

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: January 4, 2016

Reporter: ANDREW PIERCE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President KATIE SEEDMAN opened the meeting, a few minutes early with the Pledge of Allegiance at 12:27.

Visiting Rotarians including KLAUS HEINEMAN from Gualala returning once again and VIKRAM PIRACHA from the Islamabad Cosmo Club.

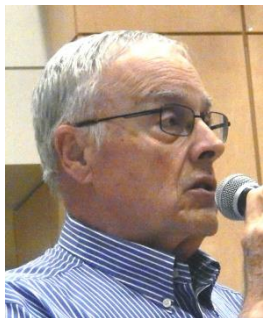
WE CARE COMMITY

January 6th is ISRAEL ZEHAVI's birthday and a card was circulated.



Opening remarks were made by HERSH DAVIS. The topic was New Year's Resolutions. 70% are good for one week but less than 50% last six months. He suggested people make small daily improvements and pursue positive thinking. One should worry more about what one eats between New Year's and Christmas than what one eats between Christmas and New Year's. In that spirit, HERSH brought us chocolate truffles.

LE LEVY made an announcement on behalf of the Rotary bikers, a group of approximately 20 people, of whom 8 to 9 are active and ride once a week. They do not ride aggressively, because they can't. Often they take the Loop, ride on the Stanford campus, or at the Baylands. One can find out about their activities by getting on the email list.



TOM GRACON made an announcement about the youth speech contest co-sponsored by our Rotary Club and the PA University Rotary Club. It will be held on Thursday, January 21st, at the Palo Alto City Council. Volunteers are still needed. There are no geographic restrictions and anyone who is a teenager, including children of Rotary members, may

participate.

JACKIE SCHOELERMAN announced she had attended a District 5170 dinner the night before, along with Pres. KATIE and REBECCA GERALDI, featuring the Rotary International President. There were 600-700 people. In the speech by RI President Ravindran, he suggested that we should plan as if we were living 100 years and live each day as though it were our only one.



REBECCA GERALDI announced that we will have a regular meeting on Jan. 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The program for that meeting will be a club managed Hands On/Sleeves Up community service project. We will fill, on an assembly line basis, special shoeboxes for the Shoebox Project for Shelters. The boxes and contents will be provided. The boxes will be decorated. They will be given to women in local homeless shelters.

Members will be able to add a note of encouragement or kindness. Family members are welcome to participate.

TIM WATSON received his Blue Badge from WALT HAYS. Pres. Katie presented TIM with his first Paul Harris pin and certificate.



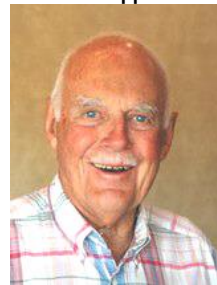
MIKE McMAHON and JACKIE SCHOELERMAN received a Paul Harris pin with



one sapphire.

ROGER SMITH received a Paul Harris pin with three sapphires.

GEORGE WHEATON received a Paul Harris pin with four sapphires.



CHESLEY DOUGLAS received a Paul Harris pin with one ruby.

The program was new member talks. The speakers were introduced by ROB LYMAN. He first introduced REBECCA GERALDI, who joined Rotary in February 2015, sponsored by BEN THRELKELD. She is an environmental educator. She once lived in BILL BUSSE's house.



REBECCA told us she grew up in Sonoma County, in a family farm where she milked goats. Her dad was a Pacific Bell worker for 40 years, and



president of the Rancho Cotati Rotary Club. One of her brothers was the former Assistant Governor at the San Ramon Valley Rotary Club. Rebecca worked her way through college at a grocery store, taking 6 ½ years to complete her degree. After, she did corporate work and marketing, including marketing of financial planning services. She later became an expert and a speaker on employee benefits for, among other companies, LSI Logic, travelling all over the

world. She and her husband adopted a daughter, Winter Hope, from China. At Winter Hope's insistence they adopted an older boy, also from China, who spoke almost no English. Her son is now a freshman at Palo Alto High School and a junior Olympic runner. Her daughter is in the seventh grade at JLS.

REBECCA donates her time with Environmental Volunteers. She also works 1 ½ days a week at Palo Alto Animal Services and provides tutoring and mentoring at Reading Partners where she assists a young girl with reading comprehension.

In response to questions, she admitted that Mandarin is very hard to learn as an adult.

The second speaker was JANE KHALAF. ROB told us that she became a member in September 2015, sponsored by ROGER SMITH. She is in financial planning, has lived in the Bay Area and France, and is a Francophile.



In her talk, JANE said she was raised in Dallas. Her mother is an attorney and litigator but was a June Cleaver style mom. After college, JANE eventually moved to New York City. She loved the energy, diversity, and ambition she saw there and liked that the City is always changing, yet still

the same. She is pleased that Silicon Valley has some of the same characteristics.

For years JANE worked at UBS. She was later recruited by a firm of financial advisors in Orange County. She works in financial planning and investment management. She decided to leave her old job to run her own office with Edward Jones in Palo Alto. She works with families, helping with their financial decisions at all stages of life.

JANE then told us how she met her husband. She went to a corporate conference in Cleveland where she was in a car with her husband's brother. He interrogated her during the ride about her personal life and texted the answers to his brother who was on vacation in France. At the end of the discussion he said you have to meet my brother. She was given a phone at a later meeting, and started talking to him, and they clicked right away. Two months later they met, and the rest is history.

In response to questions, she said that in France she lived in Nantes. She was in an immersion program. Her husband is an engineer at Google and is loving it.

Our third speaker was ELIZABETH SANTANA. ROB noted that she had joined in July and was sponsored by BEN THRELKELD. Her field is theater and fund development. ROB said she had attended a high school that had



fewer students than the number of members in our Rotary Club.

In her talk, ELIZABETH told us she was currently the Development Director at the Palo Alto Players, the first one in its history. She also worked for Opera San Jose. She is an actress and showed us a picture of her performance in the musical "Chicago". She will soon have a part in "Into the Woods", as well.

ELIZABETH told us some things we are not likely to know about her. She is not related to Carlos Santana but is related to Dale Earnhardt. Her husband Doug is also a performer. He had a brief role in "Howard the Duck" and was in Orville Redenbacher commercials as a child. He is director of Performing Arts at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose. Her young daughter, Madelyn Rose, is also her harshest critic. Though ELIZABETH has spent most of her life in California, she grew up in Benoit, Mississippi, population 477, a town with one stop sign and no stop lights. Later, she moved to Biggs, California, population 1702. The biggest thing in Biggs is the sign announcing you have entered town. There were 42 in her graduating high school class. ELIZABETH was a pageant participant in Mississippi and was also voted Miss Butte County. She attended San Jose State where she obtained a Bachelor's and Master's degree. She spent 5 years in New York City pursuing acting, and also had jobs at Macy's as a singing Christmas tree. She also performed on the Crystal Harmony cruise ship. She and her husband were tested by 11 sea days in a cross-Pacific voyage and passed the test, as they are still married. Her mother said she should find a way to make a living doing what you love. She has done that. In response to a question, it came out that ELIZABETH can play Marilyn Monroe.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

January 11 Dr. Jamshid Ghajar, Neurosurgery Professor, Stanford School of Medicine: "The Fog of Concussion"

January 18 Hands-On/Sleeves Up Project at the Meeting

January 25, Jeffrey Fisher, Professor of Law, Stanford University: "US Supreme Court"