

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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KATIE SEEDMAN chaired the meeting which started promptly at 12:30.

GUESTS

BEN THRELKELD's guest was Anais Legrand, a hand surgeon from Brussels, Belgium who is at Stanford on a fellowship. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF's guest was Tom DuBois, a Palo Alto City Council Member and a parent of two children at Gunn High School. STEVE

PLAYER's guest was Myron Freedman, Executive Director of the Palo Alto History Museum.

OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks were given by BRIAN STEEN. He mentioned that our member, RUTH SCHNEIDER, is recuperating at Sweet Little Home, 3835 Mumford Place in Palo Alto, (650) 814-4400. Visiting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. BRIAN went onto to expound on the benefits of walking, the simplest change you can make to improve your heart health and reduce the risk of many chronic illnesses. Places Brian likes to walk are his own neighborhood, the Baylands, and the Stanford Dish. The Stanford Dish was built in 1966 by SRI for the U.S. Air Force. One can see up to 75 miles. Parking is possible, but not always easy on Stanford Avenue. Failing that, one can always walk to the store, meet a friend for coffee, and walk around one's neighborhood to obtain the benefits of a walking life style.



ROSEANNE FAIRTY spoke about the Vocational Scholarship Committee.



This year 15 applications have already been received, not yet including those from DeAnza College. Last year there were nine scholarship awards, totaling \$8,800, including one to a young man studying auto technology at Skyline and a young woman studying stenography at Foothill. This year, thanks to the success of last year's fundraiser, there will be \$21,000 available and a record number of applications is expected.



BRUCE GEE and DICK BUSH came up to talk about this year's fundraiser, March 14. Two of the live auction items being offered are cruises on the Sea Cloud I and II-historical ships that will

provide unique

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker Dickens Olewe, a John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford. SALLY mentioned that he was involved with such initiatives as African skycams, mobile journalism and mobile applications for the Star newspaper. Dickens started a Health Data Portal and advises people on mobile journalism in Kenya. He created the Star's digital strategy.



Dickens' topic was Outsourcing Journalism in Kenya: The Increasing Influence of Political Cartoonists and Independent Commentators. He



gave examples of two stories that were not covered well by the media in Kenya. The major newspapers conduct "establishment journalism" in part because they receive a great deal of advertising revenue from the government and don't want to shake the boat. One story that did not receive adequate coverage in the newspapers was the aftermath of the violence connected with the 2007 Kenyan election in which 1,500 were killed and over 600,000 were displaced. One of the presidential candidates in 2013, Uhuru

Kenyatta, the incumbent, was facing charges at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, but the Kenyan newspapers did not want to discuss this. Cartoons, however, showed the International Criminal Court as the elephant in the room. The newspapers took up a nationalist line that the International Criminal Court was an imperialist institution and that all the matters should be decided in Kenya. Cartoons, however, show the media as a choir, or as part of "impunity."

Another story that was not covered properly by the mainstream Kenyan media was the terrorist attack on the Westgate Shopping Center in Nairobi in 2013. The attack was not handled well by the security forces, which initially exaggerated the number of attackers. Some of the police were later found to have looted the shopping center themselves. The Nation initially published a graphic photo for which it was criticized and later took a nationalist position supportive of the government line.

However, social media activists, working collaboratively, put together 85 questions forwarded to the ministry.

Dickens also noted that independent magazines are making a comeback in Kenya. He suggested that the media needed to diversify economically to become less dependent on government funding and to find other sources of revenue in the private sector.

In response to a question, he noted the United States and Britain that were initially opposed to the re-election of Kenyatta, but have come around to support the government. He said that in Kenya, the BBC and Al Jazeera are the best sources of news and that CNN International is also good, better than the U.S. version.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 23 Bill Liberatore, Director and Advanced Vocal Group from Gunn Choir

March 2 Jacqueline Fuller, Google "Giving 2.0: What I've learned about strategic philanthropy from Google and Gates"

March 14 Annual PARC Crab Feed, Mitchell Park Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Please make Reservations on Mondays or online at our website