

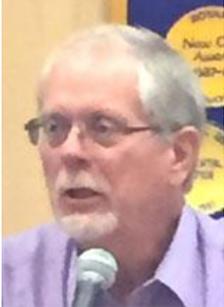
Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: July 27, 2015

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Today was a dress rehearsal for our 2016-17 Rotary Year with President-Elect BRIAN STEEN standing in for vacationing President KATIE SEEDMAN. To open the meeting, he had BILL FOGARTY lead us resoundingly in the pledge. The sole visiting Rotarian was Ken Brenner, a banker from the PA University Club who reminded us that his club started many years ago as an offshoot of our club led by Ken Kaufman. Apart from our speaker, the only other visitor was Christiana Weidanz, who is involved in social work at the Samaritan House in San Mateo and is the daughter of our own CHARLIE WEIDANZ.



Opening remarks were provided by PAMELA KRUDOP who reminded us of the many ways to achieve happiness. These included staying connected, loving more, being compassionate, keeping things simple, slowing down and above all, smiling because you care.



BRIAN STEEN recognized GLORIA HOM for organizing the best social of the year at her home last Friday. He was so impressed that he joined the President's Club to mark the occasion. LE LEVY also joined because he too wanted to acknowledge what a good affair it was. The next social will be at President KATIE SEEDMAN's home on Friday, August 28. LEN



ELY, reputed owner of a Ferrari 456 also joined the President's Club to mark a special visit to a private auto museum – a tour offered at our Crab Feed auction last March.



DANA TOM then introduced our speaker, Paola Estanislao, a graduate of UC Berkeley and the Santa Clara University School of Law. Paola is a Santa Clara County prosecutor with a special interest in prevention of human trafficking. She belongs to a special unit set up specifically to work with law enforcement and community based organizations in our county to bring traffickers to justice and to support and protect the victims.



A key element of her presentation was to raise our awareness of the extent of the problem and that it was a threat to our health and public safety. She emphasized how important it was for everyone to be alert to trafficking situations and to make a point of reporting them because of the limits faced by law enforcement. It is important to realize that human trafficking involves not just foreign victims, not just illegal aliens, not just prostitution, not just a wage theft problem and not just an adult problem. We were shown a locally produced video that illustrated the "red flags" to look out for.



In question time, HENRIETTA BURROUGHS asked what could be done to help youth transitioning out of foster care at 18. In response Paola said that housing, counselling and jobs were key elements but, regrettably, there are limited options. Henrietta also asked if the 16 year prison sentence imposed on a particular convicted trafficker was adequate. Apparently, the California law dictates sentences of between 12 and 20 years and the speaker believed that this was not out of line.

JOHN O'KEEFE asked about the number of victims and what can be done to help them. There have been 70 cases identified since 2006 and they work with several non-profits to provide victim assistance. The biggest problem is finding stable affordable housing.

YORIKO KISHIMOTO asked about deportation of victims and who the traffickers were. There are special visas available to foreign victims to allow them to remain in the US. Most traffickers work on their own and are not part of large crime networks. An interesting comment was that the traffickers in many instances have come out of similar backgrounds to the victims - poverty, neglect, abuse, addiction and low self-esteem.

GINNY LEAR asked about the extent of the problem being connected to large events like the Superbowl. There are not good statistics on this but greed is an underlying characteristic of the crime. Also given the need to increase public awareness, big sporting events were good opportunities for doing so.

The admin. team on duty today were GINNY LEAR (welcome desk), ROB LANCEFIELD (lunch money), STEVE MADSEN and JOE SINNOTT (setup), BRUCE GEE (photography), GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinion) and E.J. HONG (greeter).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 10, New Member Talks: Charlie Weidanz, Tim Watson, Pamela Krudop

August 17, Susan Valenta District Governor

August 19, Rotary Means Business Channing House, 850 Webster St, Palo Alto. Featured Speaker: Derrick Britt: "The Status of Crowdfunding"