

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: November 25, 2013

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PRESIDENT STEVE welcomed attendees at 12:25. After an additional ten minutes for socializing, he began the meeting itself with the pledge and wished a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday to all.

The meeting extended warm welcomes to visiting Rotarians DICK CARLSON from the Tucson, AZ. club; Charlotte Ross and Jim Philbrick from the Saratoga, CA. club; and Frank-Jorg Ulmer from the Ingolstadt, Germany, club. DENNIS MCGINN introduced Karishma Juman as his guest; ROB LANCEFIELD introduced his guests Bear Bauman and Martin Hellman, our speaker; JIM SUTHERLAND introduced prospective inductee Joe Sinnott as his guest; SALLY TOMLINSON introduced her guest Tess Byler; ED DANGLER introduced Amy Sung as his guest; and OLIVER COOLIDGE introduced his guest, Chrissy Coolidge.

With sponsor JIM SUTHERLAND looking on, Membership Committee Chair BEN THRELKELD inducted JOE SINNOTT to the status and duties of Red Badge membership.



For Opening Remarks MEL MATSUMOTO warmed hearts of a certain age with excerpts from *No Gray on the Desk – Growing Old in Style* (1976).



PRESIDENT STEVE presented Paul Harris awards to GEORGE FITZGERALD and BRUCE LIEDSTRAND.

DERRICK BRITT and ROGER SMITH pointed out a new “tree” display that recognizes per-member lifetime contributions at increasing levels to the Endowment Fund., “gifts that keep on giving.” ROGER asked members who had contributed during the month to stand and receive congratulatory pins. He then called



the designer of the pins, his “hero” IRIS KOROL to the podium, saying she had done more for the Fund than anyone else. In her honor he made a substantial contribution to the Fund. He also lauded her recent receipt of the Glenn George Heart of Philanthropy Award from the Silicon Valley chapter of the Association of Fundraising



Professionals. IRIS joined the Presidents Club in honor of that award. ROGER also reviewed Fund levels and contributions to the club for its charitable giving.

PRESIDENT STEVE invited participation in the club’s holiday social on Thursday, December 12, from 6-9pm at the home of DICK BUSH and Patty McGuigan, 1530 Waverly Street. The club requests members to bring an hors d’oeuvres plate to share.

ROB LANCEFIELD introduced and summarized the accomplishments and credentials of his long-time friend and neighbor, Martin Hellman, Stanford Professor of Electrical Engineering Emeritus, whose featured topic is “NSA Domestic Spying: Boon or Bane.” Professor Hellman related an early conflict with NSA over his publication in the 1970s of his own work in cryptography: NSA asserted that all encryption was “born classified.” At the time he had the



same humorous reaction as the meeting’s, but now questions whether in some circumstances NSA’s view could be justified. He agreed that NSA’s spying is subject to abuse, noting that Administrations of both major political parties had abused secret information. Yet such spying can and often does serve useful purposes, such as countering terrorism; so what is needed is better oversight – much better oversight. That can come from enabling more than one person, currently Chief Justice John Roberts, to appoint members of the special secret court that authorizes searches, and from appointing overseers who understand the capabilities of electronic storage and searching of enormous data bases. Professor Hellman observed that in the aftermath of 911, he and a great many other citizens favored NSA spying and supported enactment of the Patriot Act and extensions of the act. Such support is still warranted; Al Queda, for example, feels justified in killing millions of Americans including children, to avenge Muslim deaths charged to U.S. military operations. In a Q&A session he addressed among other things the inevitable tradeoffs between security and freedom, and the value of compiling vast data banks that could be searched quickly without disclosing the objects of a search.

PRESIDENT STEVE concluded the meeting on schedule with the customary donation of a dictionary in the speaker’s honor to the Green Oaks Academy in East Palo Alto, and thanks to cashier JACKIE SCHOELERMAN and others assisting with the meeting.

NEXT PROGRAMS

December 2 Tom North, “True North” – The Shocking Truth about Yours Mine and Ours

December 9 Tanya Peterson, Executive Director San Francisco Zoo

December 16 West Bay Opera

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org