

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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PRESIDENT-ELECT BRIAN opened the meeting; **ANNETTE GLANCKOPF** led The Pledge. **BRIAN** welcomed Visiting Rotarian Akram Piracha of the Islamabad Cosmo Club. **BRIAN's** guest, former member Elliott Wright, explained that his new duties of fatherhood had left insufficient time for membership. **DANA TOM**

introduced his guests Nancy Kawakita and Dan Jurafsky, today's Program speaker. **JULIE JEROME's** guest was Paul Thiebault, CEO of 10 Books a Home, a grantee of PA Charities which the Endowment annually supports, and **SUSAN LUTTER's** was Barb Mackraz, who builds libraries in Africa in her spare time.

BRIAN thanked those who attended the Club's holiday party at his residence the evening before, approximately 85, and gave special thanks to **NINA MOORE** for her valiant efforts to organize and coordinate party activities. He also thanked the volunteers who staffed the party and helped clean up and restore his home afterwards.



JANE KHALAF's Opening Remarks dealt with how the holiday season, from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, prompted her to think of what the past year had brought for which she was thankful, friendships and professional achievements. She also remembers those less fortunate. She spoke of the Good Samaritan, The Four Way Test, and the need to be good neighbors on a universal basis, without regard to race or nationality. **JANE** is proud to be a Rotarian.

ED DANGLER reported that during recent travels in Europe he visited a Rotary Club in Prague, and in Vienna, the Rotary International Club, exchanging club banners there in a festive meeting.



In her "final presentation" for the Endowment Fund,



JULIE JEROME saw substantial progress in fund raising. To exemplify use of grants from the Fund, she introduced Paul Thiebault, the CEO of 10 Books a Home. He told us what our grants of the past two years had paid for: individual reading instruction for 20 preschoolers in East Palo Alto. A video showed a toddler falling asleep in an initial reading but soon progressing to reading a Dr. Seuss book to her instructor. The children in the class received over 2,000 hours of instruction (from volunteers) over two years. All were well qualified, or better, for kindergarten, following a formal cap-and-gown graduation ceremony. Quality education is essential to break the cycle of poverty. We and 10 Books a Home are providing some great starts.



EJ HONG said the Gunn Choir is one of three finalists in KDFC's American Idol style contest to select a choir to sing to a national audience in February. She urged us to vote for Gunn, one time on every communications device we have.

JOAN PLASTIRAS joined the President's Club to honor **JACKIE SCHOELERMAN** for her compassion and contributions to Club activities, including Rotary Means Business. **JACKIE** acknowledged the tribute, paying tribute of a monetary sort to the President's Club.



TOM GRACON said Save-the-Date for the January 21 high school student speech contest at the Palo Alto City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM. He



especially wants help identifying potential high school speakers for the Club's team, from anywhere in the district, not just Palo Alto. **SALLY TOMLINSON** said that an online review of our weekly programs would be emailed after next week's meeting. She urged prompt completion of the online survey, lest memories grow dim over the holidays.

GLORIA HOM said we need a new venue for January's TGIF party.

The Program: The Language of Food. **DANA TOM** introduced Dan Jurafsky, Chair of the Stanford Linguistics Department and Professor of Computer Science, as, among other things, a recipient of a 2002 MacArthur Fellowship Grant (popularly known as a Genius Grant), the author of "The Language of Food: A Linguist Reads the Menu" (a finalist for the 2015 James Beard Award), and the developer of a famous apricot strudel recipe. Using a bag of groceries for props, Professor Jurafsky entertained us starting with the origin (in Southeast



Asia thousands of years ago as a fish preservative) and the evolution of what is now tomato ketchup in the United States. He showed how information on the backs of bags of potato chips differ, with expensive chips emphasizing the absence of unhealthy ingredients. Similarly, cheap menus use "You" and "Your" while pricey ones use "Chef's Selection" and "Tasting Menu". "Front vowels" describe inexpensive or small things, back ones larger and more important ones. And so forth. The written word, at least this one, cannot begin to do justice to the vitality, learning, and quick humor that Professor Jurafsky displayed. Suffice it to say that in his presentation and in Q&A, he left us all well informed - and laughing. The usual ceremonial presentation of a book to the Green Oaks Academy brought the meeting to a close.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

December 14, Holiday program - Palo Alto Players: Broadway Musical Numbers
December 21 and December 28 - DARK - No Meetings

January 4, 2016 - Vocational/Long-time Member Talks