

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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KATIE SEEDMAN made the Call to order promptly at 12:30, followed by a rousing rendition of the new Pledge song "Rotary" to the tune of "Cabaret", composed and led by Le Levy.

Visiting guests were introduced: Rotraut Clum was introduced by Charlie Weidanz (Rotraut lives across the street from the Elks building!) and daughter Mary Shen was introduced by Kathy Shen.



ROGER SMITH, gave Opening Remarks, honoring LE LEVY and talking about LE and his wife Judy's many donations of funds and resources to Palo Alto Parks and especially to the Magical Bridge Playground.

Rotary Means Business meets at 7 am this Wednesday at Channing House on the 11th floor.

The next Rotary social is a TGIF at KATIE SEEDMAN's house on Friday, August 21st. Katie is at 1535 Portola Ave, Palo Alto. Everyone is asked to bring drinks - appetizers will be provided.



JUDY KLEINBERG announced that the Chamber of Commerce will host an open house on Friday August 21 from 12-2:00 at the Chamber's new offices, 355 Alma Street. JUDY also introduced the local business "Passport" that can be purchased for \$5.00 and entitles the bearer to \$thousands in discounts to area businesses, mostly on Saturday and Sunday during the Chamber's Annual Festival of the Arts.

DERRICK BRITT joined the President's Club, in honor of ROGER SMITH who hosted a golf outing, offered during the Crab Feed auction last March.



Thanks to Cashier WALT HAYS, Welcome Desk GINNY LEAR, Pinion writer KATHY SHEN and Editor LYLE CONNELL, Greeters CHARLIE WEIDANZ and EJ HONG, and room set up STEVE MADSEN, Sgt at Arms, and RICHARD KELLER.



Susan Valenta, District Governor, presented CHARLIE WEIDANZ with his Blue Badge.

District Governor Susan then presented Paul Harris awards, one to BRUCE SWENSON a "plus 2" award for donating a total of \$3,000 and one to IRIS KOROL, a "plus 4" award for donating a total of \$5,000, to The Rotary Foundation.



Steve Ross, Asst Governor for Area 9, Introduced Susan Valenta, District 5170 Governor. Susan has been active in the Gilroy Rotary Club since 1995 and she just retired after leading the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce for 24 years.



DG Susan recognized the long history of Palo Alto Rotary, with our 93 years of service. She described District 5170: there are 53 clubs in the District, which includes the counties of Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Benito. She said that Rotary International has 1.2 million members in 34,282 clubs! Our District has bragging rights: largest Interact group with 7,000 participants; we gave \$740,000 to The Rotary Foundation, and that we are 3,800 members and growing.



Next, DG Susan told us a bit about herself, saying that she has six grandchildren and three children. She remembered her own happy upbringing that is very different from some of the problems that Rotary addresses, such as food and water, young girls married too young, and families living in cars. Her message was about we as Rotarians having the power to change the course of humanity. She talked about our club's educational scholarships and support of Green Oaks Academy; the \$800,000 endowment; Rotary Means Business being a powerful tool to attract new members; Operation Flagpole; Community grants and more that our club provides.

Susan talked about the Monterrey, Mexico wheelchair distribution of 280 chairs. She said that 100 million wheelchairs are needed worldwide by patients who do not have mobility. On behalf of our club, President Katie presented a donation of \$500 for wheelchairs and encouraged additional member donations.

Lastly, Susan encouraged us all to attend the 2016 District Conference which will feature four past Rotary International Presidents. The conference runs April 29 to May 1. Many thanks!

UPCOMING MEETINGS and Events

August 24, 12:15 p.m. Catherine Elvert, City of Palo Alto, "Water Usage in Your Home"

August 28, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Rotary Social; President Katie & Eric Seedman's. Bring a beverage to share