

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: September 14, 2015

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President CALL TO ORDER

President KATIE SEEDMAN called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

VISITING ROTARIANS

Byron Rovegno of the Cupertino Rotary Club and Bob George of the San Bruno Rotary Club

GUESTS

Guests of Rotarians: Dr. Denise Herrmann, principal of Gunn High School, and Eric Kwon, guests of CHARLIE WEIDANZ; Helen Gracon, guest of Judith Steiner (and spouse of TOM); Barbara Cameron, guest of MICHAEL WICK; Christine Shambora guest of her spouse, PETER; and Bill Oberman, guest of ROB LANCEFIELD.



OPENING REMARKS

DICK BUSH uplifted the meeting with a reading of the poem, *The Lanyard* by Billy Collins, former Poet Laureate of the United States. DICK illustrated the reading by demonstrating his own unique piece of work, a lanyard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JULIE JEROME, the President of the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund, announced the next Endowment Board meeting will be September 22 at 9 AM at the office of DAVID HOLLAND.



GLORIA HOM announced that Friday, 18 September, is Rotary night at the Palo Alto Players, 8 PM at Lucie Stern auditorium. The show is "Chicago", starring Rotarian ELIZABETH SANTANA. A wine and cheese reception at 7 p.m. will be held onsite for all Rotarians attending the play.



BEN THRELKELD presented KATHY SHEN with her Blue Badge. Congratulations, Kathy!



EJ HONG launched the annual Rotary Foundation drive with an interesting video, urging each Rotarian to make a contribution this year. As our Immediate Past President, EJ is this year's Rotary Foundation Drive Chair.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

KATHY SHEN joined in honor of her new Blue Badge.



ED DANGLER joined in honor of his joining the Great Grandfathers Club, with the birth of Jaxson Wayne Edy.

LIZ KNISS joined to urge her contemporaries to get on with a trip to South Africa while they can still outrun the magnificent



wildlife there.

PROGRAM

ROGER SMITH introduced our guest speaker, Dick Held, a 25 year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which included assignments in Puerto Rico and Northern California. The subject of his presentation was "NSA, ISIS and Cyber Vulnerabilities: Do We Really Understand the Implications?" He stated that the world is a dangerous place, with the nations of China, Russia, and North Korea becoming more



adventurous, and ISIS, the Middle Eastern caliphate, extending threats beyond their own neighborhood. The cyber phenomenon has broken the monopoly on the use of force by strong nations. The cost of entry is relatively low. Cyber attacks can threaten any piece of equipment connected to the Internet, including aircraft, power plants, banks, and defense facilities. He cited an electrical generator blown up remotely, as shown on YouTube,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJyWngDco3g>.

Dick was very concerned about the integrity of the U.S. electrical grid, hypothesizing that Russia and China have probably already reconnoitered the system, looking for potential weaknesses. He stated the major problem was that there has been no action by the U.S. to cyber penetrations. He suggested that the U.S. speak plainly to the cyber aggressors, and that any installation of value not be connected to the Internet. If you have an installation, conduct an independent, white-hat attack on your own system to discover its weak points.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 21, Mitchell Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association: "The Rough and Tumble Political Beginnings of San Mateo County"

September 28, Susan Lutter, Chair, Board of Directors, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance: "World Community Service: Rotary in the Rainforest"

October 5, Kate Corcoran: "The Increasing Popularity of Mindfulness and What it Means to You"