

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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Today was a successful tryout for the 2016-17 Rotary Year with BRIAN STEEN in the leading role as President. Both EJ HONG (in Italy) and KATIE SEEDMAN (in Brazil) have skipped the country. Brian had BERT ROSE leading the salute to the flag.

No visiting Rotarians showed but JUDY KLEINBERG had Jack Adler (retired personal injury lawyer/ceramicist) and BERN BEECHAM had Elizabeth Santana (PA Players Development Director/actress) as their guests.



In his opening remarks, ART STAUFFER thoughtfully illustrated the need to take care of the important things first and still have time for a coffee.



STEVE EMSLIE reminded us that the presidential debunking event would take place on Monday, June 29 at 6 pm at Michaels in lieu of the regular meeting that day. The \$55/person or \$100/couple charge can be paid by credit card/legal currency at the welcome desk along with annual dues.



President's Club contributions were paid by BILL BUSSE for spending a night in Carmel and by ROGER SMITH to acknowledge DAVE PRICE for coming out in favor of reducing the number of PA Council Members. In addition, LIZ KNISS joined this group to highlight the excellence of the Rotary Auction meal provided by DICK BUSH. The SWENSONS and BECHTELS along with another couple were also able to enjoy the dinner.



DANA TOM introduced our speaker Jeff Rosen who was elected the District Attorney for Santa Clara County in 2010. Jeff is a graduate in philosophy from UCLA with a law degree from UC Berkeley. Before becoming the DA, Jeff has served many years as a prosecuting attorney. As the DA, he has taken significant strides to take a more thoughtful approach to law enforcement and go beyond just prosecuting people who have done bad things. He describes it as performing smart justice and gave us several illustrations of the specialized units and services that now exist.



Examples of these are the Conviction Integrity Unit, the Cold Cases Unit, the Family Justice Centers and the Parent Project. Rather than just concentrating on the particular victim and perpetrator of crimes, the DA office tries to look beyond them to consider the family members involved. The objective is to strive for what is best for society as a whole and what will lead to the most positive outcomes. In his view, prevention and rehabilitation are important aspects that should not be neglected. This, sometimes sets him at odds with other district attorneys in the state.

The speaker also highlighted the plight of undocumented workers and the efforts to alleviate human trafficking.

At question time, STEVE EMSLIE asked the speaker's view on legalizing marijuana. He thought it inevitable so was more concerned with there being appropriate legislation. JOAN PLASTIRAS asked about elder financial abuse. The speaker indicated we should do more to prevent it the first place and increase punishment. ROB LANCEFIELD wanted to know about the effectiveness of the enlightened DA programs. It seems that it is difficult to measure. WALT HAYS wanted to know if Proposition 47 (Reduced sentences for non-serious, non-violent crimes) was being applied retroactively. Apparently, it is but there isn't help in rehabilitation. JOHN KIDD asked for the speaker's definition of justice. The answer was that it had two parts – fair results for the perpetrator and victim with a fair prosecution process. HENRIETTA BURROUGHS wanted to know what services might be provided to the families of deceased perpetrators. An example given was grief counselling.

On duty were GINNY LEAR welcoming, PAM KRUDOP cashing, GEOFF ZIMAN Pinioning, LYLE CONNELL editing and BRUCE GEE doing dues and debunking dollars

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15, Joseph Stagner, Executive Director, Sustainability and Energy Management, Stanford: "Stanford Energy Systems Innovations Project"

June 22, George Koo: "Time to Change Our Conversation About China"

June 29, No lunch Meeting. Debunking at Michaels