

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 5, 2018

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

In resplendent Oscars attire, KARISHMA JUMANI and BRIAN STEEN warmly greeted attendees at the door, led The Pledge to start the meeting, and later on, in award-winning fashion, escorted select individuals to and from the podium, They were a big hit.



PRE\$IDENT BETSY welcomed Visiting Rotarian Canan Sonuh from the Los Gatos Club, and then members with guests: DICK BUSH, Kelly McGuigan; TOM GRACON, Katen Cabey; LEE LIPPERT, Karein Sultan; BRUCE SWENSON and, "to critique LIZ KNISS' speech", Jackie Wheeler from the city government.

PETER SHAMBORA offered three quotes: "I don't make jokes, I just watch the government and report the facts"; "I am not a member of any organized political party. I am a Democrat"; "Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke." Whose quotes, Groucho Marx, Mark Twain, or Will Rogers? With apologies to our politician of the day, Will Rogers.



TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club, to recognize for the second time the superb care that her husband received in January from the doctors and nurses at the Stanford Hospital Emergency Room.

BETSY exhorted us to achieve 100% participation in the Crab Feed fundraiser on March 17.

BRUCE GEE said the preliminaries are going very well, and those with an unavoidable conflict could participate in the Silent Auction as early as 5:30.



DICK BUSH said there still was room for Silent Auction dinners, great fund raisers.

MARGARET BOLES reported on her trip to

Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, attending a Rotary Club meeting in the latter, presenting our flag but not receiving one as the club had none.

Can you spot the lie in JACKIE SCHOELERMAN's

four statements: she was one of 12 kids; she came to this country alone as a teenager with a single suitcase; she owned a large construction company; and she loves to visit her grandchildren in Hawaii? What a whopper, she doesn't even have children!



BETSY thanked all those who staffed the the meeting.

THE PROGRAM Introducing our main speaker LIZ KNISS, BRUCE SWENSON provided a brief bio - born in a small town on Cape Cod, the eldest of five siblings (good training for running the City Council), graduated from Simmons College in Boston, a Registered Nurse, married, and moved to Palo Alto in 1970. He reviewed her 33 years of elected-office holdings, now in her third term as Mayor of Palo Alto. She walks about three miles each morning, doing The Dish or something similar - full of energy.



LIZ said, and demonstrated, that housing, or the lack of it, is the Bay Area's biggest problem. The problem has many facets. Thanks to Proposition 13, 42% of housing in Palo Alto pay the city less than \$800 a year. The city receives nothing from Proposition A that won voter approval a year or so ago: we **should** read the fine print! Transfers of ownership to descendants keep the taxable valuations low. Property taxes account for 60% of the city's general revenue. Very little affordable housing, a specifically defined term, has been or is being built. (For a family of four,

annual income of \$137,000 qualifies for low income housing, if any were available.) Very few schoolteachers and other employees can afford to live in Palo Alto. Many who do, benefit from Proposition 13. Others live in RVs. Twenty thousand Stanford employees commute from and to San Jose each day. Virtually all the real estate is developed. Yet the city's population has risen significantly. The By-Right Housing Bill has the potential for help or harm, reducing local control over construction. The future does not seem rosy. LIZ and others are struggling to progress on housing, and could use help.

"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)."

## PROGRAM & EVENTS

March 12, Joe Simitian, Santa Clara County Supervisor:  
"Listening to Trump's America, Bridging the Divide"  
March 17, Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser.  
March 19, Dave Edlund- McCovey Cove Dave - SF Giants  
AT&T Park



