

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 6, 2017

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## HAL WHAT A SURPRISE!

Somehow I hadn't looked forward to writing this Pinion. Otters are cute, but an entire program? Well, it turned out to be one of the most interesting programs your reporter has had the pleasure of writing about! I'll do my best, but you "otter" have been there to really appreciate the amazing lives of these cute fuzzy sea creatures and their offspring. (See write-up below.)

## NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A VETERAN

You can help Palo Alto celebrate Veterans Day by putting up and taking down American Flags along University Ave. The set-up begins at 8 AM at the corner of Cowper and University, followed by coffee and pastries at Tuts. (No, not related to the Egyptian King...at least I don't think so.) Take-down starts at 5 PM at the corner of High and University, followed by beer or soft beverages at Dan Gordons.

Prez Betsy suggests bringing kids and grandkids. Our challenge is to out-number the University Rotary Club who will "Flag" the other side of the street.

## A SPECIAL GUEST?

A. C. Johnston must have been. He was sponsored by both President BETSY and Part President LIZ KNISS.

## MISCELLANEOUS STUFF



A group photo was taken of our new Rotary Foundation Fellows. Included were THOSE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING PHOTO plus JOHN O'KEEFE who was either at home or in the rest room

## JULIE TIME

A reminder that we all should contribute at least 25 simoleons to the Club Endowment Fund was pitched by Chairwoman JEROME. In case you didn't know or remember, the E Fund Committee also includes DAVID HOLLAND, PAM BRANDIN, STEVE EMSLIE, ART STAUFFER, BRUCE



SWENSON and OLIVER COOLIDGE plus ex-officio members President BETSY and Prez Elect GINNY LEAR. Make them all happy by insuring a 100% participation! If you are strapped for funds I suggest you pass up lunch and contribute instead. All those calories you probably don't need. However, the Fund that provides about 50K annually for our charities does! I almost forgot. BRUCE GEE is designing a new plaque that will include your name in bronze should you contribute generously. It's a win-win-win...or something like that!

## LIZ (Three Lies) KNISS



hustled to the podium to confound us with...

"1. I was born on a poultry farm full of headless turkeys.

2. I was a majorette in high school.

3. I won the twirling contest.

4. As a flight attendant I helped redirect a pilot who was landing

in the wrong direction."

AND THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS #3. I did not win the twirling contest!" Sad, but true!

**OUR SPREAKER INTRODUCER**  
 Announced as he approached the podium “I have never been a majorette!” (Ed: That’s hard to believe since he once led “The one, the only, the illustrious Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band.” He is also known as “One, the only, the illustrious one man band....HAL MICKELSON”).



HAL began his introduction of our speaker, KIM STEINHARDT,



by noting they were longtime friends and had been fellow attorneys at HP. Kim had two other careers...as a Corporate Attorney and Administrative Law Judge for the State of California...and, as a photographer and expert on the flora, fauna, geology and politics of the California coastline. He is a graduate of UC Berkeley and the Santa Clara University Law School, and remains an instructor for a Legislation Course at Santa Clara.

As mentioned in the opening of this Pinion, Kim’s subject was the California sea otter. He began with a zinger...“What happens to the sea otter could happen to us!”. There are only 3,186 remaining of the one million that once inhabited the area off the coast of Big Sur. The good news is that there is a concerted legal effort to protect the the otters. Another positive is that the issue will be raised in a coming edition of National Geographic. What really caught our attention was the slide and video show of the mothers and their pups. Just how cute can life get!

We were amazed at many of the unique characteristics of their lives at sea. For example “Mom” eats one fourth to one fifth of her body weight each day. The food is obtained by diving for shell fish while junior tries to swim away. All the while she is carrying a rock under one arm to use in opening the shell fish. Otters are mammals once having lived on land.

The reason there are so few left is that their fur was highly desired in the 1700s, primarily for women’s coats. The fur density is not believable...it is approximately one

million hairs per square inch. Kims final observation was that there are many threats to the longterm survival of otters. Those range from oil spills to climate change.

Kims final advice to humankind, “Be good steward of the sea”.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NINA MOORE’S husband, DONALD DOUGLAS, passed away October 18th. There will be a Celebration of His Life on November 18th from 1 to 4 pm at the Bay Club, 200 Redwood Shores Parkway.

A Polio Immunization Trip to India is scheduled from March 2nd to the 13th, 2018. See [www.Howardtours.net](http://www.Howardtours.net) for details.

Rotary is on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/Rotaryclubofpaloalto/>

Take a look

"Please let the WE CARE Committee know if a member is having challenges or has been missing several meetings. Contact Pam Brandin at [pbrandin@vistacenter.org](mailto:pbrandin@vistacenter.org) or Dave Smullin at [dave@smullinmediation.com](mailto:dave@smullinmediation.com)."

#### PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

November 13, Pamela Ronald, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and the Genome Center at the University of California, Davis: "Tomorrow's Table: Ecologically-based Farming, Plant Genetics and the Future of Food"

November 19, Shopping at Chico's

November 20 Phillip Dean, Rotary Club of Livermore, District Paul Harris Society Coordinator: "The Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus"