

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: May 19, 2014

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

OPENING,

PRESIDENT STEVE gently chided stragglers to go through the buffet line and take a seat, presumably to join those already there in convivial conversation. Later he led us in the Pledge. He then welcomed Larry



Grace, visiting from the Saratoga Club and hosting our Exchange Student from France, Juliette Blanchot. Ms. Blanchot thanked us for an enjoyable year here. **STEVE** also welcomed



and exchanged banners with Erwin Lauschauer of the Rotary Club of Landsberg, Germany, who spoke briefly about his club and previous experience in Silicon Valley.



BILL FOGARTY said he had volunteered to present Opening Remarks on one condition, that he could do that today. Memorial Day is not to celebrate national barbeque day, rather to remember members of the armed services who made the supreme sacrifice in our nation's wars. He called Members who had served, and survived, to join him as he read a somber letter that the man who would become his father after World War II wrote in 1944 about observing devastation, sorrow, grief and fortitude during buzz-bombing of England and fighting in France and suffering in Germany. He ended with a display of the bold headline of the Stars and Stripes for August 14, 1945 – "PEACE".

DON MORGAN asked for volunteers to display American Flags on University Avenue on Memorial Day and for help on Saturday constructing a special container to store the flags between showings.

LEE PFAB reminded us of the reception at **PRESIDENT STEVE's** home on June 3 from 5 to 6:30. She noted requests that alphabetical groups of attendees bring red wine, white wine, and desserts.

JUDY KLEINBERG joined the President's Club to boast about her husband, who recently retired from an active judgeship, having received honors including Jurist of the Year from the San Jose Bar Association, and promptly began a second career with JAMS, nationally recognized for excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution. **LISA AKSELRAD** joined for a "perfect trifecta": graduation of a niece from law school in San Diego; incorporation of her new personal-assistant business (business cards available); and, attending the Rotary Convention in Sydney, Australia, next month, honoring her father.

PRESIDENTIAL thanks went to **CATHY SHEN** for serving as cashier today, **DICK MANSFIELD** for staffing the Welcome Desk as well as assisting **STEVE MADSEN** with room set up, and to **DON MORGAN** for the Pinion.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROB LYMAN began the presentations by New Members with a little-known fact about each respectively: a stint as a lingerie model in college; engaging in a sport sans underwear; and imbibing beer seriously at a young age.

ANDREW PIERCE grew up in Chicago's North Side and adjoining suburbs, living in a Frank Lloyd Wright- designed home at one point.

His father then, was, and still is, a lawyer and a political office holder.

ANDREW's Harvard College classmates included Bill Gates (for a while) and a cellist named Yo Yo. After desultory service as a legislative aide in the nation's capital he returned to Harvard, for law this time, where a lovable classmate became his wife. He worked for some years at a large law firm and recently in a small one with a varied litigation practice. He loves music, ranging from the Grateful Dead to the



Ring Cycle at the San Francisco Opera.



At **LEE PFAB's** birth her mother was 15 and her father 17. His career choices were essentially restricted to the military. Life with the Air Force took the family to several states including California (Travis), the Philippines, and Sicily where she attended a nine-student high school on base. **LEE** is the Executive Director of the YMCA where she met Terri McGinnis who became her spouse in 2008. The

wedding featured Broom Jumping, a ritual from the days of black slavery in which the one who jumps higher becomes dominate in the marriage. She loves her nieces and nephews and countless children at the Y. **LEE** is not athletically inclined, despite her title, except for avidly rowing in whale boat races in San Francisco Bay and the Oakland Estuary. In a Q&A session, she explained that unlike racing shells, whale boat seats do not slide back and forth, so friction would make underwear irritating.

CATHY SHEN hails from Chicago's South Side. Jewish, her father fled Czechoslovakia at 15 and entered military service at 18, suffering injury that affected his whole life. He became a brewer for Strohs, specializing in developing unusual blends to appeal to women, then an emerging market. **CATHY** attended Michigan State where, as at home, she drank a lot of beer. She likes to plan. Her to-do list included marrying and having children by age 30 (she had four by then), and saving the world, a work in progress. After Case Western Reserve Law School, for eight years she pursued a solo law practice in Cleveland that kept her so busy it was driving her and her husband crazy. Her husband urged

her to get a job with regular hours. She went into Human Resources, first at LTV Steel which was adorned with pictures of underwear-less women that it took her two years to take down, trying to shift to a less sexist culture. From Shanghai, her husband is Chinese. Her children "don't look like me", prompting at least one suspicious onlooker to ask "Where did you get that child?" With their children grown and all four moved to California, **CATHY** and her husband moved here. She then worked at Kaiser Permanente to create pro-active health care until undertaking the lead Human Resources post in the Palo Alto government two years ago. She loves that the community is so engaged, and enjoys her three grandchildren in San Jose.

The meeting concluded with a general Q&A session.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 26 Dark – Memorial Day

June 2 Dr. Harvey Fishman, "Femtosecond Laser Cataract Surgery"

June 9 Larry Magid, Technology Journalist, "Tech Policy: Privacy, Safety and Security"

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org