

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: January 19, 2015

Reporter JOHN KIDD

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PRE-PROGRAM

The meeting started with the usual Pledge of Allegiance and guest intros. DICK BUSH reintroduced friend and retired semiconductor executive Michael Gross. SALLY THOMLIMSON introduced a future speaker, Dickens Olewe; two long time friends, Pat Worthington and Jim Dinher; and a longer time friend, Tim Tomlinson. CHRISSY and Oliver Coolidge tag teamed to introduce Chrissy's husband, Tophier Martini. CHRISSY also received her Blue Badge, humbling her old man in his dilatory efforts to do the same.



JACKIE SCHOELERMAN deferred to MARCIE COX'S request to present Opening Remarks.

MARCIE lost her mother last Saturday, and took the opportunity to give her a public tribute. She referred to her mother, Lois Robinson, as an extraordinary 91 year old person whose writing and journalism career had included an interview with Eleanor Roosevelt. She had just recently published a 550 page autobiography. In her honor, MARCIE contributed \$1,000 to the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund. Several members indicated an interest in the book and were encouraged to contact Marcie.



DANA TOM reminded all of us that the email survey waiting on our computers is vitally important to the Program Committee. Please respond.

LISA AKSELRAD added personal relevance to Martin Luther King Day. She held up a copy of a local newspaper clipping dated March 17, 1965. It was an article about how her father, Rabbi Sid Akselrad, was marching with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery when they were confronted by hostile Sheriff's forces. Using his authority as a white man of the cloth, Sid was able to get to a phone and call the White House. The call eventually led to the mobilization of the National Guard. Before he passed several years ago, Sid had been an active Rotarian for over 50 years, most of that time in this club. May he rest in peace and the memory of his compassion inspire us all.



memory of his compassion inspire us all.



Pam Brandin joined the President's Club twice in honor of her two daughters, Vanessa and Alexandra, the first a new single mom of Preston Brandin, and the second a recently named Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience.



KATIE SEEDMAN announced that our new President Nominee is to be BRIAN STEEN! Congratulations, BRIAN. Please tell your wife that the Club greatly appreciates the year-long loan of your time and attention.

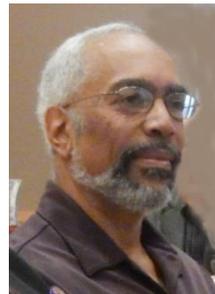
And of course BRUCE, GINNY AND PETER didn't miss the chance to



encourage ALL of us to wholeheartedly support this year's annual fundraiser; by volunteering, contributing auction items, and inviting friends. Get involved, your help is needed!

PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced today's speaker, Dr. Gibor Basri, the Vice Chancellor of UC Berkeley for Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Gibor's path to his current position included undergraduate work in Physics at Stanford and post-doctoral work in Astronomy and Astrophysics @ UC Berkeley. After several years of notable work in his field and achieving the distinction of becoming a Fellow with the California Academy of Science, he was asked to assume the responsibility of leading the University's efforts to remove historical barriers to education for the underrepresented components of our society. He is assisted by a staff of 150 people and is responsible for a budget of \$20M. His message was simple: We cannot afford to deny ourselves of the talent of those women and people of color who are not receiving the same educational benefits as others. His delivery was heavily data driven, and is best described by reference to his several slides, see the attached links.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26, Arne Croce Former City Manager of San Mateo and Los Altos: "Community of Bell - What Happened, Corrective Steps, and Current Status"

February 2 Matthew Tiews, Executive Director of Arts Programs, Stanford

Feb. 9. Carolyn Hinds, Guide Dogs For The Blind