

CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER

ROTARY CLUB OF PALO ALTO



1922 - 2022

December 2021



CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #1

Rotary Club of Palo Alto has sponsored four Rotary Clubs. Which of the following was NOT sponsored by PARC?

- a. Bayshore/East Palo Alto
- b. Redwood City
- c. Menlo Park
- d. Mountain View
- e. Palo Alto University

CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #2

During which Rotary fiscal year did Rotary Club of Palo Alto pass the 100-member mark for the first time?

- a. 1951-52
- b. 1955-56
- c. 1958-59
- d. 1960-61

CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #3

How many members of our club (past and present) have been awarded the Avenidas Lifetime Achievement Award?

- a. 12
- b. 9
- c. 11
- d. 14

correct answers: d, a, d

PALO ALTO ROTARIAN RECIPIENTS OF THE AVENIDAS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Sid Akselrad - 1994
- Bill Hewlett - 1995
- Warren Thoits - 2000
- Bill Alhouse - 2001
- Sam Webster - 2001
- Arthur Gleim - 2004
- Bob Smithwick - 2006
- Walt Hayes - 2008
- Judith Steiner - 2013
- Bill Busse - 2016
- Dick Mansfield - 2018
- Gloria Hom - 2019
- Ginny Lear - 2019
- Steve Player - 2020

Happy New Year - Happy Centennial

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

Diana Diamond, Rotary Club of Palo Alto member since 1989, started our local RotaCare clinic in October, 1993. RotaCare is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of providing free medical care to people who have the most need and the least access to medical services. At our December 13, 2021 meeting, Diana shared the story of how it began ...

It was a dark and windy night when Stanford Area RotaCare first opened its doors of a newly found free medical clinic to help those who needed care, many of whom had never been seen before by a physician.

Opening night in East Palo Alto, known back then as "the murder capital of the country", was a disaster. The clinic had three doctors, four translators, three nurses and a registrar on hand to handle the patients they expected to serve.

The problem was that no one came — not one person. Diana remembers that she kept sticking her neck out the doorway of the clinic, located on the frontage road adjacent to 101, but the streets were dark and empty. The nurses and doctors were getting antsy, and at 8:15 pm they closed the door, even though they were originally scheduled to stay open until 9:00 pm.

It was Dr. Charlie Mae Knight, then superintendent of schools, who came to the rescue. She called Diana the next day and asked, "Diana, don't you know the residents here are just as afraid of walking the streets here at night as you, even to see a physician?"

An immediate board meeting was called and everyone agreed to hold the weekly clinics on Saturday mornings instead. Charlie Mae Knight produced notices and she instructed the children to give them to their parents. In preparation, the clinic once again lined up the necessary medical professionals and translators.

That first Saturday morning, they had 70 visitors — many of them were migrant children and parents. Some children had never been seen by a doctor before, nor had they received any of the standard childhood immunizations. Everyone quickly went to work.



The clinic lasted five years, and in that time, provided care to more than 6,000 patients with a crew of 30+ physicians, 40 translators, 30 nurses, and 4 pharmacists. It was a tremendous accomplishment.

Operations shut down only when it became a challenge to guarantee staffing each week. Fortunately by then, the VA in Menlo Park opened up a free clinic where people were able to seek care.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Cash Alae | Ginny Lear |
| Betsy Bechtel | Hal Mickelson |
| Trish Bubenik | Steve Player |
| Anne Cribbs | Karen Rohde |
| Steve Emslie | Ken Sanchez |
| Bruce Gee | Dana Tom |
| Rebecca Gerald | Sally Tomlinson |
| Linnet Kwok | Charlie Weidanz |