

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME....

...the question confronting all mankind was the subject of today's presentation by Dr. George Koo, **COOPERATION or CONFRONTATION?** The question is one of increasing importance to countries involved with this dilemma. In our case, can we defuse the potential conflict between the United States and the Republic of China. Dr. Koo shared his thoughts on how this growing problem might best be solved and why. Jump to the bottom of the page if you are intrigued and want his thoughts before tackling the rest of this week's Pinion!

THIS WAS IT GANG

We were treated to the final rendition of...soon to be Past President...E.J. HONG's presiding over our weekly gatherings. However, she has been mostly absent of late. What is her excuse this time you ask? It appears that she was forced to help chaperone an unruly group of 80 Gunn High School students as they sang their way through Italy on their way to the Vatican. E.J. was heard to say, **"It definitely was not a vacation!"** Welcome back E.J.!

Today's meeting preliminaries included Brian Steen led the Pledge, followed by the Introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests. To wit:



Club

CALEB LaPLANTE, a member of the Greater Grants Pass Club who exchanged Club banners with Prexy E.J.

Guest of Rotarians:
DICK BUSH's guest was Brian Hurwick. Brian was a previous member of our



STEVE EMSLIE's guest was Brian Kuepper. Brian is checking out clubs in the area

DANA TOM's guest was Elizabeth Santana. Elizabeth is Director of Development for the Palo Alto Players

REBECCA GERALDI's guest was Wolfie Pickett. Wolfie is a member of YCS and REBECCA's son.

MIKE BAIRD introduced three members of the Gunn Interact Club...Lisa Hao, Ashley Yee-Mazcha and Brian Hill. MIKE pointed out that along with Youth Community Service they raised over \$2,000 for a project in Kenya. They have an auction coming up soon. ROGER SMITH asked that he not be over bid...as if that's possible!



WE CARE COMMITTEE

Chairman DICK FREEMAN shared a note from RUTH SCHNEIDER's son, Andrew, thanking the Club for being such a special part of her life. *"She loved the people and enjoyed participating in Rotary both for the work and the camaraderie."* We miss RUTH a great deal! She seemed to be everyone's dearest friend!



OPENING REMARKS...A LETTER FROM STEVE PLAYER TO HIS FATHER. STEVE shared a poignant letter to his Dad written 35 years after his father's passing. It took a long time for Steve to understand everything that transpired during his youth and wanted to make amends by sharing his much belated thoughts. STEVE is not alone. **"We'll meet again, Dad!"**



VICKY CHING RESIGNS

E.J. shared a note from VICKY thanking Rotary for its support over the years. Enclosed with the note were checks for \$500 each to The Rotary Foundation and the Endowment Fund. You were a great hostess, Vicky! **P.S. We all miss the chicken salad!**

JULY 4TH IS FLAG DAY!

As we do for all special national events, we join with the University Rotary Club in installing American flags along University Avenue. Let JACKIE SCHOELERMAN know if you can join in. Coffee and donuts will be on tap following the installation. It commences at 8am July 4th with take down at sun down. It's a great service and even better social event!

THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB EXPANDS

Well, not exactly. Those who rose had risen before but wanted to add to the coffers in honor of outgoing and "outgoing" president E.J. HONG. JUDITH STEINER contributed because of her job well done. ART STAUFFER since E.J. was not willing to take advice from her elders. **What? ROB LANCEFIELD** because *"We don't have to all agree!"* **What...again?** (As you can tell, your scribe was fading fast about this time in the proceedings.)



STEVE EMSLIE DESCRIBED A DEBUNKING PARTY THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED! PRESIDENT E.J. will formally be deposed, or disposed, at MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT in Shoreline Park. It will be on Monday June 29th at 6pm. Definitely the event of the week...or possibly of 52 weeks!

ALSO THROWN INTO THE MIX

was a "three minute maximum" (Thanks E.J.) slide show of the **Tour of the SSN Pampanito.** "Admiral" MIKE McMAHON honored his "Rotary Auction contribution" by escorting the signees through a somewhat famous WW II submarine. "Somewhat" since one of the 7 Japanese ships it sunk was carrying 500 British POWs. The slide show shows BETSY AND GEORGE BECHTEL confronting the Skipper, along with CHET DOUGLAS and BILL BUSSE'S son-in-law, Ed Murphy, looking amazed at everything and Apprentice Seaman BUSSE trying to squeeze through what passes for a 4 foot high passageway. It was a great event! Plan to sign up at the next auction! You'll be glad you did!

OUR PROGRAM

GLORIA HOM introduced Dr. Koo by noting that he was a graduate of MIT and has an MBA from Santa Clara University. He is also author and a business consultant in China.



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Dr. Koo feels that China is simply not an adversary. In his opinion, we can and must find ways to cooperate while avoiding confrontation. There is too much at stake! Here are just a few of his suggestions:

- We need to work together to solve the cybersecurity problem. Both sides are contributors.
- ISIS is moving toward Southeast Asia. We need to work together to solve this growing menace.
- We should work together on the North Korean Issue. He cited many possibilities for cooperation.



Information that he shared near the end of his presentation included the fact that China is seriously contemplating a new "Silk Road". This time it would be from China to Amsterdam via high speed rail. And the real mind blower is a high speed rail line from China to the United States via Eastern Russia and a tunnel under the Bering Straits. Wow! They are really thinking **big!**

Questions at the conclusion included ROB LANCEFIELD on issues regarding



Hong Kong...DANA TOM on Taiwan...JOHN O'KEEFE on the Dali Lama and cybersecurity...BETSY BECHTEL on pollution in China...and STEVE PLAYER on new cities in China.



Dr. Koo's presentation brought out a lot of challenging questions along with raising awareness on our future with China...**will it be cooperation or confrontation?**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 29: No lunch Meeting

6:00 p.m. EJ's Debunking at Michaels at Shoreline

July 6: President Katie's first meeting of the year!