

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: July 29, 2013

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: DICK MANSFIELD

CALL TO ORDER

President STEVE EMSLIE called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITING ROTARIANS

We were honored to host six visiting Rotarians. ZAFAR IQBAL introduced his friends Veena and Anil Malhotra,



visiting from New Delhi. Both are past presidents of their Rotary club. Former Palo Alto Rotary Club member Dick Carlson visited from Tucson. Sue McKinney hails from the Oakland Sunrise Rotary, but she has been living in Vietnam for the past 19 years. Jim Philbrick and Charlotte Ross came up from Saratoga.

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

David Holland came as the guest of WALT HAYS. Haiyan Gao was the guest of GEOFF ZIMAN. Philipp de Fries, one of our former exchange students, was rescued by DON LANGENDORF from aimless wandering at Ming's. Bryan Miller was introduced by BEN THRELKELD and Mark Klein joined us as guest of LE LEVY.

OPENING REMARKS



GINNY LEAR inspired us with the story of George Ireland, who faced down racism in college athletics. Ireland was coach of the Loyola Ramblers when, in 1963, he started four African American players during the championship game. This was in defiance of a rule limiting each team to only two African American players

on the court. This fall, the Loyola Ramblers will be the first team to be inducted into the national hall of fame for collegiate basketball.

GRANT RECIPIENT TALK

After recognizing the members of the Charitable Gifts committee (LEANNAH HUNT, GEORGE NEWTON, IRIS KOROL, MARCIE COX, ART STAUFFER, ROB LANCEFIELD, LEONARD ELY, JOHN BARTON, MIKE



COUCH, and LE LEVY), BILL JOHNSON introduced Karen Friedland-Brown of Parents Place.

Parent's Place is a program of Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS), and operates with support from JFCS as well as fees for service. Located at Channing and Emerson, Parents Place has a playroom where young children can play while families connect, and offers programs for parents and their children as young as 1 year old. Our club's \$5,000 grant will support special group programs (dinner included) and one-on-one guidance for low-income families. Ms. Friedland-Brown invites club members to come by and visit.

PROGRAM: Philip Yun, The Problem of North Korea



GLORIA HOM Introduced Philip Yun. Mr. Yun is Executive Director and COO of the Ploughshares Fund, which works to move beyond a nuclear world. He came to Ploughshares from the Asia Foundation. Prior to his foundation work, Mr. Yun was a scholar at Stanford specializing

in North Korea, and served in the State Department under President Clinton. He is brought to us by DARYL SAVAGE.

Mr. Yun began by saying he owes a debt to Rotary because his wife knew nothing about international affairs as a teen, but she became a Rotary International Scholar. She went to Japan at age 16, and went on to a career in international affairs.

North Korea's provocative actions in the last six months have raised questions: should we be afraid of a nuclear weapon from North Korea (NK), and what is their motivation?



Mr. Yun previewed our main takeaways from today's talk:

- NK's bluff was called, but NK also gained significantly.
- NK has no intention of giving up its nuclear weapons program.
- NK's reliance on nuclear weapons program will increase, not decrease in the future.
- More of the same policies will produce more of the same from NK – it is hard for US, South Korea and China to change course.

NK matters because their nuclear weapons and growing missile capabilities could lead to an Asian arms race. They are willing to sell their knowledge to any bidder, and they trade in drugs and counterfeit money to gain cash. They operate on a shoestring budget and build nuclear facilities with poor quality control, risking nuclear accidents.

The real threat from NK is not a preemptive strike on the US. They know that would lead to their extinction, and they don't have the capability. The real threat is miscalculation on their part. They have a lot of military assets – 1.2 million troops, lots of artillery guns, special forces, submarines, warplanes and enough plutonium for 4-8 nuclear weapons. What happens if they miscalculate, and hit one of our ships, or some other unintended target?

Why are they doing it? The internal reason is consolidation of power: Kim Jong Un is young. The external reason is to extract concessions and test the US, South Korea, Japan and China (all but the US have new governments, and the US has a new Secretary of State). The military reason is to advance their missile and nuclear capabilities; Yun believes they have a number in mind of how many nuclear weapons they want and may stop when they reach that number.

No one really understands what is going on inside the NK leadership circle, but they aren't crazy. We need to focus on their policy, which is blackmail, and brinkmanship to extract concessions. They want more attention from the US and China than we can give, so they will provoke and may do something under the radar. They have a negotiating advantage over other countries because their leadership (other than Kim Jong Un) has been unchanged for over 20 years. And the US and China have different priorities – China wanting to prevent a collapse of NK and the US wanting to prevent them from becoming nuclear.

Biggest challenge for US is that we view people and countries through our own culture. North Koreans have been raised to think that the US is the source of all evil.

RALPH ADAMS asked how aware are the NK people of what the rest of the world looks like? Mr. Yun replied that the older generation is dying and they were the ones who had lived in a united Korea and traveled. The current generation has only known NK and they are more radicalized because they believe their country's propaganda.

THANK YOU TO OUR HELPERS: MEL MATSUMOTO cashier, DICK MANSFIELD welcome desk, HAL MICKELSON greeter, and GINNY LEAR and STEVE MADSEN room set up.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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| August 5 | Peter Pirnejad , City of Palo Alto Development Services Director |
| August 12 | Professor Takeo Hoshi and Glen Fukushima , Abenomics and Beyond: Prospects and Pitfalls for Japan |
| August 19 | Steve Emslie , Club Assembly |

A Gallery of Members and Guests



STEVE EMSLIE



HAIYAN GAO



PHILIPP DE FRIES & DON LANGENDORF



DICK CARLSON



GLORIA HOM



BILL JOHNSON



SUE MCKINNEY