

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 24, 2025

Writer: Duane Kalar



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** welcomed our big crowd, and called on Pres elect **BRUCE GEE** to introduce Rotarians with guests: **KAREN ROHDE** introduced Mike Gulland, guest and patient of **BEN THRELKELD** who was busy at the a/v, **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS**, who introduced her neighbor Zaki Lisha, of De Anza College, now Chair Emeritus, Film and TV Dept., and Patricia Becker, fitness and wellness professional, introduced by **STANS KLEINJEN**.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

PATTY MCGUIGAN tooted her horn about her book and play, inviting all to attend her creation "Alice in Widowland " free tonight at the PA Women's Club.

LIZ KNISS announcing **KATHY TORGERSEN** has not only led fundraising of \$260 thousand for Ukraine relief but is on the plane today headed to Warsaw to deliver 250 lbs of urgent medical supplies personally to Ukraine.

BRUCE GEE praising the auction Valentine's dinner from last year presented by **LIZ and Rick KNISS** and **STEVE** and **Pat EMSLIE**.

120 YEARS OF ROTARY!

GINNY LEAR reminded us this is the 120th year of Rotary International that is now 1.3 million members strong and last year gave over \$290 million in global services, along with the local charities and hours of member service supported by each club.



SIGN UP for MARCH 15! FUNDRAISER

This year's Annual Charities Fundraising Dinner is **Saturday, March 15**. This celebration event benefiting local and international charities will be held at the **Mitchell Park Community Center, starting at 5:30 pm**.

SALLY TOMLINSON announcing the silent auction is now LIVE. BID ONLINE and OFTEN. At the event there will also be a live auction with 4 special items. Tickets for the crab and pasta dinner are \$125 per person, through the website or the emails you have received this week. It's a fun event!

BRUCE GEE announced that along with individual tickets, several tables have been sold and many sponsors added to the Fund Raiser. Still room for more. **E.J. HONG** is buying all the crab, so get your reservations in for this event March 15.

– The **DUANE KALARS** won two suites in the bid this past weekend for themselves and their son Christian and wife Kelly on the cruise in April, from Gibraltar to Sardinia to Sicily to Naples. They will be joined by the late Rotarian Bill Busse's daughter and husband, Jan and Ed Murphy, the third suite winner.
An excellent cruise this fall around New Zealand is in the live auction, March 15.

PROGRAM

Former Mayor LIZ KNISS introduced Palo Alto Mayor **ED LAUING**, highlighting his 13 years on city committees, 37 years as a resident, and 8 years as a Rotarian serving Community above Self. Mayor LAUING focused on housing and meeting California's mandated



requirements. Palo Alto must build 6,800 units in the next five years, with 3,600 of them being affordable. This may involve using a city parking lot for a 100% affordable housing building.

Key Q&A points:

- No penalties decided yet if housing quotas are unmet.
- Train grade crossings are a lower priority due to reduced ridership and electric trains.
- Stanford's growth versus insufficient affordable housing.
- Builders remedy project replacing Mollie Stone's, now at 17 stories.

SO much to cover in our 30 minutes allowed. Leaving topics like economic development, public safety, climate, and Baylands for another time.

CLOSING REMARKS

President **REBECCA**, with thanks to our terrific speaker, closed our meeting

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Joop VerBaken, Stans Kleinjen**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Pinion Writer: **Duane Kalar**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

March 3 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Dannagai Young, Univ. Of Delaware Professor of International Relations <i>How our Tolerance for Ambiguity Shapes our Engagement with the World</i>
March 10 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Long time Member Talks: Jack Woodson, Bruce Swenson, Dave Van Atta
March 15 5:30-8:00 pm Annual Dinner & Fundraiser Mitchell Park	Join Us for the annual crab and pasta fundraising dinner and auction at Mitchell Park. Tickets are \$125 per person Tables of 8 are available
March 17 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Mark Garcia, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Lt., Retired <i>30 Years in Law Enforcement</i> <i>"My 5 Bad Days"</i>
March 24 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	ANNA Eshoo, Member US Congress, Retired <i>Perspectives on Women's History in the Past 30 Years</i>