

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: November 30, 2015

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PRE PROGRAM

Now-into-her-stride **PRESIDENT KATIE** moved quickly to execute the ritual beginnings of our weekly meeting; inviting **STEVE MADSEN** to introduce guest James Colton, **PAM**



BRANDIN introduced Barbara SihKlausner & Miguel Fittoria of Dream Catchers, **YORIKO KISHIMOTO** introduced Delicia Marcus & Sheryl Schaffner; and then

welcoming back previous Palo Alto Rotarian and now President of the Munich East Rotary Club in Germany, Peter Guentermann.



OPENING REMARKS were ably presented by **KEVIN CURY** as he described a Minnesota Rotary program called Strive in which he had participated at his previous club. Strive organized Rotarian tutors for 20 selected high school seniors who were vulnerable to not graduating. In the three years the program has

operated, all tutored students graduated and most went on to higher education. Kevin offered to advise if anyone wanted to start such a program in this club.

The **UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTY** was promoted by ever-industrious **NINA MOORE** who reminded us of the vital stats: December 6, 6:00 to 9:00; **BRIAN** and Sandra Steen's home @ 877 Moana Court in Palo Alto; and of course everyone's invited - and invited to bring others, as well as wine or a more alcoholic substitute.



PAM BRANDIN, in encouraging all to give generously to the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund, reintroduced Barbara and Miguel of Dream Catchers who briefly described how our Rotary Charity funds are well used in their organization -which, incidentally, also focuses on tutoring.

PROGRAM

YORIKO KISHIMOTO introduced Felicia Marcus, the Chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board who addressed the Year of the Drought. As the point person for determining the best statewide plan for dealing with the drought, Ms Marcus described being in the center of a storm of passionate,



disparate interests who "keep



on repeating themselves louder and slower as they toss their demands over the transom." It didn't take long for her to demonstrate to us that she was up to the task. Her presentation revealed a remarkable command of the facts as well as a mediator's

non-judgmental temperament. Here are just a few of the many important facts associated with the highly complex challenge: •Water availability (surface and subsurface) and water requirements vary dramatically from place to place, but water rights vary even more dramatically; •Climate change is a game changer, with a few degrees shift in temperature making the difference between water stored in snow or largely washed out to sea; •Your lunch requires more water than your lawn (and beer and ice cream take more water than almonds); •Desalinization works, but is very expensive, burns tons of energy, and has a strong impact on marine environment. •We're in the worst drought in our history; •Australia has demonstrated that even though they have roughly the same drought cycle that we do, things can get a lot worse; •And don't count too heavily on El Nino. We are very likely to have heavy flooding which certainly doesn't help. Plus heavy rains in Southern California when most of the reservoirs are up here. And rain, not snow, in Northern California. • So what is the solution? Conservation, or Recycling, or Groundwater control, or more Storage, or Integrated Water Management? Not or, but all of the above. And sooner rather than later.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

December 7, Dan Jurasfsky, Chair of Stanford Linguistics Dept. and Professor of Computer Science: "The Language of Food"

December 14, Holiday program - Palo Alto Players: Broadway Musical Numbers