

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: December 1, 2014

Reporter: MIKE McMAHON

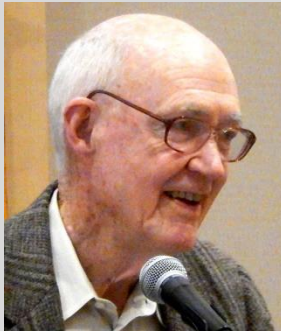
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER

President E.J. HONG called the meeting to order at 12:30. JULIE JEROME led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS

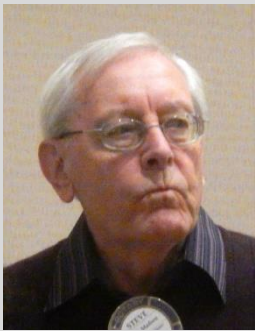
WALT HAYS followed up on our President's continuing discussion of 'Old White Men' by offering a few thoughts on growing old in general. He cited a quote from Frank Bruni of the New York Times, "We [older people] have tricks of the mind and tools of the spirit infinitely more potent than the ravages of time." WALT, continued, pointing out that you're less ego-driven, less judgmental of others, and you experience the wonderful freedom of caring less about what others think of you.



GUESTS

Visiting Rotarian: Former member Dick Carlson accompanied by his wife Pat.

Guests of Rotarians: Tim Watson from Menlo Park, guest of WALT HAYS; Ken Lorell, guest of LE LEVY; Judy Miner, President of Foothill College, guest of IRIS KOROL, and Ann, the wife of DUANE KALAR.



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

STEVE MADSEN contributed to the Presidents Club in honor of the marriage of his daughter.

ENDOWMENT FUND

IRIS KOROL introduced Judy Miner, President of Foothill College, to let us



know how the Endowment Fund's annual contribution to Palo Alto Rotary Club Annual Charities supported the last two summers of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Summer Camp at Foothill College. In the first year 112 students from

12 high schools, including 70% female and 50% from underrepresented groups, attended. In the second year, attendance increased to 242 students from 41 high schools, and 56 students from 30 Middle Schools. Judy will be attending a White House STEM education meeting this week where this program will be discussed. IRIS

finished up by encouraging all Rotarians to contribute to the Endowment this year, to achieve the generous matching offer of ROGER SMITH.

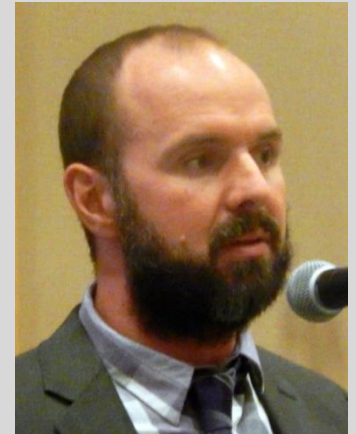


PROGRAM

MIKE BAIRD introduced out speaker, Mr. Daniel Hartwig, Stanford University Archivist on the topic, "The Mysterious Death of Jane Stanford".



Mr. Hartwig started out by stating that Mrs. Stanford may have been poisoned twice, the first time at her home in San Francisco on January 14, 1905. In the first event she consumed some Poland Water that tasted bitter. Later analysis showed that it contained strychnine, a constituent of rat poison. A Detective Agency, who was called in to investigate, was unable to determine who introduced the poison into the Poland Water. A month later Mrs. Stanford journeyed to Hawaii, to stay at the Moana Hotel. After dinner on the evening of February 14, 1905 (Did they celebrate Valentine's Day then?) Mrs. Stanford took some bicarbonate soda and shortly after yelled, "Help, I am poisoned!" She died shortly thereafter. The inquest testimony of the physicians who attended her death in Hawaii led to a coroner's jury verdict of murder — by strychnine poisoning.



Stanford University President David Starr Jordan promptly issued a press release claiming that Mrs. Stanford had died of heart disease, a claim that he supported by challenging the skills and judgment of the Honolulu physicians and toxicologist. Jordan's diagnosis was largely accepted and promulgated in many subsequent historical accounts. A detailed treatment of this subject is in the 2003 book of the same name by Robert Cutler, M.D.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8 New Members Talks TBD

December 15 West Bay Opera

December 22 NO MEETING

December 29 NO MEETING