

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President E.J. HONG startled us all with a sound check at 12:27. She then called the meeting to order at 12:31. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harry Browne. Due to the large turnout, PRESIDENT HONG ordered the membership to turn off their cell phones and set them to silent, vibrate, or stun. We were reliably informed that one or more persons may have complied.

VISITING ROTARIANS

Harry Browne was counted as a visitor, although he is officially an Honorary Member of this club. Harry joined in 1960, and was President from 1969 to 1970. Arne Christenson from Koldinghus, Denmark returned for his third visit. His club has 45 members and is one of three Rotary clubs in a town of 70,000 people in southern Denmark. Dinesh Shah visited again from the Bombay Uptown Club in Bombay, India. He boasted of their 50/50 gender ratio and "lady president."

GUESTS

WALT HAYS introduced his guest Barbara Cameron, a recently retired United Airlines flight attendant. CHARLIE WEIDANZ introduced Shelley Hebert, a 25-year resident of Palo Alto and a friend of Abilities United. JOHN O'KEEFE introduced his guest, Rex Bigler. MIKE McMAHON introduced his guest, Bernie Siegal. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF introduced her guest, Fire Chief Eric Nickel. ED DANGLER introduced his guest, Josiane Edy, his daughter from Colorado. DARYL SAVAGE introduced Gary Naillilon of the FBI Academy and Guggenheim.



WE CARE COMMITTEE

BILL BUSSE informed us of the death and services for George Knowles, at the age of 107. George was President of this club from 1962 to 1963.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF joined the President's Club in honor of the fact that she inadvertently referred to Eric Nickel as the Fire Captain, when he is actually the Fire Chief. PETER SHAMBORA joined in honor of receiving his Blue Badge. GINNY LEAR joined the President's Club in honor of the San Francisco Giants having won the National League pennant in this Orange October. DUANE KALAR joined the President's Club in honor of the 60-year anniversary of starting at Stanford, where he took a course from the aforementioned George Knowles and also in honor of Professor Snyder and our guest, David Kennedy.



OPENING REMARKS were given by SUSAN LUTTER. SUSAN just completed a half-marathon, slowly, which allowed her to collect her thoughts about Ebola. She is somewhat worried about her African friends as her work with the great apes has led to close relationships with people in several African countries. She mentioned that Rotary gets credit for helping set

up the medical infrastructure that has been helpful in potentially eliminating Ebola in Nigeria. The death rate is now 50% for unknown reasons rather than the earlier 90%. Susan remarked that it was in the enlightened self-interest of lucky and advanced countries like the United States to use our strength to fight Ebola rather than simply worry about it. Like personal fitness, the struggle against infectious diseases is never truly finished.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The election of the Endowment Board will occur on November 3, 2014.

AWARD OF THE BLUE BADGE

PETER SHAMBORA received his Blue Badge in record time and, as noted above, also joined the President's Club. He thanks his sponsor, DENNIS MCGINN.



NEW MEMBER



BEN THELKELD did the honors of the induction. AVO IZMIRLIAN was inducted as a new member. We are confident he is the first member of this club with a background in mining in Mongolia. He is now a commercial real estate agent, however. STEVE EMSLIE is his sponsor.

PAUL HARRIS PINS

Paul Harris pins were awarded to JOHN O'KEEFE, JULIE JEROME, BOB BULMORE and to E.J. HONG, from E.J. HONG, all as a result of \$1,000 cumulative donations to the Rotary Foundation.



INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER:

DIANA DIAMOND introduced our speaker, David Kennedy, after receiving an acknowledgment of love from E.J. HONG. Professor Kennedy is a famous historian and has won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Freedom from Fear*. He holds the Donald J. McLachlan Chair at Stanford and is a Professor emeritus, three-time commencement speaker at Stanford, and winner of the Dean's Award for distinguished teaching. His work appears in the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *New York Times*.

David M. Kennedy Presentation: Who Bleeds, Who Pays: The U.S. Armed Forces Today

Prof. Kennedy began with a fond remembrance of George Knowles. He



showed us the cover of the book he edited entitled *The Modern American Military*, which includes on the cover a picture of a spy plane and female Marine recruits, both symbolic of the new characteristics of our military.

Prof. Kennedy's major point was that we have an armed force now which is very distinct from the civil society that pays for it and which it protects. It is a volunteer force, it uses very sophisticated technology and has a vastly expanded mission definition. Prof. Kennedy says these changes raise two issues: one

of social equality in terms of who serves; and another in terms of political accountability.

Prof. Kennedy noted that the current military is, by historical standards, quite small, consisting of only 1.4 million on active duty, or about 0.5% of the population. This small force is possible because they have been technologically enhanced. As one indicator, Prof. Kennedy noted that the Strategic Bombing Survey undertaken after the end of World War II concluded that destroying a single target typically required 108 aircraft dropping 648 bombs. By contrast, on the first night of the Afghanistan air attacks in 2001, the United States used 38 aircraft to destroy 159 targets. If we had still been using the World War II technology, this would have required 17,000 bombing runs and the use of 104,000 bombs.

Prof. Kennedy also noted that our current military is relatively inexpensive. The Department of Defense budget is 3% of the gross domestic product, as compared to 18% spent on healthcare. During World War II, we spent up to 40% of our gross domestic product on the military.

The all-volunteer force is somewhat unrepresentative demographically. Among the 18-44 age cohort African Americans constitute 12% of civil society, but 19% of the military. For Hispanics, the number is 17% of civil society and 12% of the military. Among the more narrowly defined 18-24 age cohort, 32% of Americans have had some college education, but only 2.6% of military personnel have had any college education.

Prof. Kennedy then turned to the issue of political accountability. He referred to the remarks given by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates at the Duke University commencement in 2010 that the propensity to serve was highest in the south and mountain west regions and in smaller towns and rural communities. Gates further noted that many of our military also grew up in military families. When Prof. Kennedy was invited to Fort Lewis in 2007 as a result of his *New York Times* articles about changes in military, he spent time with cadets and officer candidates at the Warrior Forge ROTC training. He said one theme he heard was the question of how the Army could be at war when the nation was not. Prof. Kennedy expressed worry that we can have wars without involving the country as a whole. For example, among the generals surveyed, 307 military officers had 180 children in the service. Among the 535 members of Congress, only 10 of their children were in the military service. It appears we may be creating an inner-generational military caste who consider themselves different from the rest of society. Some referred to the military as the "family business."

Prof. Kennedy then spoke of the historic debate over creating the all-volunteer military in the 1970s. Thomas Gates, another Secretary of Defense, prepared a report that anticipated objections to the all-volunteer force including that it would be isolated from society, that it would have disproportionate numbers of black and low income individuals, that there would be a decline in popular concern about foreign policy and that it would encourage adventurism. Prof. Kennedy noted that all of these seemed to have come to pass. In the 28 years of the conscripted force after World War II, between 1945 and 1973, there were 19 overseas deployments. In the 41 years since the abolition of the draft in 1973 there have been 144 deployments, or approximately 5 times as many per year. It has become easier to send troops overseas.

Prof. Kennedy also spoke of a seminar he attended with George W. Bush in the White House. After expressing his concern about the troops, President Bush stated that if he had had a drafted army when he invaded Iraq, he likely would have been impeached. On a more positive note, the military has not become isolated and alienated from society or lost respect. Public opinion polls indicate that we are less trusting of virtually all institutions than in prior decades, with the exception of the military. Prof. Kennedy said that loss of faith in all institutions other than the military leads to stories that have not had happy endings. Prof. Kennedy also quoted George Washington's speech in 1783 in which he noted that citizens not only need to pay for government, but that "personal service" should also be owed. In response to a question, Prof. Kennedy referred to the Abrams Doctrine, also known as the Total Force Doctrine. In the transition to an all-volunteer army, the military sought to require reserves to be used in all operations and be a part of the active duty force to make it more difficult to use them. However, due to rebalancing in recent years, this is no longer the case. In Prof. Kennedy's opinion, this has created a moral hazard for the Commander in Chief, in that it is easy to use the military because draftees and reservists are not being called up. Also in response to a question, Prof. Kennedy noted that if the level of medical services available at the time the Vietnam War had been applied in Iraq, there would have been 25,000 killed in action, rather than only 5,000. This has made it easier to engage in foreign wars because the death of a soldier is a more high profile event than soldiers returning gravely handicapped or wounded. Finally, he referred to some of our veterans have suffered from "moral wounds" as a result of decisions made in battle.

Adjournment occurred a few minutes late due to the immense interest in Prof. Kennedy's presentation

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 27, Dr. Max McGee, Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District: "*Preparing Students for Careers That Don't Exist*"

November 3, Gloria Duffy CEO, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in Clinton Administration: "*The Crisis in Ukraine*"

November 10, Tina Selig, Professor of the Practice Dept. of Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University: "*A Crash Course on Creativity*"

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