

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

**PRESIDENT HAL** called us to order, inviting **ROB LANCEFIELD** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following our lunch and conversation time, **DICK MANSFIELD** was called forward to introduce our visiting Rotarians and guests. From San Jose Rotary Club, our sponsor some 90 years ago, was Stu Ganz, classification Cable TV advertising; Lori McIntosh of Morgan Hill Rotary, a photographer; and Maisha Mouton, an educator, from E. Palo Alto Bayshore Rotary, sponsored by our club in 1965.

Guests visiting our club were DeRonnie Pitts, introduced by **STEVE PLAYER**; Delsey Davidson, guest of our speaker, and our speaker, Phil Taubman.

Our Thought for the Day was from Membership Chair **BEN**



**THRELKELD** on the value of bicycle commuting: fresh air, sunshine, relaxing exercise, and in Ben's words, "I also enjoy bumping into my fellow biking Rotarians." That part sounds risky, but if Ben enjoys it, there may be more to it. Palo Alto is a proclaimed "bike friendly city." He ended with a favorite quote that the invention of the bicycle was the peak of man's attainments. Thank you, Ben.

**BRIAN STEEN** made one final announcement about the tour of the Bay Bridge next week. There are three more interested people than spaces available, so if you have to change your mind, let Brian know. Someone really wants your spot.

Three for the President's Club, the first being an Olympic moment from **DICK BUSH**. His niece, a graduate of U of Michigan, was a member of the Olympic Gold Medal US Women's Water Polo Team!!



**LEANNAH HUNT** donated in honor of **JOHN BARTON'S** many talents and his crew who prepared a wonderful dinner that Leannah had purchased

at our Spring Gala.

Past President **JOHN KIDD** honored the memory of **DAVID NEGRIN** with a gift to PAREF, and to the President's Club in honor of John's own fourth and FINAL retirement.



President **HAL** thanked Team Rotary, **DAVE PRICE** at the lunch ticket table, plus, **DICK, STEVE**, and Pinion writer **GINNY**.

**HAL** then had the privilege of introducing our speaker - his Stanford classmate and friend of 40+ years, Philip Taubman, a Consulting Professor at International Security and Cooperation and Associate VP for University Affairs. In preparation for his multiple careers, Phil was editor of the Stanford Daily in 1969. He was a writer and editor for the NY Times for over 30 years, serving as bureau chief in Moscow and Washington.

Taubman's sobering talk was about the current state of nuclear threats



and the possibility of a nuclear 9/11. Phil's book, *The Partnership: Five Cold Warriors and Their Quest to Ban the Bomb*, was published earlier this year. It examines the nuclear initiative, describes its genesis, and reveals how five men have influenced President Obama's nuclear agenda. The "Partners" are former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of Defense Bill Perry, former Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, and Sid Drell, professor emeritus at SLAC.

Nuclear terrorism exists as a threat because a uranium bomb is simple to make, if one has 60 pounds of highly enriched uranium. Post WWII, highly enriched uranium was sent by the US to dozens of countries for positive uses. It is safe to handle. However, it can become what is referred to as a "dirty bomb." Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that damage to property is negligible, but damage to human life is extreme.

In what led to the creation of the Manhattan Project, Einstein said to FDR in 1939, that a bomb carried to a port, such as NY Harbor, would destroy everyone and everything in the nearby area, taking the life out of NY and NJ. This statement is equally true today, and one of the greatest concerns of those working to reduce the risk. Russia has staggering amounts of highly enriched uranium. The former Soviet State of Georgia is where it is smuggled through to Turkey, the Middle East, and S.E. Asia. Pakistan, a highly unstable country, is the most dangerous country that has it, according to Dr. Bill Perry.

During Q&A, **BERN BEECHAM** asked how we have eluded attack so far. Phil said Dr. Kissinger believes within the next ten years, it is highly likely to be used; and once one is used, we would have to clean it up. A better plan is to address the problem before that day comes. **ROB LANCEFIELD** asked if moderate Muslims are helping to reduce the threat. The answer was, sadly, they are not, so far. **HENNRietta BURROUGHS** asked about Pakistan being such a threat. Phil's reply was that it is a quandary on how to approach them with any success. Oddly enough, because Iran is a more rigidly controlled society, it is easier to deal with them. **JOHN KIDD** offered a favorite Einstein quote in thanks to our speaker for one of our best programs ever. **RALPH ADAMS** mentioned the one-man nuclear weapon delivery system called the "Davey Crockett" to show how easily one person can conduct a nuclear attack. A final question was - given that the average age of The Partners is 85, who would follow these five PARTNERS in their focus on nuclear risk reduction? Phil said that while there is not a clear answer, there are people in and out of government who will rise to this task.

Thank you, **PRESIDENT HAL**, for bringing this excellent speaker and crucial topic to us. The meeting was adjourned.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

August 27: **Amir Dan Rubin**, Stanford Hospital President and CEO

September 3: **Dark**

September 10: **PRESIDENT HAL MICKESON**, Palo Alto Rotary Club Assembly

Meeting Information [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)