

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President HAL MICKELSON opened the first meeting of his Rotary year reflecting on the 4th of July and the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, noting that they say nothing of us being the best country or the best people, but of being “one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Our President then led us in that pledge, setting a tone for the members this year to work together for good.



And then the President's Club cash drawer opened. First to join in honor of HAL's year was **JOHN O'KEEFE**; followed by **SAM WEBSTER**, who got his money's worth with a golf story; **BILL LOVE**; **ED DANGLER**; **RALPH ADAMS**, proclaiming that our country has more liberty and freedom than any other; **TOM GRACON** in honor of his ninth grandchild in eight years; and, **IRIS KOROL**, new President of the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund, aiming her donation to PAREF.

IRIS also introduced visiting Rotarians and guests: Cassandra James of Palo Alto University Rotary; and guests: Israel, who came from Israel, to see his longtime good friend **ISRAEL ZEHAVI**; Paula Sandas, Director of Leadership Palo Alto, guest of **DARYL SAVAGE**; Ann Gordon, spouse of **SAM GORDON**.



SAM then gave us his thoughts for the day, focused on July 4th, 1776. He has recently read David McCullough's book, **1776**, telling the stories of those who wrote the Constitution, creating a political system that works. We all enjoy the fruits of that labor.

Past President MIKE McMAHON brought **PP SHERRI SAGER** up for one more moment of recognition, giving her a very nice desk plaque commemorating her year as our President.

A get well and hurry back card was passed for greetings to **DAVID NEGRIN**. We all send **DAVID** our best wishes.



Three **SOCIAL NOTES**- write these down: Cassandra James came to the podium to invite our members once again to join the annual PAUR picnic at Foothills Park on Saturday, July 28, noon-4. Cost is \$10, or \$5 for those 12 and under. The BBQ and drinks are supplied, the rest is an organized potluck of salads, side dishes, and desserts. Sign-up sheets were passed and will be available for the next two Mondays. East PA Bayshore Rotarians are also being invited. A casual, friendly summer event for all.

SALLY TOMLINSON invited us to the Sunday, July 22nd public opening of the new home of the Environmental Volunteers, 1-4 p.m., at the location formerly known as the Sea Scout House.

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF announced that at Greer Park on Sunday, August 5th, 3—6 p.m., we will celebrate the 40+ volunteers who built the **BILL BUSSE** designed sun shades for the picnic tables.

HAL thanked this weeks' Team Rotary: **DICK MANSFIELD**, **JON STOUMEN**, **STEVE MADSEN**, and **SHERRI SAGER**.

JULIE JEROME was introduced by **PRES HAL** as being equal to Sherlock Holmes smarter brother. **JULIE** had the pleasure of introducing our speaker, Palo Alto Mayor Yiawey Yeh, graduate of JLS Middle School and Gunn High School, all while **JULIE** was on the Palo Alto School Board. She came with testimonials from his teachers.



The Mayor said this would be an update on a few issues of importance to the citizens, starting with the budget. With necessary cuts, the community has stepped up to add funding to some city services. Recently the Friends of Palo Alto Animal Services was formed to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. The Library has a Friends organization and a Foundation that is being used as a model for others. There may possibly be a Friends group to support green bike lanes, coming out of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The Mayor acknowledged **WALT HAYS** for his service on the Blue Ribbon Committee on Infrastructure. Prioritizing needs for a new Public Safety building, and upgrading the Rinconada and Mitchell Park Fire Stations were part of their report.

Another area of the report focused on how to engage youth in community development. A unique Youth Video Corps of students from Gunn and Paly are taping infrastructure needs of community buildings.

Q&A: The first question was on High Speed Rail: The PA Council is opposed to what was passed by the legislature, preferring the blended system for HSR and CalTrain that was proposed and supported by local, state, and national legislators representing our area.

Weekly council meetings are important, in answer to another question. The Mayor feels they are beneficial, but he tries to end them by 11 p.m. Discussions on the future of the Cubberley site will be very important and take a lot of meetings.

A Housing Element required by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) needs to be approved and was on the Monday night agenda. Having an approved element can be valuable to the city in dealing with the state.

The last question asked was about the traffic impact by the San Antonio Shopping Center Development to the Palo Alto portion of San Antonio Road. The Mayor said the Mountain View City Council does communicate on such a topic with Palo Alto.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 16 **Rick Lanman**, Historical Ecology of our Watersheds

July 23 **New Member Talks**

July 28 **Lou Thompson**, High Speed Rail, What's Next For California and The Peninsula

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org