

# CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER

## ROTARY CLUB OF PALO ALTO



1922 - 2022

November 2021



### CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #1

Which business founder was one of our club speakers in 1950:

- a. Kemmons Wilson (Holiday Inn)
- b. William Rosenberg (Dunkin' Donuts)
- c. J.C. Penny (JCPenny)
- d. Chuck Williams (Williams Sonoma)

### CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #2

Who was our first new member in calendar year 2020?

- a. Christina Chu
- b. Tom Du Bois
- c. Jeff Yen
- d. Jackie Wheeler

### CENTENNIAL TRIVIA #3

Which well-known Palo Alto resident was a past member of our Rotary Club?

- a. Bill Hewlett (Tech Titan)
- b. Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead Musician)
- c. Birge Clark (Architect)
- d. Herbert Hoover (U.S. President)

correct answers: c, d, a

### YOUR CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Cash Alaee	Ginny Lear
Betsy Bechtel	Hal Mickelson
Trish Bubenik	Steve Player
Anne Cribbs	Karen Rohde
Steve Emslie	Ken Sanchez
Bruce Gee	Dana Tom
Rebecca Gerdaldi	Sally Tomlinson
Linnat Kwok	Charlie Weidanz

## GET READY TO CELEBRATE!

Mark your calendars now for our special centennial event, scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022. We will be celebrating our 100 year anniversary at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Community Center.



### HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

The Stanford Children's Convalescent Home was founded in 1919 (just 3 years before our own Club was founded). It was established to house children with polio and other communicable diseases, such as small pox, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and measles. In the absence of vaccines and antibiotics, these communicable diseases were debilitating and, if the patient recovered, required a very lengthy convalescence.



Immediately upon our founding in 1922, PARC began donating the proceeds from its luncheons and the fines raised at its meetings to the Stanford Children's Convalescent Home. The Club held an annual fundraising luncheon meeting at the Home each year. Items such as Big Game tickets were sold, and one year even a goat was delivered and auctioned off during the meeting, with proceeds going to the Home.

In 1943, when our club was 21 years old, PARC took the next step and committed to underwriting a "Rotary-bed" at the Convalescent Home, a commitment that continued for another 14 years. PARC's \$1,800 donation at that time was

equivalent to about \$25,000 today and the annual donation continued to grow.

In addition to financial support, Club members also donated their services to the Home. Most notable was Palo Alto Rotarian "Vic" Virello, a local barber, who volunteered his time to provide hair cutting services to the children at the Home. He did this weekly for 28 years.

At the 1957 annual fundraising luncheon, 35 years after PARC's founding and its first contributions to the Home, Dr. Williams, of the Home's staff, reported that antibiotics had materially shortened convalescent and rehabilitation periods, thus enabling the Home to plan for changes in its program. The Home was subsequently converted into a medical treatment center, focused on children, which 10 years later became the 60-bed Children's Hospital at Stanford. This later became the Lucile Packard Children's hospital that we know today.



It is inspiring to know that our club had a part in serving children and their families during their time of need and in providing financial support upon which our community's renowned children's hospital was built.