patty McGuigan's home.
Enjoy music, food, drink and cheer! Bring a guest and share some holiday cheer with your fellow Rotarians. Contact Social Chair **GREG HOOD**, or Host **PATTY MCGUIGAN**, for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We Care

REBECCA announced that cards were being passed around for two members with health issues: **LE LEVY** and **JULIE JEROME**.

ANNUAL CLUB ELECTIONS 12/9/2024

BRUCE GEE, President-Elect, will present his FY 2025-26 Board for member approval.

BETSY BECHTEL, Endowment Board President will present Endowment Board nominations for member approval.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

BILL JOHNSON

introduced our speaker Elena Kadvany, San Francisco Chronicle Food Reporter. BILL hired Elena to work at the Palo Alto Weekly in 2013 after she graduated from USC.

He had many stories of how quickly she was promoted and how effective she was as a reporter covering school board meetings, a trial, but always with a love of writing about food. She worked at the Weekly and the Country Almanac for eight years and now has been a Food reporter at SF Chronicle for four years.



Elena explained that she is not a food critic, writing restaurant reviews of individual restaurants but a food reporter who writes about bigger issues



affecting the restaurant industry as well as doing investigative reporting about what might be happening with a particular restaurant location, for example the Cliffhouse. She spoke of some restaurants focusing on a "Tasting menu" as a way to remain profitable with the increasing expenses of labor, ingredients, utilities.

She stressed if there is a restaurant you love, help it, by going there and spreading the word. Just as newspapers need subscribers, restaurants need diners . Many restaurants have been forced to provide GrubHub for their

diners even though they lose money on every purchase since Grubhub takes 30%.

Elena grew up in Menlo Park and knows that there are many good restaurants on the Peninsula.

When questioned as to why critics seem to review more San Francisco and East Bay restaurants, she said that we needed to count the reviews and that there have been a number of Peninsula reviews too. A favorite restaurant of hers is in San Mateo, a ramen noodle restaurant, Kajiken.

CLOSING REMARKS

President REBECCA closed the meeting and reminded members of two more meetings and then none until January 6th.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Gloria Hom**

Welcome Desk: **Kanika Sabharwal**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphone: **Dana Tom**

Pinion Writer: **Betsy Bechtel**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

December 9 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting Election of both Club and Endowment Board members	Kenneth N. Lee, Chaplin Associate, Office for Religious & Spiritual Life Stanford University Hindu Religion and Cultural Celebrations
December 11 5:30-7:30 pm	Holiday Party! Festive Home of Patty McGuigan! Halls will be Decked!
December 16 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	A Holiday Sing-A-Long with Your Vocally-talented Fellow Rotarians Pianist Theresa Ronan
December 23 DARK	No Club Meeting HOLIDAY BREAK
December 30 DARK	No Club Meeting HAPPY NEW YEAR!
January 6 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law <i>No Democracy Lasts Forever</i>