

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: December 8, 2014

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President E.J. HONG performed her sound check at 12:29 and called the meeting to order at 12:30. **RICHARD KELLER** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITING ROTARIANS

Caremen Solordano of the East Palo Alto Bayshore Rotary Club invited us to their December 18th fundraiser at the Tequila Lounge in Redwood City at 6:00 p.m. Raffle tickets are available for \$10. This club is the fastest growing in the area. It meets on Thursday nights at the YMCA in East Palo Alto. Klaus Heinemann of the Gualala, California club was also present. Len Gerald, President-Elect of the Rancho Cotati club near Santa Rosa was here visiting his daughter in Palo Alto.

GUESTS

Rebecca Gerald, guest of **LEN GERALDI**. Linda Steele, guest of **CHARLIE WEIDATZ**. Elliott Wright's guests were his accomplished wife, Rachel, and his three-month-old daughter Annalina.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NINA MOORE presented a report on the December social. Various items of crockery that were left behind were offered for recovery by their owners. Thank yous were given to many for the event which featured three turkeys this year. **HAL MICKELSON** auctioned a crystal menorah that had been purchased for the event. As a follow up to last week's speech by Daniel Hartwig and was noted that Professor White's students indicted Berner for murder; David Starr Jordan as an accessory to murder, and Jordan for obstruction of justice. There was an announcement that Gunn High School could use a debate coach for their debate team. **MIKE COUCH** announced the book distribution would occur Wednesday at 9:00 at Green Oak Academy.

ROGER SMITH gave a presentation concerning the endowment. He also announced he would be buying 100 tickets from the East Palo Alto club raffle. **ROGER** is offering a challenge grant where every dollar is matched with two additional dollars donated to the endowment. The club seeks an 80% contribution rate and is currently at 70 out of 134 donors to the endowment.

OPENING REMARKS

JIM SUTHERLAND reminded us not to forget Pearl Harbor. Of the 60,000 original survivors, only about 2,000 to 2,500 are still alive and only 9 from the USS Arizona. **JIM** recounted a video he saw of survivor Donald Stratton, who was at his battle station 60 feet above the deck when the Arizona exploded. He was able to see the faces of the attacking pilots. He recovered from being burned over 70% of his body, and after spending ten months in the hospital, signed up again for naval service after his medical discharge and served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific.



MEMBER TALKS

ROB LYMAN introduced our three new members.

ELLIOTT WRIGHT, who is returning as a member, gave his second new member talk. His sponsor is **BEN THRELKELD**. **ELLIOTT**'s field is conservation management. **ROB** wanted it known that **ELLIOTT** almost beat Lance Armstrong at the Boston Marathon, despite the fact that **ELLIOTT** was not on steroids. **ELLIOTT** told us he grew up in New Mexico and took his first few steps at Ghost Ranch. As a



young person, he worked at a dude ranch as an assistant wrangler and fly fishing guide. He attended college at Bowdoin in Maine, where on his second day, he fell 275 feet down a cliff on Mount Katahdin. He is grateful for a life that consists of only good days and great days since he survived that accident. **ELLIOTT** founded the Bowdoin Organic Garden after writing the grant application to have it funded by the Pew Trust. **ELLIOTT** also worked in Ladakh, where he built a library and worked with oral and vision clinics and the Siddhartha School. He also worked with Brian Steen of the Sempervirens Fund for a couple of years. He married his lovely and accomplished wife, Rachel, at Asilomar after she dragged him out to Stanford. He currently works as Campaign Director of the Northern Sierra Partnership, acquiring land from the checkerboard pattern, north of Highway 80, for conservation purposes.

DAVID HOLLAND, who has been a member since September 2013, spoke



next. His field is accounting services. He toured thousands of miles on his motorcycles, although they have now been sold. He lives in Mountain View, California. **DAVID** practices accounting in Palo Alto. He was raised in Salt Lake City, which he said he misses a little bit, not a lot. He was the youngest of six kids, with a mother who was a nurse and a father who was an architect. His family had moved prior to his birth to Salt Lake City from Ann Arbor. Growing up, his older brothers liked to play pranks on him. He recounted that at the age of approximately six, he wanted a trampoline and his brothers arranged for the delivery of a large box which, when opened, turned out to contain nothing but paper with two match boxes. **DAVID** said he has a lot of memories of fly fishing in Salt Lake City with his father and golfing. He attended high school in Salt Lake City and planned to become a ski bum until his father dropped him off at Utah State. His initial field was landscape architecture and then geology, but ended up going into Business Administration. He is a certified accountant and in 1986, moved to California and has been here ever since. In 1993, he met Christie, his wife, who is a history teacher at a junior college. They travel out of the country every year. He has been a CPA in Palo Alto since 1998 and owns his own firm.

DR. MIKE WICK was our third new member. He attended Harvard College on a



Rotary scholarship when the tuition was less than \$2,000. He was raised in Boston, but came to California to work in the biotech field approximately 15 years ago. Previously he obtained a PhD and M.D. and was a professor at Harvard Medical School in oncology. He founded two companies, which he sold after ten years and has served on boards. He announced his surgeon daughter is having her second grandchild. He told us his leisure activities include falling off of horses and attempting golf. He currently serves on the Grants Committee of Rotary, which he loves. He has had his Red Badge for quite a long time. In response to a question, he stated he thought, in his opinion, it would take hundreds of years to find a cure for cancer and that prevention was more likely to be successful than cure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15 West Bay Opera

December 22 NO MEETING

December 29 NO MEETING